

Wychavon Community Plan Core Group

9 April 2008

Item 8: Worcestershire's Local Area Agreement update

Negotiations about Worcestershire's new Local Area Agreement (LAA) continue. This paper provides the latest update on progress and outlines the next stages.

The table starting on page 2 sets out the agreed LAA priorities and who the Worcestershire Partnership Management Group has designated to lead the negotiations on each. The fourth and fifth columns give an update on the position with negotiating the (up to 35) indicators for the new LAA, as at 20 March 2008. I have **provisionally** grouped these under the relevant priority outcome, but I may not have got this 100% right!

Once the final set of indicators is agreed, 'stretch' targets will be negotiated for each. This will be a crucial part of the negotiations and potentially the most challenging. The process proposed for negotiating the targets is set out on pages 6 and 7. The majority of the target negotiation will take place during April.

The final draft of the LAA will be submitted to Government Office West Midlands by 30 May, who will then pass it to the Department for Communities and Local Government by 6 June. It is anticipated that the LAA will be signed off by the end of June.

For more the latest information see the new-web based Inbrief publication or www.worcestershirepartnership.org.uk.

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Local Area Agreement: latest position with indicators as at 20 March 2008

Priority outcome	Lead organisation/ officer	Worcestershire Partnership Theme Group	NI indicator	Latest position
1. To continue to enhance community safety and build confidence in communities	West Mercia Constabulary → (David Spencer)	Safer Communities Board	NI17: Perceptions of anti-social behaviour NI18: Adult reoffending rates for those under probation supervision NI21: Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police NI32: Repeat incidences of domestic violence NI195: Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly posting)	Fully Agreed for the new LAA Fully Agreed for the new LAA Fully Agreed for the new LAA Proposed by Worcestershire Partnership Proposed by Worcestershire Partnership
2. To reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs and alcohol	West Mercia Constabulary → (David Spencer)	Safer Communities Board	NI39: Alcohol –harm related hospital admission rates	Fully Agreed for the new LAA
3. To promote economic growth and enable the economy in targeted sectors and locations	Chamber of Commerce – Mike Ashton (as Chair of the Economy & Transport Theme Group)	Economy & Transport Theme Group	NI166: Average earning of employees in the area NI171: VAT registration rate	Fully Agreed for the new LAA Fully Agreed for the new LAA
4. To remove barriers to employment and improve skills in education, employment and training	Chamber of Commerce – Mike Ashton (as Chair of the Economy &	Economy & Transport Theme Group	NI117: 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET) NI146: Adults with learning disabilities in	Fully Agreed for the new LAA Fully Agreed for the new

Priority outcome	Lead organisation/officer	Worcestershire Partnership Theme Group	NI indicator	Latest position
	Transport Theme Group)	Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership	employment NI150: Adults in contact with secondary mental health services in employment NI152: Working age people on out of work benefits NI163: Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher	LAA Proposed by Worcestershire Partnership Fully Agreed for the new LAA Fully Agreed for the new LAA
5. To improve accessibility by addressing congestion and improving public transport	Chief Executive Worcestershire County Council → (John Hobbs)	Economy & Transport Theme Group	NI169: Non-principal roads where maintenance should be considered NI175: Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling	Fully Agreed for the new LAA Fully Agreed for the new LAA
6. To support and improve the leading of healthy lifestyles and well-being of adults and children and young people	Primary Care Trust – Paul Bates → (Richard Harling)	Health & Well Being Steering Group Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership	NI18: Adult participation in sport NI156: Obesity among primary school age children in year 6 NI169: Children who have experienced bullying NI112: Under 18 conception rate NI121: Mortality rate from all circulatory diseases at ages under 75 NI123: 16+ current smoking rate prevalence	Fully Agreed for the new LAA Fully Agreed for the new LAA Fully Agreed for the new LAA Fully Agreed for the new LAA Fully Agreed for the new

Priority outcome	Lead organisation/ officer	Worcestershire Partnership Theme Group	NI indicator	Latest position
				LAA
7. To ensure all children and young people have the opportunity to participate in positive activities	Chief Executive Worcestershire County Council → (Richard Hubbard)	Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership	NI154: Services for disabled children NI110: Young people's participation in positive activities	Fully Agreed for the new LAA Fully Agreed for the new LAA
8. To maximise the diversion of waste away from landfill through prevention, reuse, recycling/composting and recovery	Chief Executive Worcestershire County Council → (John Hobbs)	Worcestershire Partnership Environment Group	NI193: Municipal waste land filled	Fully Agreed for the new LAA
9. To improve flood mitigation measures, and improve drainage	Chief Executive Worcestershire County Council → (Diane Tilley →Simon Adams)	Chief Executive's Panel Worcestershire Partnership Environment Group	NI188: Adapting to climate change	Fully Agreed for the new LAA
10. To increase energy efficiency and increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources	Chief Executive Worcestershire County Council → (Diane Tilley →Mark Middleton)	Worcestershire Partnership Environment Group	NI186: Per capita CO2 emissions in the LA area	Fully Agreed for the new LAA
11. To improve the quality of life and independence of older people and those with a long term illness	Chief Executive Worcestershire County Council → (Eddie Clark)	Health & Well Being Steering Group	NI133: Timeliness of social care packages NI142: Number of vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living	Fully Agreed for the new LAA Fully Agreed for the new LAA
12. To provide decent and affordable housing which meets the diverse needs of	Chief Executive Bromsgrove District Council Kevin Dicks	Chief Housing Officers Group	NI154: Net additional homes provided NI155: Number of affordable homes delivered	Fully Agreed for the new LAA Fully Agreed for the new

