

REPORT TO CABINET

Title: **LOCAL AREA REFRESH 2008/09**

Date: 26 March 2009

Members Reporting: Councillor Mrs Bateson

Contact Officer(s): Harjit Hunjan, Business and Community Partnerships Manager

Wards affected: All

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1.1 To outline the process for the 2008/09 Local Area Agreement (LAA) Annual Refresh concluded between the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's Community Partnership Board and the Government Office for the South East (GOSE).
- 1.1.2 To seek Cabinet approval of the selected Improvement Indicators within the Royal Borough's LAA updated through the Annual Refresh process and for the submission of the refreshed LAA to GOSE for ministerial approval

2. RECOMMENDATION: That:

- I. **The details of the LAA Refresh process be noted.**
- II. **The targets as negotiated as part of the 08/09 Refresh process be agreed**
- III. **The submission of the refreshed LAA to GOSE be approved.**

What will be different for residents as a result of this decision?
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The LAA will provide a framework for the Royal Borough to work collaboratively with key partner agencies and stakeholders in order to improve the services and outcomes for local residents and their families.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 As set out in the White Paper '*Strong and Prosperous Communities*' and within the subsequent *LAA Operational Guidance*, each LAA is subject to an annual review. The review provides an opportunity to refresh, by exception a limited number of targets to reflect changes in local circumstance or national priorities. However, for this first year (08/09), the review is different because of an additional need to deal with those target related issues that that could not be resolved during the LAA negotiations conducted in 2008.
- 3.1.2 The Royal Borough's new LAA was signed by Ministers in June 2008. The Agreement contained 28 designated improvement targets, the 13 existing reward

targets from the previous LAA and 35 local targets. At sign-off, it was not possible to agree targets for 15 of the indicators for various reasons, for example those due to be measured through the Annual Place Survey and those awaiting Government confirmation of the definition.

- 3.1.3 The refresh element concludes this limited revision where new evidence is now available and is an opportunity to revise by exception, particular targets to reflect changes in local circumstances. The majority of these changes can be defined in terms of 'unfinished business' from the negotiations conducted in 2008, as the indicators themselves have largely been agreed. Royal Borough LAA Lead officers have been working with key partners and GOSE to review and refresh these outstanding targets.
- 3.1.4 The refreshed LAA is required to be submitted to GOSE (subject to approval at the Cabinet meeting on the 26th March 2009) and central government on the 27th March 2009 for ministerial approval.
- 3.1.5 The target levels agreed as part of the 08/09 refreshed LAA will also be used as the benchmark for calculating the Royal Borough's future entitlement to Performance Reward Grant.
- 3.1.6 The lead member for Community Partnerships and Consultation has sought and been granted delegated Council authority for the approval of the selected Improvement Indicators updated. This authority has been delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Lead Member for Community Partnership and Consultation and approval is subject to the comments raised by Cabinet on the 26th March 2009.
- 3.1.7 Appendix A provides a summary of the specific amendments made to individual targets as updated by the Refresh process. The complete LAA to be submitted to GOSE including those targets not amended is available for Members to view in the Members' Rooms, Group Rooms, and from Democratic Services
- 3.1.8 In summary these amendments apply to 19 indicators within the current LAA and detailed as:
 - 18 indicators amended due to the availability of new data,
 - 1 indicator reclassified from a 'local target' to an 'Improvement target'.

4. OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 Options

	Option	Comments	Financial Implications
1.	Cabinet approve the targets as negotiated as part of the 2008/09 Annual LAA Refresh process and for final submission to GOSE	This will enable the Royal Borough to achieve the required deadline for submitting the final refreshed LAA to GOSE for ministerial approval.	Revenue: The costs associated with the review are Elected Members and Officers time in conducting negotiations with partner

	Option	Comments	Financial Implications
	for ministerial approval.		organisations and GOSE Capital
2.	Cabinet reject the targets proposed.	This will result in the Royal Borough failing to meet the requirement deadline(s) for the submission of the refreshed 08/09 LAA and agreement of those targets to be used to calculate LAA Performance Reward Grant.	Revenue: As above Capital

4.2 Risk assessment

- 4.2.1 There are risks associated with failing to achieve the required performance levels of the refreshed targets. This will impact on the level of Performance Reward Grant achieved in 2011.

5. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT

- 5.1.1 Initially with the Community Partnership Board and supporting partners.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

The report was to be circulated to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel for comment. The Chairman agreed that the report should be distributed for comment and, unless others propose differently, did not believe a meeting of the Panel was required. However, as Chairman requested that the following comments be distributed:

1. As identified at the Audit & Performance Panel, significant care should be taken as regards all indicators about 'feel good factors' (e.g. NI4, NI21, NI1, NI119, NI138). During a period of economic recession and hardship, it is likely that responses will be biased because of general discomfort and uncertainty rather than feelings relating to the particular indicator i.e. background negativity. This will make it more difficult to maintain or improve such indicators and RBWM should be robust in negotiating future targets and revisiting those set before January 2009, when the deteriorating recession became known.
2. Likewise, indicators dependent on declining employment opportunities (e.g. NI146) or deteriorating mental health (e.g. NI137, NI58) are likely to have a deteriorating trend which will be more difficult to counter with RBWM services and initiatives.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1.1 The following implications have been addressed where indicated below.

Financial	Legal	Human Rights Act	Planning	Sustainable Development	Diversity & Equality
✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓

Background Papers: Royal Boroughs full 08/09 Local Area Agreement, copy available within Members' Room