

InBrief is compiled by the Worcestershire Partnership and aims to keep all interested parties informed of decisions taken by the Worcestershire Partnership Board and Management Group, and of progress with Worcestershire's Local Area Agreement. To contribute to this briefing or to be added or removed from the mailing list, please email lmarchant@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Local Area Agreement

New LAAs are coming... There is still a year to run on our existing LAA but Government has announced some important changes that mean we will be signing a new LAA in early 2008. These changes were announced in the recent Comprehensive Spending Review, which heralds a number of key differences in the way LAAs will be formed:

1. There is now a single set of 198 national indicators from which we can select *up to* 35 for our Local Area Agreement. In addition we are required to include 17 statutory targets relating to educational attainment and early years. These will be the only measures on which central government will performance manage outcomes delivered by local government.
2. These indicators will also apply where relevant to other local partners – such as PCTs and police – and will be incorporated into their own performance frameworks, thus strengthening the incentives for closer partnership working to deliver joined-up outcomes.
3. Government will not impose any mandatory targets.
4. The way the funding for LAAs is organised will change. Two new grants – a Revenue Support Grant and an Area Based Grant – will be created to replace former specific grants and LAA ring-fenced grants. Government says that these general grants will give councils greater flexibility to manage financial pressures and to focus funding on the priorities for our communities. The Area Based Grant will start in April 2008. Nationally, by 2010/11 £900 million previously paid through specific grants will have been rolled into Revenue Support Grant, and at least £4.1 billion of grants will be paid through Area Based Grant.
5. There will be a third round of reward grant – the level of funding available will be announced in the coming months although it is expected to be less than in the current round. Current reward grants in our existing LAA will run their full term.

In addition to the Comprehensive Spending Review, the Department of Communities and Local Government has issued a paper entitled '[Negotiating New Local Area Agreements](#)'. This includes a requirement to develop a 'story of place'. This should provide the rationale for why we have chosen particular outcomes, based on the alignment of partner views around the Sustainable Community Strategy.

So what happens now? Work has already begun on identifying our new list of priorities. Partnership theme groups have received a copy of the indicator set and have been asked to identify the indicators that match their current priorities.



[Click here](#) to visit the Worcestershire Partnership's LAA webpage for more information

Sustainable Community Strategy

Alongside the development of the new LAA, the Worcestershire Partnership is also reviewing the countywide Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). It is hoped that these two processes will be complementary, with the priorities identified for the community strategy feeding into the identification of indicators for the new LAA.

Theme groups have identified four key priority outcomes for inclusion in the strategy, along with details of the evidence base used and actions to be taken. Information gathered from the district community strategies, the recent Citizens' Panel and from a members' briefing is also being used to inform the process.

WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCS AND LAA

SCS: Management Group to consider final draft	19 November 2007
Draft SCS launched at Worcestershire Assembly and start of 12-week consultation period	22 November 2007
LAA: Story of place, priorities and first draft of indicators as identified by the theme groups submitted to GOWM	30 November 2007
LAA: Response from GOWM	17 December 2007
LAA: Wider partnership event to debate initial selection of indicators and agree final selection	8 January 2008
Draft LAA submitted to GOWM with agreed indicators and targets and evidence base	30 January 2008
SCS: End of consultation period	14 February 2008
Final LAA submitted	31 March 2008
Partnership Board members take SCS through decision-making processes	April / May 2008
WCC Cabinet to approve SCS	17 April 2008
WCC Full Council to approve SCS	8 May 2008
Adoption of SCS	May 2008
LAA agreed by Government	June 2008



[Click here](#) to visit the Sustainable Community Strategy webpage for more information