

CABINET

LANCASHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL'S CONTRIBUTION TO TARGETS 8th July 2008

Report of Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT			
To advise Cabinet of the decision taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader in accordance with Minute No. 3 of 3 rd June 2008.			
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Referral from Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Date Included in Forward Plan	N/A		
This report is public.			

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the following decisions of the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be noted:

- (1) That the list of targets, attached as Appendix A, that the City Council will contribute towards delivering during the lifetime of the Local Area Agreement, be agreed in principle, subject to sufficient resources either being available within existing budgets or being identified;
- (2) That the Lancashire Partnership Executive be advised of those targets by the due date (10 June 2008)
- (3) That officers undertake further work to ascertain the resources required to deliver the City Council's contribution to achieve the LAA targets agreed in (1) above
- (4) That officers review the Council's existing Corporate Plan to ensure consistency with the targets agreed in (1) above and if amendments are required, they be reported back to full Council in due course.
- (5) That, notwithstanding the targets included in (1) above, the City Council will work with its partners in the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership to support the delivery/achievement of all the objectives, outcomes and targets referred to in the LAA wherever practicable.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 It was reported to Cabinet on 3rd June 2008 that the Government Office North West (GONW) required that the Local Area Agreement (LAA) submission, due to be sent to GONW by the end of that week, should show lead partners against each performance target.

- 1.2 In order to meet that deadline, Cabinet agreed to delegate this task to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council as follows (Minute No. 3 refers):

'That Cabinet authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree a list of lead partners for delivering the individual Lancashire Local Area Agreement targets, and further to that, to determine those targets that Lancaster City Council will contribute to delivering, subject to sufficient resources being available within existing budgets.'

- 1.3 Members will be aware that the first part of this delegated decision to agree the list of lead partners was concluded prior to the publication of the minutes of the meeting and details were therefore attached as an appendix.
- 1.4 At this stage, where the target was relevant to district councils, the lead partner was identified in the table developed by the LAA Co-ordinators Group only as "District Councils" and the City Council's agreement to the table was confirmed by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Lancashire Partnership on 5th June 2008.

2 REPORT

- 2.1 Following that, consideration was given to identifying which of the targets the Council should formally sign up to in terms of delivery, in line with the procedure agreed at Cabinet.
- 2.2 The list of LAA indicators was assessed and as a result of consultation with relevant officers within the City Council a list of targets which the City Council may wish to sign up to, subject to sufficient resources either being available within existing budgets or being identified, was considered by the Leader of the Council and confirmed by the Chief Executive as set out in Appendix A.
- 2.3 The list comprises a mix of targets where district councils have been agreed as lead partners and targets led by other partners where the City Council can only make a contribution toward its delivery.
- 2.4 In addition to those targets that the City Council will directly contribute to delivering as set out in the Appendix, the Council will work with its partners within the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership to support the delivery/achievement of all objectives, outcomes, and targets referred to in the LAA where practicable.
- 2.4 It should be noted that the risks associated with the above proposal cannot readily be ascertained as, for some, indicators baselines have yet to be established or final targets set. These uncertainties, any new information arising, and the estimated budgetary implications, will need assessing in identifying those targets that the City Council may subsequently wish to contribute to.
- 2.5 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 as determined and associated risks in future, from its own perspective.
- 2.6 As a consequence, the resources required to contribute to the chosen targets will only be quantifiable when each target measure has been determined and this Council's contribution to that target agreed.

2.7 This lack of clarity however does not prevent the Council from responding at this stage to the request to identify in principle, which of the targets it can assist in delivering.

3 PREFERRED OPTION AND CONCLUSION

3.1 The action taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader has ensured that the Council has complied with its duty to co-operate in having regard for LAA targets and has also met the designated deadline for supplying the information requested i.e. 10 June 2008. The decision will also ensure that the resources required to deliver the agreed targets are identified and considered before delivery commences and that they are consistent with the Corporate Plan.

3.2 A copy of the signed Partnership Agreement is attached at Appendix B for information.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The LAA targets that the council will contribute to delivering 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

As referred to in the report, there are none directly arising at this stage,

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

At this stage, given the uncertainties regarding some targets measures and the timescales involved, it has not been possible to determine the detailed financial implications although the determination in principle of which of the targets the Council will sign up to is an important first step in managing this risk, within the existing budget framework. The decision taken will therefore help protect the Council's financial position by ensuring that the financial implications are clearly identified and reported back for consideration as appropriate.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council is fulfilling its legal obligations by complying with the request to identify appropriate targets.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Deputy Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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