

**Subject:** Communication and Engagement with the LAA

**Status:** For Publication

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**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> February 2007

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**Report of:** Head of Policy & Change Management

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**Portfolio**

**Holder:** Cabinet Member for Performance Management

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**Key Decision:**

NO

Forward Plan

General Exception

Special Urgency

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To give Members of the Cabinet a position update in relation to RBC's ongoing engagement with the Local Area Agreement (LAA), which is now approaching the end of its first delivery year of a three year programme; and to agree reporting arrangements.

**2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

2.1 The Local Area Agreement contains four broad themes;

- Safer and Stronger Communities
- Children and Young People
- Healthier Communities and Older People
- Economic Development and Enterprise

2.2 These themes cross-cut both the Council's objectives and those it shares with The Local Strategic Partnership.

### **3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- Potential for loss of current funding streams to LAA Pooled Budgets
- Lack of formal reporting arrangements leading to poor communication between the LAA, RBC & the LSP
- Failure to identify and evidence 'RBC' contributions may lead to lack of 'reward grant'
- Failure to engage/participate fully in what the new 'White Paper' identifies as the delivery mechanism of the future for local government

### **4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS**

4.1 In 2006 the Council 'signed-up' to the Local Area Agreement with the first delivery year ( of a 3 year programme) commencing in April 2006 – March 2007. The LAA Partners have suggested a number of changes to the agreement for 2007 – 2009, with additional outcomes and sub-outcomes, and this has recently been submitted to the Department of Communities and Local Government for approval.

4.2 The recent Government White Paper ' Strong and Prosperous Communities', clearly states that there will be an increasing role on setting and managing the delivery of targets through Local Area Agreements, and making priorities and targets more specific to each area, thus developing a more tailored relationship between local authorities, key partner agencies and central government.

### **5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES**

5.1 Consideration should be made in the future regarding the use of financial resources and their impact on service performance in order to demonstrate both the linkage and the relationship between finance and service performance.

5.2 LAA reward grants has yet to be fully notified to districts.

### **6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

6.1 There are no immediate legal considerations attached to the recommendations within this report.

### **7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

7.1 There are no immediate human resource implications attached to the recommendations within this report.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 RBC are currently directly contributing towards 13 targets, as set out in appendix 2, and, have also identified further LAA outcomes which are aligned to RBC corporate objectives and priorities, drawing a link to these in the Council's Corporate and Business Plans. Heads of Service are currently reviewing the new LAA 'Refresh document' for potential inclusions within the Business Plans for 2007 – 2009.
- 8.2 Appendix 1 provides a position statement in relation to RBC's engagement with the LAA. This provides an overview of the key issues, current levels of involvement with the LAA; and, identifies the existing lines of communication between RBC, LAA leads and the relevant LSP theme group. Recommendations are made to formalise these lines of communication and strengthen the reporting arrangements to the LSP executive.
- 8.3 The report makes recommendations to 'formalise' communication arrangements between the Council, the Lancashire Partnership's LAA and the Local Strategic Partnership. It is also suggested that these LAA lead officers report key issues and performance to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance) and/or the Cabinet.
- 8.4 The Council's Senior Management Team recently acknowledged that recognition be given to the time commitment required by the officers that represent the Council on each of the LAA theme blocks and re-enforce the priority attached to remaining fully engaged with the LAA process
- 8.4 Appendix 2 shows latest progress against RBC's LAA Annual targets. Of the 13 LAA measures that are collected at District Council level, one is collected on a quarterly basis and the remaining 12 are collected annually.
- 8.5 LAA S8 (BVPI 225) – Domestic Violence checklist which is collected quarterly, at quarter 3 was slightly below the annual LAA target.
- 8.6 LAA S1, (BV 199a), LAA 22a (199b) and LAA 22b (LAA 199c) at November 2006 were all achieving their annual LAA target.
- 8.7 An update is unable to be given on the Housing measures and LAA 22c – fly-tipping (BV 199d) until the end of the financial year.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 The Cabinet Committee considers the levels of performance detailed in the report.
- 9.2 Agree the identified roles for LAA lead officers and give recognition to the time commitment required from them.
- 9.3 Agree the recommended formal reporting arrangements to the LSP.

9.4 Agree quarterly reporting arrangements to O&S – Performance, and /or the Cabinet.

## 10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
LAA Refresh Document	<a href="http://www.lancashirepartnership.co.uk/content/laa/index.asp">http://www.lancashirepartnership.co.uk/content/laa/index.asp</a>