

CABINET

LANCASHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT LEAD PARTNERS FOR TARGETS

3 JUNE 2008

Report of Corporate Director (Finance and Performance)

| PURPOSE OF REPORT | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| To seek Cabinet's agreement to endorse the proposed nominated lead partners for delivering the Lancashire Local Area Agreement targets and agree a process for identifying those targets that Lancaster City Council will contribute to. | | | |
| Key Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-Key Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Referral from Corporate Director | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Date Included in Forward Plan | N/A | | |
| This report is public. | | | |

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 That Cabinet endorse the schedule of nominated lead partners for delivering the Lancashire Local Area Agreement target as set out in **Appendix A**.
- 2 That Cabinet authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree a list of LAA targets that Lancaster City Council will contribute to delivering, subject to sufficient resources being available within existing budgets.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At last Friday's Lancashire Local Area Agreement (LAA) Co-ordinator's meeting, partners were informed that the Government Office North West (GONW) now require that the LAA submission should show lead partners against each performance target.
- 1.2 The attached **Appendix** shows the targets and indicators that are currently within the LAA and which will be presented to the Lancashire Partnership Executive and County Council Cabinet this week for signing off prior to submission to the GONW.
- 1.3 The **Appendix** identifies for each target a lead partner or partners where the responsibility is shared. At this stage, where district councils are nominated as a lead, there is no proposal to identify which district will act as lead co-ordinator. This is to be determined later in the process following the information received as requested in paragraph 1.5 below.

- 1.4 Cabinet are therefore being asked to endorse the list of nominated lead partners as set out in the **Appendix** with immediate effect.
- 1.5 In addition, partners are being asked to identify which of the targets they will be willing to contribute to delivering. This information is not required for the LAA to be signed off, but is necessary in order to identify which partners will participate in the delivery of individual targets and subsequently to identify lead districts for co-ordinating target action planning and delivery. This additional information is not required until 10 June.
- 1.6 As a consequence, it is proposed that authority for agreeing which LAA targets the City Council will contribute to is delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

2 **OPTIONS**

- 2.1 The Council has a legal duty to co-operate in determining the LAA targets. As a consequence the options for the Council are restricted to:
- i. Agreeing the proposed list of LAA nominated target lead partners, or
 - ii. Recommending an amended list of target leads.
- 2.2 In respect of identifying those LAA targets that the City Council will contribute to, the options are:
- i. In light of the deadline for responding, to delegate the identification of LAA targets which the City Council will contribute to, to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, subject to resources being in place.
 - ii. To identify an alternate process for agreeing the targets that the City Council will contribute to delivering.

It can be seen from the **Appendix** that as yet, not all target measures have been quantified or confirmed. This means that the risks associated with the above options cannot readily be ascertained, e.g. where a target measure has not been quantified, there is no way of knowing as yet whether the final target will be deliverable, or appropriate, or affordable from the Council's perspective. These uncertainties, and any new information arising, will be taken into account under the proposed delegated arrangements. In particular, the estimated budgetary implications will need assessing, in identifying those targets that the City Council will contribute to.

Furthermore, Officers are currently reviewing the Council's arrangements for managing key partnerships (and its involvement in them). The outcome of this will have a positive bearing on how the Council manages and monitors performance of the relevant LAA targets and associated risks in future, from its own perspective.

3 **PREFERRED OPTION AND CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 In both cases, the preferred option is option one. This will ensure that the Council will comply with its duty to co-operate in determining the LAA and also meet the designated deadlines for supplying the information requested.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The LAA targets are a crucial part of the Council's Corporate Plan.

**CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT
(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)**

None directly from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are none directly arising at this stage, on the basis that the estimated resource implications of any list of LAA targets that the City Council signs up to can be met from within existing budgets, and this assumption is reflected within the recommendations. If it transpires that preferred targets could not be met from existing resources, then subsequent reports will be brought back to Cabinet.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

At this stage, given the uncertainties regarding some targets measures and the timescales involved, it is not possible to determine the detailed financial implications but the recommendations provide for managing this risk, within the existing budget framework. This is also no different to the position that other LAA partners are in.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council is fulfilling its legal obligations by determining a procedure to contribute to the delivery of LAA targets.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Contact Officer: Roger Muckle

Telephone: 01524 582022

E-mail: rmuckle@lancaster.gov.uk

Ref: RCM/JEB