

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee**

**Council**

**Date of Committee**

**20 March 2007**

**Report Title**

**The Warwickshire Local Area Agreement**

**Summary**

This report asks Council to adopt the Warwickshire Local Area Agreement 2007-10 and endorse the governance arrangements and authorises the Chief Executive to enter into the agreement with central government

**For further information please contact:**

Nick Gower Johnson  
County Partnerships  
Manager  
Tel: 01926 412053  
[nickgower-johnson@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:nickgower-johnson@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Sarah Duxbury  
Corporate Legal Services  
Manager  
Tel 01926 412090  
[sarahduxbury@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarahduxbury@warwickshire.gov.uk)

**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision]**

No

**Background papers**

Powerpoint Presentation to full Council on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2006  
Papers for Member seminar on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2006  
Cabinet Report and Appendices-7<sup>th</sup> September 2006  
Cabinet Report 12<sup>th</sup> October 2006  
Latest draft LAA dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2006 – distributed direct to all Councillors  
Powerpoint Presentation to Member Seminar held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2006  
Cabinet Report 7<sup>th</sup> December 2006  
Supplementary Report to Cabinet 7<sup>th</sup> December 2006  
Draft LAA dated 8<sup>th</sup> December 2006 (distributed to all members on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2006)  
Cabinet Report dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 2007  
Reports to Area Committee (various dates during January 2007)  
Supplementary Report for Cabinet on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007  
LAA dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007 – distributed to all members on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2007.

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:**

Other Committees

.....

Local Member(s)

.....

Other Elected Members	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cllr June Tandy Cllr Tim Naylor Cllr Jerry Roodhouse Cllr Sarah Boad All members through previous Presentations & Seminars
Cabinet Members	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cllr Alan Farnell Cllr Bob Stevens Cllr Peter Fowler
Chief Executive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Graham
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greta Needham and Sarah Duxbury
Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Jukes
Strategic Directors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Carter – Strategic Director of Performance and Development Marion Davis – Strategic Director of Children Young People and Families Graeme Betts – Strategic Director of Adult Health & Community Services Dave Clarke – Strategic Director of Resources John Deegan – Strategic Director of Environment & Economy William Brown – Strategic Director of Community Protection
District Councils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Executives of all District/Borough Councils
Health Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Rose Chief Executive of NHS Warwickshire
Police	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andy Parker Deputy Chief Constable Warwickshire Police
Other Bodies/Individuals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coventry & Warwickshire Learning & Skills Council Coventry Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership Warwickshire Probation Service Coventry & Warwickshire Infrastructure Consortium Warwickshire Association of Local Councils Coventry Diocese Warwickshire Police Authority Government Office West Midlands

**FINAL DECISION**

**Yes**

**Council – 20 March 2007**

**The Warwickshire Local Area Agreement (LAA)**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

**Recommendations:**

1. That the Council formally adopts the final LAA 2007-10 (dated March 2007) with any further amendments necessary to be agreed by the Chief Executive and approves the inclusion of the LAA in the Council's budget and policy framework for 2007/08.
2. That the Council endorses the LAA governance arrangements set out in paragraph 3 of this report.
3. That the Council authorises the Chief Executive to sign the final LAA 2007-10 and to conclude the agreement with central government.
4. That the Council expresses its appreciation to the LAA Block Leaders and all partners for their commitment to the development of the Warwickshire Local Area Agreement.

**1 Introduction and Context**

- 1.1 The final version of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) was endorsed by the Cabinet at its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2007 and Cabinet recommended that it be adopted by Council at this meeting.
- 1.2 The final draft of the LAA was distributed to all Councillors on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Councillors are requested to bring a copy of this document along with them to the Council meeting. If further copies of the document are required, Councillors should contact Bill Basra, Performance and Development Directorate, Telephone (01926) 476828 or e-mail [billbasra@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:billbasra@warwickshire.gov.uk).
- 1.3 The LAA was formally approved by Government Office West Midlands on 8<sup>th</sup> February and it is anticipated that it will be approved by government ministers on or about 9<sup>th</sup> March.
- 1.4 We have arranged for the LAA to be formally endorsed by each of the following key partner agencies in Warwickshire:
  - LAA Steering Group/Shadow Public Service Board
  - North Warwickshire Borough Council
  - Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council

