



Committee report

Committee	CABINET
Date	31 MARCH 2009
Title	LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2 REFRESH
Report of	LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR GOVERNANCE AND PERFORMANCE

PURPOSE

1. To agree the latest version of the Local Area Agreement 2 following its refresh.

BACKGROUND

2. The Local Area Agreement is an agreement between central government and the Island and forms a part of the government's vision for improving the way local priorities are addressed. It is intended to encourage partnership working through a set of key deliverables driven by the Sustainable Community Strategy, that offer improvements to the lives of Island residents. The Local Area Agreement 2 is intended to run for a period of three years.

The Local Area Agreement 2 for the Island was agreed by the Cabinet and Full Council in May 2008 and by the Secretary of State in June 2008. The Local Area Agreement is made up of 35 designated indicators taken from the National Indicator Set and 25 local indicators to underpin the delivery of the priorities. There are also a number of statutory indicators which relate specifically to education included within the agreement.

Due to delays in central government defining the definitions of the indicators (some of which were postponed until 2009/10) and the time taken by the Government Office for the South East to negotiate and agree annual targets, it was not possible to agree all the targets in June 2008. The Local Area Agreement has, therefore, undergone a 'refresh' process with the majority of baselines and targets for designated indicators now agreed and some of the targets set in June 2008 renegotiated. The changes to each of the indicators affected are set out in Appendix B.

The Local Area Agreement 2 document, attached at Appendix A, sets out the priorities, the indicators which will measure the successful delivery of these priorities, and the targets agreed to date, for these measures.

The Government Office for the South East (GOSE) originally advised that the final document would require to be submitted by 27 March 2009, however, GOSE have

since agreed an extension to this date in order for the Cabinet to agree the refreshed document at this meeting. The document will then be submitted to GOSE for central government to consider.

In the unlikely event that central government propose any changes it is recommended that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, be authorised to approve any amendments. Once the final version has been formally agreed by the secretary of state it shall be sent to all members of the council for information.

CHANGES RESULTING FROM THE REFRESH

3. The refresh has resulted in some changes to the targets within the Local Area Agreement 2. Some baselines and targets that were not previously agreed by the secretary of state in June 2008 have now been agreed. These include:
 - NI 4 % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality
 - NI 19 Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders (local target)
 - NI 20 Assault with injury crime rate (targets now agreed subject to the mid year population estimates)
 - NI 38 Drug related (Class A) offending rate
 - NI 50 Emotional health of children
 - NI 115 Substance misuse by young people
 - NI 124 People with a long-term condition supported to be independent and in control of their condition
4. A few of the targets negotiated have been made more challenging. These include:
 - NI 39 Rate of hospital admission
 - NI 113a Percentage of the population aged 15-24 screened or tested for Chlamydia, (a local indicator)
 - NI 191 Residual household waste per household
5. Some of the targets are now calculated or presented differently. These include:
 - NI 111 First time entrants to the Youth Justice System (targets now calculated at the rate of First Time Entrants per 100,000 of the 10-17 population instead of actual numbers of first time entrants)
 - NI 112 Under 18 conception rate (targets now expressed as a percentage)
 - NI 130 Social Care clients receiving Self Directed Support per 100,000 population (final year target agreed and now expressed as a percentage)
 - NI 136 People supported to live independently through social services (all adults) (targets now include decimal places)
6. Baselines have changed for some measures. These include:
 - NI 8 Adult participation in sport and active recreation
 - NI 17 Perceptions of anti-social behaviour
 - NI 18 Adult re-offending rates for those under probation supervision (local indicator)
 - NI 116 Proportion of children in poverty
7. National Indicator 32, repeat incidents of domestic violence, (a local indicator) has been removed and replaced with an indicator measuring 'domestic crime rate'.

8. There are three indicators that are 'frozen' as they are affected by the economic downturn and there may be an opportunity to renegotiate these at a later date however this process is uncertain. These include:
 - NI 151 Overall employment rate (working age)
 - NI 152 Working age people on out of work benefits
 - NI 155 Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)
9. Target setting for one indicator, NI 128 User reported measure of respect and dignity in their treatment, has been deferred until 2009/10 as the baseline has not yet been set. It is uncertain when the targets for this indicator may be agreed.
10. It has been confirmed by GOSE that there will not be an opportunity to revise targets following the end of year outturn for the first year therefore these are the targets against which any reward money will be allocated.

CONSULTATION

11. Consultation has included members of the Island Strategic Partnership, officers and partners with Local Area Agreement responsibilities, and central government via the Government Office for the South East.

FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no direct financial implications from this report, however, the Local Area Agreement 2 has a grant funding stream and achievement of the majority of the designated targets will result in reward money.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13. Local Area Agreements are required by virtue of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The Council is under a statutory duty to have regard to the Local Area Agreement when exercising its functions. Any revision of an existing Local Area Agreement can only be effected in accordance with s111 and s112 of the same act which requires consulting each of its partner authorities and such others as it appears appropriate. If any target is the responsibility of another partner it can only revise that target with the consent of the partner agency. The Council has identified those listed in paragraph 11 above.
14. The Council must also have regard to the community strategy and any guidance issued by the secretary of state when revising any of its Local Area Agreement targets.
15. If members are minded to approve the attached, then subject to any minor changes to be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, the revision must be submitted to the secretary of state. If approved the Council must publish a memorandum of the revised Local Area Agreement stating the time it is in force, and the targets.

OPTIONS

- i. That the Cabinet agree the Local Area Agreement 2 attached at Appendix A.
- ii. That the Cabinet delegate responsibility for further amendments to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader.
- iii. Subject to the approval of the secretary of state, the Cabinet authorise the Chief Executive to publish a memorandum setting out the period for which the agreement is in place, the targets and which of these targets are designated and who is required to have regard to them.
- iv. That the Cabinet do not agree the changes to the Local Area Agreement 2.

RISK MANAGEMENT

16. There is a risk associated with not having an effective Local Area Agreement, as it will lead to a 'not performing well' outcome for the Comprehensive Area Assessment, therefore preventing the potential for the achievement of an excellent rating judgement. Risks associated with delivery of the Local Area Agreement will be monitored through Isle of Wight Council mini service boards, each of the four Partnership Boards, and the ISP Executive and Board.
17. Should the Cabinet choose option (iv) the Council would have an incomplete Local Area Agreement which would not only affect the outcome for the Comprehensive Area Assessment but has the potential to impact on the levels of reward money which could be achieved.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. That the Cabinet agree the Local Area Agreement 2 (attached at Appendix A).
- ii. That the Cabinet delegate responsibility for further amendments to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader.
- iii. Subject to the approval of the secretary of state, the Cabinet authorise the Chief Executive to publish a memorandum setting out the period for which the agreement is in place, the targets and which of these targets are designated and who is required to have regard to them.

APPENDICES ATTACHED

18. [Appendix A](#) – Refreshed Local Area Agreement 2
[Appendix B](#) – Changes to baselines and targets

BACKGROUND PAPERS

19. Local Area Agreement 2 as agreed by the Secretary of State on 30 June 2008
National Indicator Set
Changes resulting from the refresh

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