

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: The Leader

15 January 2009

AUTHOR/S: Chief Executive / Partnerships Manager

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT: QUARTER 1 & 2

Purpose

1. To update the Leader on performance against Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets with data from April 2008 until September 2008.




Background

2. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 placed a statutory requirement on the County Council to develop a LAA and places duties on named partners to co-operate with the authority. The district council is named as a partner authority. The new statutory guidance places a responsibility upon named partners to have "due regard to" the delivery of an LAA. The new 'duty to cooperate' with LAAs came into legal effect on 4th March 2008.
3. The Secretary of State signed off Cambridgeshire's new LAA in June 2008.
4. The responsible local authority (County Council) and its partner authorities must, in exercising its functions, have regard to every local improvement target specified in the local area agreement that relates to it.

Considerations

5. Countywide action plans have now been developed for the majority of the LAA indicators and officers at South Cambridgeshire District Council are also developing a plan to ensure that the council is contributing towards achieving relevant targets. District councils in Cambridgeshire play a lead role in delivering against very few indicators, however, there are a number of indicators where the Council can add value.
6. The dashboard at Appendix A summarises LAA thematic block performance and identifies areas where underlying priorities and indicators are performing well or falling short of expectations. Each indicator is assessed in terms of whether the indicator is currently on track based on performance to date and on the risk of the target not being met in the future.
7. In addition to many of the indicators being new with missing baselines or targets, a large number of indicators included in the LAA are collected bi-annually or annually in Cambridgeshire. As more data becomes available the reports will become more valuable in terms of performance management.
8. A summary of the performance of each block is given, however, this should at present be viewed with caution. Each indicator is currently weighted equally and only indicators where performance data is available are included in the summaries and overall percentages; the summaries are skewed by the amount of data currently

unavailable. The indicators, minus missing or unavailable data, are aggregated in block summaries. This is colour coded using the RAG system as follows:

On target / Low risk of not achieving outcome	
Target narrowly missed / Moderate risk of not achieving outcome	
Target missed significantly / Serious risk of not achieving outcome	
No data	

9. Of the 55 indicators selected in the LAA, 21 (38%) indicators have data reported on and 10 (18%) have had the risk to target achievement assessed. For those reported indicators without a risk assessment, 3 are without an agreed baseline/target, 4 have provisional data and for 4 indicators performance management arrangements within the responsible partnerships are to be developed further.
10. Of the 21 measured indicators, 6 (29%) are on target, which gives the LAA an **amber** colour status over all. Of the 10 risk indicators reported 6 (60%) have been assessed as having a moderate risk of missing their targets, so the LAA risk over all is **amber**.
11. The overall direction of travel for the thematic blocks is **going up**. However, this is based on only 4 out of the 6 thematic blocks, as 2 blocks have no data reported for quarter 1 and quarter 2.
12. LAA performance reports will be considered by the new strategic thematic partnerships, Local Strategic Partnerships and the Cambridgeshire Together Board on a quarterly basis.
13. Performance officers across partner organisations are working hard to agree a unified approach to data collection and performance management in support of the LAA, crucially in readiness for April 2009 and the advent of the Comprehensive Area Assessment. This will require ongoing leadership support from all partners and the Cambridgeshire Together Board.

Recommendations

14. The Leader is recommended to note the content of the performance dashboard and agree to receive further performance reports on the LAA, including South Cambridgeshire District Council activity reports, as data becomes available.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Local Area Agreement Quarter 1/Quarter 2 Report to Local Area Agreement Reference Group dated 10th December 2008.

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