

Report to:	Cabinet	Agenda Item
Date:	14 December 2005	
By:	Director of Policy Management and Communications	
Title of report:	Local Area Agreement (LAA) for East Sussex	
Purpose of report:	To update on the development of the LAA and to receive feedback on the discussion at the East Sussex Strategic Partnership on Governance.	

Recommendation

The Cabinet is recommended to note the progress made regarding the development of the Local Area Agreement for East Sussex

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. The process of developing the LAA targets and any associated resource implications for the County Council is being considered as part of the Reconciling Policy and Resources process.

2. Background

2.1 As reported to Cabinet in July, the LAA is a three year agreement between central and local government setting out the priorities for a local area, it is agreed between central government represented by the Government Office for the South East (GOSE), and the local area represented by the County Council, the ESSP and other key local partners.

2.2 Cabinet received a copy of the first submission to GOSE of the draft LAA in October. Since that time much work has gone on to engage relevant partners for each target and to work up the detail of what is to be delivered.

2.3 GOSE provided written feedback to the first draft at the end of October and, where appropriate, this has been taken on board in the development of subsequent drafts.

3. Stretch Targets and Enabling Measures

3.1 The Local Public Service Agreement (PSA) is incorporated into the LAA and is now described as the 'reward element' of the LAA. The expectation is that it will include, like the first round around 12 'stretch' targets. These must be the most important priorities within the overall LAA.

3.2 Stretch targets are likely to take longer to negotiate than those that do not have a reward attached to them as they must be approved by the relevant Government Department at Whitehall and must also demonstrate that they provide value for money in relation to the potential financial reward. Consequently the Council submitted the potential stretch targets to GOSE by 18 November. The headline targets are attached at Appendix 1. It will be noted that at present there are fifteen targets, it is anticipated that one or two may drop out during the negotiations.

3.3 A full second draft of the LAA was submitted to GOSE on 30 November. It is available for viewing on the website of the East Sussex Strategic Partnership at www.essp.org.uk. Informal feedback on this submission is expected by 15 December although the individual 'blockheads' continue to have more frequent contact with the relevant Government Office lead officer. In response to a request an 'e-discussion forum' has been set up for Members on the intranet. For further details please contact Diana Francombe on 01273 481662.

4. Governance

4.1 Agreeing the content of the LAA needs to be supported by robust governance arrangements which will ensure appropriate:

- financial governance for all funding streams for which the County Council will become accountable body. The development will include 'interlocking accountability contracts' by which full accountability is passported to the appropriate level;
- performance management arrangements to ensure delivery by the full range of partners;
- partnership governance structures.

4.2 The East Sussex Strategic Partnership (ESSP) agreed on 24 November principles on which the governance of the LAA should be considered. It was agreed by the ESSP that any partnership structure for managing the LAA must:

- Ensure the LAA remains focused on making a significant impact on the residents of East Sussex;
- Minimise bureaucracy, using current partnerships and seeking to rationalise where possible;
- Ensure the size of partnerships balances effectiveness and representation;
- Be 'fit for purpose' and have appropriate arrangements for different issues;
- Devolve delivery, performance management and accountability to the lowest appropriate level;
- Be clear about the roles and responsibilities of each part of the structure;
- Involve partners in a way that is appropriate and proportionate to the contribution they are making to the delivery of the outcomes;
- Recognise the role of the Accountable Body (ESCC); have the commitment of the lead partner organisations to accepting accountable body responsibilities for their targets; and to providing financial and performance information as required; and
- Be democratically accountable and operate in a way that is clear, open and transparent with clear lines of communication.

4.3 Developing appropriate governance structures will be a key area of activity in the next few months.

5. Next Steps

5.1 It is anticipated that the period between now and early in the New Year will be very intensive for the LAA as GOSE staff negotiate with their central government departments on the Council's behalf. 'Blockheads' responsible for each of the service blocks will be liaising both with their GOSE lead officer and with partners on each of the specific targets within the LAA. Further work will also be undertaken on developing the Governance model in preparation for a further report to the ESSP in January.

