



LAA ANNUAL REVIEW – LEICESTER’S SELF ASSESSMENT

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet’s endorsement of the attached ‘self assessment’ of performance over the first year of Leicester’s Local Area Agreement.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The annual review of Leicester’s LAA largely follows the same format as the six-monthly review carried out in the autumn of 2006. The main difference being that the Statement of Grant Usage is more rigorous.
- 2.2 Performance reporting will take the same format, with score cards from the performance management system informing the self assessment report from Leicester.
- 2.3 As with the six-month review, the process will culminate with a strategic meeting with Government Office, who will subsequently produce a highlight report for Communities & Local Government covering both actual performance and direction of travel.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 Cabinet is recommended to endorse the self assessment of performance over the first year of Leicester’s Local Area Agreement.

4. Summary of Leicester’s Self Assessment

- 4.1 When considering the self assessment it is important to recognise that the LAA comprises challenging improvement targets (particularly in the case of LPSA stretch targets). As such there are several indicators that are flagged up as underperforming (10% below target across the LAA, except the safer element of the Safer & Stronger Communities block which uses a 0.5% tolerance) despite the fact that there has actually been net improvement. There are only a handful of indicators across the agreement that show an actual decline in performance.
- 4.2 It is also important to note that the self assessment contains several indicators for which there is no data available. In most cases these problems were

addressed during the annual refresh of the LAA. However, this self assessment is based on the original LAA, changes introduced through the annual refresh will be included in the next six monthly review (autumn 2007).

4.3 The self assessment presents a picture of general overall improvement in performance. However, there are a number of areas of concern in so far as there is a real risk that if action to improve performance is not taken, end of agreement targets will not be met. A summary of these areas for concern is set out below on a block by block basis:

4.4.1 Children & Young People

Although there is under performance against a number of targets, the general trend is one of improvement. Areas of particular concern include:

- Participation in PE and sport
- Teenage pregnancy
- Foundation stage profile
- Attainment at key Stages 2,3&4
- Attendance levels of Looked After Children
- Young people not in education, employment and training (including young offenders)

Remedial actions to address these concerns have been identified and are set out in the self assessment

4.4.2 Safer & Stronger Communities

Principle areas for concern within the Safer & Stronger Communities Block are:

- Reduction in BCS comparator crime
- Reducing wounding
- Reporting of domestic violence
- Residents feeling they can influence decisions
- Volunteering in sport
- Cleaner streets (BV 199a)
- Reduction in fly tipping
- Use of parks and green spaces
- Reduction of household waste landfilled
- Reduced energy consumption in Council buildings
- Prevention of homelessness

Some remedial actions to address these concerns are set out in the self assessment, with a fuller response being developed in advance of the meeting with GOEM.

4.4.3 Healthier Communities & Older People

- Reducing gap in life expectancy between priority areas and average
- Reducing gap in reducing cancer mortality between priority areas and average

- Increased Chlamydia screening
- Increased smoking quitters at 4 weeks
- Increase in over 60's using museums
- Benefit awards for older people

An action plan has been developed following the recent visit of the National Support Team for Health Inequalities to Leicester. This action plan addresses a number of the areas of underperformance highlighted in the self assessment.

4.4.4 Economic Development & Enterprise

Generally there has been encouraging performance, but there is a risk of not meeting end of agreement targets in the following areas:

- Offenders into employment
- People moving from incapacity benefit into work
- Public sector relocations
- Business failure rate

Remedial actions to address these concerns have been identified and are set out in the self assessment

- 4.4 The self assessment also provides evidence to inform GOEM's view on Leicester's 'direction of travel'. Issues here include governance arrangements, involvement of the voluntary and community sector, and the management of cross-cutting themes. While not wanting to encourage complacency, the self assessment does conclude that positive steps are being taken to ensure that the Leicester Partnership is well placed to effectively deliver the LAA.

5. **Next Steps**

- 5.1 Once any comments from the Executive Board have been incorporated into the self assessment a copy will be forwarded to GOEM. GOEM block leads will discuss issues with their counterparts in Leicester.
- 5.2 Leicester City Council's Cabinet will be asked to formally approve the self assessment.
- 5.3 The annual review of Leicester's LAA culminates with a high level strategic meeting with GOEM on the morning of 13th July 2007.
- 5.4 Following this meeting, GOEM will produce a highlight report for the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) which will include agreed action points.
- 5.5 The action points arising from the annual review will be informed by the significant changes to LAAs set out in the Local Government White Paper. Negotiations on the new LAAs will commence in the autumn of 2007 with the new agreement coming into effect in 2008/9. Further reports on the changes to LAAs and the negotiation process will be brought to the Executive Board in due course.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The LAA does not bring additional funding. It will simplify some of the mechanisms and processes concerned with payment and monitoring and should make more efficient and effective use of resources across the city.
- 6.2 The Council is the accountable body for the LAA and suitable arrangements for accountability and decision-making continue to be developed in consultation with, and advice from, GOEM.
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7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are a no additional legal implications arising from this report. There are however a number of legal issues relating to this project e.g. mechanisms for receipt of funding from partner bodies and commissioning of services through pooled budgets. As such, Legal Services will be fully engaged in the development of, and delivery mechanisms for the LAA.
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