

## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

10th March 2009

### Middlesbrough Local Area Agreement 2008–2011 – 2009 Refresh

Karen Robinson – Head of Corporate Performance

#### Purpose of this report

1. The purpose of this report is to:
  - a. inform OSB of the outcome of the LAA Review for 2008/09; and
  - b. seek OSB comments on the refreshed LAA for 2009.

#### Background

2. The Secretary of State, Hazel Blears, signed off Middlesbrough's LAA in July 2008. The LAA sets out the deal between central government and Middlesbrough Council and its partners to improve services and the quality of life for local people. The LAA is the result of detailed consultation with the Council and its partners.
3. Local Area Agreements are reviewed and refreshed annually by Government Office (GONE) on behalf of Government.

#### LAA Review and Refresh 2008/09

4. Local Area Agreements are reviewed and refreshed annually by Government Office (GONE) on behalf of Government. GONE will report to Whitehall at key stages. The key milestones for the process are set out in table 1.

**Table 1 – LAA Review/Refresh Timetable**

3 December	Report to CMT process for LAA review/refresh and setting out targets involved in negotiation
10 & 15 December	LSP Accountability Sessions
16 January 2009	GONE submit review of progress to CLG – process rather than targets
19 January 2009	LSP Executive Board (feedback from accountability sessions, mid-year LAA update and LAA Refresh update)
26 February 2009	Final Draft refreshed LAA to CMT

2 March	Local area submits refreshed LAA to GOs (at this point LAAs should be in final or near-final form though possibly not yet formally adopted)
9 March 2009	Final Draft LAA to LSP Executive
10 March 2009	Final Draft LAA to OSB
Before 26 March 2009	Council Executive Approval of LAA (single member) - with option for Deputy Mayor to approve any changes prior to final submission to GONE
Thursday 26 March	Local area submits approved refreshed LAA to GOs
27 March –1 April	GONE to submit adopted LAAs to the Secretary of State
Early April	Secretary of State Approval of revised LAAs

## LAA Review 2008/09

5. The purpose of the LAA review is to identify and address issues around delivery, including risks and good practice, to help assess and benchmark progress over the life of the LAA – i.e. the performance management of the LAA.
6. As part of the review process GONE examined:
  - Middlesbrough’s progress against LAA targets where data was available;
  - delivery plans in place to deliver LAA targets;
  - innovation and good practice;
  - performance management arrangements including data sharing between partners; and
  - how partners support and challenge each other to drive improvement.
7. Middlesbrough Partnership has used Accountability Sessions for a number of years as a key component of its performance management framework. The Accountability Sessions provide robust accountability for Middlesbrough Partnership through collaboration and investigation. The Accountability Sessions held in December 2008 reflected the requirements of the LAA review and therefore provided the ideal evidence base for GONE to review Middlesbrough’s LAA.
8. A report setting out the outcome of the Accountability Sessions was presented to the Middlesbrough Partnership Executive Board in January 2009 – copies of this report can be forwarded to OSB members if requested.
9. Following the Accountability Sessions GONE has prepared a LAA Annual Review Report which assessed Middlesbrough’s LAA. The report states:

*‘Middlesbrough has made good progress with developing and bedding down delivery arrangements across the majority of designated targets. There is a strong performance culture in place and evidence of innovative practice. As a result of the focus on Community Safety and Children’s Services within this LAA, there remain more than half of the measures that currently have no performance data that can be reviewed. However, it is clear that interventions and activities are in place to drive forward progress throughout the LAA’.*

## Refresh 2009

10. The refresh element of the LAA was in terms of 'unfinished business' from the earlier negotiations; this included:
  - delayed indicators;
  - revised indicators; and
  - targets that are inconsistent with their indicator definition.
11. For Middlesbrough there were 13 designated targets where Middlesbrough's LAA had baselines and/or targets outstanding. However during the refresh process further indicators were included, as indicator definitions had changed during the year. This increased the number of targets being discussed as part of the LAA Refresh to 19.
12. In addition Middlesbrough requested that those targets that are directly impacted by the credit crunch were also included in the refresh process, namely:
  - **NI 153** - Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods
  - **NI 154** - Net additional homes provided.Therefore a total of 21 targets were involved in the LAA Refresh.
13. It was agreed with GONE that targets for NI 153 and NI 154 were left of out of the refresh process for 2009 and 'park' them until the 2010 Refresh of the LAA and renegotiate a more realistic target when the impact of the credit crunch may be fuller understood. However this means that should the renegotiated targets be achieved Middlesbrough will not be eligible for reward for those targets.
14. The timetable for completing the LAA Refresh is very tight, a draft refreshed LAA needs to be submitted to GONE 2 March 2009 (to be formally approved by Deputy Mayor before 26 March 2009).
15. Some target negotiations are still ongoing and were not completed before this report was distributed. The table attached at appendix A sets out the refreshed LAA targets, as they currently stand, and highlights where changes have been made to the original LAA. In addition the table highlights where negotiations are still ongoing and proposes how each outstanding target will be agreed in accordance with the statutory timetable.
16. An update on negotiations will be reported verbally at OSB.

## Discussion

17. OSB are requested to:
  - a. note the outcome of the LAA review for 2008/09; and
  - b. consider the refreshed LAA for 2009.

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