

Statement of recent financial changes

A summary of latest announcements from central Government on issues of financial interest to partners was presented. Reductions in Area Based Grant coming to West Cheshire 2010/11 were identified: the Council is currently undertaking a review of the impact these reductions will have on service delivery. More generally, negotiations between Government Departments and HM Treasury are underway, leading up to the Spending Review announcement due to take place on 20th October 2010.

Local Area Agreement Outturn Position 2009/10

This report looked at known performance results to the end of March 2010. Designated target attainment shows a fair picture with 15 (58%) of the indicators achieving the targets that were set for 2009/10; 3 (11%) marginally failing to achieve target performance; and 8 (31%) failing to achieve target performance. The 8 indicators not reaching target levels are: *adult participation in sport; dealing with concerns about anti-social behaviour; young peoples participation in positive activities; 16-18 year olds not in education training or employment; mortality rates from circulatory diseases; social care clients receiving self-directed support; carers receiving needs assessment; non-principal roads where maintenance should be considered.*

Sustainable Community Strategy Delivery Plan

As the current Local Area Agreement comes to an end on 31st March 2011, consideration was given to what should replace it. At present we are not sure what, if any, requirements there will be from Central Government on performance management. Whilst there is likely to be a basic suite of benchmarking indicators, it is also probable that we will be encouraged to identify more locally relevant indicators to support the delivery of outcomes in all priority areas. Using the commitments set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy as a starting point, work will be undertaken over the coming months to consider three interconnected elements: *what resource we have available to achieve delivery; how best to measure progress; and how to ensure our customer expectations shape delivery.* In undertaking this work we will need to ensure that we embed community views and aspirations through the Community Forums and Area Partnership Boards.

'Our Community' Survey

In January 2010 a self completion questionnaire was sent out to a random sample of 5,000 residents. The response rate was 35%. The intention is that findings will help monitor changes in public attitudes on a variety of topics and provide comparative results to the 'Place Survey' (two yearly mandatory questionnaire) on a number of measures which are used to monitor the Local Area Agreement. Key findings include that in terms of making somewhere a good place to live the main factors are *'the level of crime'* followed by *'health services'* and *'decent affordable housing'*. Significant differences were apparent across the borough: for example those living in Rural West were significantly more likely to feel safer after dark compared to other areas, whilst respondents from Ellesmere Port are significantly less likely to take part in arts or creative activity, attend a social group or attend a day or evening class.

5 Ways to Wellbeing

Partners received a report highlighting work being developed by the Health and Wellbeing Thematic Partnership to promote the 5 Ways to Wellbeing which have been developed by the new economics foundation (nef). This promotion seek to raise awareness of the fact that if we build the 5 ways to wellbeing into daily routines people could add 7.5 years onto their lives. The 5 ways are:

- **Connect:** building connections with family, friends, neighbours and colleagues;
- **Give:** join a group, volunteer your time, do something nice for a friend or stranger;
- **Be Active:** discover a physical activity you enjoy, exercising helps you feel good;
- **Take Notice:** be curious, take notice of your environment;
- **Keep Learning:** try something new, rediscover an old interest.

Partners were encouraged to support the work to embed these elements into all our organisational cultures, and thereby influence everyone's daily routines and lifestyles from 2010 and beyond.

The Children's Trust, including Child Poverty Board and Strategy

Partners received an update on the activities of the Children's Trust. Most recently this has focused on establishing a multi-agency outcome leads group with the purpose of assessing needs, defining outcomes, agreeing priorities and producing a draft plan for consultation. This will be broken down into specific actions/priorities for APBs. Some discussion took place about the removal of the statutory requirement to have Children's Trusts and the possibility of this function being handled differently.

Under this item, progress with the statutory duty for local authorities and named partners to co-operate around arrangements to reduce the effects of child poverty was considered. This includes publishing both a Child Poverty Needs Assessment and Child Poverty Strategy. The West Cheshire response has been to establish a Child Poverty Board reporting to the Children's Trust which will produce the Child Poverty Strategy by April 2011.

Rural Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan

Partners heard that as part of the process of driving forward the regeneration of key settlements and areas within the Borough, Cheshire West and Chester Council has identified four key programme areas. These are focused on *Chester*, *Ellesmere Port*, the *Weaver Valley* and *Rural area*. The Rural Regeneration area, which encompasses 65% of the borough, will be the focus of a study to identify a way forward which maximises economic and environmental potential and creates connected and sustainable communities. There will be a programme of consultation events taking place during September and October 2010 to feed into the Strategy.

Cheshire West and Chester Council Capital Investment Programme

A consultation programme on the Councils Capital Investment Programme was launched in July 2010. This identifies the major schemes requiring capital investment over the next 10 years - the consultation will run throughout the autumn of 2010. This provides an opportunity to have discussions with partners about coordinating investment to achieve our shared objectives at a lower cost.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 28th October 2010 (2 – 4pm)
Venue to be confirmed

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