

Agenda Item Sustainable Community Strategy-LAA Project Update Appendix A

GOSW Feasibility Study Feedback Session, Mast House, Plymouth **9th August 2007**

During June and July this year, Government Offices and central government undertook a feasibility study with 17 LAA areas to consider the process for negotiating and agreeing the 2008-2011 LAAs. In particular:

- key stages/success criteria for LAs & partners to agree 35 targets
- getting cross-Government view of how national priorities impact locally
- the negotiating framework for achieving central-local agreement to the LAA

Communities and Local Government (CLG) will be assimilating the learning into a report to be published in September 2007, but in the meantime, Government Office for the South West (GOSW) held a feedback session on 9 August 2007 to present the main findings. Devon attendees at the event were:

Sara Cretney (Devon LAA Development Officer)
Nicola Bulbeck (Chief Executive, Teignbridge District Council)
Lynn McEleron (Strategic Manager, Teignbridge District Council)

There were two presentations:

1. Local Area Agreements - From the margins to the mainstream?
2. Feasibility Testing for new LAAs - 'Lessons Learned'

Notes on the two presentations from Lynn McEleron and Sara Cretney are set out below:

Local Area Agreements - From the margins to the mainstream

- Up to 35 key indicators (priorities) + 18 statutory Dept for Children, Schools & Families – from the basket of 200. However, will need to performance manage all 200 and they will replace current PIs.
- Local priorities – any number – have equivalent status but not reported to Govt. Unclear what the level of negotiation with GOSW will be around local priorities.
- CAA Risk assessment only on the 35 + 18 indicators
- No block structure but Economy and Enterprise now Economic Development and Environment. Local areas can decide own themes.
- Should we carry forward issues from the current Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) into the new LAA?
- No longer about specific funding for specific targets – unsure whether will be more funding streams.
- Funding decisions being made between now and November. Some things will be required to be delivered, although no ring fencing.
- Operational guidance will follow CSR07 in November.

- Unclear whether there will be any reward grant will be included – will be announced in CSR07.
- Will be future regional roadshows in Autumn, partners to be invited.
- Capital and revenue split will remain in place.
- Future LAA refreshes will be rolling three year not absolute.
- LAAs will be the ONLY place where targets are agreed with Government for delivery by LAs in partnership.
- Stretch funding for targets currently being worked towards will continue but need to ensure all evidence is collected in exactly the same way as now.
- Ministerial sign off in June 2008. (Negotiation of LAA Autumn 07 – March 08). Need high level priorities by Christmas. Outline and negotiations once receive the indicator set. Aiming for 100% complete LAA by June 08 – no sign off unless complete.
- Surveys needed for mandatories this year - will continue if linked to stretch targets but unsure about others.
- Can have long-term targets (more than the 3 years) but would need minimum of 3 year milestones for achievement towards the long term goal/outcome.
- 3 year funding allocation
- Ensure baseline data in place – especially in the “stronger communities” area.
- GOSW – a “Theme Team” for each area – to ensure capacity to negotiate all the LAAs within the time frame.
- Expert advisers panels being set up, including partners.

Feasibility Testing for new LAAs - ‘Lessons Learned’

- 17 LAs and partners (Swindon and Bournemouth in SW) worked with Govt. depts and Audit Commission – by Summer 2007:
 - critical success factors
 - framework and start operational guidance.
- Have to **evidence** why something is a priority and needs improvement.
- Prove purpose – performance meeting or place-shaping.
- Evidence base – needs to be consistent
- Build SCS and LAA – place shaping/local picture.
- Priorities lead the indicators and funding (not other way around).
- Essential to have National Indicator Set early as possible.

- Unclear how many mandatory indicators will be included – CLG trying to dissuade govt departments.
- Need to develop a cross-cutting approach (not silos).
- Also the CAA to consider.
- Elected Members to engage in leading the local debate.
- Will take time to agree the 35 priorities (and these will be for Devon as a whole).

[Where are the practical examples of what happened? – barriers/challenges (especially in a 2 tier area) and how did they overcome these? – Report in September.]

- Regeneration (social and economic) is expected to be looked at for Super Output Areas.
- Don't wait for guidance for many issues – start work now.

[But we need to understand what funding streams are included and what will be mandatory].