

Meeting:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Date:	9 March 2006
Subject:	Harrow's Local Area Agreement
Responsible Officer:	Paul Najsarek
Contact Officer:	Deborah Palmer
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Marie Louise Nolan
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Public

## **Section 1: Summary**

### **Decision Required**

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Sub-Committee is requested to note:

1. The progress to date on the development of the LAA
2. Harrow has submitted its final LAA to GOL and it is now in the process of internal sign off with central Government
3. The LAA will come into operation on 1 April 2006.

### **Reason for report**

- To update Members of the progress made on the development of the LAA and the submission of the final LAA to GOL .

### **Benefits**

- LAAs are a new way of striking a deal between central Government, local authorities and major local delivery partners in an area. The council and our partners will negotiate clear targets and outcomes for Harrow with central government. The council and our partners will benefit from less ring-fenced funding, less red tape and more flexibility in working and delivery of the priorities for Harrow. The LAA brings a maximum of approximately £7 million into the Borough over the next three years.

## Cost of Proposals

There is no associated cost with the noting of this report.

## Risks

If the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Sub-Committee does not note this report, it will not be informed of:

- The progress made in the development of the LAA
- The key elements of the LAA
- The LAA will come into operation on 1 April 2006.

## Implications if recommendations rejected

If the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Sub-Committee does not note this report, it will not be informed of:

- The progress made in the development of the LAA
- The key elements of the LAA
- The LAA will come into operation on 1 April 2006.

## Section 2: Report

### 2.1 Brief History

Since June 2005, Harrow has been developing and negotiating a Local Area Agreement (LAA) with Central Government, represented by Government Office for London (GOL). This agreement, once successfully passed the central Government sign off process, will come into operation on 1 April 2006.

### 2.2 Options considered

A LAA is a three year agreement that sets out the priorities for a local area agreed between Central Government, represented by GOL, and a local area, represented by the local authority, Local Strategic Partnership and other key partners at the local level.

The LAA covers national, regional and local priorities in Harrow and allows Harrow Council and our partners to use Government funding in different ways to improve public services.

The LAA will be refreshed annually which will enable changes in national, regional and local priorities to be reflected (for example the outcomes of the government's Spending Review in 2006).

The LAA has allowed Harrow Council and our partners increased freedoms and flexibilities to find local solutions to local problems and to prioritise spending to achieve the outcomes identifies in the LAA.

The agreement is made up of outcomes, indicators and targets aimed at delivering a better quality of life for people in Harrow through improving performance on the priorities set in the LAA. The priorities have been grouped around 4 blocks: Children and Young People, Safer and Stronger Communities, Healthier Communities and Older People, and Economic Development and Enterprise. We have also included issues that cut across all 4 blocks (for example transport, community cohesion, and culture and sport).

The LAA reflects the key strategies and plans within Harrow, in particular the Harrow Community Strategy.

In order to obtain sign off on the LAA GOL have stated that there are three key components that need to be satisfied:

1. Voluntary and Community Sector involvement and engagement with the public in development of the LAA
2. Pooling of funding streams. Where pooling of funding streams is not occurring there needs to be appropriate rationale provided
3. Agreement to 75% of the stretched indicators proposed in the agreement.

GOL have indicated they are pleased with the level of Voluntary and Community Sector involvement and engagement with the public in the development of Harrow's LAA. GOL have suggested they would have liked to see greater pooling of funding streams within the LAA, but if appropriate rationale is provided, the current level of pooling may be satisfactory.

Harrow has reached agreement to 9 of the 12 proposed stretched targets in the agreement. This equates to 75% of the proposed stretched targets. The agreement now goes through the central Government sign off process, but we believe the agreement will be finally agreed. Below is a list of the final proposed stretched targets by LAA block:

### **Children and Young People's Block**

#### **Reward Element - Target 1**

Improved health of babies during first year of life

#### **Indicator by which performance will be measured**

- (i) Rates of exclusive breastfeeding at six weeks
- (ii) Breastfeeding initiation rates

#### **Reward Element – Target 2**

Reducing school exclusions and improving attendance

**Indicator by which performance will be measured**

1. Reduction in number of exclusions in Harrow LA area
  - a. Reduction of permanent exclusions
  - b. Reduction of fixed period exclusions
2. Improved attendance at 25% worst performing schools (primary and secondary) in Harrow LA are with regard to attendance
  - a. Primary schools
  - b. Secondary schools

**Safer and Stronger Communities Block**

**Reward Element – Target 3**

Reduce the fear of crime amongst the population of Harrow

**Indicator by which performance will be measured**

Proportion of adults saying that they are in fear of being a victim of crime

**Reward Element – Target 4**

To improve people's perception of Anti-Social Behaviour and how it affects them

**Indicator by which performance will be measured**

% of residents who consider suite of ASB as a 'fairly' or 'very big' problem.

**Reward Element – Target 5**

Reduce the level of Non-Residential burglary in the borough

**Indicator by which performance will be measured**

**Reward Element – Target 6**

A Harrow community that feels a strong sense of cohesion - ***Still in negotiation as at 23 February 2006***

**Indicator by which performance will be measured**

Proportion of adults who say that people from different backgrounds get on well in their neighbourhood (measured by residents responding to 'strongly agree' and 'tend to agree')

### **Reward Element – Target 7**

Empowering people to become involved in their community through Volunteering - *Still in negotiation as at 23 February 2006*

#### **Indicator by which performance will be measured**

Number of adults volunteering in Harrow:

- (i) Number of socially excluded adult volunteers in Harrow
- (ii) Number of other adult volunteers in Harrow

### **Healthier Communities and Older People Block**

#### **Reward Element – Target 8**

Reducing the level of residential burglary where the victim is over 75 years of age

#### **Indicator by which performance will be measured**

Number of residential burglary where victim is over 75 years

#### **Reward Element – Target 9**

Decrease harm from smoking and second hand smoke and reduce the number of adults smoking

#### **Indicator by which performance will be measured**

- (i) Number of homes in Harrow that sign up to be 'smokefree'
- (ii) Number of 4-week smoking quitters who attended the NHS smoking Service

### **Economic Development and Enterprise Block**

#### **Reward Element – Target 10**

Improving the skills base of Harrow and the employability of residents

#### **Indicator by which performance will be measured**

- (i) Average point score per pupil at level 2

## **Reward Element – Target 11**

Improving the life chances of young people

### **Indicator by which performance will be measured**

Percentage of young people age 16-18 who are NEET (not in education, employment or training) in Harrow LA area.

