

STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 6
10 SEPTEMBER 2009	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Operations

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PROGRESS REPORT ON DELIVERY OF LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PRIORITY

1. PURPOSE

This report is presented to the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee to update Members on performance of relevant outcomes contained in the Local Area Agreement, and to allow Members the opportunity to scrutinise and challenge performance where necessary.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to comment upon performance, to provide challenge where necessary and to suggest ideas and initiatives to support improvements in performance.

3. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

This report contains information extracted from the regular Local Area Agreement reporting pack which is presented to the Greater Peterborough Partnership Executive.

4. BACKGROUND

Peterborough's Local Area Agreement contains four priorities: Creating Strong and Supportive Communities; Creating the UK's Environment Capital; Creating Opportunities, Tackling Inequalities; Substantial and Truly Sustainable Growth. Each of these priorities has four specific outcomes, beneath which sit a diverse range of actions and interventions to deliver lasting positive change for Peterborough.

This report focuses on performance in the Strong and Supportive Communities priority, which is measured via four specific outcomes: Making Peterborough Safer; Building Community Cohesion; Empowering Local Communities; Building Pride in Peterborough.

A Red/Amber/Green flagging system is used to indicate overall performance against each of the outcomes described above – red indicates that the outcome is seriously behind target, amber indicates that the outcome is experiencing difficulties, and green indicates that the outcome is on target or has achieved its objectives.

5. KEY ISSUES

Overall the Strong and Supportive Communities priority is reported as amber for this period. Serious acquisitive crime continues to be an issue although initiatives such as Operation Alert are starting to have a positive impact. The new Neighbourhood Councils, coupled with the supporting Neighbourhood Management model, will help enhance performance in the Empowering Local Communities outcome. Performance in the Cohesion outcome remains strong and focussed, whilst risks are identified in the Pride in Peterborough outcome.

6. IMPLICATIONS

Failure to achieve positive outcomes in the Local Area Agreement may lead to disempowered communities, higher dissatisfaction levels, and unsustainable crime and community tension issues. The Local Area Agreement enables a partnership-wide approach to tackle some of our most significant priorities leading to truly creative ways of working to benefit our citizens.

7. CONSULTATION

The Local Area Agreement Reporting Pack is discussed widely amongst Greater Peterborough Partnership members.

8. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The key outcome following presentation of this report is that the Committee will have a clearer understanding of the structure of Local Area Agreement reporting, will feel better equipped to scrutinise and challenge performance, and will be able to offer new solutions to help improve performance wherever necessary.

9. NEXT STEPS

Any comments and ideas will be forwarded to the relevant Outcome Lead Officer for action. Further performance reports will be presented to the Committee on a regular basis.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Local Area Agreement 2008-11.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Extract from the Local Area Agreement Reporting Pack June 2009.

Extract from the GPP/ LAA Reporting Pack

June 2009

FINAL



Priority Comments

Creating Strong & Supportive Communities (SSC)		
Paul Phillipson	June 2009	
<p>Strong focus, through Safer Peterborough Partnership, on the burglary issues which are currently causing great concern. The partnership initiative 'Operation Alert' is making an impact but more work is required. Good news on assault with injury crime rate which is now back on track. Community cohesion work is progressing well with additional funding (50k), received only this week, to work on prevention of violent extremism. A number of areas of our cohesion work are seen as innovative and a full CAA team are currently viewing our work. Overall status should be amber as continued cross partnership support is required to tackle to serious acquisitive crime issues.</p>		

Creating Strong & Supportive Communities (SSC)				
Paul Phillipson				
Apr	May	Jun		Prediction
			Making Peterborough Safer (SSC01)	To reach Green Dec 2010
			Building Community Cohesion (SSC02)	Month to reach Green?
			Empowering Local Communities (SSC03)	To reach Green Mar 2010
			Building Pride in Peterborough (SSC04)	Month to reach Green?



Outcome Comments

Making Peterborough Safer (SSC01)

Steve Welby

June 2009

Serious acquisitive crime continues to be the main area of concern – particularly dwelling burglary.
 Performance continues to improve (with vehicle crime now on target) and if the current rate of Serious Acquisitive Crime were repeated every month we would be on target by December 2010.
 A number of activities are underway to address dwelling burglary:
 1 Operation Alert – ‘putting the burglars back in the spotlight’ concentrating on 60 individuals
 2 Peterborough has been selected to be part of the Home Office’s Vigilance Programme which will see directed support into Peterborough to address the issues that are pertinent to us. This bid is currently being prepared and will then be discussed in detail with the Home Office to ensure that the support provided is appropriate to our needs. At present, it is thought that this will focus upon a pilot for Integrated Offender Management and research around some of the key issues for the city.

Arson continues to be an issue and the Fire Service have, this month, increased resources by moving the county wide Arson Task Force (2 officers) to Peterborough to focus here. This team is working closely with the SPP team to consider new ways of impacting upon arson.

Building Community Cohesion (SSC02)

Jawaid Khan

June 2009

Overall, cohesion which is measured through NI 1 and NI 13 remain amber with continued positive development over the past quarter. These developments include successful bidding for resources (£354k to Peterborough City Council for 2009-2010) under the Migrant Impact Fund. In addition, Cambridgeshire Constabulary and other partner organisation (PARCA) have been awarded £144K and £41K for the same period respectively. This additional fund is aimed to provide support for services strained by the impact of the migration and includes provision of additional teachers, housing support officer, Police community support officers and English language training as well as other projects. Work to measure effectiveness of project deliveries is being established.

Preventing Violent Extremism (NI 35) has gone green in the last quarter as the second round of self-evaluation in terms of engagement with community and key partners to enhance resilience in the community against violent extremism has indicated that level 2.5 (out of scale of 5) has been achieved. Overall, the national average achieved is 1.8. Our target for the March, 2010 is 3.

Overall, good progress has been made over the past months and the outlook for the future is optimistic. Peterborough local authority PVE action plan has been chosen by Home Office as one of the few selected local authority best practice action plan.

Economic downturn and joblessness especially among young people during summer holidays remain to be main area of risk to cohesion in Peterborough. Children and Young People Services have been approached to strengthen provisions for summer holiday. Partner organisations have also been alerted of the concern at the last Cohesion Board meeting on 13 July 2009.

Cohesion Board Fund has been approved by the Cohesion Board to provide funding support to the Third Sector and community groups working to bring different communities together in harmony. Action is in progress to table the subject at the Children Trust Partnership and seek what additional assistance could other partners offer to help.



Empowering Local Communities (SSC03)

Adrian Chapman

June 2009

- A significant step forward has been achieved with the creation of new Neighbourhood Councils which are designed to devolve decision making to local level and to create an environment where citizens are empowered to help themselves. The first Councils will meet in September, and this development is closely linked to the emergence of neighbourhood management.
- The Improvement and Development Agency conducted a peer review of our empowerment work during the month, and are keen to continue to work with us as we strengthen our empowerment focus over coming months.
- We now need to focus on developing the data observatory so that we have robust evidence base against which planning and decisions can be made. This is linked to the awarding of a new out-sourced ICT contract within the Council in late summer.

Building Pride in Peterborough (SSC04)

Kevin Tighe

June 2009

- The overall status is Amber. It is unlikely that the targets set for Pride in Peterborough will be fully met this year.
- The delivery of a success series of festivals, the achievement of a Green Flag for the City's crematorium and the redevelopment of Jack Hunt Swimming Pool.
- That the momentum of the programme will drop of.
- To explore how to better support the achievement of this indicators key performance measures through the GPP
- Staff resource.