

Equality is one of three cross-cutting themes which will underpin the SCS and the LAA. A Joint Declaration, including a definition of broad outcomes relating to the Equality theme, is currently being drafted for endorsement by the DSP.

### Next Steps:

#### March:

Negotiations of priorities, indicators and targets will continue between local authorities, partners and GOSW

Local Authorities and partners will submit proposed targets to GOSW

Negotiation of statutory targets will continue with the aim of reaching agreement

#### April:

Local authorities will be notified of agreed Department for Children, Schools and Families statutory targets

GOSW will continue to share developments with Departments especially around the stretch of targets linked to aggregate national performance

#### May:

Negotiation of priorities, indicators and targets will continue between local authorities and partners and GOSW



Central Government have requested formal submission of the LAA to GOSW by 30th May. Government Office South West's Regional Director will make recommendations to central Government

#### June:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government will consider all LAAs submitted for approval and consult with Cabinet colleagues

By the end of June all LAAs should be approved with designated targets in place

## Forthcoming meetings that may influence the development and negotiation of the Devon Local Area Agreement 2008-11:

	March	April	May	June
DSP - Partnership Board		16th		
DSP - Delivery Board	6th	3rd	1st	5th
DSP - Partnership Chairs		3rd		
DCC - Full Council			22nd	
DCC - Executive	18th	8th & 30th	27th	17th
DCC - Environment, Economy & Culture Overview/Scrutiny		(This meeting was held on the 25th February 2008)		
DCC - Children and Young People Services Overview/Scrutiny	5th			
DCC - Health & Adult Services Overview/Scrutiny	13th			
DCC - Policy & Resources Overview/Scrutiny	20th			

### The next LAA Briefing will be published in May 2008

For further details on how to become involved in the LAA process please contact **Roland Pyle**, LAA Development Officer on: **01392 382913** or **email: LAA@devon.gov.uk**

If you would like a summary of this in a different format such as large print, Braille or tape, or in a different language, please contact our customer service centre on **0845 155 1015** or **email: customer@devon.gov.uk**



## Briefing Note:

March 2008

# Devon Local Area Agreement 2008 – 2011

## What is the Local Area Agreement?

The Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 (LAA) will be a new settlement between central Government, local Government and its citizens. The Devon LAA 2008-2011 is being negotiated between the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and central Government. The Government for the Office South West (GOSW) is representing central Government and Devon County Council is the accountable body negotiating on behalf of the Devon Strategic Partnership (DSP) which is the county wide LSP. The Agreement will recognise that every place is different and will:

- Focus on improvement priorities and innovation
- Involve local people and communities
- Focus on co-ordinated actions tailored to local needs

The LAA will broaden the remit of local government. It allows us to respond to long-term challenges such as:

- Promoting health and reducing health inequalities
- Climate change
- Demographic change
- Creating strong, safe, prosperous and inclusive communities
- Economic prosperity
- Environmental sustainability

## Progress to Date:

We have made tremendous progress with the development of the Devon Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2008-2011 since work started in earnest in October 2007. We are pleased to say that we have been reassured by GOSW that we are broadly on track to conclude an Agreement by June 2008 which is evidence-based, reflects the story of Devon and the Sustainable Community Strategy for Devon's long-term vision, priorities and cross-cutting themes.

We are developing and negotiating the Agreement as a coherent whole and have reached the stage in the project where we are focussing on turning ideas, suggestions and proposals into priorities, delivery plans, performance indicators and targets which all fit into the LAA framework. We will also need to ensure that we have established the right linkages between the LAA priorities.

## Local Area Agreement Priorities – based on the 'story of place'

**"The LAA will be based on 'the story of the place' – a distinctive vision of an area, backed by evidence and analysis. The 'story of place' is rooted in local context and history. It should be distinctive and persuasive and should support your choice of priorities" (I&DeA)**

Devon has a great deal to offer as a place to live – but not all aspects of life are good for everybody, and action often needs to be taken in partnership in order to solve some of the more difficult problems, and to shape plans to ensure Devon becomes what people want in the future. This is the role of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for Devon.



The SCS is the overarching plan for promoting an improving wellbeing of all those in Devon. The SCS is a long-term vision based on the 'story of Devon' with key priorities and planned outcomes for the next 10 years. The LAA 2008-2011 will be a delivery mechanism for the SCS, its vision and priorities.

An evidence base has been developed to support the SCS and LAA through looking at the issues facing Devon and structured around a number of themes such as economy, health and housing etc. The evidence base identifies issues based on existing themes, together with issues raised by district community strategies, Devon town information, agency and local authority strategic priorities, and regional plans. Issues have been analysed across themes to allow cross cutting themes that are vital to partnership working to be identified.

