

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

19<sup>th</sup> September 2006

<b>DRAFT LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT</b>
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<b>Kathryn Stokes- Principal Corporate Development Officer</b>
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### SUMMARY

1. To advise the Board of the proposed structure, focus and content of the draft Local Area Agreement and seek comment.

### INTRODUCTION

2. Local Area Agreements (LAA) are part of the Government's 10 year vision to strengthen the leadership role of local government, increase partnership working and engagement and involvement with local people.
3. LAAs are a three year agreement (refreshed annually) between a local area (represented by the local authority, the LSP and key partners) and central government (represented by the regional government office).
4. LAAs will be rolled out to all areas by 2007. Middlesbrough is expected to have agreed its LAA by March 2007 (Round 3).
5. Middlesbrough must submit a draft Local Area Agreement to Government Office North East on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

### KEY POINTS OF A LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

6. The LAA does not bring additional resources or 'new' money. It does however enable existing resources to be used more effectively in responding to local need.
7. Nationally LAAs are designed around four key blocks:
  - Children and Young People

- Healthier Communities and Older People
  - Safer and Stronger Communities
  - Economic Development and Enterprise.
8. Local negotiations should be taken forward by local authorities and local strategic partnerships and should include effective community engagement.
9. Authorities and their partners will negotiate clear targets and outcomes for these areas with central government, but then will have the freedom to decide locally how best to achieve them.
10. The potential for rationalisation of monitoring arrangements should bring efficiencies.

## **MIDDLESBROUGH'S APPROACH TO LAA**

11. The LAA builds on the outcomes and priorities identified in the Middlesbrough Community Strategy 2005.
12. The LAA is an ideal opportunity to build on the many achievements of Middlesbrough Partnership and make real progress against Middlesbrough Community Strategy themes and strategic priorities. Whilst recognising that the LAA must build on the priorities set out with the Community Strategy, it was apparent that in order to bring about real step change improvement in the issues that effect people's everyday lives, the LAA must have a clear focus.
13. The focus of the LAA is based on the actions required to continue raising aspirations and optimism. This can be broadly described as:
- Making Middlesbrough a better place to live - a healthier, greener place with successful physical regeneration;
  - Celebrating the changing image of Middlesbrough - young people want to be here, the community owns the changes and businesses want to move here;
  - Ensuring there is a future for young people - young people will have the improved skills, opportunities and aspirations; and
  - Strengthening communities - inclusion and independence is encouraged, the friendly feel of Middlesbrough is celebrated, crime and anti-social behaviour will be tackled and there will be more working together.

## **DRAFT LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

14. The document is structured around the six community strategy themes:
- Supporting Children and Learning
  - Promoting Healthier Communities for all and effective social care for adults
  - Creating Safer and Stronger Communities
  - Transforming our local environment
  - Meeting Local Transport Needs More Effectively
  - Promoting the Economic Vitality of Middlesbrough

15. Each theme within the Local Area Agreement builds on the priorities set out with the Community Strategy, and other supporting plans and strategies, whilst focusing specifically on raising aspirations and optimism.
16. For each theme there are a number of priority outcomes to be tackled through the Local Area Agreement along with a number of indicators to measure the achievement of the outcome. Work is still on going with the lead officers from the thematic action groups to set targets for each indicator.

## **CONSULTATION**

17. The draft LAA will change between this consultation process and the production of the final draft document. The types of changes that may occur are outlined below:
  - editorial and proof reading changes, at present the document consists of several sections written by different authors and using different styles and formats, this will be streamlined so the document becomes more coherent;
  - the LAA may be amended in line with feedback from consultation with stakeholders;
  - the targets and indicators will change as performance information becomes available; and
  - as information becomes available, possible enabling measures and funding streams to either pooled or aligned will be identified.
18. During October GONE will consult with central government departments and continue to work with Middlesbrough to refine the agreement further.

## **CONCLUSION**

19. That OSB note and comment on the draft Local Area Agreement

**AUTHOR:** Kathryn Stokes  
**TEL NO:** 01642 729559