

**RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (RESOURCES) COMMITTEE**

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 17th April 2008
title: Lancashire Local Area Agreement - Progress Report
submitted by: Chief Executive
principal author: Jeff Fenton – Corporate Services Manager

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report the progress and achievements of the Lancashire Local Area Agreement (LAA) – a three-year agreement between members of the Lancashire Partnership (including this Council) and central Government to deliver improved services to the communities of Lancashire. This report updates the progress of the current LAA and reports the latest developments of the new, successor LAA that is currently being negotiated.

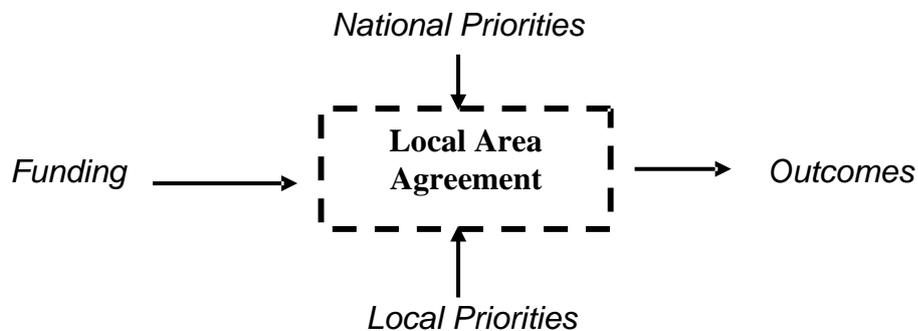
2 RELEVANCE TO THE COUNCIL’S AMBITIONS AND PRIORITIES:

- Council Ambitions:
 - Community Objectives:
 - Corporate Priorities:
 - Other Considerations
- The Lancashire LAA is a formal agreement with Government to deliver improved services to the communities of Lancashire. Its priorities are based on those of ‘*Ambition Lancashire*’ – the countywide community strategy which in turn is based on the local community strategies of individual partners. As such achievement of the LAA will contribute towards meeting the local priorities of this Council.

3 WHAT IS THE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT?

3.1 Local Area Agreements represent a radical new approach to funding and improving co-ordination between central government and local authorities and their partners, working through local strategic partnerships. While central government will continue to set high level strategic priorities, the approach of LAAs is to link more directly the outcomes expected for given amounts of funding. LAA’s provide the scope for there to be more local control with local solutions developed between local authorities, LSPs, partners and Government Offices regionally to achieve Government targets and local priorities. They are intended to devolve decision making from Whitehall and provide a stronger role for the regional Government Offices.

The diagram below sets out the broad principles of the LAA.



3.2 National guidance requires the county wide partnership to lead discussions on the development of the LAA in 2 Tier areas and thus the Lancashire LAA has been led by the Lancashire Partnership.

- 3.3 LAAs provide a vehicle for a more mature relationship between central and local government and between local government and its partners. They have 4 main aims:
- To deliver locally agreed outcomes contained in community strategies,
 - To reduce bureaucracy,
 - To provide more flexibility on how funding is used to deliver local priorities; and
 - To promote working together in real partnership.

3.4 The first LAAs were introduced in 2004 with 20 Agreements signed in April 2005. The LAAs represent a major change in the Government's approach to funding local government. In essence the basic premise of an LAA is that the Government rewards partnerships in monetary terms for improved performance in particular, pre-agreed service areas. The negotiation process involves GONW agreeing a number of priority outcomes with associated targets. 12 of these have been selected as stretch targets which, if achieved, will derive Performance Reward Grant.

4 THE FIRST LANCASHIRE LAA 2006-09

4.1 Lancashire County Council together with its partners bid successfully to be in the subsequent round of LAA's. The first Lancashire LAA was developed during 2005 and formally signed off by all partners, including Ribble Valley BC, and central government on 23rd March 2006 for a three year period to March 2009.

4.2 The LAA has marked a significant step forward for partnership working in Lancashire. The County's large and diverse geographical area is reflected in the organisational and administrative landscape which includes, amongst others, 12 district councils, 8 Primary Care Trusts, 7 councils for Voluntary Services and a population of 1.15 million. In addition many partners such as the Police and Fire Service have different organisational footprints which are larger than the County Council area forcing partners to work closely with neighbouring authorities.