- Rugby Borough Council
- Warwick District Council
- Stratford on Avon District Council
- NHS Warwickshire (The PCT)
- Learning & Skills Council
- Coventry Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership
- Warwickshire Race Equality Partnership
- Coventry & Warwickshire Infrastructure Consortium (on behalf of the VCS)
- Warwickshire Probation Service
- The Warwickshire Further Education Colleges
- Warwickshire Police Authority
- Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber
- Warwickshire Association of Local Councils(on behalf of the Town & Parish Councils)
- Coventry Diocese
- The five district based LSPs
- Warwickshire Rural Community Council
- Greater Warwickshire Sports Partnership

## **2. Future focus on delivery and performance**

- 2.1 The successful completion of our work on the development of the LAA is to be welcomed and is as a result of a significant effort across the Council and with our partners. The process of development has, in itself, proved beneficial to our partnership relationships. However everyone involved with the LAA is realistic about this achievement which is yet to actually produce any tangible outcome for Warwickshire people or improvement in service provision.
- 2.2 The focus for this joint effort now moves to delivery and future reports to Cabinet, and the Council's Area and Overview & Scrutiny Committees will focus on the extent to which outcomes are being achieved and the objectives of the LAA fulfilled.

## **3. Governance Arrangements**

- 3.1 The governance structure proposed for the LAA is as follows;
- The Warwickshire Public Service Board (made up of representatives of the 6 Councils, the Voluntary and Community Sector, the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, Warwickshire Police Authority, Coventry and Warwickshire Learning and Skills Council, Warwickshire Primary Care Trust and Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils – 12 representatives in total)
  - 6 County level themed partnerships (one for each LAA block)
  - 5 District Based LSPs – one in each District/ Borough
  - District level themed partnerships – based around the 6 themed blocks
  - Neighbourhood/locality arrangements.

- 3.2 In line with Government thinking on the involvement of portfolio holders in key thematic partnerships, it is proposed that the Council is represented on the LAA themed partnerships by appropriate portfolio holders, with officers attending in a supporting role. The LAA partners have agreed that the Public Service Board should be made up of the Leaders of each organisation and that Cllr Farnell, who will fulfil this role for the County Council, should also chair the Public Service Board.
- 3.3 The Public Service Board will ultimately be responsible for the performance management of the delivery of the LAA outcomes agreed by all partners and each partner will be accountable for the actions that they have agreed to undertake as set out in the LAA delivery plans. The delivery plans have been worked up by the themed blocks and have the agreement of all partners.
- 3.4 The County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee's will continue to have a key role to play in reviewing and scrutinising the provision of public services in Warwickshire and the Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Group has agreed proposals for scrutiny of the LAA blocks at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January. It is envisaged that there may be further opportunities for joint LAA scrutiny exercises to be undertaken on specific common issues from time to time.
- 3.5 The thrust of the governance proposals has been to build on existing structures whilst at the same time simplifying and streamlining the partnership arrangements that exist across the county rather than adding new layers to an already complex landscape. As a result, the partners have been committed to rationalising the number of partnerships to ensure that those that remain under the new arrangements have teeth, remain outcome focused and are not simply an additional layer of bureaucracy.
- 3.6 The work on the LAA has also enabled the partners to agree joint approaches in a number of different areas such as conduct/ behaviour in partnership working and information sharing, with protocols being drafted for partners to adopt in all partnership working.
- 3.7 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill and the development of the LAA and our partnership structures require the County Council to review our decision-making arrangements. A seminar is being arranged in April for elected members to explore this and other issues, to be followed by further consideration through more formal processes.

#### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 Over the past nine months, we have been assisted and supported in our work by a number of key individuals and partner organisations. These include the Block Leaders, elected members and officers from each of the District and Borough Councils, and representatives of the remaining organisations listed in 1.4 above. It is considered that it would be fitting for an appropriate letter to be sent by the Chair of the Council to each person/agency concerned.

Jim Graham  
Chief Executive  
8<sup>th</sup> March 2007.