

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

3 JUNE 2008

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT TARGETS

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to outline:
 - the proposals to revise the Community Strategy themes in line with the national outcomes and reviewed strategic priorities;
 - the structure and timetable to develop the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and Local Area Agreement (LAA); and
 - the draft designated targets for Middlesbrough Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 and local targets.

The draft designated targets are to be submitted to Government Office North East (GONE) on 30 May 2008, in line with GONE requirements.

BACKGROUND

2. The Executive in February 2008 agreed that the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement should be developed at the same time, through a coordinated process, so that the priorities that are agreed can be reflected in both documents. It was also agreed that whilst developing the SCS and LAA they would build on existing documents rather than aim to replace them.

REVISED COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEMES AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

3. Middlesbrough's first Local Area Agreement (LAA) was developed based round the themes of the Community Strategy rather than the four LAA "blocks" (Children and Young People, Healthier Communities and Older People, Safer and Stronger Communities; Economic Development and Enterprise).
4. It was previously agreed that the development of the LAA and the refresh of the Community Strategy – to create the SCS – should be aligned. In addition Executive have previously discussed the proposal to revise the Community Strategy themes to align with the new National Outcomes set out in the new national performance framework's Single Set of National Indicators. This makes it

opportune to consider the current themes to ensure that they provide the most effective fit for future work.

5. There is a high degree of correlation between the themes of the current Community Strategy and the National Outcomes.

CURRENT COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME	NATIONAL OUTCOMES
Creating Safer and Stronger Communities	Stronger Communities Safer Communities
Meeting Local Transport Needs More Efficiently	
Promoting Healthier Communities and Effective Social Care for Adults	Adult Health and Well-being
Promoting the Economic Vitality of Middlesbrough	Local Economy
Supporting Children and Learning	Children and Young People (<i>Every Child Matters</i>)
Transforming Our Environment	Environmental Sustainability
	Tackling Exclusion and Promoting Equality

6. The only areas of major difference are that:

- Transport is identified as a separate theme in the Community Strategy whereas it is a subset of Local Economy in the National Outcomes. Therefore it is proposed to put transport issues within Local Economy whilst recognising the cross cutting nature of transport.
- Tackling Exclusion and Promoting Equality is recognised as a separate theme, although many of the indicators would sit easily under the specific client group (Children and Young People or Adult Health and well-being). The indicators under the title Tackling Exclusion and Promoting Equality relate to the housing, employment and health of vulnerable groups which have strong links to the Supporting People agenda. It is therefore proposed that this outcome sits within the Adult Health and Well-Being Theme.

7. Within the individual themes, there are some anomalies:

- “adult participation in sport” is seen as being a “stronger communities” issues rather than “adult health”. Given the health inequalities in Middlesbrough it is proposed to continue the focus of participation in sport as a health issue in Middlesbrough.
- Culture is currently part of the Economic Vitality, recognising the role of culture in the regeneration of the town with a particular emphasis on flagship projects.

However, there is another aspect which relates more closely to supporting local communities (cultural activities that contribute to the quality of life and well-being of individuals and communities) which may be seen to link more closely to the Stronger Communities agenda. It is proposed to split the role of culture across two themes. Local Economy to address culture's contribution to the regeneration of Middlesbrough and Stronger Communities to reflect culture's role in contributing to improving the quality of life for people in Middlesbrough.

8. The fact that the themes chosen by Middlesbrough are so closely matched to those in the New National Outcomes reflects well on the approach taken by Middlesbrough in the past – not all Council's or Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP) would be able to demonstrate such strong links. Although there is no requirement to link the Sustainable Community Strategy themes to the national headings, it will make the structure clearer to partners and to the wider community.
9. Adapting the themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy to the National Outcomes could be achieved with only a small amount of work. Although some consideration would need to be given to the memberships of individual Action Groups, this would be more about adjustment than major change. The Middlesbrough Partnership Executive has recently considered a report setting out the proposed changes to the LSP action groups to support the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