4.3 This complex partnership landscape has in the past caused some difficulties and historically has led to some suspicion amongst partners. To address this a lot of effort has been put into building and developing relationships between partners both in terms of strategic decision making and operational service delivery.

4.4 The Lancashire LAA sets out the key priorities from the Lancashire Partnerships strategic plan '*Ambition Lancashire*' for the next three years and will be the delivery plan for those priorities developed from the *Ambition's* 20 year vision. The outcomes that are seeking to be achieved through the delivery of the LAA contribute towards addressing the needs of Lancashire under 4 broad cross-cutting outcomes as follows:

- Increased Life Expectancy – addressing life expectancy, premature death, infant mortality
- Improved Life Chances for Lancashire People – addressing child poverty, poverty of older people, ethnicity, people with disabilities & mental health problems, employment.
- Sustainable Lancashire Communities
- Narrowing the gap between the most and least disadvantaged

There are also three cross-cutting themes: alcohol, environmental wellbeing, prevention and support.

4.5 Within the LAA the outcomes are grouped around four 'blocks':

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

4.6 Each of these blocks contains a series of more detailed sub-outcomes and measures which

are designed to be challenging but achievable. Included within the LAA are a set of 12 Reward targets which are measures with even more demanding targets, which, if met will lead to monetary reward provided by central government for the participating partners. The LAA provides us with the freedom and flexibility to join budgets and services to deliver more effective local action with better use of resources and a simplified performance framework.

- 4.7 Overall the current Lancashire LAA involves 23 partners working towards 153 targets, 12 of which (stretch targets) will, if achieved, deliver £32.5m in reward grant. Ribble Valley BC report performance on 16 measures – 15 annually and 1 quarterly. These are listed at Annexe I.
- 4.8 Governance of the LAA is provided by the Lancashire Partnership. Within the Council the Corporate Services Manager acts as the principal link officer, and has nominated lead officers for the four blocks as follows:
- Safer and Stronger Communities – Bill Alker
 - Children and Young People – Chris Hughes
 - Healthier Communities and Older People – Chris Hughes
 - Economic Development and Enterprise – Colin Hirst

5 MONITORING PROGRESS

- 5.1 Progress towards the achievement of the LAA's priorities is measured by reference to a comprehensive performance management framework. Individual partners monitor their performance and pass data to LCC on a quarterly basis. Within RVBC the Corporate Services Unit fulfils this role as part of its corporate performance management responsibilities utilising the Council's *Covalent* performance management system. In addition Partners complete an annual Programme (Delivery) Plan for 2007/08 outlining their planned actions to deliver their individual areas of achievement. A copy of RVBC's Programme Plan for 2007/08 was included in the last report to this Committee in November 2007.
- 5.2 In June 2007 the LAA underwent an annual 'refresh' process and identified gaps in the available information, including baseline performance data, were addressed and targets revised. The latest report stating progress to the end of Quarter 3 (December 2007) is attached at Annexe 3. (*Report to LCC Performance and Improvement Cabinet*)

6 LANCASHIRE'S 2ND LAA

- 6.1 Although the LAA has another twelve months to run, work is already well advanced developing a successor LAA. This has been brought about by the need to produce an Agreement that will take into account the harsher financial climate affecting local government arising from the recent Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR07).
- 6.2 The process began with a review of *Ambition Lancashire*. From this new priorities have been selected based on the requirements of CSR07 and the new, national set of performance indicators (NI's) that took effect from 1st April. Up to 35 of the new indicators are being negotiated with GONW and agreement of detailed improvement targets are currently nearing conclusion with a view to obtaining Ministerial sign off in June 2008.
- 6.3 The new LAA is structured around 7 themes instead of the 4 of the current Agreement. These are: Environment, Children & Young People, Older People, People & Communities, Health & Wellbeing, Economic, and Community. As with the first LAA, all partners have been encouraged to nominate a key contact for each of the themes. These officers represent the interests of the Council at meetings with the thematic block leads.
- 6.4 The existing LAA will continue to operate until the end of March 2009. Discussions regarding the precise formula for determining the level of Performance Reward Grant have already begun and are expected to be finalised over the coming months. It is unlikely that any

payments that may be due will be received until later in 2009 following the receipt of audited, year-end figures from all the partners; and time to carry out all the necessary calculations.

