

STRATEGIC SENIOR OFFICERS' GROUP

3RD SEPTEMBER 2008

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY & LOCAL AREA
AGREEMENT 2 - UPDATE AND DELIVERY PLANNING**

REPORT OF LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to update SSOG on progress with the new Local Area Agreement (LAA2) and on work being undertaken to plan and mobilise delivery. Separate reports on the agenda cover the LAA2 draft funding strategy.

Background

2. On 23rd June the new Local Area Agreement 2 was launched containing 45 three year targets (plus 16 additional statutory children's targets). These new priority targets are a key part of the delivery plan for the new Sustainable Community Strategy. The new Comprehensive Area Assessment will test how well we are delivering the outcomes in partnership.

LAA2 Partnership Delivery Structures

3. The new performance framework includes 7 overarching themes under which the outcome priorities are grouped. However the cross –cutting nature of many of the themes makes it impractical to completely rebuild existing partnership and theme lead delivery arrangements around the themes. Instead a matrix approach is required. The chapters in the SCS are closer to existing partnership delivery structures and it is proposed that these form the main basis for SCS/LAA2 delivery partnerships, plans and accountabilities. However in order to ensure challenge to plans and co-ordination (see the Partnership's Governance & Commissioning report).

LAA2 Delivery Plan Process

4. Partners now need to plan for and commence delivery of the LAA2 priorities. We will be required to report to GOEM in December on our progress in mobilising LAA2 delivery. Draft delivery plan templates were therefore issued to LAA2 outcome target leads to enable the preparation of draft delivery plans by September. A draft financial strategy has also been put together for LAA2 (see separate report). However resources required for delivery are likely to

outstrip those available and it is therefore important that agencies look to use mainstream resources and budgets wherever possible.

5. Challenge to the delivery and commissioning plans for LAA2 is also required both from theme partnerships and more widely and arrangements are being established for this. A copy of the draft criteria proposed for assessing the proposals is attached as Appendix 1 for SSOG consideration.
6. Key elements of LAA planning include:-
 - Asking all partner agencies to take account of the SCS and LAA when they prepare their business and service delivery plans in Autumn 2009.
 - Identifying leads for all the LAA targets and asking them to prepare draft delivery plans in consultation with relevant partners by early/mid September.
 - An added value/cross cutting process where the various lead partnerships/groups in the Leicestershire Together Structure assess draft delivery plans to ensure they are as efficient and effective as possible and that gaps and opportunities are picked up (September/October)
 - A challenge group to sign off delivery plans (end October)

LAA2 Place Holders And Refresh

7. LAA2 also includes a number of 'placeholder' indicators where for various reasons baseline and other data wasn't available on which to negotiate targets. Relevant lead officers should be progressing collation of the information so that this is available when renegotiation discussions commence in the autumn. The LAA is likely to be formally revised during mid February 2009 with formal ministerial approval by the end of March 2009.
8. Work has been progressing to develop one of the placeholder indicators on access to services and proposals arising from the work are attached as Appendix 2 for SSOG's consideration/approval.

SCS Delivery Plan Process

9. Given the importance of delivery against the wider SCS it is proposed that once LAA2 planning is complete delivery plans and 3/4 year targets are then sought for each of the chapters and related outcomes in the SCS. The same three stage process to run after the LAA process. With the aim to complete delivery plans by December to feed into final business plans/service plans and budgets.

10. The new SCS also includes a Places Section with targets set for Community Forum areas, Priority Neighbourhood areas and Town/Town Centres. District Councils and District Council LSPs will lead the preparation of the Place Delivery Plans and related performance management but with the challenge/consultation process built in. Chapter Leads and other agencies as part of their service planning need to consider the District Targets and how they will support delivery of these so that they can be picked up in relevant theme Delivery Plans.

Recommendations

11. It is recommended that the Group:

- (a) Note the work required to produce delivery plans/proposals for the 45 LAA2 targets and to cascade the SCS outcomes into firm agency delivery plans.
- (b) Endorses the draft criteria set out in Appendix 1 and process for assessing LAA2 bids and note that a report will be brought to the November meeting on the outcome of the assessment.
- (c) Endorses the Access to Services target proposals set out in Appendix 2.

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Appendix 1 -
DRAFT CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING LAA2 TARGET PROJECT PLANS

Priority

Expressed importance of the outcome in the Sustainable Community Strategy, LAA2 and evidence base.

Extent to which the project will contribute to other SCS and LAA outcomes.

Achievability/Delivery

Extent to which the project delivery strategy/plan is likely to achieve target improvement – strength of evidence submitted.

Extent of assumptions/reliances made in delivery

Likelihood and impact of major risks to delivery and extent to which these can be mitigated

Whether the project could be mainstreamed to maintain delivery.

