



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

[No 1]

CABINET

On

18/3/08

Report Title: Haringey's **Local Area Agreement 2008/09 to 2009/11**

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): **[add reference]**

Report of: **Sharon Kemp, Assistant Chief Executive (PPP&C)**

Wards(s) affected: All

Report for: Key Decision

1. Purpose (That is, the decision required)

- 1.1 To agree Haringey's Local Area Agreement (LAA) for 2008/09 to 2009/11, specifically the 35 improvement indicators and the Story of Place and to note the next steps for preparing the final agreement with the Government Office for London.
- 1.2 To confirm that a full review of all projects and initiatives funded within the Area Based Grant for 2008/09 is undertaken in September 2008/09 to inform future commissioning intentions.
- 1.3 To update on the delivery of thematic workshops to promote ownership of LAA and accountability for the achievement of outcomes and delivery of improvement indicators within the thematic areas.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)

- 2.1 This report provides an update on progress in developing Haringey's new Local Area Agreement for 2008/9 to 2011/12. I am pleased to say that negotiations between the Council, the Haringey Strategic Partnership and the Government Office for London have progressed well. Despite the tight Central Government timescales a final LAA for 2008/09 to 2009/11 has been developed:
 - 35 priority indicators have been selected and agreed with GoL at the HSP Performance Management Group (PMG) meeting on 4th March.
 - A Haringey Story of Place has been drafted, providing the narrative and context for the LAA priorities, linked to the Borough's longer term vision and ambitions as expressed in the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 2.2 The HSP meeting of 11th February agreed the Area Based Grant transitional funding arrangements for 2008/09 with final allocations for each of the Thematic Partnership Boards granted by the HSP PMG on 4th March.

2.3 Thematic Partnership Workshops will take place during March. These will provide the opportunity for each of the Boards to consolidate the way forward - review the new national requirements, re-affirm roles and responsibilities, detail the high level action planning and confirm the management and accountabilities for the cross cutting indicators.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the contents of this report are noted.

3.2 Approve Haringey's Local Area Agreement 2008/09 to 2010/11 encompassing the 35 Improvement Indicators and 16 statutory educational attainment and early years indicators, subject to final ministerial sign off in June 08. See Appendix A

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4. Chief Financial Officer Comments

4.1 The Chief Financial Officer has been consulted in the production of this report and confirms that from 2008/09 Haringey will no longer receive specific grant to fund the achievement overall LAA targets as the Government has shifted considerable funding from ring-fenced grants into non-ring fenced grant, including the Area Based Grant (ABG). Haringey as the accountable body will receive the ABG (currently forecast at £21.852m for 2008/09) and is free to use this un-ring fenced funding as they see fit to support the delivery of local , regional and national priorities in their areas, including the achievement of LAA targets.

4.2 In practical terms 2008/09 can be seen as a transition year between the previous LAA regime with tighter controls over spending and activity to one of greater freedom and flexibility both in terms of prioritising targets and also allocating funding across the HSP.

5. Head of Legal Services Comments

5.1 The majority of the legal implications are set out in the body of the report. The duty to prepare a draft LAA and to submit it to the DCLG arises under section 106 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The approval of the draft LAA is for the time being a Cabinet function and will be referred to full Council for noting and endorsement.

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

6.1 Letter from Communities and Local Government to Local Authority Chief Executives in authorities responsible for preparing a Local Area Agreement re Local Area Agreements – Final arrangements for submission, 5th March 2008

7. Strategic Implications

- 7.1 The Local Area Agreement (LAA) facilitates the delivery of the ambitions for Haringey and its residents as set out in the sustainable community strategy. The LAA will be the only vehicle for agreeing targets between local government, their delivery partners and central government.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 The introduction of the Area Based Grant presents a fundamental shift in the allocation of funding from Central Government, refer to section 15 in the body of this report.
- 8.2 The proposed workshops (paragraph 16) will be contained within existing 2007/08 budgets.

9. Equalities Implications

- 9.1 The Local Area Agreement improvement targets will be of particular benefit to disadvantaged communities and population groups across the borough especially in those wards and super output areas that have higher levels of deprivation. An equalities impact assessment has been undertaken to ensure that there is no adverse impacts to any particular population group.

10. Consultation

- 10.1 The LAA is based upon the objectives and priorities contained within the Community Strategy which were developed through extensive involvement and consultation with resident, organisations and other stakeholders.

11. Background

- 11.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires local strategic partnerships to have in place new Local Area Agreements by June 2008. These are to include up to 35 improvement targets negotiated with Government, 16 statutory educational attainment and early years indicators and unlimited local indicators as targets for these are not negotiated with Central Government, and there is no formal reporting requirement.
- 11.2 Haringey Strategic Partnership has developed its 2008/09 – 2010/11 Local Area Agreement. The Partnership's Performance Management Group and the Government Office for London has been meeting to negotiate and agree Haringey's final selection of indicators.

12. Haringey's Local Area Agreement

- 12.1 Haringey's Local Area Agreement encompasses: A Haringey Story of Place; Improvement Indicators; An Equalities Impact Assessment and information about the Haringey Strategic Partnership. See Appendix A. The LAA will be submitted to Full Council on 31st March 2008 with ministerial sign off expected in June 2008.