7 SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

7.1 In summary the LAA can be viewed as successful and beneficial for Ribble Valley Borough Council and its residents for the following reasons:

- It is delivering improved quality services above the level that would otherwise be achieved without the LAA
- It is addressing local priorities by targeting resources and actions in areas identified as being in greatest need,
- It has greatly improved the quality of partnership working across the County and the understanding between partners.

8 RISK ASSESSMENT

8.1 Resources: (a) Financial – The Council received £9,000 Pump Priming Grant from the LAA for 2007/08. This has been used to provide additional cleansing activities to address the stretch target around reducing the incidence of litter. In addition the Government now uses the LAA mechanism to provide funds to District Councils via LCC that were formerly delivered directly to the Council. This ‘pooled funding’ amounted to £149,532 for 2007/08. This arrangement presents some uncertainty for the future provision of this funding if and when the LAA’s ends. (b) Staff – Some pooled funding is used to fund posts, hence the level of funding received is critical to future staffing levels. The staffing requirements to administer and support the LAA are met from within existing resources.

8.2 Technical, Environmental and Legal: none.

8.3 Political: none.

8.4 Reputation: Achievement of our obligations under the Agreement will assist in maintaining our reputation for effective service delivery amongst partners and the wider public.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The Committee is asked to note the progress achieved by the current Lancashire LAA and note the ongoing development of a successor to operate from June 2008.



pp. CHIEF EXECUTIVE

List of Annexes

- I. List of RVBC LAA performance measures.
- II. List of proposed measures for 2nd Lancs LAA (as at 04/04/08).
- III. Progress Report to LCC Cabinet (to Qtr 3 2007/08)

For further information please contact Jeff Fenton, Corporate Services Manager tel. 01200 414593.

Ribble Valley LAA Measures (excludes data generated by other partners eg. Police) **ANNEXE 1**
Quarterly Measures

Measure Title	Brief Description	Quarterly Figures		Target
		2006/7, Q1	6	6

LAA SO8 Domestic Violence Checklist	Checklist to assess the overall provision and effectiveness of local authority services designed to help victims of domestic violence and to prevent further domestic violence.	Q2	6	6
		Q3	6	6
		Q4	6	6
		2007/8, Q1	6	6
		Q2	6	6
		Q3	6	6
		Q4	6	6

Annual Measures

Measure Title (LAA)	Brief Description	Actual 2006/07	Target 2007/8	April 2008 Update
S22a (i) - Graffiti	Number of sites surveyed that are graded less than 'B' for graffiti.	48	48	Awaiting figures from DEFRA – usually available in June / July.
S22a (ii) - Graffiti	Total number of sites surveyed for graffiti.	945	945	
S22b (i) – Fly-posting	Number of sites surveyed that are graded less than 'B' for fly-posting.	78	78	
S22b (ii) – Fly-posting	Total number of sites surveyed for fly-posting.	946	946	
S22c – Fly Tipping	Fly tipping score (BVPI 199d).	4	4	
S21 (i) – Litter and Detritus	Number of sites surveyed that are graded less than 'B' for litter and detritus.	351	351	
S21 (ii) – Litter and Detritus	Total number of sites surveyed for litter and detritus.	1,893	1,893	
H13a – Decent Social Housing	Number of social houses classified as non-decent.	204	*	Not collected due to housing stock transfer.
H13b – Decent Social Housing	Total number of social houses.	1,179	*	
H16a – No.of Cases Assisted	Number of cases of homelessness assisted through successful intervention.	14	15	End of year unavailable. Q3 = 11.25.
H16b – No.of h'holds in Local Authority	Number of households in Local Authority area.	24,447	24,500	24,565
H17 – SAP Rating	Average SAP rating of all housing stock.	65	68	End of year unavailable. Q3 = 68
H18 – Carbon Savings	Tonnes of carbon savings in Lancashire due to the installation of domestic insulation measures and small scale renewables, based on HECA returns.	1,987	1,987	Unavailable at the time of writing. Will be reported verbally at the meeting.
H19b – Disabled Facilities Grant	Number of homes being adapted for life changes; number of properties that benefit from disabled facilities grant.	39	40	
H20 – Private Sector Dwellings	Number of private sector dwellings brought back into use.	20	20	End of year unavailable.