Priority outcome	Lead organisation/ officer	Worcestershire Partnership Theme Group	NI indicator	Latest position
Worcestershire			(gross) (LAA
13. To reduce levels of inequality within the community	Chief Executive Worcestershire County Council → (Diane Tilley)	Poverty Task Group Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership Health & Well Being Steering Group	NI116: Proportion of children in poverty NI187: Tackling fuel poverty – people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating	Fully Agreed for the new LAA Fully Agreed for the new LAA

NI indicator	Latest position
NI2: % of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood	Proposed by Worcestershire Partnership

Protocol for negotiation of stretch targets for Worcestershire Local Area Agreement, 2008-11

Background

Worcestershire's Local Area Agreement for 2008-11 has 13 priorities. Against these priorities, there will be a maximum of 35 indicators with "stretch" targets, based upon the National Indicator Set of the Local Government Performance Framework. This short paper is for the Lead officer for each of the 13 priorities, and sets out the process for negotiating "stretch" targets with the Government Office for the West Midlands.

It is important that the stretch targets are ambitious, but it is essential that agreed targets are achievable and measurable within the LAA time period.

Process

Each of the 13 priorities has a lead officer, who was nominated by the Worcestershire Partnership Management Group. This may have then subsequently delegated authority to the experts and specialists for the specific business area, with the support of the appropriate Theme Group. The indicators against each of the priorities are currently being finalised with GOWM.

The priority lead has overall responsibility for the negotiation of any stretch targets applicable to that priority. In most, if not all cases, the identified priority lead may not be personally involved in the negotiation of LAA targets. However, each target should also have an identified lead officer, who will be active in the detailed negotiation process.

The Worcestershire County Council Research & Intelligence Unit, in its role as having responsibility for Performance Review for the Local Area Agreement on behalf of Worcestershire Partnership Management Group, will provide technical support to each of the indicator/priority leads. This will include sourcing baseline data where necessary, highlighting specific issues regarding data collection and monitoring related to each indicator and advising on future targets. The Worcestershire Partnership Co-ordinator will maintain oversight of the overall progress of the negotiation process.

The new Worcestershire LAA, containing a maximum of 35 stretch targets, needs to be approved by Worcestershire Partnership in May 2008. It then requires sign off by the Worcestershire County Council Cabinet. The target negotiation process should largely take place during April. Ideally, the relevant Theme Group should confirm each stretch target is achievable before final agreement is reached by GOWM.

The following approach is recommended:

- Each Priority Lead will identify lead officer for each indicator.

- GOWM will identify their lead officer for each indicator, if that is not already known.
- A short initial discussion should take place between each Priority Lead, indicator lead (Worcestershire) and the Research & Intelligence Unit to identify issues with specific indicators, agree a more detailed negotiation process for each indicator, and a process for collating baseline data. Policy Officers should also be involved in this dialogue where appropriate, as the indicators/targets are also likely to be used in specific organisation plans. There may not be a need or time for a face-to-face meeting in each case, but as a minimum, there should be a clear e-mail discussion, when decisions made can be recorded.
- The R&I Unit will co-ordinate baselines and future target development, and identify any specific data GOWM will be bringing into negotiation, where this is available.
- Indicator leads and the R&I Unit will have a dialogue with GOWM lead officer for the indicator based upon future targets developed.
- Any outstanding issues raised with Priority Lead and Worcestershire Partnership Co-ordinator by indicator lead, where necessary.
- Stretch targets agreed between indicator lead and GOWM.
- Stretch targets will be confirmed by the relevant Worcestershire Partnership Theme Group, particularly in relation to agreeing that the stretch targets are realistic and achievable.
- Priority Leads will identify resource implications for the delivery of indicators.
- Worcestershire LAA containing stretch targets signed-off by Worcestershire Partnership Management Group, in advance of final submission to GOWM.

It is recognised the above is very much an outline, and there will be a range of discussions throughout the process, in particular between the indicator leads and the R&I Unit. It is important for good LAA co-ordination to have a consistent overall approach.

Contacts

The key contact within the R&I Unit for the target negotiation process is Rob Morris, Principal Research Officer. Rob's contact details are:

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If Rob has not already been in contact with you to discuss this further regarding your priority(ies), he will be in touch very shortly.

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