

Community Safety Partnership
Partnership Management Group

11th September 2006

The Local Area Agreement (LAA)

Purpose of report

1. To inform the Partnership of current progress in putting together the Local Area Agreement (LAA) for 2007-10.
2. To consult the Partnership with regard to gaps and possible amendments

Background

The first draft of the LAA was sent to Government Office for the South East (GOSE) at the beginning of September. At the time of writing the report the draft LAA was in the form presented with this document.

The document is in four blocks:

1. Safer and Stronger Communities
2. Children and Young People
3. Healthier Communities and Older People
4. Economic Development and Enterprise

There has been a great deal of feedback from various stakeholder events on the LAA, and this has generated an enormous amount of material. The LAA team in Milton Keynes Council has been working with block leads and a multi-agency co-ordinating group to make sense of this material. A number of issues have arisen.

- The LAA should relate to existing multi-agency plans and strategies.
- A strength of the LAA is its task of weaving different policies and strands together into a coherent whole.
- Another strength is its ability to single out a limited number of specific issues on which central government can give greater flexibility. These “enabling measures” can help significantly in service delivery.
- It is a three-year agreement that will be revised annually. This gives it enormous flexibility, allowing for new targets to be developed at the appropriate time.
- There has been a tendency to regard the LAA as a bidding process. It is not.
- On the whole, it is not the role of the document to detail individual projects unless these are substantial enough to deliver individual LAA targets.

Initial feedback from GOSE in July on the first run of the draft suggested:

- The document should have a stronger local focus. What makes Milton Keynes different from anywhere else?
- There should be clear and measurable outcomes, with targets attached. It is more important to bring out these outcomes than the underlying processes.
- Targets should be achievable, challenging and should address need as defined in the Local Strategic Plan. However, there should not be so many as to make the LAA impossible to deliver.
- Certain key issues should be reflected across all areas of the LAA. These include growth, equalities, transport, housing and culture.

During August all blocks were revised in the light of this feedback.

Recommendations

1. That PMG members carefully consider the first draft of the LAA, with particular reference to the Safer and Stronger Communities block.
2. That members highlight any gaps, possible amendments or presentational improvements that may enhance the Local Area Agreement.

Attachments

LAA Outcome Framework - August

RS
18.8.06