

**COMMITTEE:** PERFORMANCE, RESOURCES AND ASSETS  
SCRUTINY

**DATE:** 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2008

**SUBJECT:** LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2008-11

**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR OF SCRUTINY

**CONTACT OFFICER:** GEOFF. BOCUTT 01582 546073

**IMPLICATIONS:**

|            |   |                  |
|------------|---|------------------|
| LEGAL      | ✓ | COMMUNITY SAFETY |
| EQUALITIES |   | ENVIRONMENT      |
| FINANCIAL  |   | CONSULTATIONS    |
| STAFFING   |   | OTHER ✓          |

**WARDS AFFECTED: NONE**

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**PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this report is to enable the committee to consider how performance of the Council and partners who have signed up to the Local Area Agreement in delivering the targets in the agreement can be tracked and monitored.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2. Performance, Resources and Assets Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider the approach set out in the report.

## **BACKGROUND**

3. The Local Area Agreement together with the report of the Chief Executive to the annual meeting of the Council on 20<sup>th</sup> May is attached as an appendix. These documents set out fully the background to this report.

## **REPORT**

4. Subject to the decision of the Council and 'sign off' by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the priorities and targets for improvement over the next three years will have been set. The Comprehensive Area Assessment to be carried out by the Audit Commission and other inspectorates will evaluate the risk of the Council, working with partners, not delivering the targeted improvements. It is therefore vital that systems are put in place to track and report progress and that processes are developed to identify shortfalls and ensure that corrective action is taken quickly.
5. The Scrutiny Board, at their meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, considered a report on the options for future arrangements for Scrutiny and have called for a further report to their next meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June on the implications of adopting a structure for scrutiny that is aligned with the four themes of the Local Strategic Partnership. However, even if the Board recommends this approach it will be some months before the structure of committees can be changed. In the meantime it is suggested that the present arrangements for performance monitoring remain in place so that the quarterly report on finance and performance which will be re-focussed onto the LAA, will come to this committee and performance issues will be referred on to the appropriate committee for investigation.
6. The other matter that needs to be addressed is that the Council and partners will have signed up to a clear set of priorities and there needs to be a check as to whether the budget for the current financial year is sufficiently aligned with these priorities to enable the delivery of the targeted improvements.

## **PROPOSAL/OPTION**

7. The committee is asked to consider the arrangements proposed for tracking and monitoring performance against the LAA.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

8. There are no legal implications to this report and this has been agreed with Mary Cormack in legal Services on 14 May 2008.

## **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

9. The other implications of this report are set out in the attached report to Council.

## **APPENDIX**

10. Report of the Chief Executive to the Council on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008 – Local Area Agreement.

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS** **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D**

11. Report of the Director of Scrutiny to the Scrutiny Board on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2008