

LPSA 2ND GENERATION UPDATE

PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE

CABINET

1ST JULY 2004

Wards Affected

County-wide.

Purpose

To receive an update on the progress of the second Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) which the Council will be negotiating with the Government later in 2004.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation

THAT the contents of the report be noted.

Considerations

1. As part of the regular monitoring report in March, Cabinet received an outline of the 2nd Generation of Local Public Service Agreements (LPSA2G) the Government is hoping to agree with all upper tier authorities during the next two years. Herefordshire Council is in the first tranche and will need to finalise its agreement by March 2005.
2. As a reminder to Cabinet, the LPSA2G will be different to the current LPSA as it will concentrate purely on local issues rather than having a minimum number of nationally prescribed targets. At its meeting on 4th March, it was reported to Cabinet that initial work on the new LPSA was to be carried out in conjunction with the Learning and Skills Council, the Primary Care Trust and the Government Office of the West Midlands.
3. This resulted in a scoping document which looked at longer term funding agreements with Government but also had a relatively narrow focus on increasing individual dependency within an ageing population. Following initial feedback from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), the original scoping document has been revised to better reflect the guidance for developing LPSA2G. It now incorporates a wider theme which is 'Improving the Quality of Life for an Ageing Population'. This extends the thinking behind the original scoping document by including related issues covering environment, housing and transport, for example. Currently the main exclusions are within formal education pre-16 and children in care, both being areas heavily represented in the current PSA but more importantly areas which are being addressed through other measures. The current draft of the submission is attached as Appendix 1.
4. The document needs to be formally submitted to the ODPM before the end of July, in

Further Information on the subject of this report is available from
Andrew Tanner, Assistant County Treasurer on 01432 260162

order for more formal negotiations to start, and a significant amount of work is being carried out at this time. This includes discussion with the Ambition Groups and individual service managers from the Directorates. Various bodies of evidence, particularly data from the “State of Herefordshire” report, are being used to identify priority areas and those requiring performance improvement which feed ultimately into the overall theme.

5. The final submission for the ODPM will not be the final PSA Agreement but a detailed document highlighting the issues the Council wishes to address through the LPSA. Just as importantly, it will also highlight the issues the LPSA will not be addressing and reasons for this. A key feature of LPSA2G is the need to concentrate on outcomes for the community rather than simple outputs. In other words, they are service improvements which make a real difference on the ground. As it stands, the theme is addressing a long-term structural issue in terms of an ageing population and a significant amount of thought is going in to identifying medium term outcomes which can be achieved within the three years of the LPSA.
6. Members are welcome to feed in any ideas they have to the project team prior to this date and Jennifer Watkins, John Eades and Andrew Tanner are the first points of contact in this respect.

Risk Management

Although the LPSA will rely heavily on the Partnership, responsibility for the LPSA remains with Herefordshire Council. In this respect, it is important that members are kept fully informed and engaged where necessary on the progress of the LPSA.

Consultees

None.

Background Papers

None identified.