

Subject: Local Area Agreement 2008-11
Date of Meeting: 17 July 2008
Report of: Director of Strategy & Governance
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Key Decision: Yes **Forward Plan Reference:** CAB 2131
Wards Affected: All

For general release

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report covers the final version of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) for Brighton & Hove, covering the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2011. The Agreement, approved by Cabinet on 12 June, needs to be approved by Full Council as one of the Council's main strategies and plans.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Full Council gives approval to the Local Area Agreement (attached at Appendix One).
- 2.2 That Council notes that the Local Area Agreement will be reviewed in January 2009, when those targets still outstanding will be agreed, and other targets and indicators can be removed or amended.
- 2.3 That Council note that cross-partner delivery plans for all national indicators in the LAA are being agreed and will report and monitored to the Public Sector Board and Local Strategic Partnership.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council has a statutory duty to draw up a Local Area Agreement for the city. In doing so, it must consult the council's key partners in service planning and delivery.
- 3.2 The Agreement (attached at Appendix One) is the result of wide consultation through the various partnership mechanisms in the city, and has been discussed with all the main political groups on the Council.

- 3.3 The Agreement focuses on new ways of working to tackle cross-service issues such as worklessness and mental health, and provides an opportunity for the Council, as the democratically elected element of local service provision, to give a lead to others working in the city.
- 3.4 The Agreement is also brings key partners together in delivery of the City Employment and Skills Plan and the Reducing Inequality Review.
- 3.5 The formal deadline for the submission of the Agreement was 31 May 2008. This would have required us to bring the Agreement to Council on 24 April. Because of the changes to governance structures in the city, we believed that this timetable did not give sufficient time for consideration. We therefore agreed with GOSE that the Agreement would be submitted after this Council meeting, but that concerns with targets or indicators should be reserved for the first review of the Agreement, which will take place in January 2009. At that point, any indicators and targets can be changed in the light of experience.
- 3.6 As Council will see from the Agreement, not all targets are yet finalised. This is due to delays on the Government side in defining some of the targets and measures in the National Indicator Set. Any missing targets will be completed at the time of the first review in January 2009.
- 3.7 There have been a series of events and workshops over the last 6 months with the Partnership Managers Group, representing partner organisation and the council to discuss the priorities for the LAA in light of the Reducing Inequality Review and the City Employment & Skills Plan.
- 3.8 The Local Strategic Partnership approved the Agreement on 22 May 2008, and the Cabinet on 12 June.