



Agenda item:

Overview and Scrutiny

On

30/6/08

[No 1

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 provide an overview on the development of Haringey's 2008/09-2010/11 Local Area Agreement, which is expected to receive Ministerial sign off by the end of June 2008, and to update on it's current position and the potential areas that Overview and Scrutiny Committee may wish to scrutinise in the coming year.

### 2. Introduction

- 2.1 The council working with the Haringey Strategic Partnership has developed a new Local Area Agreement for 2008/09-2010/11. The partnership has successfully negotiated 35 improvement indicators, a number of local targets and 16 attainment targets for the academic year 2008/09. Haringey's final LAA was submitted to Government Office for London on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2008 (subject to final Ministerial sign off by the end of June), and the partnership is confident that no further changes will be requested at this point.
- 2.2 Thematic Partnership Workshops were facilitated during March giving the Boards the opportunity to re-affirm the new national requirements, roles and responsibilities, and to action plan for the cross cutting indicators within their remit. Thematic boards are implementing the performance management framework for the partnership, which aligns with the council's performance management system. Progress on the delivery of the Local Area Agreement outcomes will be tracked and performance managed quarterly by the boards.

### 3. Recommendations

- 3.1 To note the contents of this report and to consider the potential LAA outcome areas that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may want scrutinise over the coming

year. See Appendix A

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PP

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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 confirmed at £22.240m 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.
- 4.3 Attention is also drawn to paragraph 14.5 and the new round of stretch reward attached to improvement across the 35 targets agreed in the LAA.

#### **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. In accordance with the legislation in force at the time, the draft LAA was approved by the Cabinet, and referred to full Council for noting and endorsement, before submission to the Government Office for London.

#### **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, 5<sup>th</sup> 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 delivering 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 16 in the body of this report.
- 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. The HSP and its thematic boards built on this consultation to inform the selection of national indicators and subsequent negotiations with central Government.
- 11. Background**
- 11.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 require 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 attainment targets for the academic year 2008/09 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 met on several occasions to negotiate and agree Haringey's final selection of indicators and the three year targets.
- 12. Introduction**
- 12.1 Haringey's Local Area Agreement encompasses: A Haringey Story of Place; 35 Improvement Indicators, 16 attainment targets for the academic year 2008/09 and local indicators; Please refer to Appendix A.
- 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.

### **13. Current Position for 2008/09**

- 13.1 Haringey's Strategic Partnership negotiated the selection of 35 improvement indicators, a number of local targets (which include our existing stretch targets), from the list of 198 national indicators as set by Government. These improvement indicators and local targets sit along side 16 attainment targets for the academic year 2008/09. Thematic Boards considered and agreed their final selections based on local priorities and the recommendations of GoL and the various government departments.
- 13.2 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.
- 13.3 Over the past month, the partnership's target leads have successfully negotiated with central government three year targets for the 35 national indicators within Haringey's Local Area Agreement. These are listed within the outcomes framework at the back of Haringey's Local Area Agreement, which was formally submitted to Government Office for London on 30th May 2008.

### **14 Performance management of the Local Area Agreement**

- 14.1 A new performance management framework for the partnership is being implemented across the local strategic partnership and its thematic boards, which will enable consistent monitoring of outcomes; project activity, funding and value for money. The HSP, its Performance Management Group, and the thematic boards will receive quarterly performance reports showing: progress against the improvement indicators and local targets within their remit; 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.
- 14.2 The HSP agreed the facilitation of half day workshops for each of the theme Boards during March to re-affirm the new national requirements, roles and responsibilities, high level action planning and management of cross cutting indicators. In June addition workshops were facilitated for two theme boards, as pilots, to embed the performance management framework and processes.
- 14.3 Thematic Board action plans have been developed for each of the improvement indicators within their remit, and these support the performance management process, providing key actions and milestones to ensure delivery of outcomes are on track.
- 14.4 Government announced a new round of stretch reward on 4th February, with the total value to be at least £340 million. Split across the partnerships £340 million nationally is equivalent to an average of £2.2 million for each Local Area and this

links reward payments to improvement across all of the 35 targets agreed in the LAA. Government also announced that the most deprived areas, which face the greatest challenges, will benefit from an additional £50 million WNF reward. Haringey's WNF reward is linked to two indicators within the supplied basket of WNF indicators; NI 153 and NI 117.

## **15 Role of local councillors and overview and scrutiny**

- 15.1 Haringey Council is the lead partner and the accountable body for the partnerships LAA. As mentioned the HSP will oversee the delivery of the LAA and the partnership boards will be accountable for the priority indicators within their remit.
- 15.2 The new LAAs incorporate a duty for named partners to cooperate, a duty to engage and inform residents and an enhanced role of scrutiny. There is recognition that local councillors have a key role in scrutiny and will be able to develop their role in scrutinising other public services and to hold service providers to account in achieving the ambitions of the locality. The statutory duty to cooperate for named agencies requires them to respond to council scrutiny.
- 15.3 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. Haringey's 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, and communicated in an accessible way throughout its life, including information on the progress of delivering targets. To support this, the HSP on 11<sup>th</sup> February agreed that information on the LAA should be presented to residents via local area assemblies and other established engagement forums. A communications plan has been developed for the LAA and this will feed into an overall communications plan for the HSP.

## **16 Area Based Grant**

- 16.1 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.
- 16.2 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 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

- 16.3 In late March 2008 the council as the accountable body received its determination letter from Government providing details of its revised allocation for it's 2008/09 Area Based Grant. Within this the accountable body was advised that a further funding stream had been incorporated within the Area Based Grant and that a small number of previously included grants were to have their allocation increased slightly. In addition to this two further notifications were received outside of the official determination letter again advising of revised allocations to two grants within the Area Based Grant. Our current allocation for 2008/09 is £22.240m, the HSP Performance Management Group is due to consider and approve the detail of funding for the increased amount of ABG as notified at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2008.

## **17 Next steps**

- 17.1 Haringey's LAA is expected to achieve government approval by 27<sup>th</sup> June 2008. Government Office for London has advised that there will no longer be a formal signing off ceremony as previously informed. However, there will be a national launch on the 30<sup>th</sup> and a LAA London Reception rather than a signing ceremony later in the year.

## **18 Conclusion**

- 18.1 Haringey's new Local Area Agreement provides a key lever to strengthen local partnership working, providing commitment locally to work together to improve services and deliver positive outcomes for local people.

## **19 Use of Appendices / Tables / Photographs**

- 19.1 Appendix A – LAA 2008/09 – 2010/11