

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PRIORITY SETTING

PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITY: CORPORATE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND HUMAN RESOURCES

CABINET

11TH OCTOBER, 2007

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To note the process of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) “super-refresh” and endorse the preliminary list of key priorities in appendix 1.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision

Recommendations

- THAT (a) **the Local Area Agreement super refresh process, timetables and opportunities to input be noted; and**
- (b) **the list of key priorities for consultation purposes be noted.**

Reasons

To ensure that Cabinet is central to the LAA “super-refresh” process and have opportunity to input to its development. Herefordshire Council is the accountable body for the LAA and Cabinet needs to be involved in the decision-making process as it progresses. The LAA is also expected to be a central feature of the Comprehensive Area Assessment. Funding channelled through the LAA Single Pot is likely to increase substantially, and the management of the funding will be through Herefordshire Council as the accountable body, with decision making abilities via the Local Strategic Partnership (Herefordshire Partnership).

Considerations

1. The first task in the “super-refresh” of the LAA is to check emerging local priorities and issues against those in the current Herefordshire Community Strategy. Consultation with partner organisations, sectors and groups was undertaken from June to September, and key priorities mapped against those in the Community Strategy. From this a preliminary list of key priorities has emerged, which is attached in Appendix 1. In compiling this list, consideration has been taken of:
 - issues strongly supported by strategic partners and strategies,

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Philippa Lydford, Partnership Officer on (01432) 261788

- priorities which address public concern,
 - weighting for priorities from recent inspections and are backed up by data through the State of Herefordshire Report.
2. The number of priorities aim to give Herefordshire a manageable and focused LAA, but with sufficient scope for negotiation with GOWM and Government Departments, and flexible enough for future delivery.
 3. The Herefordshire Partnership, as the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), is the group responsible for co-ordinating the LAA's development and delivery. On the 28th September the Herefordshire Partnership Chief Executive Group agreed in principle to the list of key priorities in Appendix 1.
 4. These priorities will now be commented upon by organisations, sectors and Partnerships groups during October and November, and this report is part of this process. Council Members, Scrutiny, public, private and voluntary organisations, including those we now have a duty to co-operate with, will be part of this consultation process. A session specifically for Members is being planned for October.
 5. The National Indicator set of performance indicators is due to be released in mid/end of October as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review, and the first draft of Herefordshire's LAA submission has a preliminary deadline of 30th November 2007, followed by the end of January 2008 and March 2008 for subsequent drafts.
 6. Once the key priorities are agreed, focus of attention will then move to identifying performance Indicators, agreeing targets and identifying actions. Please note a key date for the diary of the 10th December, for the Herefordshire Exchange event which will be based on this development work and consultation.

Financial Implications

The financial implications are as set out under key decision.

Risk Management

This approach to our future Action Planning is a step change in the delivery of Community Strategies and Local Area Agreements. In order to achieve this, a joint commitment, proactive and collaborative approach is needed across all groups and organisations, to achieve the Vision and Outcomes of the Herefordshire Community Strategy. Without the commitment and support of all Partners in its development, we risk compiling an Action Plan with limited buy-in and no long-term success. Through a considered approach, the support of Herefordshire Council and by incorporating partners at every stage of the LAA's development we can mitigate these risks.

Alternative Options

There are no Alternative Options.

Consultees

Key Partners of Herefordshire Partnership through the Board, Chief Executive Group and Performance Management Group, this includes:

Chamber of Commerce Herefordshire and Worcestershire

Herefordshire Association of Local Councils

The Primary Care Trust

Herefordshire Council (including checks on key priorities through Directorate Management Teams)

The Learning and Skills Council

Voluntary Organisations

West Mercia Constabulary

Advantage West Midlands

Government Office for the West Midlands

Partnership groups

Herefordshire residents through public consultation on issues to feed in to the Local Development Framework Core Strategy, Community Forums and Parish Plans

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Key LAA priorities

Background Papers

None