



LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT FOR SURREY

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD)

1 December 2005

SUMMARY:

This report outlines the proposed Local Area Agreement (LAA) between Surrey and the Government, and its relevance to Guildford. The report is a summary document. For further information, Members may wish to refer to the background documents listed at the end of this report.

1. CONTEXT

- 1.1. Local Area Agreements (LAAs) are arrangements being rolled out in phases across the country, led by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). Put simply, an LAA is a 3 year agreement to merge into one pot what are currently separate central government funding streams to local government. The planned use of these funds is set out in a LAA between the Government and the local authority and will include anticipated outcomes as well as any 'enabling measures' as can be negotiated between SCC and the government.
- 1.2. The system of LAAs was designed with single tier local government in mind, where there would be one Local Strategic Partnership, one Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). The Agreement offers the

opportunity to negotiate 'enabling measures' and the removal of 'ring fencing' from government funding streams.

- 1.3. In the case of areas with two tiers of local government such as Surrey, the Government has decided that LAAs will be led by County Councils, who will receive the funding streams affected. Surrey currently proposes to include one, the 'Safer and Stronger Communities Fund', which is currently distributed by GOSE direct to the 11 CDRP's, such as the Safer Guildford Partnership. The LAA provides an opportunity for Surrey to pool other funding streams.

2. PROPOSED LAA FOR SURREY

- 2.1. The proposed LAA reflects the 7 themes that emerged from the 'Vision for Surrey in 2020'. Working within the limitations of the government's timetable, Surrey has undertaken consultation led by the Leader of Surrey County Council, with County based representative bodies including the Surrey Local Government Association and chairmen of the 11 District/Borough Local Strategic Partnerships.
- 2.2. From this process an initially large number of possible projects has been reduced to 8. These are listed in **Appendix 1** and are in the latest version of the LAA which can be viewed at www.surreycc.gov.uk/communityplanning. This list will no doubt be further reduced to a manageable number during the process of negotiation with central government departments.

3. GOVERNANCE AND TIMETABLE

- 3.1. The governance structure for the Surrey Community Plan Vision (into which the LAA falls) has three levels:
 - **Surrey Strategic Partnership (SSP):** The purpose of the SSP is to provide a forum for the engagement of organisations involved in the delivery of public services in Surrey.
 - **SSP Programme Board:** The Programme Board acts as the executive arm of the SSP. It is chaired by the Leader of Surrey County Council and includes executives from key public, business and voluntary sector organisations. In the context of the Surrey LAA, the Board is responsible for overseeing development and delivery of the LAA.
 - **Partnership Project Boards:** These boards will oversee development and implementation of individual projects agreed for the LAA. Where possible, this role will be undertaken by an existing partnership group. For LAA projects, there will be a SCC sponsor and a lead partner sponsor.
- 3.2. Surrey County Council's Community Planning Team based at County Hall provides the overall support and administration.
- 3.3. Final sign off by the Partnership Board is expected next week, with a view to partner organisations being asked to endorse the final LAA

during January and February, with Ministerial sign-off anticipated by the end of February 2006.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The Surrey LAA will not attract any additional money. However, by joining up funding and services they are intended to assist better and possibly new services. This may lead to the redirection of resources from some geographic or service areas to others.
- 4.2. This may be a particular issue for community safety funding in view of the redirection of resources via the County Council as mentioned in paragraph 1.3 above. These funds currently support the Safer Guildford Partnership to deliver the 2005-2008 Community Safety Strategy. The move towards County level funding could have an impact on the focus on local priorities in later years.
- 4.3. Following concerns about the distribution of financial rewards from an earlier round of Public Service Agreements (PSAs) (the forerunner to LAAs) the County Council has made it clear that there will be explicit arrangements for the use and distribution of resources, agreed by the partners, in the LAAs.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1. The LAA approach is something that is likely to be extended. It is important therefore for Guildford, through the Borough and County Council and the LSP play as full a part in the development of the process as possible. This is especially relevant as funding may increasingly be either attached to or influenced by progress with LAAs or similar approaches. The Local Committee may wish to consider how best it can influence and support this process.

Background Papers:

- Surrey's Local Area Agreement and Supporting Papers - via SCC website [www.surreycc.gov.uk/community planning](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/community%20planning)
- Local Area Agreements: Advice Note 1 from ODPM website www.odpm.gov.uk
- Safer and Stronger Communities Fund: Taking the agreements forward. ODPM website.

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Appendix 1 – Projects being developed for inclusion in LAA

Priority	2020 Outcome	LAA projects
Building a skilled and flexible workforce to support Surrey's future economy.	Continued high employment rates with a more mixed and balanced economy Trade skills highly valued and young people better prepared for life and work	1 Skills to Serve: Public sector skills development Comprehensive public sector skills development programme.
		2 Enterprising Surrey: 14-19 skills development Supporting 14-19 year olds into further learning or employment. Includes trade, vocational, life & entrepreneurial skills.
Improving transport across the county.	Getting around the County is easier with transport integrated and locally managed.	3 Accessible Surrey: Transport Coordination Centre Co-ordinated network of transport delivered via a Transport Co-ordinating Centre.
Increasing and broadening the range of housing options in Surrey.	Easier for people to find accommodation to suit all needs.	4 Housing to underpin economic success Scoping and developing a programme of initiatives to support wider housing options
Improving health and life chances of children	Increased local early intervention to help ensure success at school and inclusion of young people in their community. Greater focus on healthy and sustainable lifestyles	5 Local integration for children Flexible, responsive services delivered through school confederations; Integrated local teams of health, social care, education, leisure and community learning.
Transforming the delivery of social care in Surrey.	Greater focus on communities working together to provide support to vulnerable and at risk groups.	6 Safe at Home: Assistive Technology Using assistive technology to improve care to vulnerable adults
Building safer and stronger communities	People will feel safer and more connected with their communities	7 Safer & stronger communities Reducing (1) anti social behaviour, (2) drug-related crime, (3) alcohol-related crime, (4) violent crime, including domestic violence, (5) road casualties and anti-social driver behaviour. (6) Reassuring communities through safer, greener, cleaner streets.
Changing attitudes and behaviours to support sustainable lifestyles and greater local engagement.	Strong community leadership to help resolve challenges in improving quality of life and well-being.	8 Sustainable Lifestyles: Campaigns & engagement network Integrating local, county and national campaigns to improve impact and cost effectiveness.