

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE



DATE	27th May 2008
PORTFOLIO	Leader
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LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

PURPOSE

1. To update the Executive on the County-wide Local Area Agreement and to endorse the Agreement, including the Burnley District specific targets.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Executive endorse the County-wide Local Area Agreement and the Burnley District specified targets.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. The draft Local Area Agreement has been subject to significant development and discussion, both by Officers of the County and District Councils within Lancashire, but also with other partners, including the Police, Primary Care Trust and the Voluntary Community and Faith sector.
4. In addition there has been negotiation with Government Office North West (GONW) on the indicators and targets and the final date for agreeing those targets is the end of May 2008.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

Background

5. Local Area Agreements (LAAs) set out the priorities for a local area agreed between Central Government and the Local Authority, Local Strategic Partnership and other key partners. The aim is that LAAs simplify central funding, help join up public services more effectively and allow greater flexibility for local solutions to local needs.
6. LAAs are three-year Agreements and for two-tier areas, they are set at the County level. However, after learning from the experience of the first local Public Service Agreement in Lancashire, it has been agreed that where appropriate, targets will also be set at a District level to assist performance management and to ensure clarity for all Districts and partners.

7. The LAA is a key document for the Council and performance against it will be a major factor, not only in respect of securing Performance Reward Grant but also in informing any future assessment of the Council and its partners under the Government's new Comprehensive Area Assessment (which replaces the current Comprehensive Performance Assessment Framework).

Current Position

8. Much work has been undertaken by Officers, both of the Council and other partners, in developing the draft Local Area Agreement. The Council and Burnley Action Partnership have tried to ensure that the Local Area Agreement reflects the priorities identified in Burnley's Community Strategy and at the same time, tried to ensure that the LAA also seeks to "narrow the gap" between Burnley and other more prosperous parts of Lancashire. This has been successfully achieved in areas such as Community Safety, where the targets set for Burnley should see more significant reductions in crime than other parts of Lancashire. In other areas, the targets do not initially narrow the gap, for example, alcohol-related admissions to hospital where although much work is being undertaken to reduce the problems caused by alcohol, many of the initiatives will only come to fruition in the longer term (this is because it often takes many years for the problems of alcohol to show their affects on an individual's health).
9. The current draft LAA is shown in [Appendix 1](#) of this report and the version showing the draft targets for each District, where appropriate, is shown in [Appendix 2](#).
10. There are still some further discussions to take place with GONW, however, it is likely that these will only result in minor amendments to the LAA and these will be reported to the Executive meeting as necessary, on 27th May 2008.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

11. There are no direct financial implications arising from endorsing the LAA, however, the Council and its partners will be expected to ensure that it uses both its mainstream resources and any other external resources to help and deliver the improvement targets within the LAA.
12. Achieving those targets will help to ensure the Council receives the Performance Reward Grant in future years, although details of the level of Performance Reward Grant and how it will be allocated has still to be decided.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

13. The LAA is a key policy document for both the Borough and the County and will help to inform other policy documents for the Council. As part of this, there is a need to ensure that the Borough's Community Strategy is reviewed to ensure it reflects the targets within the LAA.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

14 Burnley Action Partnership Executive.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

15 None.

FURTHER INFORMATION**PLEASE CONTACT:****Mick Cartledge****ALSO:**