

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEETING**  
**22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2007**

**Update on the Worcestershire Local Area Agreement 2006 - 2009**

<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
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<b>APPENDICES</b>	None

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide an update on Worcestershire's Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2006-2009.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**The Cabinet is asked to DECIDE:**

- 2.1 **The progress made by the Worcestershire Partnership in the delivery of the Local Area Agreement for Worcestershire 2006-2009 be noted.**
- 2.2 **The Council, as a partner of Wyre Forest Matters Partnership, continue to engage in and support the implementation of the Local Area Agreement for Worcestershire 2006 – 2009.**

**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 priority outcomes for an area aimed at improving the quality of life for local people.
- 3.2 The final version of the Worcestershire LAA was submitted to the Government Office West Midlands (GOWM) on Friday 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 The Worcestershire LAA is made up of 6 thematic blocks, which are:
- a) Block A: Communities that are safe and feel safe
  - b) Block B: A better environment – for today and tomorrow

- c) Block C: Economic success that is shared by all
- d) Block D: Improving health and well being
- e) Block E: Meeting the needs of children and young people
- f) Block F: Stronger communities

3.4 There are currently 35 outcomes and 105 indicators in the LAA, grouped within these Blocks.

3.5 Though negotiations on the LAA are officially completed, some areas of the agreement are subject to ongoing negotiation, notably regarding freedoms and flexibilities.

3.6 Worcestershire Partnership Management Group are the responsible body for overseeing the implementation of the LAA. Governance arrangements have been developed and approved to this end.

## **4. PROGRESS**

### **4.1 Performance Management**

4.1.1 An effective Performance Management approach has been agreed and implemented. The Research and Intelligence Unit at Worcestershire County Council co-ordinates Performance Management arrangements for the whole LAA. TEN™ performance management software is used to collate and disseminate the performance data across stakeholders using the Internet. The performance report for April to September 2006 can be accessed via:

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/ten/laa/index.html>

4.1.2 Using the Performance Management system, a six month review has been undertaken and was intended to:

- a) Assess progress against outcomes
- b) Identify risks to delivery
- c) Agree any remedial action needed
- d) Address gaps in outcomes, indicators, baselines, targets, milestones and data
- e) Highlight the impact of the LAA
- f) Report to and raise issues with Central Government

4.1.3 Progress of the six month review has been reported to GOWM and included the following position statement:

- a) Almost 90% of outcomes are in line with the targets set, which has resulted in an overall progress rating of Green and direction of travel rating of Amber.
- b) Three outcomes are currently performing below the expected target, and are flagged Red. These are A2 (reducing anti-social behaviour), D1 (increasing life expectancy and reducing morbidity) and E2 (educational attainment).
- c) Measures have been put in place by the Worcestershire Partnership to improve the underperforming outcomes.

d) Eight out of the ten reward targets are currently performing well.

## 4.2 LAA Refresh

4.2.1 LAAs are also subject to an annual Review, called the Refresh. The Refresh includes, in addition to the points covered in 4.1.2, the opportunity to request changes / amendments to the LAA.

4.2.2 The Department of Communities and Local Government requested to combine the Review and the Refresh of the Worcestershire LAA, and as such a meeting to progress these with GOWM took place on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2007. At this meeting a series of points were noted and included:

- a) There are a number of outcomes with gaps in data relating to baselines and targets. Work is underway to fill these gaps.
- b) A financial strategy for the LAA still needs to be developed.
- c) Delivery plans have not been completed for all outcomes in Block F and there are currently only draft plans for Block A, awaiting ratification from the Safer Communities Board.
- d) Regular reporting by Theme Groups to the Worcestershire Partnership Management Group will commence in 2007 to allow ongoing performance management.
- e) The co-ordination of Block F remains an issue that needs to be resolved.

4.2.3 The outcomes from the Review and Refresh can be viewed in full at [www.worcestershirepartnership.org.uk](http://www.worcestershirepartnership.org.uk)

## 4.3 Implementation of the LAA in the Wyre Forest District

4.3.1 In August 2006, an audit was undertaken within Wyre Forest District Council to establish each Division's contribution to the LAA. Some examples of activity included:

<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Activity:</b>
A1a: Reduction in British Crime Survey Comparator Crimes	The forthcoming installation of CCTV in Bewdley and Stourport-on-Severn
A5g: Reduction in the number of deliberate primary and secondary fires	Rapid response to the removal of abandoned vehicles from the highway, public and private land
B1a: Achieve 11 Green Flag parks in Worcestershire	Brinton Park application for Green Flag status
	QE11 Jubilee Gardens preparatory work for Green Flag status by March 2007
B2a: Improvement in energy efficiency of housing stock	Promoting and encouraging the use of sustainable development techniques in new development

- 4.3.2 Information from the Council's LAA audit has been used by the Wyre Forest Matters Partnership Strategic Board to further support delivery of the LAA outcomes relevant to the Wyre Forest District. Further links will be developed once the District Community Strategy is reviewed, as the review will align the structure of the Community Strategy with that of the LAA.
- 4.3.3 Particularly important for the Wyre Forest District is Outcome A5 – to improve the quality of life for the people of the Wyre Forest District by reducing crime and deliberate fires.
- 4.3.4 Outcome A5 is a reward grant target, formerly known as the Local Public Service Agreement – second generation (LPSA 2). It is focused on reducing crime and deliberate fires across the District, and improving the quality of life for the people living in the Horsefair, Broadwaters and Greenhill areas of Kidderminster.
- 4.3.5 To support the delivery of this outcome, the Wyre Forest Matters Partnership Strategic Board has recently approved a delivery plan for improving the quality of life in the Horsefair, Broadwaters and Greenhill areas. This project will be a key area of focus for the Partnership over the next two and a half years.

## **5. NEXT STEPS**

- 5.1 The Wyre Forest Matters Partnership needs to continue to identify its role and contribution to the delivery of the LAA to ensure it maximises opportunities for the Wyre Forest District.
- 5.2 As part of the Community Strategy review, the Wyre Forest Matters partnership will be auditing their contribution to the LAA outcomes. This will build up a robust picture of activity within the District and how this is supporting the delivery of the targets set by the LAA.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 It should be noted that Outcome A5 - the Horsefair, Broadwaters and Greenhill project – is pump-primed with one-off Government funding of £100,000 and, if targets are met, it brings a reward grant of roughly £1,000,000 into the Worcestershire Partnership.

## **7. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The LAA for Worcestershire helps 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.
- 7.2 The importance of the LAA was reinforced in the recently published Local Government White Paper. It stated that duties will be introduced to ensure that Councils and partners work together to agree targets and take responsibility for their delivery.

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

8.1 There are currently no specific risk management issues in connection with this report.

## **9. CONCLUSION**

9.1 Worcestershire's LAA is a significant opportunity for the Wyre Forest Matters Partnership and the Council to continue to build on existing arrangements to meet the needs and priorities of our local communities.

## **10. CONSULTEES**

- Leader of the Council
- Corporate Management Team

## **11. 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 LAA Report to Council's Cabinet – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006
- Worcestershire Partnership LAA Partner Briefing Papers No's 1 to 8
- Refresh and Review Paper – Worcestershire Partnership – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2007
- Worcestershire Partnership LAA 2006 - 2009