



**TO: FINANCE COUNCIL**

**FROM: THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

**DATE: 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2008**

**PORTFOLIOS AFFECTED: ALL**

**WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

**TITLE OF BRIEFING PAPER: PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT FRAMEWORK 2008/09**

**1. PURPOSE**

To appraise Finance Council of update changes made to the performance agreement framework by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council through their delegated authority since Annual Policy Council.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Finance Council notes the further work undertaken on the LAA since Policy Council as per the appendices; and
- 2.2 That Finance Council, as in previous years, approves delegated authority to the Leader and Chief Executive to approve final text of the Performance Agreement for publication following completion of the current LAA negotiations.

**3. BACKGROUND**

When Policy Council approved the framework for the Performance Agreement 2008/09 it was advised that the Local Area Agreement (LAA), currently under development, would in fact become the prime performance plan. However, it was also advised that a corporate performance plan (the Performance Agreement) would still be needed in 2008/09 in order to meet the standards on which the Council would be judged in the forthcoming corporate assessment by the Audit Commission.

At the time of the Policy Council it was not possible to give an indication of the measures and targets that would be set against the Strategic Objectives as these would be derived from the negotiation of the LAA. Accordingly, Policy Council, as in previous years, delegated authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to make necessary update changes as the negotiations progressed. This report presents the changes that have been able to be made so far.

It was reported that a new Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) would be incorporated into the performance agreement for the first time and Policy Council approved the framework for this with the detailed strategy to be approved by Finance Council. The strategy is therefore presented for approval as part of the budget process.

#### 4. KEY ISSUES

As signalled in the White Paper Strong and Prosperous Communities the next version of Local Area Agreements (LAA) will become the prime performance plan. These will be made up of up to 35 targets negotiated from the national set of indicators, 16 statutory education and early years measures and any local measures that the LSP will wish to include. The intention is that the targets agreed within LAAs should more reflect local priorities derived from a needs analysis and described in a 'Story of Place'. Negotiations are now well advanced and the attached framework incorporates the measures that are likely to be in the agreed LAA for which the Council will be the lead agency. Targets however are still to be discussed.

The LAA is not due to be finally agreed and signed off until June. It is intended therefore to prepare to publish the performance agreement at the end of June following the signing of the LAA. This timetable will allow for the completion and inclusion of the 'Best Value' performance indicators year end figures in the report. The proposed outline for the Performance Agreement 2008/09 is attached as appendix A.

Appendix B contains the detail of the revised Framework. In order to maintain a level of consistency between the LAA and the Performance Agreement the wording of one of the originally proposed strategic objectives has been amended. "Tackling worklessness, developing skills, delivering regeneration" now reads as "Improving the economy – delivering regeneration to tackle poverty, skills and worklessness".

Appendix C contains the detail of the measures currently being negotiated on for the LAA for which the Council will be the lead agency. There are two types of measures included – designated and non-designated. The designated ones are those that will have targets agreed with Government Office and on which the authority will be subsequently monitored and held to account for. The non-designated ones are ones that reflect local priorities beyond the designated targets and are for local purposes. As the timetable for sign-off of the LAA is not until June 2008 the Performance Agreement will require further updating as details of the possible targets becomes available. As in previous years, these necessary changes in detail will be through the Delegated Authority of the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader.

Appendix D shows to linkages to existing plans and strategies from which measures and targets will be derived for the 'organisational delivery' priorities. These measure and targets will be finalised as work on individual departmental business plans progresses.



The new Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to be incorporated into the performance agreement, the framework for which approved at Policy Council, was to cover:

- a. The preferred level of council tax increases
- b. The extent to which portfolio pressures will be supported, in principle, by cash limit increases (subject to resource availability)
- c. The extent to which savings will be required in order to meet council tax aspirations
- d. High priority service areas for investment
- e. Low priority service areas
- f. The extent to which the council can afford to increase unsupported borrowing to support its capital strategy (which will underpin prudential indicators)

Under the terms of a new Compact which is being developed between the Local Strategic Partnership and the third sector within Blackburn with Darwen, the principle of 3 year funding arrangements with third sector organisations, usually under Service Level Agreements, is being supported in appropriate cases. This principle has been incorporated into the MTFS. The detailed strategy for the MTFS will be agreed as part of the budget decision.

