

Haringey Strategic Partnership

20 June 2006

Local Area Agreement

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To consult HSP on the development of the Haringey Local Area Agreement.

2. Summary

- 2.1 HSP has previously received a presentation on the LAA at the meeting on 27th March. The LAA was also discussed as part of a number of reports to the HSP on the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) and NRF.
- 2.2 The LAA Partnership Group established to develop the SSCF last year has been extended to include HSP partners for the other three blocks. This LAA Partnership Group has met once and will be overseeing the development of the LAA and reporting to the HSP. The group agreed that partners will identify LAA champions who can work closely with the Council's Lead Officers for each of the four blocks of the LAA.
- 2.3 A summary of the Round 3 LAA requirements is presented here and the HSP partners' comments are sought on aspects of the LAA including, the mandatory outcomes framework, reward element (stretch targets), enabling measures and statement of community involvement.
- 2.4 Areas are expected to translate the mandatory indicators to address specific needs identified in the borough.
- 2.5 The timescale for the development of the agreement is tight with key deadlines identified by GOL (see para 7).

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the HSP agree the process for the development of the LAA particularly in relation to the June 30 submission and the September 30 draft LAA (see paragraphs 5.10 and 5.11).
- 3.2 That the HSP considers any overarching theme for Haringey's LAA.
- 3.3 That the HSP members consider how they will support the development of the LAA individually and through the thematic partnerships, partner agencies are also encouraged to nominate LAA champions.
- 3.4 That the HSP note the summary LAA paper produced for the HSP event (see appendix 1) and that individual partners and partnerships consider the issues raised in the summary.

4. Background Information

- 4.1 HSP has received reports on the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) and the LAA setting out the general policy context for the LAA. This detailed the scope of the LAA. The LAA is:

- an outcome based model (local solutions to local problems) which sets out priorities for the local areas agreed between central government, GOL and the local area
- a three year agreement which is refreshed annually
- has 4 blocks of the LAA: children and young people, enterprise and local economy, safer and stronger communities and healthier communities and older people
- also be a major tool in neighbourhood renewal and for tackling some of the key long term challenges

5. Analysis

5.1 The LAA guidance for Round 3 sets out a number of requirements which raises issues for which HSP guidance is required. These are:

5.2 Mandatory Outcomes Framework

5.2.1 The key requirement is that the partners provide baselines and three year targets for each of the 15-20 mandatory outcomes and 30-40 indicators. The mandatory outcomes and indicators need to be based on robust evidence. Some of these targets are not necessarily existing performance indicators and may require some developmental work.

5.2.2 In addition to this key partners will need to decide whether any optional outcomes and indicators are to be included in the four LAA blocks.

5.3 The Reward Element

5.3.1 There is a mandatory template that must be completed for each of the targets which attract a reward element i.e. stretch targets. The proposal is to have 14 targets with a view to dropping two that seem the least likely to be achieved. The HSP will need to consider the use of pump priming funding to deliver the stretch targets and in the longer term the use of any Performance Reward Grant received if stretch targets are met over the three years.

5.4 Enabling Measures

5.4.1 Requests for enabling measures will be determined through the development of the mandatory outcomes framework and the stretch targets. Partners and partnerships are encouraged to identify barriers to the delivery of the mandatory and stretch targets. The request for enabling measures depends very much on how challenging Haringey wants to be. This is a useful opportunity for requesting flexibilities around national requirements which present barriers and do not add value to service delivery.

5.5 Statement of Community Involvement

5.5.1 The LAA will need to include a mandatory statement of voluntary and community sector (VCS) involvement. It is proposed that the statement describes the following process:

5.5.2 For the wider resident involvement we will piggy back on the Community Strategy consultation process.

5.5.3 The VCS involvement will be through the HSP, and the thematic partnership and the umbrella bodies. HAVCO and HarCEN, are part of the LAA

Partnership Group and their role will be to consult with their membership on the LAA and feedback to the LAA Partnership Group.