* there are no targets for 2007/8 due to housing stock transfer.

Indicators proposed for Improvement Targets for the new LAA – includes the 35 designated targets to be negotiated with Central Government via GONW, and non-designated targets to be agreed by the Lancashire Partnership (list accurate as at 04 – 04 – 2008)

No.	Indicator Put Forward	Priorities to be addressed by Indicator	Lead Theme
1.	NI 1 % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area	Improving Community Cohesion (PC), and building stronger communities.	People and Communities
2.	NI 4 % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality	Increasing Community Engagement (PC)	People and Communities
3.	NI 6 Participation in regular volunteering	Supporting the development of a strong third sector (PC)	People and Communities
4.	NI 7 Environment for a thriving third sector	Supporting the development of a strong third sector (PC) Improving access to services and social inclusion (ED)	People and Communities
5.	NI 16 Serious acquisitive crime rate	Reduce Crime in Targeted Areas (SC) Reduce harm caused by Substance Misuse (SC)	Safer Communities
6.	NI 30 Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders	Reduce Offending (SC) Reduce Youth Offending (CYP) Reduce harm caused by Substance Misuse (SC) Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour (SC) Reducing the harm from alcohol (HWB)	Safer Communities
7.	NI 39 Alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates	Reducing the harm from alcohol (HWB) Reducing health inequalities (HWB) Reduce harm caused by Substance Misuse (SC) Reduce Violent Crime (SC) Reduce Domestic Violence (SC) Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour (SC) Improve the emotional health and well being of children and young people, in particular those most at risk (CYP) Reduce Youth Offending (CYP)	Health and Well-being

8.	NI 40 Drug users in effective treatment	<p>Reduce harm caused by Substance Misuse (SC)</p> <p>Reduce Offending (SC)</p> <p>Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour (SC)</p> <p>Reducing health inequalities (HWB)</p> <p>Improve the emotional health and well being of children and young people, in particular those most at risk (CYP)</p> <p>Reduce Youth Offending (CYP)</p>	Safer Communities
9.	NI 47 People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	<p>Increase Road Safety (SC)</p> <p>Reducing the harm from alcohol (HWB)</p> <p>Reducing health inequalities (HWB)</p>	Safer Communities
10.	NI 49 Number of primary fires and related fatalities and non-fatal casualties, excluding precautionary checks NB: The milestone target in 2008/09 for fatalities and non-fatal casualties must be in line with the existing stretch target.	<p>Increase Fire Safety (SC)</p> <p>Reduce harm caused by Substance Misuse (SC)</p> <p>Reducing the harm from alcohol (HWB)</p>	Safer Communities
11.	NI 50 Emotional Health of Children	<p>Improve the emotional health and well being of children and young people, in particular those most at risk. (CYP)</p> <p>Promoting mental health and well-being (HWB) (OVP)</p> <p>Reduce anti-social behaviour (SC)</p> <p>Reduce Youth Offending (CYP)</p>	Children and Young People
12.	NI 55 Obesity among primary school age children in Reception Year	<p>Reduce levels of obesity in children and young people. (CYP)</p> <p>Improve the emotional health and well being of children and young people, in particular those most at risk. (CYP)</p> <p>Reducing health inequalities (HWB)</p>	Children and Young People
13.	NI 110 Young people's participation in positive activities	<p>Improve physical health of children and young people. (CYP)</p> <p>Reduce levels of obesity in children and young people. (CYP)</p> <p>Improve the emotional health and well being of children and young people, in particular those most at risk. (CYP)</p> <p>Reduce youth offending (CYP)</p> <p>Promoting mental health and well-being (HWB) (OVP)</p>	Children and Young People

