

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2008-2011

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor E Woodburn
LEAD OFFICER: Chief Executive
REPORT AUTHOR: Hilary Mitchell

Summary and Recommendation: The Cumbria Strategic Partnership is developing a new Local Area Agreement for Cumbria 2008-11. This reports the approach and changes to the operation of the LAA in future.

Executive is recommended:

- 1) to note developments in the Local Area Agreement for Cumbria; and
- 2) to agree to align the Council's Corporate Plan 2008-12 to the LAA targets to support achievement of improvements in priority areas across Cumbria.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Local Area Agreement is a statutory arrangement between Central Government and a local authority (in this case Cumbria County Council). It contains a range of performance indicators and targets of particular relevance to the local authority area, against which the local authority commits to making progress over the period of the agreement. Partner agencies such as health, police, Jobcentre Plus and Fire and Rescue are engaged in the partnership and in discussions to develop the LAA. The latest version of the LAA for Cumbria 2008-11 is attached at Appendix A.
- 1.2 The long term vision for the local authority area, and the reasons for selecting the 35 LAA indicators and targets are set out in a new Community Strategy, which in Cumbria is also currently in a draft version. (not attached)

2. ARGUMENT

- 2.1 The first Local Area (Cumbria) Agreement came into effect in 2007 and had a life span of 12 months. The next version has a three year currency and is being drawn up under the new arrangements for LAAs. Negotiations between the Government and Cumbria County Council on the targets for the LAA are continuing, and although the LAA comes into effect on 1 April 2008, these will be continuing until June.
- 2.2 Changes shown in the Local Area Agreement for Cumbria 2008-11 over the previous Cumbria Agreement include:
 - 3 year life span;

- No longer split into 4 main blocks, replicating the funding streams, however there are still to be 4 main theme groups which will take responsibility for commissioning the actions required to meet targets;
- Use of new National Performance Indicator Framework rather than use of existing local targets, floor targets and BVPIs to measure progress;
- Selection of 35 targets out of 198 possible National Indicators to focus on priorities for Cumbria, although some existing “stretch” targets have been retained, and some local PIs added;
- Development of new Community Strategy for Cumbria which sets out the long term vision for Cumbria and the reasons for choosing 35 targets out of the possible 198;
- There is an expectation is that all the partners’ resources will over time align to achieving the LAA outcomes;
- Comprehensive Performance Assessment to be replaced by Comprehensive area Agreement in 2009 which will assess success of partnership delivery of LAA;
- Opportunities through partnership working in delivering the LAA to commission some services jointly;
- Statutory requirements on partners (including district councils) to co-operate in delivery of LAA;

3. OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

- 3.1 Copeland Borough Council's own Corporate Plan is undergoing review and minor revision at present. It is clear that the priorities and targets that will direct the actions of the LAA should be reflected in the Corporate Plan, and arrangements are in place to enable that to happen.
- 3.2 The involvement of the Cumbrian district councils in the Cumbria Strategic partnership and County theme groups is key to influencing how the LAA will successfully address the sub-County issues, such as West Cumbria deprivation.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The experience of working within the Cumbria Agreement framework in 2007/8 has provided opportunities for learning and improvement, besides for more joined up working across Cumbria. This will prove to be valuable in meeting the challenges of making an impact on the priority areas outlined in the LAA 2008-11.

5. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)

- 5.1 Partners in Cumbria are expected to contribute to the achievement of the objectives and targets from within their resources, since the targets are mainstream work for those partners.

6. PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 For the Local Area Agreement for Cumbria, this is being undertaken by the Cumbria Strategic Partnership.

7. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN

- 7.1 It is important that the next edition of the Corporate Plan recognises the links between the Local Area Agreement priorities and targets and the Council's own objectives. There are many areas of similar agenda, and therefore opportunities for Copeland Borough Council to contribute to the achievement of the LAA.

List of Appendices

Appendix A – A Local Area Agreement for Cumbria 2008-11, Second Submission of draft priorities and indicators to GONW 21 February 2008

List of Background Documents: Draft Community Strategy-2nd consultation draft, www.cumbriastrategicpartnership.org.uk
Letter 31 January 2008 Government Office North West to Cumbria County Council
www.cumbriastrategicpartnership.org.uk

List of Consultees: Cllr E Woodburn, Corporate Team, Managers

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed . This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	The LAA for Cumbria contains targets for reducing Crime and Disorder
Impact on Sustainability	The LAA for Cumbria contains targets for increasing sustainability
Impact on Rural Proofing	The LAA contains no targets for improving inclusion in rural areas, however there is recognition of the special needs of rural areas.
Health and Safety Implications	The LAA for Cumbria contains targets for improving health and safety in the community
Project and Risk Management	See para. 6 above
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	The LAA for Cumbria contains targets for equalities and diversity
Children and Young Persons Implications	The LAA for Cumbria contains targets

	relating to Children and Young People
Human Rights Act Implications	Many of the LAA targets impact on rights in the Human Rights Act
Monitoring Officer Comments	No comments further to the report
Section 151 Officer Comments	It is anticipated that any requests for funding through the LAA agreement will be considered by Council from its Working Neighbourhood fund of £3m as set aside in reserves.

Please say if this report will require the making of a Key Decision YES