

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEETING**  
**29<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2006**

**Worcestershire Local Area Agreement 2006 to 2009 – Next Steps**

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME</b>	
<b>CORPORATE PLAN THEME:</b>	Providing Community Leadership
<b>KEY PRIORITY:</b>	Effective Partnership Working
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Cllr. Stephen Clee
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	Chief Executive
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Alison Braithwaite Ext. 2781 alison.braithwaite@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
<b>APPENDICES</b>	A copy of the 'Worcestershire Partnership Governance and Accountability Arrangements 2006' is available electronically. See front cover for details.

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide an update on the development of Worcestershire's Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2006-2009 and to report the arrangements for the LAA Implementation Plan.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

The Cabinet is asked to **DECIDE** that:

- 2.1 The progress made by the Worcestershire Partnership in the development of an Implementation Plan, to support the delivery of the Local Area Agreement for Worcestershire 2006-2009, be noted.
- 2.2 The Council, as a partner of the Wyre Forest Matters Partnership, continues to engage in and support the implementation of the Local Area Agreement for Worcestershire 2006-2009.
- 2.3 The Council, identifies its role and contribution to the delivery of the Local Area Agreement targets.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 A LAA is a three-year agreement between central Government and a local area, and is based on a set of outcomes, aimed at improving the quality of life for local people.

- 3.2 The final version of the Worcestershire LAA was submitted to Government Office West Midlands (GOWM) on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2006, and was officially signed off by the Worcestershire Partnership Board on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2006. A copy can be downloaded from [www.worcestershirepartnership.org.uk](http://www.worcestershirepartnership.org.uk)
- 3.3 Though negotiations on the LAA are officially completed, some areas of the agreement are subject to ongoing negotiation, notably the freedoms and flexibilities.
- 3.4 An Evaluation Event, open to those colleagues involved in the development of the LAA, was held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2006. The event reviewed the LAA process and identified the following issues as key learning points:
- a) Effective Stakeholder Engagement
  - b) Use of Freedoms and Flexibilities
  - c) Development of a Finance Strategy
- 3.5 The results from the event will be used to inform an agreed process for the ongoing delivery and development of the LAA.

#### **4. NEXT STEPS**

4.1 The next steps in the development and delivery of the LAA include:

#### **4.2 Governance and Accountability Arrangements**

4.2.1 Over the past 6 months the Governance and Accountability arrangements for the Worcestershire Partnership and LAA have been further developed.

4.2.2 The Chief Executive of this Council has led this key piece of work which details the respective roles and responsibilities of the Worcestershire Partnership Board, Management Group and Theme Groups respectively. Details of these arrangements, which are due to be signed off by the Worcestershire Partnership Board in June 2006 have been placed in Members' Group Rooms.

#### **4.3 Action Planning Process**

4.3.1 A key priority for the Worcestershire Partnership is to involve partners in developing action plans against each theme block within the LAA and to use these as the basis of delivering the agreement. This work is due to be completed by September 2006.

4.3.2 Wyre Forest District Council will need to identify its role and contribution to the delivery of the LAA to ensure this information is fed into the overall process.

#### **4.4 LAA Implementation Plan**

4.4.1 The action planning process will be instrumental in the development of the LAA Implementation Plan, which will cover the following 5 broad areas of work:

- a) Development of performance management arrangements

- b) Development of finance strategy to facilitate alignment of budgets
- c) Development of guidance for action plans to include stakeholder engagement, diversity impact assessment, and sustainability matrix
- d) Preparation of action plans for all themes and outcomes
- e) Arrangements for reviewing and refreshing the LAA

#### **4.5 Summary LAA Document**

4.5.1 The Worcestershire Partnership team is preparing a user friendly summary of the LAA that will be used to communicate the key elements of the agreement to a wider audience.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The financial implications for this Council for the delivery of the LAA will be determined once we have identified our role and contribution to each of the Block Themes and their respective outcomes.

### **6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The LAA for Worcestershire will help to support the implementation of the Community Strategy and many other associated strategies for the District that impact upon the quality of life of local people.

### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

7.1 It is too early to identify any specific risk management implications.

### **8. CONCLUSION**

8.1 The Worcestershire LAA will support the Council and other partners of the Wyre Forest Matters Partnership in continuing to meet the needs and priorities of our local communities.

### **9. CONSULTEES**

- Leader of the Council
- Corporate Management Team

### **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- ODPM Guidance – ‘Local Area Agreements’ – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2005
- Worcestershire LAA Report to Council’s Cabinet – 25<sup>th</sup> August 2005
- Worcestershire LAA Report to Council’s Cabinet – 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2005
- Worcestershire Partnership LAA Partner Briefing Papers No’s 1 to 8
- Worcestershire Partnership LAA 2006-2009
- Worcestershire Partnership LAA Governance and Accountability Arrangements 2006

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2006