## **Cross Cutting**

### **Reward Element – Target 12 - *Still in negotiation as at 23 February 2006***

To change the modal share of journeys to Grimsdyke School away from private car, in particular, to increase walking among school children and thereby increase their personal health and fitness.

### **Indicator by which performance will be measured**

Proportion of journeys made to school by foot, as measured by local survey

The stretched targets not agreed are:

1. Volunteering
2. Community Cohesion
3. Traffic Congestion.

The Policy and Partnership Service PPS, has clearly represented to GOL that these are key local issues that have emerged through our extensive LAA negotiation process and that Harrow hopes that GOL will work hard with Harrow to agree these stretched targets as soon as possible.

## **Payment of Pump Priming Grant and Reward Grant**

Harrow will receive a pump priming grant on the successful sign off of the LAA. This is a maximum of £961,900. Harrow will receive payment for the relative proportion of the total pump-priming grant that equates to the total amount of stretched targets agreed before 1 April 2006 (eg if 75% of the 12 Stretched targets are agreed, 75% of the total pump priming grant will be paid). This will apply to all stretched targets agreed before 1 April 2006.

If Harrow is successful in the achievement of its stretched targets at the end of the three year period of the agreement it will receive a maximum Performance Reward Grant of £6,337,575.

## 2.3 Consultation

The key stages in the development of the LAA have included:

1. Identification of leads for each block with support from other specialists as required. These block leads have been involved in consulting widely within the council and with our partners, and will continue to do so as the agreement is developed.
2. Establishment of a LAA Project Group drawing together the leads from each block, a representative from finance, a representative from communications and a representative with performance management expertise. The Project Group is lead by the Policy and Partnership Service.
3. Gathering and analysing of evidence across agencies to inform discussion about what the local priorities will be. This has been facilitated by the information contained in the Harrow Vitality Profiles and the recently conducted MORI Quality of Life survey as well as other information gathered by partners.
4. A stakeholder event on 4 August 2005, drawing together representatives from the Council and its partners, which outlined what the LAA is about and to help identify a preliminary list of priorities.
5. A meeting with GOL on 15 August 2005 to discuss Harrow's approach to the development of the LAA .
6. The HSP Summit held on 8 September 2005. This Summit brought together 90 delegates representing members of local businesses, public sector agencies and the community and voluntary sector. The delegates discussed the priorities for Harrow and the outcomes to be included in Harrow's LAA. These priorities were discussed on the basis of clear evidence of need.
7. Numerous meetings (including specially held meetings) of the Management and Reference Groups of the HSP
8. Special meetings of the Voluntary and Community Sector Forum, hosted by HAVS
9. Special meetings of the Older Person's and Community Cohesion Reference Groups
10. Presentations to community groups such as the Harrow Woman's Forum
11. Discussions with the Harrow Youth Council

12. Meetings with the Somali and Asian communities in the second part of 2005 to talk about a range of issues, particularly community cohesion

13. The IDEA facilitated workshop on 11 November 2005 to bring together the Block Leads and Theme Development Officers to concentrate on defining indicators, targets and freedoms and flexibilities.

#### 2.4 Financial Implications

This report is not seeking additional financial resources. This programme of work will be delivered within the 2006-07 budget provision recently approved by Council.

#### 2.5 Legal Implications

The Local Area Agreement was created by the HSP. Harrow Council is one of several partners who assisted HSP to achieve this task. Other partners include for example the police, the PCT and the voluntary sector. The LAA will be signed by central government in March 2006.

If central government and the HSP complete the LAA, this means that central government will pay to the Council £961,000. This money is ring fenced to fund work identified in the LAA and is held on behalf of the HSP.

The Council will distribute the money in accordance with the LAA priorities. Where the money is distributed to partners other than the Council itself, these partners should be separately responsible/accountable to HSP and/or central government with respect to the success or otherwise in achieving the identified priority.

If the Council decides to pass some of its own resources to the HSP (i.e. outside of the allotted £961,000) to facilitate the achievement of an identified priority then this would need to be done under a separate Service Level Agreement.

Notably the Agreement does not mean that the various partners will 'pool' money in order to achieve the priorities.

Legal services will be provided with a copy of the draft LAA for review before signature in March.

The Council is relying on its well-being powers contained in Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, with respect to the above activities.

#### 2.6 Equalities Impact

The Harrow Community Strategy 2004:



- Seeks to engage the local community and reflects their needs and aspirations
- Co-ordinates the actions of agencies in the HSP to meet community needs
- Aims to develop and support cohesive communities
- Aims to achieve improvements which are sustainable.

All of these underlying principles work together to promote greater equality within Harrow.

The principles in the Community Strategy will form the foundations of which the LAA will be based.

### **Section 3: Supporting Information/ Background Documents**

There are no appendices to this report.

The expression of interest to negotiate a LAA is available on request

The final submission of the LAA is available on request (142 pages).