

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**REPORT TO:** Leader and Cabinet

8 May 2008

**AUTHOR/S:** Chief Executive / Strategic Partnerships Officer

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### LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2008-2011

#### Purpose

1. To endorse the developing Cambridgeshire Local Area Agreement 2008-2011, understanding that final amendments may need to be made by Cambridgeshire Together (LAA Board) before its final submission to the Government Office on the 30 May 2008.

#### Background

2. The Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' published in October last year set out fundamentally different arrangements for Local Area Agreements (LAA).
3. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 placed a statutory requirement on the County Council to develop a Local Area Agreement (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 4 March 2008.
4. The Secretary of State requires that all new LAAs be prepared and submitted to the Government Office by 30 May 2008. The LAA must specify up to 35 local improvement targets from the 198 national indicator set, in addition to the 16 statutory Department for Children, Schools and Families indicators included within the set. The County Council is required to consult with the district council and other partner authorities, co-operate with each partner authority in determining the local improvement targets that relate to that partner authority and have regard to its community strategy and any guidance issued by the Secretary of State. The district council is required to cooperate with the County Council and have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
5. Once agreed by the Secretary of State 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.

#### Local Area Agreement 2008-2011

6. Cambridgeshire Together (LAA Board) has developed a Vision for Cambridgeshire 2007-2021. The Vision, which is the countywide Sustainable Community Strategy, is an amalgamation of the five district-based Sustainable Community Strategies. The new LAA is based upon the Cambridgeshire Vision. The draft LAA includes 35 local improvement targets.
7. The local improvement targets are being developed by a number of multi-agency officer led task groups that were set up in order to select appropriate indicators relevant to Cambridgeshire and negotiate achievable, but stretching targets, with the Government Office. The Chief Executive's Liaison Group has also been involved in

the process and Cambridgeshire Together agreed the indicators for inclusion on the 22 March 2008.

8. The targets are currently being negotiated with the Government Office and can be found at **Appendix A**.

### Timeline

9. Cambridgeshire Together will formally sign off the LAA on the 28 May 2008. The County Council, as responsible authority, has a statutory duty to obtain council approval, although at present it is not required to go to full council. The LAA is due to go to the County Council's cabinet on 20 May 2008.

### Options

10. Members of Cabinet are asked to endorse the developing LAA, understanding that amendments may need to be made before its final submission on the 30 May 2008.

### Implications

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Financial	The Local Area Agreement, based on the Cambridgeshire Vision, will influence spending of Area Based Grant.
Legal	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 4 March 2008.
Staffing	Officers will support the delivery of the new LAA.
Risk Management	None.
Equal Opportunities	None.

- 12.

Affordable Homes	The LAA is based upon the Cambridgeshire Vision, which is based upon the five district-wide Sustainable Community Strategies. The South Cambridgeshire Sustainable Community Strategy used the same evidence base as that used to develop the Council's Corporate Objectives.
Customer Service	
Northstowe and other growth areas	
Quality, Accessible Services	
Village Life	
Sustainability	
Partnership	

### Recommendation

13. That Cabinet endorses the Cambridgeshire developing LAA, understanding that amendments may need to be made by Cambridgeshire Together (LAA Board) before its final submission on the 30 May 2008.

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