

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny
Date:	12 th February 2008
Subject:	New Local Area Agreement
Key Decision: (Executive-side only)	N/A
Responsible Officer:	Interim Divisional Director of Strategy and Improvement
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Chris Mote, Leader with portfolio responsibilities for strategic overview, HSP, external affairs and property
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	LAA list of indicators

SECTION 1 – SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report sets out the current position in negotiations with Government for a new Local Area Agreement (LAA)

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Committee is recommended to note the current state of negotiations and make comments on the proposed content of the new LAA.

SECTION 2 - REPORT

The Council, through Harrow Strategic Partnership, signed a Local Area Agreement with Government in March 2006 covering the three years 2006/07 to 2009/10. This targets for enhanced performance across 12 specific areas of activity continues to be pursued and performance is on track in 10 of the 12 areas.

The Local Government White Paper and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 laid the ground for new Local Area Agreements for all authorities in England and Wales. The new agreements are to begin from April 2008 whether or not existing agreements have been completed.

The new LAAs are to contain up to 35 indicators drawn from the New National Indicator set – a list of 198 indicators that replace the estimated 1200 measures against which local government reports performance to Government. Harrow Strategic Partnership has to choose which indicators to include in the new L:AA.

The process of identifying appropriate indicators began in the autumn with each of 5 Management Groups reviewing their priorities and those set out in the Sustainable Community Plan. Their ideas have been considered by the Partnership Board and Executive on several occasions and by a Summit for community groups and leaders.

The Partnership opted to submit an initial draft long list of 50 indicators to the Government Office and have received comments from the Government. These have been considered and a revised draft outline of a LAA has been agreed and is attached as an appendix to this report.

The next stages involve establishing baselines for performance against these indicators to guide negotiations with the Government Office about the extent of stretch performance.

Comments about the overall shape of the LAA and about specific indicators are welcome to help ensure that the LAA contains indicators against which enhanced performance can be achieved and which reflect priorities for the borough over the next three years.

PERFORMANCE ISSUES

The current and future Local Area Agreement will be managed through the Council's performance management system with scorecards giving regular information on progress against milestones. Performance against these stretched targets will form an integral part of the new Comprehensive Area Assessment which replaces the former Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

SECTION 3 - STATUTORY OFFICER CLEARANCE

Sheela Thakrar 1 st February 2008	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Helen White 1 st February 2008	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	On behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Tom Whiting 4 th February 2008	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Performance Officer

SECTION 4 - CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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