

REPORT TO : **Tameside Strategic Partnership (TSP) Board**

DATE : 9<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

REPORTING OFFICER : **Megan Nurse**  
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SUBJECT : **LAA (Local Area Agreement) Update**

REPORT SUMMARY : The report provides the Board with a progress update on the development of the Tameside LAA, the priorities and performance measures identified by the four block negotiating groups and the performance management framework.

RECOMMENDATIONS : The Board note the content of the report, support progress made in development of the LAA and approve the performance management arrangements proposed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS : There are no direct financial implications as a result of the report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS : The priorities within the LAA are drawn from existing work in the TSP Board and Thematic Partnerships. The effectiveness of the LAA and the achievement of outcomes against these priorities impacts directly on all the themes of the Community Strategy.

NEED FOR DECISION : There are no specific decisions for the Board to take arising from the report.

LINKS TO COMMUNITY STRATEGY : The LAA is an important element in the achievement of the Community Strategy and improving the quality of life in Tameside.

## **1.0 Background Information**

- 1.1 A Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a three year agreement, based on local Community Strategies, that sets out the priorities for a local area agreed between Central Government, represented by the Government Office (GO), and a local area, represented by the lead local authority and other key partners through the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).
- 1.2 LAAs are structured around 4 blocks. Children & Young People; Safer & Stronger Communities; Healthier Communities & Older People; Economic Development.
- 1.3 An LAA should identify new ways of working to achieve better outcomes against existing priorities. The agreement should include the key issues which the area wishes to address through the LAA and focus on these. Priorities not included in the LAA agreement will continue to be addressed through existing initiatives and activities.
- 1.4 The LAA Steering Group, established in January 2006, oversees and leads the development of Tameside's agreement, and includes representatives from the Council, PCT, GM Police, Manchester Enterprises, T3SC (local CVS) and GM Fire.
- 1.5 The smaller individual block negotiating teams lead on the detailed negotiation of outcomes, indicators, targets, actions to achieve targets and funding streams.
- 1.6 The work of the Steering Group and negotiating blocks is based on existing priorities of the TSP and Thematic Partnerships, and ratified by the TSP and Thematic Partnership Boards. It is important to recognise that only a relatively small number of priorities sit within the LAA but that other priorities will continue to be taken forward by the Thematic Partnerships and other organisations through strategies and action plans. The LAA sits alongside these existing plans, but doesn't replace them.

## **2.0 Progress since the TSP Board on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2006**

- 2.1 Since the last TSP Board meeting (8<sup>th</sup> December 2006) the final version of the LAA has been submitted to Government Office North West – GONW (5<sup>th</sup> February 2007). A copy of the agreement will be tabled at the meeting.
- 2.2 Throughout the development of the LAA, drafts have regularly been submitted to GONW. Feedback has been very positive and no areas of risk were identified. GONW stated that 'there are some strong themes in the Agreement which reflect particular issues for Tameside – for example we welcome the emphasis on boys/men, volunteering and the fear of crime. The matrix makes the cross-cutting approach easy to track'.

## **3.0 Draft LAA Agreement**

- 3.1 The draft agreement has three sections 1. Executive Summary 2. Introduction and Context 3. The Outcomes Framework. The key points are summarised below.
- 3.2 **Executive Summary.** A one page overview of the main document
- 3.3 **Introduction and Context.** The LAA vision summarises the overall aims of the Tameside LAA and highlights links to the Community Strategy, TSP and Thematic

Partnerships. The challenges facing the borough and the headline priorities are also outlined. The block visions are similar to the LAA Vision and summarise the context and the overall aims and headline priorities for each block.

- 3.4 A summary of cross-cutting themes and underlying issues is also included in the Introduction and Context. Alongside this is the Statement of Community Sector Involvement which outlines the role of the VCS and local people in the design and delivery of the agreement.
- 3.5 The Introduction and Context also summarises the systems and processes that will monitor and support achievement of the LAA, i.e. the Performance Management Framework (PMF). Further details are given in section 5.
- 3.6 **Outcomes Framework.** The outcomes framework itself is a table detailing the outcomes, measures, baselines and targets by block. The lead organisation and Thematic Partnership are also noted. The matrix of cross cutting themes highlights the link between the measures and the nine themes. Amounts of pooled and aligned funding that supports achievement of the LAA are summarised by block.