- 5.5.4 It is expected that partners will consult with their sector and report back through the LAA Partnership Group/HSP this includes the VCS umbrella groups.

5.6 **Haringey LAA development process**

- 5.6.1 The LAA guidance suggests that partner agencies nominate an LAA champion to drive the LAA process. Accordingly the Council has identified Lead Officers for the 4 blocks. They are:

- Sharon Shoesmith – Children and Young People
- Anne Bristow – Healthier Communities and Older People
- David Hennings – Economic Development
- Justin Holliday/ David Hennings – Safer and Stronger Communities

- 5.6.2 Other partner agencies may also want to identify an LAA champion.

- 5.6.3 The role of LAA champions will be to develop their LAA block in consultation with their own organisation and with the relevant thematic partnership and partners.

5.7 **Overall Theme**

- 5.8 The LAA Partnership Group has proposed that partners consider specific areas, issues and or communities where partnership working can add value. For example the neighbourhood element of the SSCF which is planning to address worklessness in specific wards targeting specific groups of people.

5.9 **Timescales**

- 5.9.1 GOL have set a number of deadlines which in fact mean very tight timescales for the development of the LAA. The key dates are:

- 30 June Initial Submission
- 30 September First Full Draft Submission
- 30 November A Revised Submission
- 26 January Final Draft

5.10 **June Initial Submission**

- 5.10.1 It is expected that this would set out the conclusions of preparatory work, establishing the starting points of the Agreement including the priorities which form the basis of the LAA. This should also set out the key factors that will shape the LAA, and in particular identify those aspects of the proposals that will be new, that may be innovative or require specific agreement from other stakeholders, including requests for enabling measures.

- 5.10.2 As the new Community Strategy will not be finalised until after the LAA deadline it is proposed that the June Submission will draw on the priorities emerging from the Community Strategy consultation as well as developments emerging from the thematic partnerships. As this needs to be submitted before the next HSP meeting it is proposed that the LAA Partnership Group oversee the development of the draft and the final copy is signed off by the HSP Chair.

5.11 September draft submission

- 5.11.1 This is the first full draft LAA which needs to include the mandatory outcomes and targets, funding streams that will support the delivery of the outcomes; business cases for all enabling measures; identification of partners; draft statement of how the community and VCS is being involved in the LAA; and details of governance and performance management arrangements.
- 5.11.2 Again as the new Community Strategy will not be finalised until after the GOL deadline for the submission of the first full LAA draft in September and, as this is before the next HSP meeting it is proposed that the LAA Partnership Group oversee the development of the draft and the final copy is signed off by the HSP Chair.

5.12 Financial monitoring and performance management.

- 5.12.1 The performance and financial management arrangements for the LAA will be developed by the LAA Partnership Group and will be reported to the HSP in October.

Appendix 1 - Summary of Round 3 LAA Guidance

LAA Core Elements

There are a number of core elements to a Local Area Agreement. These are:

1. Mandatory Outcomes Framework

Each block of the LAA has both mandatory and optional outcomes¹ with key indicators that are detailed in the outcomes framework. The mandatory outcomes and indicators must be included in the LAA. In addition outcomes and indicators will need to be included where there is a local decision to pool specific funding streams.

The mandatory outcomes framework is divided into four blocks: children and young people, healthier communities and older people, safer stronger communities and economic development.

All mandatory and optional outcomes and indicators are eligible for reward element. It should be noted that the indicators **can and should be applied to specific groups** (especially socially excluded and disadvantaged groups) where evidence suggests that they may be suffering particularly poor outcomes.

Key Issues
Partners need to provide baselines and three year targets for each of the mandatory indicators.
Partners need to consider the evidence which enables the translation of the mandatory outcomes and indicators to the borough's needs.
Partners need to consider which optional outcomes and indicators if any will be included.

2. Reward Element

Areas should propose a number of top priorities for improvement locally, where they intend to deliver '**stretched**' performance over three years in return for Pump Priming and Performance Reward Grant. Proposals need to be evidence based, include robust baseline data, represent value for money and be endorsed by the LSP. There are no mandatory items for the reward element.