10. The proposed Community Strategy themes and issues to be addressed within each theme are set out in the table below.

CURRENT COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEMES	PROPOSED COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEMES	ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED WITHIN THE THEME
Creating Safer and Stronger Communities	Creating Stronger Communities	Volunteering Community Cohesion Community Engagement Culture
	Creating Safer Communities	Community Safety Crime and Disorder
Meeting Local Transport Needs More Efficiently		
Promoting Healthier Communities and Effective Social Care for Adults	Promoting Adult Health and Well-being and Tackling Exclusion and Promoting Equality	Adult Health Public Health Older People Supporting People
Promoting the Economic Vitality of Middlesbrough	Enhancing the Local Economy	Regeneration Employment Skills Housing Transport
Supporting Children and Learning	Supporting Children and Young People <i>(Every Child Matters)</i>	Every Child Matters
Transforming Our Environment	Securing Environmental Sustainability	Environmental Issues

Strategic Priorities

11. The Sustainable Community Strategy will be refocused around the new themes. This provides an opportunity to review the strategic priorities that support the achievement of the Community Strategy themes. The annual review of the Middlesbrough Partnership in 2007 identified good progress against many of the current strategic priorities, but also recognised that further work is needed. It had already been agreed that the Sustainable Community Strategy should build on the previous strategy and LAA rather than aim to replace them, therefore it was not expected there would be major changes to the strategic priorities.
12. Following consultation with relevant officers, partners and LSP Action Groups, a list of proposed strategic priorities against the new Community Strategy themes is set out at Appendix 1.

Strategic Plans and Service Plans

13. The revised Strategic Plan 2008 – 2011 has been structured around these themes.
14. Scrutiny members are asked to note the new themes.

SCS AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PROPOSED STRUCTURE AND TIMETABLE

15. It is proposed to structure the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement in four parts:
 - Part 1 – The long term vision and priorities
 - Part 2 – The medium term priorities as well as providing details on the improvement activities to be undertaken over the medium term
 - Part 3 – The Local Area Agreement
 - Part 4 – Supporting documentation.
16. Details of the proposed content for each part of the Plan are shown in Appendix 2, attached.
17. The national deadline for the LAA is June 2008; a deadline for the revised SCS is not specified.
18. Government Office North East and Central Government drive the timetable for the negotiation of the LAA. The development of the Sustainable Community Strategy requires full consultation and engagement with partners. This makes it difficult to align the production of the both documents.
19. Key dates for the Local Area Agreement are set out below (provisional):
 - 15th May – CMT consider final LAA targets
 - 27th May – Executive approve final LAA targets
 - 30th May – Submit final LAA targets to GONE
 - 6th June – Regional Director recommendation to Government Departments
 - 30 June – Final LAA sign off and Memo Published.
20. The Local Area Agreement timetable and the need to ensure that partners are fully engaged in the production of the Sustainable Community Strategy means that the timetables are not compatible therefore two timetables are required. The draft timetable to produce the Sustainable Community Strategy is attached at Appendix 3, it is expected the final Sustainable Community Strategy will be presented to full Council 3 September 2008.

LAA TARGETS

21. The LAA is based on a menu of 198 indicators. The LAA will include 16 mandatory attainment targets, as well as *up to* 35 improvement targets (taken from the remaining 182 indicators).
22. A draft of the Local Area Agreement was sent to Government Office North East (GONE) on 3 March 2008, including the latest list of indicators and targets proposed for inclusion. A final version of the LAA will be submitted to GONE on 30 May in line with GONE timetable requirements.

