

Committee:	Overview and Scrutiny
Date:	8 <sup>th</sup> July 2008
Subject:	INFORMATION REPORT – New Local Area Agreement – Progress Report
Responsible Officer:	Tom Whiting (Divisional Director, Strategy and Improvement)
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Paul Osborn; Portfolio Holder for Performance, Communication and Corporate Services
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Final LAA Schedule

## Section 1 – Summary

This report sets out the content of the Local Area Agreement negotiated between Government and Harrow Strategic Partnership

### **FOR INFORMATION**

## Section 2 – Report

Harrow Strategic partnership negotiated a Local Area Agreement (LAA) with Government in March 2006. The Agreement included 12 stretch targets – areas of activity where the Partnership undertook to try to increase performance in Harrow beyond the levels of improvement that would normally be expected. The areas of activity included reducing crime and the fear of crime, improving child health, reducing smoking, improving educational attainment, supporting

businesses and enhancing community cohesion and volunteering. The LAA was supported by almost £1m of pump priming grant to set in place the conditions in which the stretched targets could be met and also offers the prospect of achieving £6.2m in reward grants if all the stretch targets are met.

Although the existing LAA runs until March 2009, the Government decided to institute a new round of LAAs to coincide with the start of the new national Indicator Set with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008. The new LAAs are made up of up to 35 indicators drawn from the National Indicator Set.

The advantage of the new LAA is that the National Indicator Set measures activity that is the product of many of the organisations that make up the partnership and who are individually measured on the same basis. The National Indicator Set is also a key part of the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) that replaces the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA). The CAA focuses very much more on the way in which organisations work together to address the needs of their area. The disadvantages are that there is no pump-priming grant associated with the new Agreement and the potential reward grants are substantially reduced.

The choice of issues for inclusion in the new LAA has been the subject of a long consultation process. Initially, the five existing thematic management groups that have responsibility for overseeing delivery of the existing LAA and the Sustainable Community Plan considered which issues were of the most significance locally. A summit of local people and voluntary and community organisations used their thoughts and added their perspective. The themes emerging from these forums have been assessed by the Partnership against criteria including the room to make significant improvements, the extent to which the measurement is would respond to action by one or more partner organisations and the costs of making significant improvements. This process resulted in a list of 40 indicators for potential inclusion in the LAA.

The process of negotiating the stretch targets with Government has reduced the 40 potential targets to 34 which are set out together in most cases with the required performance improvement in the attachment to this report. The 34 negotiated targets are in addition to 16 mandatory targets concerned with educational achievement and the continuation of the existing LAA targets

The new LAA features issues which have been identified as important for Harrow and on which significant progress can be made over the ensuing three years. The main differences from the current LAA in terms of focus is additional attention being paid to adult social care, public health and the environment and comparatively less to crime and the fear of crime. This reflects the success over the last two years in reducing the fear of crime and to maintaining the existing low crime rate.

Exception reporting on progress against both the existing and the new LAA will continue to be made as required to the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

### **Section 3 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

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Background Papers: