

APPENDIX 2: Local Area Agreements- Extract from DRAFT minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Panels

Planning, Transportation & Sustainability Panel – 6th November 06

The Chairman invited the Corporate Projects Manager to introduce this item.

Following the debate between Members of the Panel and the presenters of the report, these points were highlighted:

- Overview and Scrutiny process has been seen as good vehicle to highlight the work of LAAs. There was a clear link between the work of one Overview and Scrutiny Panel to another. Overview and Scrutiny Panels were not seen only to monitor the LAA process; they have been also driving the process.
- The Chairman highlighted that this would not be achieved without engagement of the partners who were and would be involved in LAA process.
- The Strategic Director for Social and Housing Services assured the Panel that this Council would be requiring an exit strategy from those who would enter into LAA partnership.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- (1) Note the arrangements for the next stages of the LAA project and in particular for those outcomes that fall within its remit as well as the Overview and Scrutiny role in the ongoing performance management of the LAA.
- (2) Forward the comments from the debate to the Officers involved in LAA process.

Housing & Community Safety Panel – 9th November 2006

The Corporate Projects Manager introduced this item to the Panel. He informed the Panel that all of the previous agenda items for this meeting were linked to Local Area Agreements (LAA's). He told them that the Local Strategic Partnership would have a broad overview of accountability, but that an actual alignment of accountability must be drawn.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to:

Note the arrangements for the next stages of the LAA project and in particular those outcomes that fall within its remit as well as the Overview and Scrutiny role in the ongoing performance management of the LAA.

Health and Social Services Panel- 10th November, 2006

The Chairman invited the Corporate Projects Manager to introduce this item.

Following the debate between Members of the Panel and the presenters of the report, these points were highlighted:

> Overview and Scrutiny process has been seen as good vehicle to highlight the work of LAAs. There was a clear link between the work of one Overview and Scrutiny Panel to another. Overview and Scrutiny Panels were not seen only to monitor the LAA process; they have been also driving the process.

> The Chairman highlighted that this would not be achieved without engagement of the partners who were and would be involved in LAA process.

> The Strategic Director for Social and Housing Services assured the Panel that this Council would be requiring an exit strategy from those who would enter into LAA partnership.

Note: 4.40pm - At this point in the meeting, Councillor Martin Veal who is the Chairman of this Panel appointed Councillor Adrian Inker as the Chair of the Panel for the rest of the meeting, for the reason being that Councillor Martin Veal had to leave the meeting for a short time to deal with the urgent matter.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

(1) Note the arrangements for the next stages of the LAA project and in particular for those outcomes that fall within its remit as well as the Overview and Scrutiny role in the ongoing performance management of the LAA.

(2) Forward the comments from the debate to the Officers involved in LAA process

Major Projects and External Bodies Panel – 21st November 2006

The Corporate Projects Manager introduced this item to the Panel. He explained that Local Area Agreements were primarily about creating stronger communities and that it would be difficult to measure achievements in this area of the Council over a period of three years as projects would normally have a longer lifespan. He therefore suggested the need to ensure that local priorities are correct as there are no mandatory targets from the Government for Economic Development. He informed them of the opportunity to gain funding through achieving 'stretch targets' that are currently subject to negotiation with Government Office.

Councillor Charles Gerrish felt that having a performance indicator on the percentage of people who are self employed was not a positive indicator. He wished to see the Sub Outcome of 'Reduce worklessness in targeted communities' be widened as far as possible across the Council. He also felt that the Council should have some form of baseline

protection with regard to employment figures should a large employer close down, considering there are fairly low levels currently.

Councillor John Bailey stated he would like to see evidence of the process surrounding the formulation of the targets and benchmarking and that more work was required on setting the correct type of performance indicators. He also felt that achievements needed to be recorded.

Councillor Nigel Roberts commented on the fact that this offers a different approach to the way in which communities / projects can be funded. He felt that job creation would be good performance indicator to have.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to:

- i) Formally adopt and note the arrangements for the next stages of the LAA project and in particular those outcomes that fall within its remit as well as the Overview and Scrutiny role in the ongoing performance management of the LAA.
- ii) Receive a further report on this issue in February / March 2007.

