

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

22nd May 2008

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Corporate and Social Inclusion – Cabinet Member – **Councillor Laing**

DRAFT LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2008-11

1. Summary (expanded report summary)

This report outlines progress made in negotiating the borough's new Local Area Agreement and requests Cabinet's agreement of the draft.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to

- Note the good progress made in negotiating the new Local Area Agreement
- Agree the draft Local Area Agreement, delegating authority to the Chief Executive to agree any further amendments arising from final negotiations with government

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

The Local Area Agreement requires approval by the Councils Cabinet under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

AGENDA ITEM

CABINET

22ND MAY 2008

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

DRAFT LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2008-11

PURPOSE

This report outlines progress made in negotiating the borough's new Local Area Agreement and requests Cabinet's agreement of the draft.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to

- Note the good progress made in negotiating the new Local Area Agreement
- Agree the draft Local Area Agreement, delegating authority to the Chief Executive to agree any further amendments arising from final negotiations with government

BACKGROUND

1. In October 2007 Cabinet agreed a Sustainable Community Strategy for the borough to cover 2008-2021. This strategy set out our vision and priorities for the borough and was based on extensive consultation. This strategy sits at the top of our planning hierarchy and defines five core priority themes and three supporting themes:

Core themes

- Economic Regeneration and Transport
- Environment and housing
- Safer communities
- Children and young people
- Health and wellbeing

Supporting themes

- Stronger communities
- Older adults
- Arts leisure and culture

2. The Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2008-11 forms a delivery plan for the first three years of the Sustainable Community Strategy. The LAA consists of two parts – a range of designated measures which have three year improvement targets that are agreed with the secretary of state and “local measures “ where an area wishes to include additional measures to reflect priorities but these are not subject to ministerial sign off. The designated measures have to be selected from the new National Indicator Set of 198 measures. In addition there are 16 mandatory measures from the Department for Children, Schools and Families relating to educational attainment.
3. Throughout the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement there has been extensive consultation and engagement with thematic and area partnerships as well as local people and councillors.

Designated measures

4. Attached at Appendix 1 is the list of measures and provisional targets for the designated measures section. The measures have been selected from the 198 National Indicators as the measures that most closely reflect our Sustainable Community Strategy. There is good spread across priority themes and across the public sector agencies responsible for delivering the agreement.
5. Wherever possible targets have been provisionally agreed with Government Office who are leading negotiations on behalf of government. Though GONE can give an indication that a target is likely to be agreed no target is final until it has received Secretary of State sign off. In some cases it has not been possible to set a target because nationally there are issues relating to baselines and these cannot be resolved before the deadline for sign off. In these cases government is allowing authorities to include the measure in the agreement without a target. We expect our remaining queries regarding targets to be answered in time for submission to government on May 30th.
6. Every effort has been made to ensure that measures and targets in the LAA that are also in a public agency’s performance framework (such as the Vital Signs framework for PCTs) are joined up in order to ensure that agencies are not dealing with competing demands.

Local measures

7. We have the option to include additional measures within the agreement. These are known as “local measures” and are not subject to ministerial target signoff and do not have to be drawn from the National Indicator Set. It is proposed to include a small number of measures in the local section of the LAA at this stage with targets to be set as part of our usual performance management cycle by the end of June. These are outlined in Appendix 1. Both the designated and local measures of the LAA will form a key part of a new performance framework for the borough that will help us meet the requirements of Comprehensive Area Assessment. This framework is under development and will be brought to Cabinet for approval at a later date.

Links with the Tees Valley Multi Area Agreement

8. The Tees Valley has been leading the way in developing a Multi Area Agreement focusing on improving the economic prosperity of the city region. One element of the agreement is a performance framework which in some cases draws on the National Indicator Set. In order to ensure there is read across between the Stockton LAA and the MAA we are ensuring that MAA indicators which are also local priorities are included in the LAA's designated measures and where an MAA indicator is of lower priority in Stockton it is included in the local measures section. We anticipate that this will meet both government and the Audit Commission's expectations with regard to links between the two agreements.

Monitoring of progress against targets

9. The measures included in the LAA range from those based on annual or biennial surveys to those that can be monitored through data returns on a quarterly basis. The measures will be incorporated into the council's overarching corporate basket and reported to Cabinet and Executive Scrutiny at an appropriate frequency. As the agreement covers all public sector agencies in the borough it will also be reported to Stockton Renaissance twice a year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from the report. However, we are expecting details of a small performance reward grant for achievement of LAA targets to be announced in May / June 2008.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The LAA is a statutory agreement between Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and its public sector partners and central government under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Under the Act the Council has a duty to consult partners in the development of the agreement and setting of targets and the Council and its partners have a duty to "co-operate" to deliver the improvement targets set out in the agreement. It is not yet clear what sanctions government would impose for failure to meet these duties, however the Local Area Agreement is also expected to play a key part in the emerging Comprehensive Area Assessment regime which is also included in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Failure to agree and deliver the Local Area Agreement in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act and associated duties has been assessed as high risk and will feature in the next edition of the Council's corporate risk register. Management systems and processes are being put into place to minimise risk in terms of data collection and data quality; performance improvement; partnership working and the annual review of the agreement

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

The LAA includes measures for all Sustainable Community Strategy themes. Appendix 2 shows how the measures relate to each theme.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Equality Impact Assessments have been or will be carried out for the action plans associated with the Council's actions to deliver the improvement targets

CORPORATE PARENTING

Two of the designated measures in the LAA specifically relate to our corporate parenting role:

- Stability of placements for looked after children – length of placement
- Care leavers in employment, education or training

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

The development of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement has been subject to extensive consultation with partners, members and local people.

Name of Contact Officer: Helen Dean
Post Title: Assistant Chief Executive
Telephone No. 01642 527003
Email Address: helen.dean@stockton.gov.uk

Background Papers

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Property