Affordability

Total resource implications - revenue and capital – considering available LAA budget.

Partner/mainstream contributions being made to outcome delivery – leverage achieved.

Total budget per output achieved – assessment of vfm.

Resource availability/budget of lead agency/partnership.

Future decommissioning (whole life) costs.

Innovation and Commissioning

Innovative and new approaches which could be used more widely

Changes in commissioning arrangements which could deliver future benefits

Overall impact on the public.

Extent of service transformation.

APPENDIX 2

ACCESS TO SERVICES LOCAL INDICATOR

Background

1. In May 2008 SSOG agreed an approach for partners to develop local Access to Services Indicators (or a small basket of indicators) for the LAA2. This included defining Access to Services, for the purpose of this work, in terms of proximity, accessibility and quality of services. As well as agreement to use the SCS Places Section to identify local priorities.
2. A working group has been established to take forward development and delivery of A2S indicators, as well as oversee broader delivery of Access to Services issues across the SCS.

A2S Priorities

3. Within the SCS Place Priorities the following were identified as important to local communities: access to a good quality town / rural centre, good public / community transport, activities for CYP, leisure, learning, health, access to facilities for older people.

A2S Indicators

4. Identifying meaningful indicators has proved challenging. However the group would like to propose two indicators for inclusion in the LAA2 Performance Framework, as described in the tables below:

Indicator 1: Satisfaction with [PLACE NAME] as a good place to shop, visit and do business.	
Rationale	This indicator will support the SCS Access to Services priority to improve market town centres, shopping centres and rural centres to enable more effective access to services. It will also support SCS Place Priorities identified by 18 of the 27 Community Forum areas.
Background and update on indicator development	Within LAA1 17 service settlements were identified which provide health services, employment, education, leisure and shopping facilities for the surrounding population. A bi-annual survey of visitors and users to the settlements has been developed to identify key issues and priorities for investment. This work has been undertaken in partnership with the District LSPs and Town Centre Managers and it is proposed to now use this baseline data to take forward SCS priorities in LAA2.
Collection of data	Bi-annual survey conducted in 17 settlements with approx. 3000 people. The second survey has just been undertaken with results being collated to identify a baseline and future targets. In 2006 the county achieved 76% as a whole (very of fairly satisfied). The settlements currently include: Blaby, Loughborough, Shepshed, Birstall, Syston, Thurmaston, Market Harborough, Lutterworth, Broughton Astley, Hinckley, Melton Mowbray, Coalville, Ashby, Wigston, Oadby, South Wigston.
Delivery	The results of the survey will help inform investment and action plans for future interventions - this work will be led by the Better Places team in partnership with District Councils and LSPs.

Indicator 2: Number of passenger journeys on rural transport (excluding the hourly bus network).	
Rationale	This indicator will support delivery of the SCS Rural, Access to Services and Transport priorities. It will support SCS Place Priorities identified by 11 of the 27 Community Forum areas. It will also compliment the Accessibility Strategy within the Local Transport Plan and the Rural Strategy.
Background and update on indicator development	<p>The LTP Accessibility Strategy and SCS both prioritise accessibility to employment, education, health care, and food shopping. Currently the county boasts an impressive 95% of the population living within 800 metres of an hourly or better daytime bus service (76% in rural areas). Partners have agreed that it is not possible to improve on this performance.</p> <p>The county council has committed to providing demand responsive transport where a need is identified, although it is not always easy to identify need and this commitment does not currently stretch to peak times. There are also still parts of the county that have under utilised rural transport services (i.e. people may be unaware of the services available to them).</p> <p>Inclusion of this indicator has been championed by the Leads Plus group and the counties voluntary and community sector colleagues.</p>
Collection of data	Data is currently collected by LCC Passenger Transport Unit and work is ongoing to identify last year's baseline and future targets.
Delivery	<p>Delivery of this indicator will be through improved marketing, review of existing demand responsive services and a pilot to extend demand responsive services to include peak hours (funding dependent). Partners will also seek to make better use of current resources and continue to seek additional funding for services where local needs are identified.</p> <p>The indicator will be led by LCCs PTU in partnership with District Councils, the LRP and the Voluntary and Community sector.</p>

5. Work will be ongoing to consider how the other A2S priorities can best be delivered.
6. Aside from these specific indicators the A2S working group is also championing and working to address through partnership other A2S issues including transport to healthcare, identifying local access to healthcare priorities working with GPs, access to learning etc. The group is working with the LCC research team (and Leicester de Montford University) to look at innovative ways of measuring access to services through mapping road distance / travel times against socio-economic data.

Recommendation:

7. SSOG recommends to the Leicestershire Together Board for the approval of the above local indicators to be included within the LAA2 Performance Framework.

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