- 12.2 Haringey's Story of Place explains in narrative form, Haringey's own unique story and our future strategic direction. It outlines Haringey's Sustainable Community Strategy outcome areas, our choice of priorities and national indicators and makes the links to our wider plans and strategies. A separate evidence base document details a wide range of information and data to illustrate and support 'our story' and choice of indicators.
- 12.3 Haringey's Strategic Partnership has negotiated 35 improvement indicators and 17 local indicators, along side the 16 mandatory education and early years' indicators. Thematic Boards considered and agreed their final selections based on local priorities and the recommendations of GoL and the various government departments.
- 12.4 Business cases have been developed for the 35 improvement indicators, and are in the process of being developed for the local indicators. The business cases support the evidence base for Haringey's selection of indicators and will support identification of key activities in the action planning stages for each of the indicators.
- 12.5 The indicators are aligned to thematic boards and have identified lead agencies with a named senior officer as required by statute. Many of the indicators are cross cutting and delivery will impact across thematic areas. In these instances the indicators will be reported to and monitored by more than one thematic board. See appendix B.
- 12.6 A new robust performance management framework for the partnership has been developed which will enable consistent effective monitoring of outcomes; project activity, funding and value for money. It has been agreed that the Performance Management Group, the HSP and its thematic boards will receive quarterly performance reports showing: progress against the 35 improvement indicators and 16 mandatory targets; high level project highlight reports; financial performance including spend against area based grant; and comments and action planning for areas not meeting targets. The highlights from the HSP Performance will be included within the Council's performance reporting cycle.
- 12.7 The partnership is now in a position to start considering setting targets for the indicators selected. We have been advised that Home Office and Department for Children Schools and Families targets are likely to be prescriptive. This aside, it is envisaged that 3 year cumulative targets will be set, with interim yearly targets in place set so that performance trajectories can be assessed and monitored. For perception indicators where we currently have no baseline data, a confidence interval will be set. When the baseline is established at the end of the first year, the target will be the baseline plus a suitable percentage increase or decrease over the remaining two years. It is not envisaged that a national template will be set for target setting, however, locally target setting is likely to be based on trend analysis; key

expectations of key public service delivery agents and discussions between LAA leads and the Government Office for London..

- 12.8 Government announced a new round of stretch reward on 4th February, with the total value to be at least £340 million. It also announced that the most deprived areas, which face the greatest challenges, will benefit from an additional £50 million reward. Split across the partnerships £340 million nationally is equivalent to an average of £2.2 million for each Local Area and the intention is to link reward payments to improvement across all of the up to 35 targets agreed in the LAA negotiations, rather than specific indicators. Further information is awaited from GoL on how the funding will operate.
- 12.9 The duty to involve is intended to give local people, the third sector and the business sector and opportunity to have their say and get involved in the issues that affect their local area, influencing local decision making. Although the duty does not come into effect until April 2009, LAAs should be developed with this duty in mind. The LAA provides the partnership with the opportunity to present to local communities a clear statement of how the partnership is tackling key priorities together. The duty to publish information about the LAA places a duty on the partnership to ensure that the LAA is publicly available, communicated actively in an accessible way throughout its life, including information on the progress of delivering targets. The HSP on 11th February agreed that information on the LAA should be presented to residents via local area assemblies and other established networks. A communications plan is being developed.

13. Area Based Grant

- 13.1 The Area Based Grant is a non-ring fenced grant made up from previously specific grants, the majority of which are already received by departments. Whilst local areas have discretion on how to utilise this funding, guidance suggests it should be used to deliver the national indicator set and local priorities identified within the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement.
- 13.2 The allocations of Area Based Grant to theme boards has been agreed for 2008/09 subject to review in September 2008. Thematic Chairs, Lead Members and lead officers agreed the detail of the funding within their area in consultation with partners and these were approved by the HSP Performance Management Group meeting on 4th March 2008.
- 13.3 Activity is in progress with Legal and Finance in line with the use of resources requirements and standing financial regulations to manage the Area Based Grant.

14. Thematic workshops

- 14.1 The HSP has agreed that half day workshops will be facilitated for each of the theme Boards during March. The workshop will focus on the new national requirements, re-affirm roles and responsibilities, high level action planning and management of cross cutting indicators.

Next steps

Activity	By When
Workshops to agree action plans linked to new Performance Management Framework	March 2008
Agreement with GOL of 35 indicators	31 March 2008
Boroughs notified of DCSF statutory targets	April 2008
Negotiation on targets between partnership and GOL	April to June 2008
Final Ministerial sign off of Local Area Agreement	June 2008

- 14.2 It should be noted that officers do not anticipate at this stage any changes to the selected 35 indicators. However, should any changes arise from further negotiations with the Government Office for London or as directed by the Secretary of State, these will be brought back to Cabinet for approval.

15. Conclusion

- 15.1 The LAA provides a key lever to bring about a more robust approach to local partnership working, providing the opportunity for partners to work together to deliver positive outcomes for local people.

16. Use of Appendices / Tables / Photographs

- 16.1 Appendix A – LAA 2008/09 – 2010/11
 16.2 Appendix B - Cross cutting indicators