



Sustainable Community Strategy & Local Area Agreement 2

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SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY LATEST

The consultation period for the draft Oxfordshire Sustainable Community Strategy ended on November 30th. We have received a collective response from all five District Councils as well as comments from the Oxfordshire Voluntary Sector Development Partnership, Oxfordshire Economic Partnership and Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust.

Thank you to all those who have taken the time to send comments in. We are currently carrying out an analysis of responses which, the revised draft Sustainable Community Strategy, will be discussed at the Oxfordshire Partnership meeting on the 11th December.

All papers for this meeting will be available on our website:
www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk

NEW NATIONAL INDICATOR SET

The new indicator set represents a significant reduction from over 1200 different measurements to 198 national indicators of performance. There is a consultation on how these will be measured which can be found at:

[National Indicators for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships: Handbook of definitions - Draft for Consultation](#)

The consultation is open until 21st December and final technical guidance of how each will be measured is expected in January. Performance Management colleagues across the Oxfordshire Partnership are working together to respond to this consultation.

It has been confirmed that there will only be 16 statutory indicators for children and young people's services; these are part of the set of 198 indicators.

FINANCE AND THE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA2)

The funding for work to deliver LAA2 targets does not only have to come from the Area Based Grant, it can be from any source: the Area Based Grant (ABG), Revenue Support Grants, any grants that have not been pooled into the ABG, and these can be capital or revenue funding streams.

Area Based Grant

The list of grants that will be pooled into the new Area Based Grant (ABG) is expected as part of the provisional local government finance settlement in early December. The list is expected to be accompanied by details on how much each grant has contributed to the ABG.

It was agreed at the recent Public Service Board on 21st November that financial year 2008/2009 should be considered to be a year of transitional arrangements. Area Based Grant funds shall be passported to previous recipients, in most cases, but partnerships who are already pooling resources, or want to start doing so should be encouraged where possible

A list of the minimum set of revenue grants being amalgamated into the ABG for 2008/09 has been published (http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/rsg_abg.pdf).

Reward Grant

The message from government on the rewards associated with targets in the current LAA is that 'a deal is a deal'. All reward for achieving the current LAA stretch targets will be paid at the time and based on the performance targets already agreed.

As for LAA2, there will be a reward grant associated with the (up to) 35 targets, but the formula for how it will be calculated and awarded has yet to be decided by central government. An announcement on this is expected sometime in January 2008.

DEVELOPING AN LAA2 TARGET

Up to early December 2007, Thematic Partnerships and partner organisations will be able to submit plans for potential LAA2 targets. The plans will need to include:

- a description of the desired outcome and the nature of the work that will be carried out to achieve it; including how the work relates to the priorities included in the draft Sustainable Community Strategy,
- information on which organisation /partnership would take the lead in delivering the target,
- details of the resources required to carry out the work – both current resources that will be allocated to the target and/or any additional resource requirements,
- details of any risks to the delivery of the plans
- suggestions for which indicator(s) from the National Indicator Set could be used to measure the success of the work,
- information on any baseline information that exists, plus an indication of the likely level of improvement that could be achieved if the plans were adopted,

- details of how the success of the work would be measured throughout the term of the new Local Area Agreement.

Throughout the period of developing the targets those leading the work will be expected to actively involve, consult and gain the support of elected members.

It is also expected that the Government Office for the South East (GOSE) will be involved throughout the process; the Partnership Team will be able to link organisations and Partnerships with the relevant GOSE specialist. Final negotiations with GOSE will take place in mid Feb 2008.

Information and submission forms to support the development of targets can be downloaded from the [Oxfordshire Partnership](#) website.

For any specific queries contact [Jayne Dunn](#), LAA2 Project Manager.

KEY DATES FOR SCS & LAA2

2007

- Nov 30th: End of SCS consultation with key partnerships/local authorities/organisations
- Dec 10th: Deadline for submitting potential targets to be included on long list for LAA2
- Dec 11th: Draft Sustainable Community Strategy to Oxfordshire Partnership for agreement.
- Dec 20th: Oxfordshire Leaders review LAA2 targets.

2008

- Jan – Feb: 8 weeks public consultation on revised draft Sustainable Community Strategy
- Jan 7th: Public Service Board reviews LAA2 targets.
- Jan 15th: Submission of draft LAA priorities (and any indicative indicators) to GOSE
- Mid Feb: Detailed work to create final draft of LAA2; including discussions with Government Office for the South East.
- Mar 4th: Public Service Board - Final drafts of SCS & LAA2 for agreement.
- Mar 7th: Oxfordshire Partnership - Final drafts of SCS & LAA2 for agreement.
- Mar 18th: County Council cabinet - Final draft of SCS & LAA2 for agreement.
- End Mar: Agreed final draft of LAA2 submitted to central government.
- Jun 2nd: Formal Submission of LAA2 to GOSE
- June: Sign-off by minister

PARTNER NEWS

Oxfordshire Public Health Strategy.

Following the Director of Public Health's report earlier in the year, a draft Public Health Strategy has been out for consultation and all partner organisations have had the opportunity to contribute. The strategy will be presented at the Health and Well-being Board on December 11th for agreement; it's aims are:

- To improve overall life expectancy in all parts of Oxfordshire by 1 year by 2012,
- To tackle health inequalities and so reduce the gap in all-age, all-cause mortality rates by 10% by 2012 between the top 20% and bottom 20%
- To "add life to years" by improving health and well-being.

The draft strategy can be found on the [Oxfordshire Partnership website](#)

How we're doing

Whilst LAA2 development continues apace partners remain busy delivering against targets in our current Local Area Agreement. Progress on all targets at the mid-year point was reported to the Public Service Board (PSB) on 21st November.

Progress on our stretch targets remains strong with only three indicators showing performance that is off track and two where data is currently unavailable. The remaining ten are all on track to be achieved and in some case exceeded. Of the non-stretch targets the majority are on track. Notable highlights of strong performance include:

- **Priority and Prolific Offenders** where the rate of reoffending in this group has been reduced significantly through the work of this target. The target looks set to be exceeded.
- **Participation in physical activity** the sports partnership has been working to improve participation through the community sports coach scheme who deliver activity in the community.
- **Recycling and composting** the combined rate for the county now exceeds 40% which is over the 38% target already. Oxfordshire performance is in the top performing 25% nationally

Areas where further work is being undertaken include:

- **Educational Achievement at GCSE** continues to be an area of focus for improvement. Whilst GCSSE achievement in Oxfordshire remains slightly above the national average, collectively Oxfordshire does not perform as well as expected. The county's Raising Achievement service and Children and Young People's Partnership have a detailed action plan to address achievement over the next year and is expected to have a positive impact on results.
- **Perceptions of crime indicators** whilst Oxfordshire is a relatively safe place perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour are high. The Safer Communities Partnership are looking at ways to work together to try and reduce this perception which is influenced by a wide range of factors.

For more detail about performance on the LAA targets the report to the PSB can be viewed here [2007/08 Quarter two performance tables](#)

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For further information on the Oxfordshire Partnership visit
www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk