

**REPORT TO COUNCIL:** 21 May 2008  
**STATUS OF THE REPORT** Public

**AREA COMMITTEES / WARDS AFFECTED:** All

**TITLE:** Sign off of the Kirklees Local Area Agreement (LAA)

**IS THIS AN URGENT ACTION APPROVED BY THE CHAIR OF SCRUTINY?** Not applicable

### **WHAT ARE THE KEY POINTS**

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provides a statutory basis for LAAs and requires all local authorities to develop and negotiate an LAA for 2008-11.

The Act contains a number of new requirements which mean that, although our first LAA was agreed in 2006, Kirklees has had to develop a new LAA. The key requirements are:

- ◆ The LAA must include up to 35 indicators that are agreed with central government that reflect both national and local priorities and which are drawn from the new National Indicator Set of 198 indicators
- ◆ There are 16 mandatory indicators relating to the education attainment of children and young people
- ◆ Once signed by the Secretary of State the LAA brings into force a statutory duty on partners to cooperate to achieve the targets.

The new Kirklees LAA is a three-year agreement between Kirklees and central government. The LAA is negotiated between the Kirklees Partnership as the local strategic partnership for Kirklees and the regional Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber (GOYH).

The LAA focuses on the priorities that aim to make Kirklees a better place and to improve the quality of life. It includes targets for indicators that have been identified as priorities for the next three years.

The work to develop the Kirklees LAA began in summer 2007. It started with an analysis of performance in Kirklees against previous national indicators. The Community Strategy and other documents in which a commitment to priorities had been expressed were used to establish the starting point for the consultation.

Cabinet, political groups, Overview and Scrutiny, the Kirklees Partnership, Council's Executive Management Group, Council services, partner management teams and boards and the Audit Commission were all consulted on the LAA priorities.

The attached LAA contains the following:

- Background information with further details on how the LAA was developed and details on the priorities identified. **This section does not form part of the statutory agreement** that we sign with government and is presented for context and not approval.
- 16 mandatory education attainment indicators and targets. These indicators are presented first in the outcomes framework.
- 35 indicators agreed as priorities by both GOYH and Kirklees with targets agreed with GOYH. These indicators are marked with a '★' in the outcomes framework.
- 18 additional indicators to meet our own local priorities, with targets agreed by the Kirklees Partnership

The Council as lead partner is the accountable body for the LAA and has the legal responsibility to submit the LAA to government. At the last Council meeting on 19 March it was agreed that signing off the LAA would be a Council decision. Since that meeting, Group Leaders have met to confirm the priorities to present to Council.

### **RECOMMENDATION AND THE REASONS WHY THIS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED**

It is recommended that Council agree the LAA be submitted to government.

### **CONSULTEES AND THEIR OPINIONS**

All partners, Overview and Scrutiny and political groups have all been involved in the development of the LAA.

The LAA was formally endorsed by Cabinet and the Kirklees Partnership Executive at a joint meeting on 7 May.

### **CONTACT OFFICERS AND RELEVANT PAPERS**

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