

## **Better Places Partnership Board (BPP)**

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> December 2007

**Report Title:** Local Area Agreement (LAA) Update

**Report of:** Niall Bolger Director of Urban Environment

### **Summary**

**The purpose of this report is to provide background information and context to the BPP and an up to date overview on the development of the LAA**

This report:

1. Gives the background to the development of this new Local Area Agreement
2. Sets out a summary of how we are expected to develop the LAA
3. Summarises where we currently are in this process
4. Sets out the next steps and some of the factors we need to consider in relation to the new indicators
5. Gives a number of links and appendices to give people further and more detailed information on the national indicators and Haringey's context

### **Recommendations**

- 1 That the BPP note the contents of the report.
- 2 That the LAA is a key topic at a future BPP

### **For more information contact**

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## **1. Background to the new LAA framework**

### **1.1 Changes to the funding regime**

The Local Government and Public Involvement Act gives effect to a number of legislative changes which can strengthen the place-shaping role of partnership working. The Comprehensive Spending Review 07 (CSR07) underpins the new LAA framework. Government is pooling 39 disparate and separate funding streams into a new **Area Based Grant** (ABG) for partnerships to allocate. These are listed as **Appendix 1**, and include a new working neighbourhoods allocation (replacing NRF). Full information about the ABG should be available in early December.

### **1.2 New national indicators**

In line with this more holistic approach, which gives greater freedoms and flexibilities for local decision making, the CSR 07 also sets out the 198 National Indicators which are their key measures, and *from which* local partnerships can select and agree up to 35 (plus 16 Dept of Children Schools and Families targets) as priorities for their locality, based on their local circumstances. These national indicators are attached through the following link [National Indicators](#)

### **1.3 Pooled funding and a new performance framework**

In pooling the funding and reshaping the performance framework, the government has an expectation that local partnerships can work to their agreed joint outcomes, allocate the ABG and pooled funding to do this and so better meet local needs and transform services as necessary. From 2008/9 the link between LAAs and particular funding streams is broken, removing specific funding for specific targets and specific LAA grants. In combining the funding there is an even stronger imperative on partnerships to plan and work together. This forms the basis for the new style LAA which must be ready for implementation by June 2008. The new performance framework will be fully effective from April 2009.

### **1.4 Moving to the new Comprehensive Area Assessment and the duty on statutory partners**

From April 2009 the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) will be replaced by the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). The CAA will be the main mechanism through which LAA performance will be managed. A critical element of the new CAA will be the *area risk assessment* which 'will hold members of the local strategic partnership jointly to account' for their impact on the priority outcomes for local people, as set out in the Local Area Agreement. (Gareth Davies, Audit Commission).

This new CAA will:

- be outcome focused
- reflect citizen and community perspectives and experience,
- take into account the views of and concerns of more vulnerable members of local communities.
- With local perceptions of services and service delivery forming part of the assessment.

## **Developing the new LAA and telling Haringey's story**

Communities and Local Government have issued guidance on developing the LAA. This can be found through the following link: [LAA guidance](#). Using this guidance will in summary mean the following for Haringey

- Haringey's Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) was developed on thorough and robust consultation. We need to ensure that our Local Area Agreement draws on the SCS to tell the story of place, uses relevant evidence and that it (the LAA) is developed in line with community aspirations and priorities.
- The narrative and vision within the SCS should be the starting point for identifying our priorities. Shown in Appendix 2 is a table that sets out the Better Places Priorities alongside the SCS priorities and the appropriate national indicators.
- Councillors will play a fundamental role in the development of the SCS by bringing their local knowledge and community leadership role to the process.

## **3. Preparing for the new LAA 2008-9**

### **3.1 Where we are now**

At the launch of the SCS the Haringey Strategic Partnership (HSP) started the process of identifying its top priorities. This sets the context for confirming our final 35 key indicators. These indicators can be seen in the excel table Appendix 3. The HSP has formed a Performance Management Group to oversee this process. This group includes the Council Leader. However, it is critical that the rest of the wider Partnership informs the process and help refine the choice of targets before they are signed off by the HSP.

### **3.2 The Government Office for London**

The LAA is being negotiated with government with the Government Office for London acting as bridge between ourselves and government.

### **3.3 Developing the narrative or story**

Officers supporting the thematic partnership boards will start to draft the narrative or 'story' to support our choice of LAA targets. The considerations of the BPP, will inform this process. There will be a verbal feedback on this process to the BPP on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

### **3.5 Incorporating the priorities of the Better Places Partnership**

The BPP has been reconsidering its priorities through the review of the Terms of Reference. Together with the Sustainable Community Strategy, the emerging Greenest Borough Strategy and the work and experience of Better Haringey, these will be used to help inform the narrative that will support the BPPS choice of targets.

## **4. Next Steps**

### **4.1 Considering the targets and indicators**

Appendix 2 sets out the BPP priorities, together with our LAA existing targets and all the new relevant National Indicators. The table also indicates linked or cross cutting targets. The BPP will need to consider these targets in the context of

- those most pressing issues facing Haringey
- those issues that we can make the biggest difference and impact upon
- those issues that are important to local people

#### **4.2 Considering the new indicators and making them work together**

There are a number of new areas for consideration these include tackling climate change and meeting population growth and change. Both of these are cross-cutting areas that do not lay solely with this board. Appendices 2 and 3 show the national indicators and priorities across the partnership. It should be borne in mind that the BPP is just one board and we are not likely to get more than 3-4 indicators within the 35. Moreover we need to think about the cross-cutting nature of indicators and how they might work in tandem with each other to better promote those outcomes we want to see.

#### **4.3 Timescales**

The final sign-off for this entire process will be June 2008. An update will be given at the BPP meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2007 on how this affects the BPP meeting cycle.