

**Devon Strategic Partnership  
Partnership Board  
15 May 2008**

**Devon Local Area Agreement 2008-2011**

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board agree the submission of the draft LAA to Government Office for the South West subject to any further modifications to targets which arise from the ongoing negotiations with GOSW.

**Background**

The Devon Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 (LAA) is a means to an end: it will take forward the vision for Devon and is a step, over the next three years, towards implementing the Devon Sustainable Community Strategy.

The LAA brings together national and local priorities and provides the focus for DSP partners to improve outcomes for people and communities.

The development of the LAA is nearing completion. Devon County Council and the Devon Strategic Partnership are required to submit it to Government Office for the South West by the end of May 2008 with Ministerial sign off by the end of June 2008.

LAA negotiations with Government Office for the South West continue to be based on sound and professional working relationships and a broad agreement about how the "story" of Devon and the county's priorities should be expressed as targets in the LAA.

The Devon County Council Executive and DSP Delivery Board agreed the working draft of the LAA at their meetings on 30 April and 1 May respectively.

The DCC Executive's agreement was subject to:

- The inclusion of tourism in the LAA.
- Consideration of the impact of accessibility on children and young people's achievement and attainment.
- Revising the wording of priority LAA29 "Narrow the gap between the lowest attaining 20% of children 0-19 and the achievements of all young people in Devon".
- The identification of lead partners.

**LAA targets and Partners**

Devon County Council's Chief Executive has written to the various bodies which are subject to the "duty to cooperate" consulting them on the LAA and seeking confirmation as to which of the LAA priorities each organisation or partnership will contribute to.

The LAA will identify the partners who have signed-up to each target and any which are acting as lead partner/s. The signatories to the LAA targets will include existing groups/partnerships, eg Devon Drug and Alcohol Action Team, Devon Economic Partnership and the Devon Strategic Housing Group. The LAA will list, in an annexe, the membership of such groups/partnerships and include a caveat that there may be changes to signatories and lead partners.

Further work is underway to confirm the contributing/lead partners for each target and that information will be added to the LAA before it is submitted to GOSW.

### **District/LSP sections of the LAA**

The DCC Executive and DSP Delivery Board agreed that a short section relating to each District local authority/local strategic partnership be included as part of the published document.

Discussions have taken place with District local authorities/local strategic partnerships about the ways in which the LAA can contribute to meeting shared objectives for people and places: towns, villages and rural areas.

The Devon Strategic Partnership Conference on 28 March 2008 included consideration of how the LAA priorities relate to individual neighbourhoods and localities. Conference participants addressed the question: "Which of the Devon LAA 2008-2011 priorities are the most relevant to each district and how can you take advantage of them to meet local need?" The outcomes of those discussions are being used as a contribution towards a short (no more than four page) section for each District local authority/local strategic partnership area which will be included as part of the published LAA. Each section will be structured as follows:

1. Introductory statement about the characteristics of the area highlighting key challenges, issues and problems.
2. Identification of the LAA priorities which are particularly relevant to the whole area, specific towns, villages or neighbourhoods within it.
3. Description of some of the ways in which *partners will contribute* to those identified priorities in a way which enables them to take advantage of the LAA 2008-2011 to meet their objectives. An explanation of the differences that people will see.

### **Conclusion**

The draft LAA attached to this report represents the position as at 9 May 2008. Some of the targets in the draft LAA are subject to ongoing negotiations and consideration by GOSW. Discussions with GOSW will lead to modifications to targets which will necessitate minor additions/amendments during the remainder of this month.

The LAA targets in relation to a safer Devon are aligned with the Devon and Cornwall Police's one and three year targets. The LAA targets in relation to health and wellbeing are aligned with the PCT Vital Signs targets and the DCC/PCT strategic framework for health and social care but are subject to confirmation and sign off by GOSW and the Devon PCT Board/Devon County Council's Adult and Community Services management team.