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## Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Planning, Policy and Improvement)

### Executive Board

Date: 14 May 2008

Subject: Leeds Strategic Plan 2008 – 11: Approval of LAA Responsibilities

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

ALL

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

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### Executive Summary

This report presents the proposed indicators and targets to support the delivery of the strategic outcomes and improvement priorities in the Leeds Strategic Plan. This follows Executive Board's consideration of the draft text for the Leeds Strategic Plan 2008 - 2011 at its meeting on 12 March 08.

The Leeds Strategic Plan incorporates the requirement to prepare a local area agreement for Leeds. Full Council on 9 April 08 agreed that the Executive Board should be given the responsibility of carrying out the functions relating to local area agreements as laid out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

The table in appendix 1 contains the proposed indicators and targets for Leeds' local area agreement that requires submission to the Secretary of State by 30 May 2008 for formal sign-off. The proposed indicators and targets have been agreed with statutory partners at the Leeds Strategic Plan/Local Area Agreement Strategy Group and partners have formally 'signed up' to contributing to the delivery of relevant targets.

This report asks Members of Executive Board to approve Appendix 1 as Leeds' local area agreement prior to its submission to the Secretary of State. The full Leeds Strategic Plan, incorporating the agreed indicators and targets, will be submitted to full Council at their July meeting for final approval.

## **1.0. Purpose of this Report**

- 1.1. This report presents the proposed indicators and targets selected to support the delivery of the strategic outcomes and improvement priorities in the Leeds Strategic Plan 2008-11. A table listing the indicators and targets is attached to this report at Appendix 1 and this also represents our proposed local area agreement for Leeds. This report seeks Executive Board approval of Appendix 1 prior to its submission to the Secretary of State for formal sign off. Executive Board are asked to note that for a minority of targets negotiations are still to be finalised with the Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber (GOYH) and, therefore, a final version of Appendix 1 incorporating any further changes necessary will be tabled at the meeting.

## **2.0. Background Information**

- 2.1. At its last meeting on 12 March 2008, Executive Board approved the text of the Leeds Strategic Plan following extensive consultation, comment and revision of the strategic outcomes and improvement priorities to be included in the Leeds Strategic Plan 2008-11.
- 2.2. During October 2007, the Government issued a draft set of national indicators for local government, rationalising the existing 1,200 indicators ascribed to local government activities to 198 indicators. These 198 indicators are collectively known as the National Indicator Set. Where these indicators are considered appropriate measures of progress they have been selected against the improvement priorities in the Leeds Strategic Plan. Other indicators have been developed locally where there is no suitable indicator in the National Indicator Set.
- 2.3. During February and March 2008, detailed work has been undertaken by Council officers and lead partners to identify appropriate targets against each improvement priority. They have been subject to scrutiny through Council arrangements and relevant partnership bodies in the city. Thirty one of these targets represent what are referred to as 'government agreed' targets – these are the up to thirty five improvement targets that we are required to agree with Government as part of the local area agreement. These thirty one targets have, therefore, been subject to detailed negotiations with GOYH.

## **3.0. Main Issues**

- 3.1. **All Targets are Equally Important.** Targets in the Leeds Strategic Plan reflect the most important issues for Leeds over the next three years and the level of progress needed to help deliver the improvement priorities identified in the Plan. Appendix 1 identifies targets as either 'government agreed' or 'partnership agreed' to distinguish them for local area agreement purposes. All targets in the Plan are equally important and named partners will have a duty to contribute to the delivery of all relevant targets, irrespective of whether they are 'government agreed' or 'partnership agreed'. The only differences for 'government agreed' targets are that they must be drawn from the National Indicator Set for Local Government, must be negotiated and agreed with central government and will be eligible for a Performance Reward Grant if the targets are met. Further guidance is still awaited in regard to this latter issue.
- 3.2. **Using Evidence to Set Realistic Targets.** The target level of performance set for every indicator is based on extensive analysis of past performance data and a realistic assessment of likely future performance in Leeds. Two seminars open to all Elected Members have been held to explain the target setting process for the indicators in the Leeds Strategic Plan. Consultation has been undertaken through the Council's Scrutiny process and with Executive Members with portfolio. Partners who also contribute to the achievement of targets have also been involved in developing and agreeing what can be realistically delivered over the three year span of the Leeds Strategic Plan.

