



## Oxfordshire Partnership Board

### Oxfordshire's new Local Area Agreement (LAA2)

7 March 2008

#### Agreeing strategic priorities for the county area

In April 2007 the Oxfordshire Partnership started on the process of developing a long term vision for the county area – the Sustainable Community Strategy, Oxfordshire 2030.

At the Oxfordshire Partnership meeting in December 2007 the strategic priorities for Oxfordshire were agreed as:

- A World Class Economy:
- Healthy and thriving communities:
- Environment and climate change:
- And a cross-cutting theme of tackling inequalities and breaking the cycle of deprivation.

#### From Strategy to Action

To ensure that the strategic priorities are addressed, an overall Delivery Plan will be developed which will include short, medium and long term action targets.

This will enable the Partnership to measure progress on all priorities while holding each other accountable for delivery.

Some of the targets within the Delivery Plan will be Local Targets and others will be agreed with central government in the new Local Area Agreement (LAA2). Local targets and LAA2 targets are equally important in delivering real improvements for people and living and working in Oxfordshire.

Local targets – What to improve, the level of improvement to be achieved and how to measure success will be entirely the choice of the Oxfordshire Partnership.

Example: Tourism – there is no central government defined measure of success for tourism, whilst having a successful tourist industry is important within Oxfordshire. A target for developing tourism is therefore a candidate for inclusion in the Delivery Plan as a Local Target.

LAA2 targets – these are targets that will be agreed with central government by the end of June 2008 and must relate to the set of 198 national indicators (which includes 16 statutory educational achievement targets).

Example: Teenage Pregnancy – the rate of teenage conception within Oxfordshire is reported to central government annually. Reducing the numbers of

teenage pregnancies in Oxfordshire is a priority within the Children & Young People's plan. A target for reducing teenage conception will therefore be included in LAA2.

### **How we arrived at the list of 35 LAA2 indicators**

Using the strategic priorities for Oxfordshire 2030 as a foundation, partnerships and organisations were asked to identify indicators from the National Indicator set that could be used to measure improvement against these priorities.

In early January 2008, a long-list of more than 70 indicators was agreed by the Public Service Board and submitted to GOSE on 15<sup>th</sup> January for initial comments. GOSE's response was positive, with many areas of agreements.

Partnerships and organisations were then commissioned to produce proposals for delivering improvements against each of these indicators. Further work by the LAA Development Group (officers from county and district councils, PCT, voluntary sector, SEEDA) and the LAA Steering Group (County Council Assistant Chief Executive, City Chief Executive representing all the Districts, PCT and Police) ensured the proposals:

- supported Oxfordshire 2030 strategic priorities.
- had the potential to focus on groups (people) or localities (places) of greatest need;
- would require partnership working;
- can be fully funded for 3 years.

The proposals were reviewed at the Public Service Board (PSB) meeting on 5 February and after some further revisions, a short list of 35 indicators was agreed by the PSB on 4 March 2008.

The list of indicators agreed by the Public Service Board is recommended to the Oxfordshire Partnership for agreement.

Annex 1: The list of indicators recommended to the Oxfordshire Partnership, by the Public Service Board for inclusion in LAA2 and their relationship to the Oxfordshire 2030 strategic priorities.

### **Further development**

All of these proposals require further work to set the targets for improvement for each indicator.

In some cases, we are still waiting for the final definition of the indicators from the Government. The Partnership will reserve the right to withdraw an indicator from the list if any changes to the definitions mean that proposals submitted would no longer be viable for us.

In some cases baselines (on which to base the amount of proposed improvement) do not yet exist because the indicators are new. These will need to be set in the first year. This does not preclude those responsible for the target from commencing work to meet its broad aims in April 2008.

We have also included a value for money indicator on the basis that this is a key issue for local authorities.

#### **Next steps**

- The agreed list of indicators to be signed off by the Oxfordshire County Cabinet as the lead authority, at its meeting on **18th March 2008**.
- The agreed list of indicators and initial targets to be submitted to GOSE by the **end of March**.
- The Partnership's Delivery Plan (LAA2 and local targets) will be developed in **April and May**.
- GOSE to discuss our LAA2 with Government and negotiations will take place up to **May**.
- LAA2 will be agreed with Government and signed off by the Public Service Board in **June**.

#### **Recommendations**

The Oxfordshire Partnership Service Board is asked to:

1. Recommend list of 35 indicators for agreement by the lead authority in the LAA process (Oxfordshire County Council) ready for submission to GOSE on 31 March 2008.
2. Instruct Public Service Board to take forward the negotiation of targets for each of the indicators on the list with Government.
3. Receive a further report on progress at the next Oxfordshire Partnership Board meeting.
4. Note that:
  - A weekly LAA Bulletin is being circulated amongst the Oxfordshire Partnership to inform partners and elected members of progress and issues.
  - up to date information about LAA2 and Oxfordshire 2030 is available from the partnership's website [www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk](http://www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk)

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