Final Draft LAA

23. The LAA has been developed by consensus, both locally and with Government Office. The list reflects the local situation, with a particular emphasis on areas where improvement is needed. There are many issues where Middlesbrough performs poorly compared to the rest of the country – particularly in relation to community safety, education/skills, employment and health.
24. Although intended to be local, there is pressure to reflect national agendas, for example child poverty. However, many of the issues that make up the national agenda are important to Middlesbrough, particularly when considering “narrowing the gap”.
25. A final draft of the LAA is attached at appendix 4, the target have been negotiated on the basis of a number of factors including:
 - alignment of existing targets set out in supporting plans and strategies, for example teenage pregnancy target;
 - alignment of targets agreed through other Government Department Performance Frameworks, for example PCT Vital Signs Framework; and
 - agreement of targets negotiated with other agencies and their relevant Government Department, for example Police and Probation Targets.
26. Some targets cannot be set given the delay in agreeing final national indicator definitions, these will be negotiated in 2009.
27. There are a number of targets where Middlesbrough’s target is not seen as challenging enough by GONE, therefore GONE is requiring that Middlesbrough ‘stretches’ the targets further.
28. The points highlighted in paragraphs 25-27 are indicated on the draft LAA.

Local Targets

29. Where there are local priorities, which are not seen as the highest priority by Government Office, there is the opportunity to use local indicators, in addition to the 35 designated targets.

30. The draft LAA is structured around the revised Community Strategy themes and strategic priorities. There is a close correlation between the LAA designated targets and the strategic priorities. However there are a number of strategic priorities where there is no designated target to measure achievement of the priority. It is proposed that in these cases a local target will be used; these are highlighted in the draft.

Links to MAA

31. Middlesbrough's fortunes are inextricable linked to the economic prosperity of the sub-region. The Tees Valley City Region Business Case aims to reduce the output gap between the Tees Valley and the rest of the UK by developing its economic assets and improving urban competitiveness. A Multi Area Agreement (MAA) is being negotiated as a mechanism to deliver much of the Business Case by securing resources for the next five years for regeneration, transport and housing market renewal.
32. The MAA and LAA should be seen as complementary documents. The Tees Valley Authorities and JSU have agreed an approach regarding the interaction between LAAs and the Tees Valley MAA. The approach aims to demonstrate clearly the links between the LAA and the MAA without compromising the fundamental fact that LAAs should be driven by local priorities.
33. The MAA includes four targets for the Tees Valley, which are derived from the National Indicator set. Middlesbrough's LAA includes 2 of these targets as designated targets. For those MAA indicators that Middlesbrough does not have a designated target it is proposed to use further local targets.
34. The table below illustrates the relationship between the Tees Valley MAA indicators and Middlesbrough's LAA designated targets and proposed local targets.

National Indicators in MAA		Links to Middlesbrough LAA
NI 171	Increase in Business Stock	Designated Target
NI 166	Average Earning of Employees	Local Target
NI 151	Overall Employment Rate	Local Target
NI 154	Net Additional Homes Provided	Designated Target

RISK ASSESSMENT

35. Failure to prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement would restrict the ability to agree and deliver Middlesbrough's priorities. The alignment of Middlesbrough's Community Strategy themes to the national outcomes enables the Council and its partners to easily monitor and report on its contribution to the achievement of national priorities. Effective community and partner engagement have informed the strategic priorities and LAA targets. The priorities of Middlesbrough are owned and understood by the wider community.

LAA targets are shared with partners therefore increasing Middlesbrough's ability to deliver on its priorities.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

36. **Financial** – The costs in the development of the SCS and the LAA will be met from existing funds. The Comprehensive Spending Review announced a third round of reward for the achievement of LAA targets. Final guidance on reward will be published as part of the guidance on the first annual review of LAAs.
37. **Legal** – The Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act requires councils to negotiate new LAAs with their respective government offices by 30 June 2008. The Sustainable Community Strategy forms part of the policy framework and has to be signed off by full Council.
38. **Ward Implications** – The documents will cover the whole of Middlesbrough, but with a special emphasis on tackling inequalities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

39. Scrutiny are asked to note:
 - the community strategy themes;
 - the strategic priorities;
 - the structure and timetable for the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement
 - the designated targets for the Local Area Agreement
 - the proposed local targets for the Local Area Agreement and consider further local targets where appropriate.
40. The designated targets within the Local Area Agreement may be subject to further amendment as they are subject to approval by the DCLG.

REASONS

41. The Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement will have a major impact on services and financial arrangements associated with them.

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