

Joint Scrutiny Review Draft

Subject of the Review	The effectiveness of Buckinghamshire's Local Area Agreement (LAA) in its early phase
Purpose of the Review	Using a specific case study approach, to determine whether the LAA is having the desired impact and democratic accountability
Anticipated outcome(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear understanding of the role of councils, members and partners in the development, delivery and accountability of a successful LAA • Clarity and appropriateness of governance arrangements • Identification of any improvements that can be made
Reasons for undertaking the review, including where the ideas have come from	The LAA has been in place for one year. In 2008, Government will be placing greater emphasis on the LAA as the delivery mechanism for ensuring the public, voluntary and public sectors work more collaboratively to deliver enhanced services. This will entail growth of and a further central pooling of budgets. It will be important to ensure robust accountability within the new framework and effective service delivery
What is the potential impact of the review on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents • Equality issues • Helping the councils to achieve their main priorities • Adding value to the organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LAA seeks to tackle those problems which have the greatest impact on the quality of life of local residents • The theme of the LAA is Promoting Prosperity – Tackling Inequalities • Delivery of a successful LAA is a priority for the 5 Councils and their partners, all of whom have signed a commitment to the successful delivery of the target outcomes
Councils undertaking the review	County Council and all District Councils
Membership arrangements	2 Members from each participating authority
Link to relevant council plans	Delivery of a successful LAA is a corporate priority for all Councils
Key issues for the review to address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has been the impact of the LAA to date and what arrangements are in place for feedback to stakeholders? • How has the LAA improved service delivery? • Where does accountability lie? • How are members involved in the development of priorities and monitoring of performance? • How are members, stakeholders, users and residents engaged in the identification of priorities? • Is there a robust and transparent performance management framework? • How are priorities linked to individual council plans and performance management frameworks? • How effective has the LAA been in terms of savings and additional funds accrued?
Methodology	Using a ' <i>variety of case studies</i> ' basket of indicators such as those around the Crime and Disorder and a case study approach, determine:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the priorities were developed • Who was involved • How delivery is being managed • Where the results are reported • How and by whom remedial action is taken • Whether delivery is making a difference on the ground
Press & Publicity	<p>Article in Council magazines announcing review and inviting views</p> <p>Press release at the end of the review to explain results</p> <p>Article for the Centre for Public Scrutiny</p>
Key background papers for reference	<p>LAA Agreement</p> <p>Overview of the LAA aims and objectives</p> <p>Overview of first year annual results</p> <p>Chapter 5 of the White Paper – Local Government as a strategic leader and place-shaper</p>
Written evidence to be provided by:	<p>Evidence will be collected through presentations, desk research, whole committee discussion, meetings and visits to gather information from community representatives, service users, partner organisations</p>
Oral evidence to be provided by:	<p>Chairman of Bucks Strategic Partnership, Members of Principal Funders' Group, Block Leads, LAA coordinator, LAA Policy Officer, selected target owners, members of CDRPs, County and District Councillors Users, Partners, GOSE representative</p>
Potential partners	<p>To be discussed</p>
Resources required	<p>Meeting facilities around Buckinghamshire</p> <p>Democratic Officer support (BCC), Policy Officer Support (BCC lead with support from District Officers)</p>
Timetable and timing	<p>Initial meeting October 2007 with a view to issuing report in March/ April 2008.</p>
Reporting mechanism	<p>To each council's most appropriate scrutiny review body to agree/amend the formal recommendations</p> <p>Committee members to present to their authority using their individually agreed reporting mechanisms</p> <p>Chairman to disseminate to partner organisations</p>