

<b>SUSTAINABLE GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 6</b>
<b>16 NOVEMBER 2009</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## **Report of the Chief Executive of Opportunity Peterborough**

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### **PROGRESS REPORT ON THE DELIVERY OF THE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PRIORITY**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This report is presented to the Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee to update Members on performance of relevant outcomes contained in the Local Area Agreement (LAA), and to allow Members the opportunity to scrutinise and challenge performance where necessary.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Committee scrutinises the performance of the LAA providing challenge where necessary and to suggest ideas and initiatives to support improvements in performance.

#### **3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

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

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 This report focuses on performance in the Substantial and Truly Sustainable Growth priority, which is measured via four specific outcomes: Increasing Economic Prosperity; Creating Better Places to Live; Building the Sustainable Infrastructure of the Future; Creating a safe, vibrant City Centre and sustainable Neighbourhood Centres.
- 4.3 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**

- 5.1 The main issue is the ongoing red ragged status of the economic prosperity outcome. This is largely due to the severity of the recession and its impact on the local economy, job numbers, earnings etc. The new economic development team in OP is creating an economic intelligence hub for the city and will provide up to date information on the local economy, guide future provision of business support, where intervention is needed and provide an evidence base for reviewing the current target levels. A grant scheme is also in place to assist the growth of small

businesses in the city. Housing delivery is very much on target at the half year point and looks set to continue for the remainder of the year. The Infrastructure outcome is also on target with regards to adapting to climate change but baseline datasets are still awaited from DfT to finalise baselines and targets. Safe, Vibrant City & Neighbourhood Centres remains at risk due to issues with data collection regarding city and district centre planning permissions although this is close to being resolved. A dynamic multi agency vacant shop fronts team has been working to bring forward initiatives such as the Destination Centre and Women's Enterprise Centre to address empty shops. Completion of Cathedral Square is anticipated to drive up footfall in the city centre in 2010.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Coordinated action is needed to support businesses in the city during the downturn to ensure the city maintains a strong and diverse economic base that is well positioned to take advantage of the recovery when it arrives and underpin the wider growth agenda. Action to tackle vacant shop fronts is essential to maintain confidence in the city and district centres, broaden the range and quality of retail, leisure and cultural offer and consequently maintain or increase footfall for businesses.
- 6.2 The LAA enables outcome leads in this priority to work across boundaries with outcome leads in other priorities to ensure a coordinated approach across the city, help each other achieve their targets and maximise the benefits from partners input to the city. Examples of joint working would be skills and economic prosperity, environment capital and housing delivery, Pride in Peterborough and vibrant city & district centres, etc.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

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

## **8. NEXT STEPS**

- 8.1 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.

## **9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

- 9.1 Local Area Agreement 2008-11.  
Local Area Agreement 2008-11 (2009 refresh).

## **10. APPENDICES**

- 10.1 Appendix 1: Extract from the Local Area Agreement Reporting Pack September 2009.