



## Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee

Date: 10/07/2008  
Open Report

Report of: Peter Jones  
(Head of Chief Executive's Office)

### National Performance Indicators

#### 1. Purpose of Briefing Paper

- 1.1 To inform Members of the new National Indicator Set that has replaced Best Value Performance Indicators from April 2008.

#### 2. Introduction/ Background Information

- 2.1 With effect from 1 April 2008 the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 removed the requirement for Best Value authorities to collect and report Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) as part of the Best Value regime.
- 2.2 A new performance framework was introduced by the above Act, focusing more on outcomes and services delivered through partnership working. One of the key building blocks for the framework is a set of 198 national indicators (NIs) to measure progress across a range of Government Priorities. These are shown in the **Appendix**.
- 2.3 Some BVPIs have been retained in the new NI set - for example BVPI109 (Processing of Planning Applications) - is now NI 156. Councils can of course also continue to collect BVPI data as local performance indicators, if they so wish.
- 2.4 There are three aspects to collecting and reporting these new NIs:
  - Data is reported at a "spatial level", i.e. a geographical area, for example County-wide or District-wide. However, even when data is collected at the District spatial level (shown as green in the **Appendix**), in some cases the results will reflect the performance of several organisations (partners) rather than the District Council alone, for example anti-social behaviour and crime.
  - Different organisations are required to report different NIs, though again

the results may well be determined by the performance of more than one organisation. Those NIs for which this Council is the reporting organisation are shown in blue font in the **Appendix**.

- The frequency of reporting NI results is shown under 'Report Interval' in the **Appendix**. These have yet to be finalised by Government.
- 2.5 The NI Set contains 25 indicators which are informed by citizens' views. To reduce the number of surveys being undertaken by councils, 18 of these will be collected through a single Place Survey which will be undertaken jointly with Worcestershire County Council. The remaining 7 will be collected by other individual surveys.
  - 2.6 Local Strategic Partnerships (at the county level) have agreed a set of priority targets for their area as part of their Local Area Agreement (LAA).
  - 2.7 The Government has developed a Data Interchange Hub to collect NI data from the various sources. A number of NIs for the District spatial level will be submitted to the Hub directly by other organisations e.g. Defra or the Audit Commission.
  - 2.8 Performance against each of the 198 indicators will be published annually by the Audit Commission and will be used as part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) programme to replace Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) from April 2009. This reflects the change in focus away from organisations to areas.
  - 2.9 It is proposed that NIs will be collected and reported locally to Members on a quarterly basis where possible, though collection processes are still being agreed for 2008/09 and not all guidance has yet been published by the Department for Communities & Local Government. For many NIs it is unlikely that data will be available until later in the year.
  - 2.10 Future targets will be set after baseline data has become available from this first year.
  - 2.11 Partnership working will become more important in determining outcomes for local areas and achieving 'scores' or judgements from inspections. This includes jointly agreeing performance targets and monitoring arrangements between organisations.
  - 2.12 Councils in Worcestershire (as elsewhere) are currently working together to agree systems and processes for the collection and reporting of NI results

### 3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

**4 Background Papers**

- 4.1 National Indicators for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships:  
Handbook of Definitions (DCLG)

**5 Appendices**

- 5.1 National Indicator Set Summary

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