Education, Youth, Culture & Leisure Panel – 28th November 2006

The Corporate Projects Manager introduced this item to the Panel. He informed them of the potential to achieve funding by reaching agreed 'stretch targets', these are currently subject to negotiation with Government Office. He told them that it was hoped that the LAA would join up resources to more effectively to meet the requirements of Every Child Matters and the Children & Young People Plan. He also felt that Older People Learning and Community Safety should be a local priority.

Councillor Leila Wishart stated that she welcomed the opportunity to tackle all of the issues listed in 5.8 of the main report and wished to add another bullet point to read 'Encourage Lifelong Learning'.

Councillor Dine Romero commented that she was pleased to see the inclusion of the issue of attempting to increase the numbers of people participating in physical activity and hoped that programmes would be set up in local areas to gain a greater attendance.

Councillor Martin Veal hoped that younger people could be encouraged to take up local sport interests such as football and rugby. He also felt it was essential to engage as much as possible with young people regarding local decision-making.

Councillor Shirley Steel was also pleased to see the issue of empowering children and young people and believed this to be very important in the future of the Panel. The recent inclusion of members

from DAFBY (Democratic Action for B&NES Youth) onto this Panel was highlighted as a good initiative.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to:

- i) Note the arrangements for the next stages of the LAA project and in particular those outcomes that fall within its remit as well as the Overview and Scrutiny role in the ongoing performance management of the LAA.

Corporate Issues and Partnerships Panel, 30th November 2006

The Chairman invited David Trethewey (Head of Policy & Partnerships) to introduce this report. Following the debate between Panel Members, these points were highlighted:

A Panel member was concerned about the use of proxies indicators and the possibility that this could lead to a distortion of effort on activity that would not otherwise be a priority.. An example was under the indicators on greater participation and the Childrens Charter. The officer responded that this indicator while a proxy for a broader outcome was something that the relevant partnership grouping were committed to and signed up to do so should not be a distortion.

A Panel member commented that there seemed to be a lot that was still to be completed and sought reassurance that the Council would meet this target. The officer reported that traffic light feedback from the Government office had been received and it was positive. The officer stated that the Council is on target for the timescales to be met.

The officer agreed to send members of the Panel a flavour of the indicators currently being considered around the community leadership role of elected members.

A Panel member suggested that linking with Parish Councils could help to achieve the target regarding improving access to village shops.

A Panel member asked about the reliability of surveys, the officer responded that the Government guidance states which surveys they accept for calculating reward grant. They may set a condition on target to satisfy themselves that performance is really being stretched.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Panel note the arrangements for the next stages of the LAA project and in particular for those outcomes that fall within its remit as well as the Overview and Scrutiny role in the ongoing performance management of the LAA.

The Panel made the following comments:

As a steer to the Executive, the Panel commented that the first performance indicator (PI) had more advantage, as it was measurable by survey, than the second one as this was limited to only Children and Young People.

A Panel member commented that he was uncomfortable with proxy measures becoming a negotiated stretch target as it could become distorted.

A Panel member commented that on the volunteering measures he was happier with a composite measure than those which specify projects and organisations which may or may not be priorities in future years.

Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 12th December 2006

The Chairman invited Andy Thomas - Corporate Projects Manager to introduce this report.

Following the debate between Members of the Panel and questions to Officers, these points were highlighted:

A Panel Member asked about the 'decision making' section and member involvement. The officer explained that the LAA will be in place but the delivery of it may depend on local area needs, there needs to be an approach to dealing with local groupings, time has been spent with parishes and at Bath South Local Committee. The officer explained that outcomes may be different in different areas, the LAA will be refreshed each year and local structures will be incorporated.

A Panel member stated that he could not see the added value in working outside the authority area on a Local Area Agreement. The officer explained that only functional relationships were made across the border.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report be noted and a report be brought back to the Panel on the governance and finance issues in summer 2007