3.3 **Shared Priorities and Targets.** The Leeds Strategic Plan is a partnership plan and every indicator and target in this plan is shared with the Council's partners. A high level partnership group, the Leeds Strategic Plan/Local Area Agreement Strategy Group, has been meeting throughout the development process and has agreed the targets in the Plan. Partners have also formally 'signed up' to contributing to the delivery of relevant targets. The Council has a duty to consult with its partners when the targets are reviewed and revised and partners in turn have a duty to cooperate with the Council in setting and revising targets and have regard to those targets when setting their own action plans and budgets. 'Government agreed' targets cannot be revised without the agreement of Government.

#### 4.0. **Implications For Council Policy and Governance**

4.1. The Leeds Strategic Plan is part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. Overview and Scrutiny Committee have been consulted three times on the preparation of the text of the Plan and have commented on the proposed indicators and targets as set out in Appendix 1.

4.2. Full Council at its meeting on 9 April 2008 agreed that Executive Board should undertake the following functions under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 with regard to the local area agreement:

- the duty to prepare and submit a draft of a local area agreement (section 106);
- the revision and addition of targets (section 110);
- designated targets (i.e. government agreed) : revision proposals (section 111);
- duty to publish information about the local area agreement (section 113).

4.3. The first three functions will be exercised by Executive Board in approving Appendix 1 which will enable the Leeds local area agreement to be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.

4.4. The Council is preparing a separate Business Plan which will set out how the Council will align its activities and resources to deliver its contribution to the Leeds Strategic Plan and this will be subject to a separate report to Executive Board shortly.

4.5. **Not Eligible for Call In.** This report is not eligible for 'call in' due to the statutory deadline requiring the submission of the local area agreement to the Secretary of State by 30 May 2008.

#### 5.0. **Legal and Resource Implications**

5.1. The Leeds Strategic Plan fulfils the statutory obligations for a local area agreement for the Leeds area. In drawing up the contents of this plan the Council has consulted and negotiated with a number of partners including public sector partners designated as statutory partners in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. These partners have a duty to have regard to the targets in the Leeds Strategic Plan when setting out their own plans and budgets.

5.2. The Leeds Strategic Plan will fulfil the duty of the Council to publish information about its local area agreement containing the specified information of a 'memorandum relating to the LAA'. It will be publicly available, accessible in its format and used as a basis for active communication to citizens. In this respect it will form an active role in the Council's duty to involve local communities in shaping their own future.

5.3. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 extends the scope of the Council's Scrutiny Boards to include the work of those public sector partners designated as statutory partners to deliver targets agreed in the Leeds Strategic Plan. Overview and

Scrutiny Committee has agreed a protocol with partners on how to exercise this extended role for scrutiny.

- 5.4. Resources to deliver the targets in this plan will be identified from the budgets of the Council and its partners including the new Area Based Grant. Resources will have to be used as efficiently as possible to deliver all the targets in the Leeds Strategic Plan and the scope to increase impact through innovative delivery methods such as strategic commissioning, pooled budgets and joint service delivery will be explored as part of delivering the Leeds Strategic Plan.

## **6.0 Conclusions**

- 6.1. The proposed indicators and targets attached as an appendix to this report will support the delivery of the strategic outcomes and improvement priorities in the Leeds Strategic Plan and provide reliable measures of the progress made to achieve the outcomes agreed by the Council, its statutory partners and other key stakeholders.

## **7.0. Recommendations**

- 7.1. This report asks Members of Executive Board to approve Appendix 1 as Leeds' local area agreement prior to its submission to the Secretary of State for formal sign off.
- 7.2. Members are requested to authorise the Assistant Chief Executive to make minor amendments, if required, to Leeds' local area agreement prior to its submission to the Secretary of State on 30 May 2008. Should any revisions be required, the Assistant Chief Executive will inform Members of Executive prior to submission.
- 7.3. Members are also asked to note that the full and final version of the Leeds Strategic Plan, incorporating the agreed indicators and targets, will be submitted to Members of full Council at their July meeting for final approval as required by the Council's budget and policy framework.