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Appendix 1

Potential LAA 'Stretch' Targets and Enabling Measures

Outcome 3: Enjoy and Achieve: Getting the most out of life and developing the skills for adulthood

3.1 Stretch Sub Target The proportion of 3 year olds who take up at least one free session of foundation stage education per week, across the 30% most deprived SOAs in the county

Outcome 3: Enjoy and Achieve: Getting the most out of life and developing the skills for adulthood

3.2 Stretch Sub Target Participation in school based activities by disabled children and children at special schools

Outcome 3: Enjoy and Achieve: Getting the most out of life and developing the skills for adulthood

LAA Target 3.3 Increase the proportion of 19 year olds who have achieved "Level 2" in education and training (at least 5 GCSE grades A-C or equivalent)
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Outcome 5: Economic Well-being: Reduce economic disadvantage and from achieving full potential in life; and raising the aspirations of all young people.

LAA Target 5.1 Reduce the number of young people aged 16-19 not in education training or employment (NEET) through expanded choice and better pathways through post 16 education

Outcome 7: Improved Health for East Sussex residents: promoting physical health, mental wellbeing and increasing life expectancy

LAA Target 7.2 Reduce falls through preventative care and more intervention in the home and the community.

Outcome 9: Improved independence, well-being and choice for older people, people with physical disabilities, learning disabilities and mental health problems and those with long-term conditions.

LAA Target 9.1 Increase the number of services to support people to live at home independently.
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Outcome 10: Improved user, patient and carer experience and engagement.
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LAA Target 10.1 Increase the number of older people who are productively engaged in the process of development and design of services
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Outcome 12: Contribute to increasing economic activity in the worst performing areas in East Sussex, through improved business competitiveness, entrepreneurship and access to skills and skills development.
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12.1 Stretch Sub Target Number of micro businesses (micros) (employing 10 or less people) assisted to improve their performance
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Outcome 12: Contribute to increasing economic activity in the worst performing areas in East Sussex, through improved business competitiveness, entrepreneurship and access to skills and skills development

LAA Target 12.2 Increase access to skills provision (post 19, up to and including NVQ 2 or equivalent) for individuals, including the unemployed.
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Outcome 17: To reduce crime, the harm caused by illegal drugs/alcohol, reassure the public and reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

LAA Target 17.2 Reduce adult re-offending of Priority and Persistent Offenders (PPOs)
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Outcome 17: To reduce crime, the harm caused by illegal drugs/alcohol, reassure the public and reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour
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17.3 Stretch Sub Target Reduce the proportion of repeat incidents of domestic violence reported to the Police
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Outcome 18: To empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services
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LAA Target 18.1 Empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services

Outcome 18: To empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services.

LAA Target 18.3 Reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries due to road accidents

Outcome 18: To empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services.

LAA Target 18.5 Promote active citizenship by encouraging more people from all sections of the community to be involved in volunteering

Outcome 22: Mandatory Outcomes for areas with Neighbourhood Funding (Hollington and 3 Super Output Areas in Hastings) – to have cleaner, greener and safer public spaces

LAA Target 22.1 Reduce the total levels of waste produced in East Sussex and reduce the impact of fly-tipping and abandoned cars

Non Stretch Targets Requiring Enabling Measures

Outcome 2: Be Healthy: Enjoying good physical and mental health and living a healthy lifestyle

LAA Target 2.2 Reduce teenage pregnancy, narrowing the gap between the county rate and that in Hastings

Outcome 17: To reduce crime, the harm caused by illegal drugs/alcohol, reassure the public and reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

LAA Target 17.1 Reduce crime violent crime in towns during weekend / evening periods with an extended target for Hastings and St Leonard's

Outcome 17: To reduce crime, the harm caused by illegal drugs/alcohol, reassure the public and reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

LAA Target 17.4 Increase participation of adult problem drug and alcohol users in treatment programmes