The priorities for Devon's SCS and LAA are solidly based on evidence and analysis - on issues grounded in fact and research, as well as on public consultation and experience and on the vision for Devon which is to be:

**'England's greenest county with strong local communities that are prosperous and welcoming with an excellent quality of life and a sustainable future'**

### DRAFT LAA Priorities:

The following 38 draft LAA priorities were submitted to Government as preliminary proposals and will be subject to further change as the decision making process progresses. The DSP Delivery Board and Devon County Council's Executive and Overview & Scrutiny Committees are due to consider the draft priorities in March 2008.

- LAA 1** Reduce quantities of household, commercial and industrial waste arising and land-filled
- LAA 2** Improve the quality of public spaces and secure green (including play and leisure) infrastructure as part of new developments
- LAA 3** Identification and prioritisation of, OR improved understanding of the principal vulnerabilities in Devon to potential climate change impacts projected during the period covered by the Sustainable Community Strategy
- LAA 4** Improve business productivity of the renewable energy sector in Devon
- LAA 5** Reduce carbon dioxide emissions through carbon management in local authorities and DSP partners
- LAA 6** Improve business resource efficiency: carbon, energy, water, transport and waste
- LAA 7** Improve soil management and farm business resources efficiency; reduce erosion, pollution run-off and flooding

- LAA 8** Targeted conservation and enhancement of Devon's biodiversity and geology
- LAA 9** Improve access to services and facilities through coordination of transport services and access to information technology, ensuring dignity and respect for all
- LAA 10** Promote independence
- LAA 11** Improve support and services for carers and users
- LAA 12** Increase participation in cultural activities
- LAA 13** Maintain and increase levels of physical activity and sport
- LAA 14** Provide coordinated support to unlock the economic potential of Devon's most disadvantaged communities
- LAA 15** Work towards the economic inclusion and social integration of vulnerable populations
- LAA 16** Promote active, empowered and influential communities
- LAA 17** Develop and harness skills to achieve a more competitive economy
- LAA 18** Encourage the adoption and use of ICT by priority business sectors for growth
- LAA 19** Develop an innovation strategy and delivery network across Devon to achieve an economic uplift and increased GVA
- LAA 20** Maintain the transport infrastructure to ensure expeditious movement by all transport modes to minimise overcrowding and congestion and improve air quality
- LAA 21** Deliver major infrastructure improvement schemes which form part of the Regional Transport Strategy
- LAA 22** Ensure that Devon has an appropriate range of employment space



- LAA 23** New communities and growth points (Sherford and Cranbrook)
- LAA 24** Reduce the gap in benefit claims rates and employments rates between priority communities and the average for Devon
- LAA 25** Create a Devon agricultural council to drive improved conditions for Devon's agricultural businesses
- LAA 26** Increase the delivery of rural and urban affordable housing
- LAA 27** Improve housing choices for the homeless and vulnerable clients
- LAA 28** Ensure that the people of Devon feel and are safe from harm
- LAA 29** Narrow the gap between the lowest attaining 20% of children 0-19 and the achievements of all young people in Devon
- LAA 30** Promote health and reduce health inequalities
- LAA 31** Reduce the harm arising from people's use of the public highway, including deaths, injuries, distress, illegal and anti-social behaviour
- LAA 32** Reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs
- LAA 33** Reduce fuel poverty
- LAA 34** Reduce antisocial behaviour
- LAA 35** Reduce the social, emotional and cost impacts on victims and on wider society by tackling the causes, and ameliorating the effects, of prejudice and hate crime
- LAA 36** Reduce the social, emotional and cost impacts on victims and the wider society by tackling domestic violence and abuse
- LAA 37** Tackle the most harmful offending behaviour
- LAA 38** Reduce youth offending

Further development of the draft priorities will also need to take place to reflect:

- The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment of Health and Social Care; and
- The draft Devon Children and Young People's Plan and Devon County Council's participation, as one of the 96 local authorities, in the LGA/DeA "Narrowing the Gap" project

### Delivery Plans:

Each of the LAA priorities will be underpinned by a delivery plan which identifies the lead partner, the contributing partners, actions to be taken to deliver the improvement, resource requirements, governance arrangements and risk assessment. The LAA theme co-ordinators, who facilitate the process of planning, co-ordination and reporting within a particular theme area, are in the process of developing these.



### Performance Indicators and Targets:

Work is underway to establish which national and local targets could be used to best reflect the priorities in our LAA. To do this we will need to develop a LAA which includes:

- Up to 35 "designated" targets in support of national priorities
- 16 statutory education and early years targets
- Local targets agreed between local partners and not measured by central Government

Central Government has confirmed that there will be a reward grant element across the LAA and we await details of the sums involved, and how it will be calculated and distributed.

### Spatial Implementation:

Targets will be focussed on particular spatial levels or groups, tackling inequalities in outcomes. These will be implemented at different spatial levels; at the county, district, town and neighbourhood levels. There will be pages in the LAA document which represent the spatial element of the LAA in relation to each district area.

### Equality:

**Equality is about 'quality for everyone'.**

By putting equality, fairness and human rights at the heart of service delivery, education and employment we will achieve excellence and make Devon a thriving county with strong, cohesive and happy communities