

SCRUTINY COMMISSION 7TH NOVEMBER

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

KEY PERFORMANCE INFORMATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

Purpose of the Report

1. To enable members of Scrutiny Commission to consider
 - a) some of the key pieces of performance information in the context of the changes to the local government performance framework including the development of a new Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and Local Area Agreement (LAA)
 - b) the early views of the Government Office of The East Midlands (GOEM) as to the key priorities for Leicestershire.
2. This is intended to accompany paper 'B' on this agenda which explains the process for developing the SCS and LAA; recent developments in terms of the new national indicator set and the work in developing an evidence base for the SCS.

Implications of Current Performance Data For Future Priorities

3. Benchmark data been used for a long time to understand relative performance against particular indicators, in order to focus attention on specific improvements in relation to those indicators in the following year.
4. The analysis in appendix 1 therefore draws on the latest Audit Commission benchmarking of current best value performance indicators performance for 2006/07 to try and give an early identification of key areas where performance compares less favourably and which should therefore be given particular consideration as future priorities, against what are likely to be related measures in the new national set.
5. More detailed analysis of the current performance against the new National Indicator Set (NIS) will be required when the exact definitions are published in the New Year.

6. Current performance for the Annual Plan, MTCS commitments and LAA are covered by another paper elsewhere on the Agenda (Paper A) and give a feel for current risks in the context of the existing performance framework.

LAA Negotiation and Government's Priorities

7. The County Council and its partners are not expected to produce a draft list of indicators for inclusion within the LAA until January. This allows time for the Sustainable Community Strategy work to progress and better ensure the local story for Leicestershire is robust and plausible. It also gives time for Government to provide statutory guidance on the new Local Government Act and the technical guidance on the NIS.
8. However in the meantime GOEM have helpfully provided a very early 'rough cut' of their views of the headline priorities for Leicestershire. This was developed at a case conference where Government department regional policy leads were asked for their views. This is attached as appendix 2 with the inclusion of Leicester City priorities for comparison purposes. GOEM are now working this up in more detail and comparing to the indicator set to prepare for the negotiations in the new year. It must be stressed this is a very early view of Government thinking and there is much work still to be done before final negotiations.

Equal Opportunities Implications

9. The evidence base used to inform the development of the SCS and LAA priorities will need to have regard to identifying priorities and outcomes for all communities in Leicestershire

Recommendations

10. The Scrutiny Commission are asked to note the performance comparator information and the list of priorities from GOEM and consider their implications for the priorities for LCC and its partners going forward into the new Local Government Performance Framework.

Background Papers

Attached Appendices on Audit Commission benchmarking data and GOEM 'top priorities for Leicestershire LAA>

Officers to Contact :

John P Wright
Tel 0116 305 8015
jpwright@leics.gov.uk