

REPORT TO: Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 24 February 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Local Area Agreement

WARD(S): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report on the progress being made to meet the Government's deadline for a refreshed 2008-11 LAA (2nd March), and to report on the findings of the Government Office Annual Review of progress to date in delivering the LAA.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- (1) Note progress with the refresh of the LAA; and
- (2) Note the outcome of the Annual Review of Halton's LAA

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The annual performance review of the LAA has been undertaken by GONW. The review found that overall good progress had been made and some excellent examples of good practice were identified including attainment and achievement on Children's Services, joint work on healthy lifestyles, effectiveness and inclusivity of the Safer Halton Partnership, and the increases in the rate of VAT business registrations and stock. Key development issues facing the Halton Strategic Partnership include better promotion of healthy behaviours, NEET performance and the latest proposals for post-16 provision and attainment. The slides are attached as Annexe A.
- 3.2 The 2008-11 LAA is undergoing its first annual refresh, and a revised draft has to with GONW by the 2nd March. The focus of this review is to agree targets for those indicators for which no baseline information was available last May. This includes all those indicators measured by the Places Survey which was conducted in the autumn. Results from the Places Survey are still awaited from government. There are also a number of targets for which local baseline information was used which need to be checked in the light of new national data sets. Finally, there will be discussion about how and when the impact of

the recession should be factored in. The final draft of the revised agreement will be put to members for approval. A matrix of the LAA indicators showing the necessary work still outstanding is attached as Annexe B. It is on course to hit the deadline, although the process is rather last minute because of the wait for data to become available.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Local Area Agreement acts as a delivery plan for the sustainable community strategy and as such is central to our policy framework.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Achievement of our Local Area Agreement targets has direct implications for our comprehensive area assessment. Further consideration of any areas of under-performance may give rise to other implications for the Council and its partners.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 This report deals directly with progress in delivering our five priorities.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The key risk is failure to improve the quality of life for residents of Halton in accordance with the objectives of our community strategy. This risk can be mitigated by regular reporting of performance, and reviewing the action being taken where under-performance occurs.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 One of the guiding principles of the LAA is to reduce inequalities in Halton.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.1

<i>Document:</i>	<i>Place of inspection</i>	<i>Contact officer</i>
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