

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

18th MARCH 2010

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Lead Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Finance – Cllr Laing

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2008-11 - ANNUAL REFRESH – TARGET NEGOTIATION PROPOSALS

1. Summary

Stockton's Local Area Agreement has been in place since June 2008 and covers the period April 2008 to March 2011. This report provides an update on the review process for 2010/11 and identifies the targets where proposed changes are required.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet are recommended to:

1. Note the content of the Report.
2. Approve the proposed changes to targets in the LAA for 2010/11 as detailed at **Appendix one.**

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

Discussions are still ongoing with Government Office on the target negotiations.

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.

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SUMMARY

Stockton's Local Area Agreement has been in place since June 2008 and covers the period April 2008 to March 2011. This report provides an update on the review process for 2010/11 and identifies the targets where proposed changes are required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet are recommended to:

1. Note the content of the Report.
2. Approve the proposed changes to targets in the LAA for 2010/11 as detailed at **Appendix one**.

BACKGROUND

1. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in late November 2009 published an advice note for Government Offices which set out the principles for the second LAA annual refresh. The note draws on the lessons learnt from the last annual review / refresh and permits on an exception basis an opportunity to refresh some targets.

REFRESH PROCESS

2. In accordance with the guidance received the following areas have been identified for inclusion in the review for 2010/11, the final year of this agreement:
 - **Economic Indicators.** NI 151 – Overall Employment Rate, NI 153 – Working Age People on out of work benefits.
 - **Deferred Indicators from 2009/10.** NI 117, NEET's (not in Education Employment or Training).
 - **Removal from Reward Element of LAA** – NI 112, Under 18 conception rate.

3. The renegotiation of these measures is in line with the target negotiation briefs published by DCLG for use in the renegotiation process. Target negotiation briefs suggest that for the economic related measures relative targets are proposed and these will be subject to ministerial approval. In line with the guidance, the NEETs target will be approved by GONE. The removal of the Teenage Conceptions target from reward will also be approved by GONE. Details of the proposals are attached at **Appendix one**.
4. There are a number of other targets within the LAA that we would have preferred to include as part of the negotiation process; however these were not permitted in accordance with the DCLG guidelines. Our renegotiation submission of the LAA 2010/11 to Government Office, as well as the measures detailed above, will include NI 109 - The number of Sure Start Centres. This is to reaffirm our continued commitment to the delivery of full coverage of services through 11 centres rather than the target of 13 centres as originally agreed.

Time Line and Way Forward.

5. The timeline for approval of the revised targets is as follows:
 - January / February - LAA Renegotiation discussions between GO's and Local Authorities
 - March 2nd Renaissance Board received progress update.
 - March 18th Cabinet receive proposals
 - March 31st – LAA's receive ministerial approval.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. The LAA has a reward element in the final year. The renegotiation of these targets could impact on the final reward. It is suggested that these amendments will provide improved prospects for reward.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7. There are no legal implications to this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

8. The LAA is highlighted on the corporate risk register at 16. The risks associated with the LAA are managed through regular monitoring and review.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

9. The LAA is the three year deliver plan of the Sustainable community Strategy. This is the final year of the current LAA. All SCS Themes are included in the LAA.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

10. Renaissance and Partners were consulted on the initial development of the LAA and have been kept informed of progress on a regular basis.

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Education Related

There are no Corporate Parenting issues related to the measures suggested for renegotiation in the LAA for 2010.

Background Papers

Sustainable community Strategy 2008 – 2021
Local Area Agreement 2008 – 2011
CLG Guidance on LAA's Review and Refresh December 2009.

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors

Councillors were included in the consultation in the development of the LAA and sustainable community Strategy.

Property

There are no property implications.