		Reduce anti-social behaviour (SC) Reduce offending (SC)	
14.	NI 112 Under 18 conception rate NB: The milestone target in 2008/09 must be in line with the existing stretch target.	Improve the emotional health and well being of children and young people, in particular those most at risk. (CYP) Reduce teenage conception rates in hot spot areas and/or vulnerable groups CYP Reduce worklessness and child poverty. (CYP) Reduce worklessness (ED) Reducing the harm from alcohol (HWB) Reduce harm caused by substance misuse (SC)	Children and Young People
15.	NI 117 16 - 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) NB: The milestone target in 2008/09 must be in line with the existing stretch target.	Improve the emotional health and well being of children and young people, in particular those most at risk. (CYP) Reduce worklessness and child poverty (CYP) Reduce worklessness (ED) Promoting mental health and well-being (HWB) (OVP) Reduce anti-social behaviour (SC) Reduce crime in targeted areas (SC)	Children and Young People
16.	NI 119 Self-reported measure of people's overall health and wellbeing	Promoting mental health and well-being (HWB) (OVP) Reducing health inequalities (HWB) Reduce worklessness (ED) Improving street cleanliness (ENV) *Reduce fear of crime (SC)	Health and Well-being
17.	NI 120 All-age all cause mortality rate	Reducing health inequalities (HWB) Increase Road Safety (SC) Increase Fire Safety (SC)	Health and Well-being
18.	NI 123 16+ current smoking rate prevalence. NB: The milestone target in	Reducing health inequalities (ED)	Health and Well-being

	2008/09 must be in line with the existing stretch target		
19.	NI 124 People with a long-term condition supported to be independent and in control of their condition	Promoting mental health and well-being (HWB) (OVP) Reduce health inequalities (HWB)	Older People
20.	NI 137 Healthy life expectancy at age 65	Promoting mental health and well-being (HWB) (OVP) Reduce health inequalities (HWB)	Older People
21.	NI 139 People over 65 who say that they receive the information, assistance and support needed to exercise choice and control to live independently	Promoting mental health and well-being (HWB) (OVP) Reduce health inequalities (HWB) *Reduce fear of crime (SC)	Older People
22.	NI 142 Number of vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living	Promoting mental health and well-being (HWB) (OVP) Reduce health inequalities (HWB) Reduce crime in targeted areas (SC) Reduce fear of crime (SC)	Older People
23.	NI 153 Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods	Reduce Worklessness Promoting mental health and well-being (HWB) (OVP) Reduce teenage conception rates in hot spot areas and/or vulnerable groups. (CYP) Reduce worklessness and child poverty. (CYP)	Economic
24.	NI 155 Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)	Improved access to accommodation (OVP) Narrowing the GVA Gap – Increasing Productivity (ED) Reduce Worklessness (ED) Promoting mental health and well-being (HWB) (OVP)	Economic Development
25.	NI 163 Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher	Narrowing the GVA Gap – Increasing Productivity Promoting mental health and well-being (HWB) (OVP) Reduce worklessness and child poverty (CYP)	Economic Development
26.	NI 165 Working age population qualified to at least Level 4 or higher	Increasing higher-level skills (ED) Narrowing the GVA Gap – Increasing Productivity (ED) Promoting mental health and well-being (HWB) (OVP)	Economic Development