## **4.0 Next Steps**

- 4.1 Detailed below are the key dates leading up to the LAA agreement becoming live on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007.
- 9<sup>th</sup> March 2007 – signed off by Government Departments
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2007 – signed off by Tameside (Chair of TSP Board)
  - 30<sup>th</sup> March 2007 – signed off by Minister for Local Government
  - **1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 – Tameside LAA Agreement becomes live**

## **5.0 Monitoring and achieving the LAA**

- 5.1 In order to achieve the targets set out in the LAA the organisations responsible for delivery will need to closely monitor performance and ensure effective actions and resources are in place.
- 5.2 The minimum requirement as part of the national Agreement is to complete six monthly returns to GONW that inform subsequent formal review meetings; and an annual review of the whole Agreement to consider any target adjustments and new performance measures.
- 5.3 The performance management framework (PMF) supplements these mandatory requirements to ensure that timely action is taken to rectify any underperformance and maximise the use of resources across agencies, and learn from successful initiatives.

### Performance Management Framework

- 5.4 The TSP has an established performance management framework which has been central to the success of the TSP Board and Thematic Partnerships, and identified as a strength in the Annual Review process. Tameside's LAA will draw upon the embedded PMF, but with some additional elements to reflect the complexity and importance of the LAA. The specific LAA elements will be based upon the successful processes adopted to deliver Tameside's two Local Public Service Agreements.

- 5.5 **LAA Steering Group.** The LAA Steering Group will meet on a quarterly basis to review reports on performance, proposed new actions where improvement is required, and the success of actions already implemented. The Steering Group will have responsibility for approving the 6-monthly reports to GONW; overall spend against the LAA grant; re-negotiation of the LAA; and connecting activity in relation to the cross-cutting theme. Membership of the group will be based upon the Steering Group which has negotiated the LAA. The lead officer from each Block will attend to report performance against their targets.
- 5.6 **LAA Block Groups.** Due to the large number of measures within the LAA, the achievement of the targets will be led by 4 different groups focusing on each of the LAA Blocks. Although the 4 blocks directly link into one or more of the 7 TSP Thematic Partnerships, the complexity and importance of the LAA suggests that detailed discussion regarding performance should take place outside the Thematic Partnerships. The Block Groups will meet bi-monthly and the lead for each Block will take responsibility for ensuring that appropriate systems are in place to gather data and maintain and monitor the 'actions' proforma for each target. A standard reporting template will be used to collate the information from each Block performance lead to report to the LAA Steering Group, Thematic Partnerships and TSP Board. Each performance measure will have a named lead officer responsible for achieving and monitoring performance. All data that can be monitored on a bi-monthly basis will be reported to each Block meeting. Where data is less regularly available, attention will focus on delivery of the actions to achieve improvement and any available proxy measures. The Block meetings will also discuss allocation of resources and monitor spend against the LAA grant. Where possible, existing groups whose work supports the aims of the LAA will take on the responsibility or assist with delivery of the block groups. For example; Spearhead, Crime and Disorder performance groups.
- 5.7 **Thematic Partnerships.** Performance against the LAA will be reported to each Thematic Partnership every 6 months. The relevant Block lead (or theme lead for the SSC Block) will present the report. Each Thematic Partnership will take responsibility for overseeing the re-allocation of resources and adoption of additional actions to achieve the targets they have responsibility for. A standard template will be adopted to report performance to each partnership which will include additional information on actions to be taken to improve performance where necessary. The Partnership Agreement for each Thematic Partnership will be updated by April 2007 to ensure all LAA performance measures are included.
- 5.8 **TSP Board.** Performance against the whole LAA will be reported to the TSP Board every 6 months by the LAA Steering Group. The Board will ensure that actions are co-ordinated across the LAA and that connections are being made between Thematic Partnerships and is delivering the cross-cutting themes. The Board will also hold each Thematic Partnership to account on progress against their performance measures through the Annual Reporting process. The Board may also request additional information through the six monthly LAA reports.
- 5.9 A flowchart of the PMF is attached at the end of this report.

#### LAA Monitoring by GONW

- 5.10 **Six Monthly Reviews.** The six-monthly review is a process through which Tameside reports on and discusses with GONW progress against all outcomes and targets contained in the LAA and spend. This is likely to take the form of a submission of evidence to GONW and to culminate in a meeting between Tameside and GONW,

and the agreement of any necessary actions, which GONW reports to central government.

- 5.11 The annual review will normally take place in May of each year. The mid-year review will be in November and this will be combined with the DfES Priorities Conversation with the Council for services to Children and Young People. There is also the option of informal quarterly meetings in between the six monthly reviews if the area would find that useful.

## **6.0 Appendix – PMF Flowchart**