Areas have the freedom to choose the number of stretched targets they wish to negotiate for their LAA reward element, however it is likely that we will be looking at 12 stretch targets. All bar one indicator in the outcomes framework can be negotiated as stretched targets.

Key Issues
A mandatory template for each of the stretch target has to be completed. This

¹ The LAA Guidance for Round 3 can be found at <http://odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1164930>

will be the most resource intensive and time consuming task for the LAA.

3. Enabling Measures

Enabling measures were formally know as ‘freedoms and flexibilities’ and are used to enable the achievement of better outcomes. There are a number of enabling measures that areas will automatically benefit from as a result of having an LAA. These are:

- Ability to pool funds from government within blocks (or across blocks for single pot areas)
- Where areas deliver agreed outcomes more efficiently they can invest any savings in delivering the outcomes of the LAA.
- Reduction in the monitoring and reporting requirements for pooled funding streams, including removal of grant claims forms.
- Freedom to vire or combine some mainstream funding between organisations to meet shared LAA outcomes.
- Streamlined payment mechanisms, including removing the need to submit claims form.

Where there are specific barriers to the delivery of outcomes, additional LAA enabling measures may be requested. Areas should discuss the need for these with the Government Office as part of the development of their LAA outcomes. GOL will advise whether the requested action is already permissible or the objective can be achieved through other means. Where the request is pursued, **a business case must be submitted** detailing the request. The requests will be considered on a case by case basis.

Key Issues

The enabling measures required should on the whole arise from discussions around the development of the outcomes framework and the reward element. A template is included in the guidance (page 62).

4. A list of funding streams to be pooled or aligned

- A number of funding streams will be automatically pooled centrally.
- In addition local areas can choose any or all funding streams (from a limited list) for pooled in some cases subject to specific conditions.
- Finally partners can choose to align funding streams (listed in the guidance)

Key Issues

Partners need to consider points 2 and 3 above and decide if any extra funding streams need to be pooled or aligned to deliver the outcomes in the LAA.

5. Statement of Community Involvement

The LAA must include a statement of the involvement of the VCS and local people in the design and delivery of the agreement. This should state how local people and the VCS have been informed, consulted and given the opportunity to participate in the process and the delivery of the outcomes.

Key Issues
Partners to note we are proposing to piggy back on the consultation process for the Community Strategy (which will consult extensively with local people) and use the outcomes to inform the priorities of the LAA.
Partners to note that the VCS are represented on the LAA partnership group which will support the HSP in the development of the LAA.
A two page statement of community involvement will provide a summary of consultation work described above.

Other Information:

6. Timeline / Work plan

Date	Submissions	HSP Meetings
April –June Preparatory Work		
30 June	Initial Submission	20 June
June – September Develop first full draft		
30 September	First Full Draft Submission	
September – December GOL will consult with central departments and continue to work with areas to refine the agreement.		
30 November	A Revised Submission	16 October
GOL will continue to consult Departments and local areas before making a final recommendation to ministers.		
26 January	Final Draft	20 December

Key Issues
As the timescale is extremely tight all thematic partnerships are requested to put the LAA as a standing item on the agenda. The LAA will also be standing item on the HSP agenda. In addition a LAA Partnership Group will support the HSP in developing the LAA.

7. Choosing a Theme

The LAA can have one or more cross cutting themes that will guide the general direction of the LAA.

The themes of other Borough's LAAs include:

- Greenwich – The major theme of childcare and support for vulnerable and disadvantaged families.
- Kirklees – Eight or so themes including reducing poverty
- Brent – Settled homes and supporting children who experience the greatest barriers to learning.
- Lewisham – Narrowing the gap and building stronger communities
- Hammersmith and Fulham- Child Poverty including Sure Start, smoking cessation for parents and getting lone parents into jobs.

Some boroughs have used their theme/s to inform the selection of the enabling measures and stretch targets.