		Reduce worklessness and child poverty (CYP)	
27.	NI 166 Average earnings of employees in the area	Narrowing the GVA Gap – Increasing Productivity (ED) Promoting mental health and well-being (HWB) (OVP) Reduce worklessness and child poverty (CYP)	Economic Development
28.	NI 171 VAT registration rate	Narrowing the GVA Gap – Increasing Productivity (ED) Reduce Worklessness (ED)	Economic Development
29.	NI 186 Per capita CO2 emissions in the LA area	Addressing Climate Change (ENV) Improve physical health of children and young people (CYP)	Environment
30.	NI 187 Tackling fuel poverty – people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating. NB: The milestone target in 2008/09 will be in line with the linked stretch target	Addressing Climate Change (ENV) Reduce health inequalities (HWB) Promoting mental health and well-being (HWB) (OVP)	Older People
31.	NI 188 Adapting to climate change	Addressing Climate Change (ENV) Promoting mental health and well-being (HWB) (OVP)	Environment
32.	NI 192 Household waste recycled and composted	Addressing Climate Change (ENV) Increasing Waste Recycling and Composting (ENV)	Environment
33.	NI 195 Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly posting. NB: The proposed target for litter and detritus in 2008/09 must be in line with the existing stretch target.	Improving street cleanliness (ENV) Reduce anti-social behaviour (SC) Mental health and well-being (HWB)	Environment
34.	NI 197 Improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites	Addressing Climate Change (ENV) Improve physical health of children and young people (CYP) Reduce health inequalities (HWB) Promoting mental health and well-being (HWB) (OVP) Reduce anti-social behaviour (SC)	Environment

Proposed Indicators to be added to the list of 35 designated targets should one of the current list be discounted.

Please note that should the proposed targets remain these two indicators will be put forward for locally agreed non-designated targets.

No.	Indicator Put Forward	Priorities Met by Indicator	Lead Theme
1	NI 20 Assault with injury crime rate	Reduce Violent Crime (SC) Reduce harm caused by Substance Misuse (SC) Reduce Domestic Violence (SC) Reduce harm caused by alcohol (HWB)	Safer Communities
2.	NI 135 Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carer's service, or advice and information	Mental health and well-being (HWB) Health inequalities	Older People
3.	NI 156 Number of households living in temporary accommodation	Reduce Worklessness. Promoting mental health and well-being (HWB) (OVP)	Older People

Proposed Indicators for Locally agreed Non-Designated Targets (existing LAA Stretch Targets are in italics until March 2009)

1.	Rate of Gun Crime (target set for Preston only)	Reduce Youth Offending Reduce Violent Crime Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour	Safer Communities
2.	Choice to be made between: a) % of successful outcomes of the number of DV related offences charged or b) Number of DV related incidents	Reduce Violent Crime Reduce Harm Caused by Alcohol Reduce Domestic Violence	Safer Communities
3.	<i>Number of criminal damage incidents</i> NB: This is an existing stretch target.	Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour Reduce Offending	Safer Communities
4.	<i>Number of drivers and passengers of powered two-wheel vehicles (motorcycles mainly) killed, seriously or slightly injured on the roads in Lancs</i>	Increase the level of public safety in the community.	Safer Communities
5.	Preventing all types of violent extremism NB: This indicator will be locally defined.		Safer Communities
6.	Access to services using public transport NB: This indicator will be locally defined.	Reduce Worklessness Addressing Climate Change (ENV)	Economic Development
7.	Improve the level of oral health in Lancashire. NB: Indicator to be agreed		Children and Young People

8.	<i>% of Lancashire schools with National Health School status</i>	Improved health of children and young people in Lancashire	Children and Young People
9.	<i>b) % of retailers who refuse to sell tobacco to underage young people (measured by test purchases) c) % of tobacco sales at vending machines refused to underage young people</i>	Reduce smoking prevalence across Lancashire	Health and Well-being
10.	<i>% of retailers who refuse to sell alcohol to underage young people (measured by test purchases)</i>	Reduce harm caused by alcohol	Health and Well-being
11.	<i>Number of new awards of various benefits allowances made to people aged over 65</i>	Reduce the level of financial poverty amongst Lancashire's older people	Older People
12.	<i>Number of completed frameworks for modern apprentices in public sector organisations</i>	Improve skill levels amongst people in Lancashire to meet demand from employers	Economic Development
13.	<i>Number of people in receipt of specific types of benefit helped into sustained employment</i>	Reduce worklessness in Lancashire	Economic Development
14.	<i>a) Number of new business established b)Of the above businesses, the number sustained for a minimum of 12 months</i>	Increase environmentally, socially and economically sustainable business growth	Economic Development