
Cabinet
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

8th December 2009
9th December 2009

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance) Councillor Taylor

Director approving submission of the report:

Assistant Chief Executive

Ward(s) affected:

N/A

Title:

Local Area Agreement and Corporate Plan – Half Year Progress Report 2009/10

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive summary:

This report provides a review of performance during the first half year of 2009/10 against the Local Area Agreement and the Corporate Plan management objectives.

An end of year progress report for 2008/09 was presented to Cabinet and Council on 29th June 2009. This report has now been updated to reflect progress during the first half year of 2009/10 and detailed reports are attached as Appendices.

The Council and Coventry Partnership agreed Coventry's Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) in March 2008. This document sets out the vision and priorities for Coventry together with the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

The LAA was signed off by Government in June 2008 with a refresh of some targets agreed in March 2009. A further refresh is due to take place in March 2010, to review those targets that were frozen in 2009 due to the impact of the recession and also those where there have been changes to the indicator definitions since the LAA was signed off.

The Council together with partners is responsible for planning to deliver the agreed targets, for monitoring progress and deciding upon further actions to ensure that priorities are achieved. An action plan has been developed for each of the LAA indicators and identifies the various contributions that partners will be making towards delivery of the priority.

In September 2008, the Council adopted its Corporate Plan 2008-11, aligning its corporate objectives with the SCS and building the LAA indicators into its performance management

framework. The council's management objectives set out what the council needs to achieve to ensure that it is an effective, efficient organisation that delivers services that meet the needs of local people and delivers value for money.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to review progress reported on the Local Area Agreement and Corporate Plan and ensure that the Council is taking the actions needed to contribute to the achievement of LAA targets.

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is recommended to use the progress reports to help to inform the future work programmes for the Scrutiny Boards.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 – Local Area Agreement, Half Year Progress Report December 2009

Appendix 2 – Corporate Management Objectives, Half Year Progress Report December 2009

Other useful background papers:

Sustainable Community Strategy

<http://www.coventrypartnership.com/sustainable>

Local Area Agreement 2008/09 – 2010/11

<http://www.coventry.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/council--government-and-democracy/council/council-policies-and-plans/local-area-agreement/>

Council Corporate Plan Part 1 and Part 2 2008/09 – 2010/11

<http://www.coventry.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/council--government-and-democracy/council/council-policies-and-plans/corporate-plan/>

Local Area Agreement Action Plans 2008/09 – 2010/11

<http://www.coventrypartnership.com/LAA>

Has it or will it be considered by scrutiny?

Yes - Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on 9th December 2009.

Has it, or will it be considered by any other council committee, advisory panel or other body?

Yes

The Local Area Agreement report was considered by the Local Public Service Board of the Coventry Partnership on 2nd December 2009.

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title:

Local Area Agreement and Corporate Plan – Half Year Progress Report 2009/10

1. Context

- 1.1 The Council and Coventry Partnership agreed Coventry's Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) in March 2008. This documents set out the vision and priorities for Coventry together with the Local Area Agreement (LAA).
- 1.2 The LAA was signed off by Government in June 2008 with a refresh of some targets agreed in March 2009. A further refresh is due to take place in March 2010, to review those targets that were frozen in 2009 due to the impact of the recession and also those where there have been changes to the indicator definitions since the LAA was signed off.
- 1.3 In September, the Council adopted its Corporate Plan 2008-11, aligning its corporate objectives with the SCS and building the LAA indicators into its performance management framework. The balanced scorecard sets out the council's corporate objectives and management objectives.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

Local Area Agreement Progress

- 2.1 Progress for the end of year 2008/09, the first year of the LAA, was presented to Cabinet on 29th June 2009. The report has been updated to reflect progress during the first half year of 2009/10 and is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Each LAA Indicator has its own report card – one side of paper showing performance graphically, compared to target and previous performance where this is available. It should be noted that there are time delays in reporting on some indicators where this means that we are unable to report against the current year target. There is also new and updated information for the 2008/09 reporting year included in this report which was either not available or provisional at the year end in June. The report cards will be developed over time as more information becomes available to include further graphics illustrating progress in relation to key target groups or geographical areas and any relevant comparative data. The data is supported by a short analysis of "what we've achieved" (an explanation of progress to date) and "what next" (an explanation of future action planned or required).
- 2.3 Each SCS Theme has a theme summary, which shows a red or green progress rating for each of the LAA indicators in that theme, together with a summary of progress and key issues to be addressed for the theme as a whole.
- 2.4 Finally, there is an overall summary of progress against the LAA, highlighting both significant progress and areas requiring action by lead organisations and partners.
- 2.5 The Council is developing a data management system in conjunction with the Coventry Partnership to improve the quality, timeliness and accessibility of information to support decision-making and performance management. The new performance management software was piloted for the first time to support production of the end of year report. There have been some changes to the presentations of the report cards in response to the experiences of the pilot these have been used for this report.

Corporate Plan Progress

- 2.6 The City Council agreed its new Corporate Plan in September 2008, aligning its corporate objectives with the priorities in the SCS. The supporting performance indicators were revised to include all national indicators in the Local Area Agreement as well as other national and local indicators that would help to measure progress. Some smaller amendments were made to the management objectives and accompanying indicators.
- 2.7 The summary of progress for SCS themes based on the LAA indicators provides a partial overview of progress against the Council's corporate objectives. A full report on the Council's management objectives is attached at Appendix 2.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 There is no consultation as part of this report. Some of the national indicators use the results of national consultation, for example the Place Survey and Tell Us Survey and are commented upon in the individual indicator report cards.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 Actions will continue to be progressed through the Local Area Agreement indicator action plans. The corporate plan indicators including LAA are also monitored through the Cabinet Portfolio Plans and reviewed annually. A further report for the LAA and corporate plan management objectives will be presented in June 2010 to show further progress against targets during the 2009/10.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Legal Services

- 5.1 Financial implications
There are no specific financial implications. The Council's performance in relation to its key priorities should be considered alongside future budget proposals.
- 5.2 Legal implications
There are no legal implications.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / LAA (or Coventry SCS)?

This report summarises progress that has been made against the priorities in the Sustainable Community Strategy and is reported against each of the themes. It provides detailed progress against the targets of the Local Area Agreement and describes the actions that are being taken towards the achievement of future targets.

The council's corporate objectives are aligned with the Sustainable Community Strategy themes and progress is summarised through the theme reports. In addition progress against the council's corporate management objectives is reported under the themes of money, people and improving the way we work and deliver value for money.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Risks are managed through the LAA indicator action plans and where applicable specific issues will be flagged up in the individual report cards.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

There are no impacts on staffing/human resources, information and communications technology, accommodation, assets, or the council's corporate parenting responsibilities arising directly from this report. However the review of corporate plan management objectives addresses some of these issues and used to support organisational improvement.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

"A more equal Coventry with cohesive communities and neighbourhoods" is a cross cutting theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy. Progress on integrating equalities across the Local Area Agreement has been discussed by the Local Public Service Board at the December meeting. The positive and negative impact on specific groups in the community or areas of the city has been identified as part of the LAA indicator action plan. Actions have been included to address specific issues identified. A set of equality outcomes and targets was developed as a result of this analysis and a separate progress report will be taken to the Cabinet Member (Finance and Value for Money) in January 2010.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

"Improving Coventry's environment and tackling climate change" is a cross cutting theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy. As well as the specific LAA indicators that report on progress in this area all indicator leads have considered any wider implications as part of their action plans.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

Partner organisations are involved both in leading on and contributing to the LAA action plans.

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