
KENT LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2 – PRIORITIES, NATIONAL INDICATORS AND TARGETS

To: **Council – 9 October 2008**

Main Portfolio Area: **Leader**

By: **Sophie Chadwick, Corporate Improvement Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **All Wards**

Summary: **Kent Agreement 2 headline priorities and proposed National Indicators.**

For Decision

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The aim of Local Area Agreements (LAAs) is to set priorities for a local area, join up public services more effectively and simplify some central funding, thereby allowing greater flexibility for local solutions to local priorities and circumstances.
- 1.2 Kent Agreement 2 (KA2 – the LAA for Kent) is a 3-year agreement between Central Government and Local Government bodies in Kent. It forms part of a wider range of objectives, activities and outcomes that Kent's public sector bodies actively engage in to serve their communities. The Agreement sets out the priorities for Kent in the form of outcomes, supported by relevant National Indicators (negotiated from the National Set of 198 NI's) and targets agreed with LAA members and signed off by the Secretary of State.
- 1.3 Under the terms of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Council has a duty to participate in KA2. All district and borough councils in the county are subject to that duty, along with a number of other public sector bodies including Kent Police, Kent Fire & Rescue Service and the Primary Care Trusts.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 Each LAA can have up to 35 indicators selected from the National Framework of 198 National Improvement Indicators. The selection of the chosen 35 National Indicators for KA2 has been subject to an intensive negotiation period over the past six months between Government Office for the South East (GOSE) and local partners, to ensure both local and national priorities are reflected in the final Agreement. The negotiations have taken place with GOSE through a multi-agency group under the umbrella of the Kent Partnership (the county wide Local Strategic Partnership). The views of the four East Kent District Councils have been represented at all negotiation meetings by the Senior Policy Officer at Dover District Council.
- 2.2 A full list of the National Indicators for KA2 is attached in Annex 1.
- 2.3 As part of the target setting process, baseline statistics and trends have been identified where available in order to make an informed judgement on an appropriate three-year

target for Kent. Where the county target has been proposed, this can be seen in Annex 1. However, there are still some that are outstanding. This is largely due to Government delays in releasing the final technical definitions for some indicators; or where an indicator is new, a baseline may not be able to be set for the first year (e.g. those reliant on the new Place Survey; the first due to take place in Autumn 2008).

- 2.4 Kent County Council is the lead responsible Local Authority and Accountable Body for KA2 and District Councils have a statutory duty under the Local Government & Involvement in Public Health Act 2007 to co-operate in delivering the targets.
- 2.5 Within Kent, it has been agreed that each LSP will develop a Local Action Plan, outlining its proposed contribution to the Kent Agreement targets. As East Kent has established a joint Local Strategic Partnership, it is developing an East Kent Local Action Plan, rather than having individual district local action plans. The draft Local Action Plan is currently being prepared with the aim of completion by the end of September.
- 2.6 Thanet will be monitoring its contribution through the existing performance reporting framework i.e. the monthly and quarterly packs and annual report.
- 2.7 A report went to Cabinet on 12th June and Cabinet recommended that the Council sign-up to KA2 and delegate authority to the Chief Executive to agree specific targets against the KA2 national indicators. The record of the recommendation is attached in Annex 2.
- 2.8 Cabinet's recommendation has now been brought to Council for ratification.

3.0 Options

- 3.1 To accept the recommendations outlined in Section 5.
- 3.2 Not to accept the recommendations and to propose an alternative option.

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial

- 4.1.1 There are no specific costs associated with this work that are not already covered within the Council's budget.

4.2 Legal

- 4.2.1 District Councils have a statutory duty under the Local Government & Involvement in Public Health Act 2007 to co-operate in delivering the targets for their Local Area Agreement.

4.3 Corporate

- 4.3.1 Within the Corporate Plan, under Theme 6 (Modern Council), there is a project to ensure Thanet is fully represented in East Kent by contributing to the new East Kent Local Strategic Partnership and representing Thanet's priorities in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

4.4 Equity and Equalities

- 4.4.1 Equality Impact Assessments will be carried out as part of the action planning process to ensure that all needs of the community are taken into account.

5.0 Recommendation(s)

- 5.1 In line with our duty to co-operate within the Local Area Agreement, it is recommended that Thanet District Council, as a statutory partner, signs up to support the delivery of Kent Agreement 2 headline priorities and National Indicators.
- 5.2 Authority is delegated to the Chief Executive to agree specific targets for Thanet to adopt formally through the East Kent Local Action Plan.

6.0 Decision Making Process

- 6.1 This is a key decision to go to Council

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Annex List

Annex 1	Kent Agreement 2 – Proposed Themes, Headline Priorities & National Indicators
Annex 2	Record of Decision of Cabinet – 12 th June 2008

Background Papers

None.

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	Sue McGonigal
Legal	Paul Moore