

Local Area Agreement (LAA) Refresh 2010

To: Cabinet

Date: 24th February 2010

From: Corporate Director: People, Policy and Law

**Electoral
division(s): All**

Forward Plan ref: 2010/012

Key decision: Yes

Purpose: The purpose of this report is to present the new and changed targets to be included in Cambridgeshire's LAA annual refresh for 2010.

Recommendation: Cabinet are asked to agree:

(a) the changes made to the LAA as part of the refresh, including changes to National Indicators (Nis) 152, 154, 155, 171, 1, 4, 17, 54 and 125.

(b) to remove NI 112 from the reward grant calculation.

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the new and changed targets to be included in Cambridgeshire's Local Area Agreement (LAA) annual refresh for 2010. These changes have been discussed and agreed between the Cambridgeshire Together Board and the Government Office for the East of England (Go-East) but as the lead authority for the LAA, the county council is required to formally sign off the targets prior to submission to government.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Cambridgeshire Together adopted the current Local Area Agreement in June 2008. The LAA initially included 34 priority indicators and targets agreed with central government, 16 statutory targets on educational attainment, and five local priorities. An additional indicator (171 New Business Registration) was added in 2009.

- 2.2 At the time of signing off the agreement in June 2008, there were a number of gaps where targets had not been agreed for those priority indicators where baseline information was not available, and/or where final definitions were yet to be published by central government. It was then understood that 2008 would be a transitional year with a view to negotiate such targets at the annual refresh in 2009.

- 2.3 In 2009 a revised LAA was agreed with the Government Office for the East (Go-East) which contained a number of changes. In summary these were:

- **Agreement of targets for performance indicators included in the LAA where performance data was not available** Included in this category were four indicators measured by the Place Survey (NI 1, 4, 5 and 17)
- **Review of targets for areas affected by the economic downturn** – targets on housing (NI 154 and 155) were reviewed but not changed and resubmitted to government taking account of the impact of the economic downturn on partners' ability to deliver stretch targets on growth.
- **Replacement of indicators (new indicator replacing an existing LAA indicator)** – a couple of changes were made to the LAA where an existing LAA indicator and target was deleted from the agreement and replaced by a new priority indicator/target. NI 15 (most serious violent crime) was deleted from the LAA and replaced by NI 20 (assault with less serious injury); and NI 147 (care leavers in Education, Employment & Training (EET)) was deleted from the LAA and replaced by NI 117 (16-18 year olds Not in Education, Employment & Training (NEET))
- **Proposed new indicators for inclusion in the LAA (in addition to existing ones)** – two new priority indicators were agreed for inclusion in the LAA under economic prosperity and safer and stronger communities respectively. NI 171 (new business registration rate), and NI 21 (dealing with local concerns about antisocial behaviour and crime issues by the local council and police). NI 21 was designated a local target.

- 2.4 In addition, the following additional changes were also reflected in the new LAA in 2009 regarding the statutory indicators on educational achievement due to changes in government policy. The following indicators were therefore removed from the national indicator set and LAAs:

- NI 74: proportion of pupils achieving level 5+ in both English and maths
- NI 83: proportion of pupils achieving level 5+ in science
- NI 95: proportion of pupils making 2 levels progress in English Key Stage 2-3
- NI 96: proportion of pupils making 2 levels progress in maths Key Stage 2-3
- NI 97: proportion of pupils making 2 levels progress in English Key Stage 3-4
- NI 98: proportion of pupils making 2 levels progress in maths Key Stage 3-4

3. CHANGES TO THE LAA INDICATORS AND TARGETS FOR 2010

- 3.1 Compared to 2009, the amount of changes to the LAA this year are much smaller, with the most important changes being to those targets related to employment and growth i.e. those most affected by the economic downturn. Other changes are either purely technical or can be finalised now that sufficient baseline data has been collected during 2009.
- 3.2 **Review of targets for areas affected by the economic downturn** – targets for housing development have been reviewed and resubmitted to government taking account of the impact of the economic downturn on partners' ability to deliver stretch targets on growth. Specific indicators affected are NI 154 new homes and NI 155 affordable housing. In addition, targets related to economic prosperity (NI 152 – working age people on out of work benefits and NI 171 new business registration) have been reviewed. Targets 154 and 155 are still to be finalised with GoEast but discussions are well advanced and have been agreed by relevant partners.
- 3.3 **Technical adjustment to targets** – these relate to the Place Survey NIs (1, 4 and 17) and means the level of performance stretch between the baseline and the target remains the same.
- 3.4 **New targets to be set now baseline has been established** – these relate to NI 54 (services for disabled children and NI 125 independence for older people). Target can now be set on the basis that a baseline has been established.
- 3.5 The government has also offered Cambridgeshire the chance to remove NI 112 (Under 18 conception rate) from those targets included in the reward grant calculation. The recommendation from the Children and Young People's Partnership is that this target be removed. However, the NI remains part of the LAA.
- 3.6 Other minor adjustments have been made to NI 5 (overall satisfaction), NI 117 (perceptions of antisocial behaviour), NI 32 (repeat incidents of domestic violence), NI 115 (substance misuse by young people) and NI 182 (satisfaction of businesses with local authority regulation services), but these do not form part of the formal re-fresh process with Go-East and government.

- 3.7 A table containing the new targets and other changes is set out in **Appendix 1** of this report.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resources and Performance

The nature of the LAA is such that in return for achieving a range of targets the council and its partners can attract up to £3.3m in reward money. A detailed review of current performance and its impact on attracting the maximum reward grant is being undertaken and will be completed by mid-March. Current performance suggests 11 targets (out of the possible 35) are likely to be missed by the end of March 2011. The CT Board will shortly be considering a 'performance strategy' for the last year of the LAA. Overall, however, it should be noted that GoEast remains pleased with progress against the LAA.

4.2 Statutory Requirements and Partnership Working

By signing off the LAA, the council is meeting its statutory obligations as the lead authority for LAAs in 2-tier areas. The council is a major partner of Cambridgeshire Together and is responsible for leading on a number of the targets in partnership with other public bodies that form part of Cambridgeshire Together.

4.3 Climate Change Implications

A number of targets related to environmental sustainable are included within the LAA. No changes are proposed to these this year.

4.4 Access and Inclusion

A large number of targets related to access and inclusion are included in the LAA. Those related to NI 112 (Under 18 conception rate), NI 54 (Services for disabled children) and NI 125 (Achieving independence for older people through rehabilitation/intermediate care) have all been refreshed as a result of this year's review.

4.5 Engagement and Consultation

There is no formal requirement to engage or consult on changes to the LAA. As the thematic areas in the LAA are related to the Sustainable Community Strategy, this plan has been previously subject to consultation. Individual thematic strategic partnerships and the Cambridgeshire Together Board have been involved in the refresh process.

5. APPENDICES

- 5.1 Appendix 1: table of all LAA PIs/targets (excluding statutory targets on educational attainment) reflecting changes to the LAA as part of the refresh and status of negotiations with government.

Background Documents
The LAA 2008-11