

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE

Report No. 9

Date of Meeting	15 May 2008
Title of Report	A Local Area Agreement for Wiltshire
Portfolio	Partnerships
Link to Corporate Priorities	Partnership Working
Key Decision	No
Executive Workplan Ref	None
Public Report	YES

Summary of Report

A Local Area Agreement (LAA) can be described as an agreement between government and local areas, which balances the priorities of central government, those of local government and their partners. It involves negotiating a joint commitment to deliver services within a framework of measurable and accountable outcomes.

The LAA is based on a series of ambitions agreed through the Wiltshire Strategic Board and forms part of the Local Agreement Wiltshire (LAW). This is driven by the Sustainable Community Strategy, which sets out the vision for improving Wiltshire.

This report presents Members with the LAA for 2008-11 and seeks approval of it in line with the policy framework of the Council.

Officer Recommendations

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT:

- (1) Members give approval for NWDC to be a signatory to the Local Area Agreement 2008-11
- (2) Members give delegated authority to the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council to sign the agreement.
- (3) Members give delegated authority to the Chief Executive to approve any final amendments to the final draft submitted to Government.

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	YES

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents Members with the LAA for 2008-11 and seeks approval of it in line with the policy framework of the Council.

2. Options and Options Appraisal

- 2.1 **Option one** It is recommended that Members approve the following
- 2.1.1 Members give approval for NWDC to be a signatory to the Local Area Agreement 2008-11
- 2.1.2 Members give delegated authority to the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council to sign the agreement.
- 2.1.3 Members give delegated authority to the Chief Executive to approve any final amendments to the final draft submitted to Government.
- 2.2 **Option two** Members do not approve the recommendations listed in paragraph 2.1 above.

3. Background Information

- 3.1 The Wiltshire Sustainable Community Strategy sets out the vision and ambitions for Wiltshire which will be achieved by agreeing actions between partners to deliver real improvements for people and places in Wiltshire.
- 3.2 To achieve this a Local Area Agreement for Wiltshire (LAW) has been developed by partners that sets out how the Sustainable Community Strategy ambitions will be realised, the places and people that action will support and the measures in place to demonstrate progress, including time scales.
- 3.3 Within the LAW is the formal Local Area Agreement (LAA) with central government showing 16 statutory education and early year targets and up to 35 targets from the 198 national indicator set issued by government this year. These targets must be agreed and reported to government and cannot be amended without approval, whereas the wider LAW can be managed / amended by the Wiltshire Strategic Board as appropriate.
- 3.4 Each of the partners listed within the LAA are being asked to seek approval in line with their governance processes during May 2008.
- 3.5 The LAA must be submitted to central government by the end of May for approval.

4. The Ambitions for Wiltshire

- 4.1 The ambitions for Wiltshire which form the Local Agreement Wiltshire and the Local Area Agreement are listed below. More detail on these ambitions can be found in Appendix 1.
- Build Strong Resilient Communities
 - Lives not services
 - Wiltshire exhibiting a positive and sustainable environment for economic growth
 - Reduce particular crimes, change behaviours and inform the public to bring about communities that are safe and feel safe.

- Environment, tackling climate change and a high quality natural environment that enriches the lives of people
- Work together to achieve the ambitions including new governance arrangements for the family of partnerships and the establishment of community area boards.

5. Main Considerations for the Council

- 5.1 As a named partner the Council has a duty to be involved in the development of the Local Area Agreement and take on responsibility for the delivery of actions where appropriate.
- 5.2 This work has been led through the Councils involvement as a partner through the Wiltshire Strategic Board and officers have attended a range of meetings associated with the development of the ambitions and targets.
- 5.3 The indicators and targets shown in the LAA are an agreement between Wiltshire County Council, its partners and government and will be used by government and inspectors to help assess Wiltshire’s performance. Attaining the targets is likely to result in some reward money being paid to Wiltshire, but at the time of writing this report we are awaiting details of the scheme from government.
- 5.4 It may not be possible to set targets for all LAA indicators for the first year of the agreement. This is because some indicators are completely new and so data has never been collected. The approach will be to show the indicators in the LAA but to say that baselines will be developed during 2008/09 and targets, if appropriate, will be set from 2009/10.
- 5.5 Ongoing involvement of the Council in the LAA process is being addressed through individual service plans in line with the Councils’ Transitional Corporate plan 2008/09.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 There is no requirement or request within this report for Members to commit financial resources. The Councils commitment to deliver against the LAA has been addressed through individual service plans ensuring that commitment to deliver isn’t in conflict with the Councils’ Transitional Corporate Plan 2008/09.

7. Community & Environmental Implications

- 7.1 There is a good opportunity for issues and priorities that affect North Wiltshire to be addressed through the ambitions and actions of the Local Area Agreement for Wiltshire.

8. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 8.1 The partnership nature of the LAA and its ability to deliver against joint priorities in the Community Strategy places issues associated with equality and diversity at its centre.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1:
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
• None		