

Cabinet/Committee:	Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Date:	23 January 2007
Subject:	INFORMATION REPORT – Refresh of the Local Area Agreement
Responsible Officer:	Paul Najsarek
Portfolio Holder:	David Ashton
Exempt:	No

SECTION 1 – SUMMARY

This report draws attention to changes to the Local Area Agreement that relate to services within the Sub-Committee's sphere of interest.

FOR INFORMATION

SECTION 2 - REPORT

Harrow Strategic Partnership, on behalf of the Council and others, entered into a Local Area Agreement with Government in March 2006. The Agreement includes targets for a wide range of activities that the Partnership has committed to deliver, some of which are stretch targets requiring enhanced performance but carrying the potential of earning reward grant.

Local Area Agreements are monitored every six months by the Government Office and can be refreshed annually. The refresh process cannot change the stretch targets but enables other changes to be made to reflect new or emerging local priorities or to recognise other changes in circumstances.

The Government has proposed 8 mandatory targets that have to be included in all LAAs . For the most part, these measure work that is already underway in Harrow but with revised definitions. This is certainly the case for targets that relate to Safer Communities and for all but one of the Stronger Communities targets. The exception is the target at 5 in the attached appendix measuring the percentage of residents who feel that they can influence decisions affecting their area. While this is measured through the annual Quality of Life Survey, there is currently no project plan to achieve the targets for 2007/08 and 2008/09. This will be addressed by the Community Cohesion Management Group in the near future.

Locally, the partnership has agreed to include a new Domestic Violence target relating to the number of standards from the Mayor's London Domestic Violence Strategy that are achieved.

The bulk of the changes, however, are those proposed locally to tidy up or remove duplication from the existing LAA. A number of the mandatory crime indicators that have been introduced make existing indicators redundant while changes in terminology have necessitated other changes.

A change that may be of particular interest to the Sub-Committee is that at 9.- 'Number of parks brought up to Green Flag standard' where a more recent assessment suggests that the previous target would not be reached.

Finally, the refresh provides the opportunity for stretch targets negotiated since the agreement was reached to be included. Stretch targets relating to Volunteering and Community Cohesion are set out here.

SECTION 4 - CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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Background Papers: *LAA Refresh Guidance*