



Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Paper

Report of: Peter Jones
Head of Chief Executive's Office
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Open

National Indicators

1. Summary

- 1.1 This paper reports progress up to 30 September 2008 for the new National Indicators (NIs) for 2008/09.

2. Background

- 2.1 Following the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007, a set of 198 NIs were introduced as part of the Government's new Performance Framework for Local Government, Comprehensive Area Assessment.
- 2.2. The NIs have replaced the previous Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) and are the only measures on which central Government will performance manage outcomes delivered by local government working alone or in partnership.
- 2.3 185 national indicators came into force on 1 April 2008. The remaining 13 indicators will be subject to further consultation before final definitions are released.
- 2.4 Although a few BVPIs have remained, e.g. BV109 – planning application is now NI 170, the majority of NIs are completely new measures. Therefore new processes and procedures have needed to be developed to collect data.
- 2.5 19 of the indicators that measure citizen's views and perspectives are collected through a single survey, the Place Survey, which will be administered jointly with Worcestershire County Council every two years. This new survey will replace the Best Value User Satisfaction Survey.
- 2.6 Data is reported at a "spatial level", i.e. a geographical area, for example County-wide or District-wide. The performance of

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district councils will therefore only be reported for those indicators which are defined at the district spatial level. These indicators may however be produced by organisation other than the Council, e.g. the police or Environment Agency. District spatial level indicators are shown in the **Appendix**.

- 2.7 Performance against the indicators will be published annually by the Audit Commission and will be used as part of CAA.
- 2.8 Local Strategic Partnerships (at the county level) have agreed a set of priority NIs for their area as part of their Local Area Agreement (LAA).
- 2.9 With partnership working becoming more important, Councils in Worcestershire are currently working together to agree systems and processes for the collection and reporting of NI results. This includes agreeing some joint targets and monitoring arrangements between organisations.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 Data for the majority of NIs will not be available until the end of the year.
- 3.2 Targets have not been set for most NIs because there is no baseline data available to set them against.
- 3.3 All available data and notes on progress are shown in the **Appendix**.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Cabinet & Corporate Management Team

7. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies

- 7.1 None

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix – Quarter 2 Position Statement on National Indicators

9. Background Papers

- 9.1 National Indicators for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships: Handbook of Definitions

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