## **5. POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING CONSULTATION PROCESS)**

The recommendations will ensure that the Council operates under and deliver upon the priority Strategic framework in 2008/09.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

This report will influence the budget for 2008/09 which will be set, within overall resources available, to reflect the Council's priorities as set out in this Strategic Framework for the Performance Agreement.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS:**

None

## **8. OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

None.

**Councillor Colin Rigby**  
**Leader of the Council**

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Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2008

Background papers: None



## **APPENDIX A**

### **BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT 2008-2009**

Proposed content.

#### **Message from the Leader of the Council** (Incorporating a summary of achievements)

#### **Section 1 – Our vision and objectives**

- Vision statement
- Council's five strategic objectives
- Local strategic partnership priorities
- Area action plans
- Story of place (summary)

#### **Section 2 – Our performance management framework**

- Introduction – what's in our performance agreement
- The performance agreement and the budget process
- Monitoring the performance agreement

#### **Section 3 – Looking forward – delivering our strategic objectives in 2008/09**

- Measures
- Targets
- Key actions

#### **Section 4 – Turning our plans into action**

- Budget 2008/09
- Medium term financial strategy
- Workforce development

#### **Section 5 – Looking back – a review of our performance in 2007/08**

#### **Appendix A – Our best value performance indicators 2007/08**



## APPENDIX B

Council Objectives and Corporate Priorities Design (2008-09) – draft March 2008 (Finance Council)

### Shaping a Better Blackburn with Darwen for Today's and Future Generations

Vision

#### 'Outcomes/performance' priorities

Improving public health and well-being  
– 'Living Better, Living Longer'

Improving your neighbourhood  
– community engagement, community cohesion, environment, liveability/public realm, enforcement, community safety

Improving the economy – delivering regeneration to tackle poverty, skills and worklessness

#### 'Organisational delivery' priorities

Achieving first class services: influencing, enabling and commissioning

Deliver a 'fit for purpose' organisation

Priorities

Measures to be developed as targets are negotiated for the LAA

Measures to be developed from MTFs, CPA UoR, O.D. Strategy, Pay & Reward Strategy, Corporate assessment prep, MAF outcomes, Risk Register, IDEA Peer Review action plan

Targets





## Outcomes Priorities Measures (2008-09) – draft March 2008 (Finance Council)

## Shaping a Better Blackburn with Darwen for Today's and Future Generations

## Improving public health and well-being

**Designated**

- 142: No. vulnerable people supported to maintain independent living
- 187: Tackling fuel poverty

**Non-designated**

- 8 Adult participation in sport
- 57 Children's and young people's participation in high-quality PE and sport
- 112: Under 18 conception rate??
- 59 Initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral
- 113 Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 20 year olds??
- 124 People with a long-term condition supported to be independent & in control of their condition
- 125: Achieving independence for older people through rehabilitation/intermediate care
- 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6
- Take up of the care network
- 131: delayed transfers of care
- CO2 reduction from Local Authority operations and those of it's partners
- 188: Adapting to climate change



## Shaping a Better Blackburn with Darwen for Today's and Future Generations

### Improving your neighbourhood

#### Designated

- 7: Environment for a thriving third sector
- 196: Improved street and environmental cleanliness (fly-tipping)

#### Non-designated

- 1 % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area
- 4: % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality
- 17: Perceptions of anti-social behaviour
- 32 repeat incidents of domestic violence
- 35 Building resilience to violent extremism
- 40: Drug users in effective treatment
- 47 People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents
- 19: Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders
- 110: Young people's participation in positive activities
- The percentage of Care Leavers who are living in supported accommodation which meets BWD Supported Accommodation Standards
- Increase the number and overall size of small grants issued to third sector
- 192 Household waste recycling
- 195: Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly-posting)





# Shaping a Better Blackburn with Darwen for Today's and Future Generations

## Improving the economy

### Designated

- 117: 16-18 year olds NEET
- 152: Working age people on out of work benefits or 153: Working age people claiming out of work benefits in worst performing n'hoods
- 155: Number of affordable homes
- 166: Average earnings of employees in the area
- 165: Working age population qualified to at least L4 or higher
- 172: VAT registered businesses showing growth
- 16 statutory DCFS targets

### Non-designated

- 116: Children in poverty; 152: Working age people on out of work benefits
- 146: Adults with learning disabilities in employment
- 151: Overall employment; Number of jobs created and/or safeguarded
- 154: Net additional homes provided or 159: Supply of ready to develop housing sites
- 171: VAT registration rate,
- Private sector investment
- Number of new businesses established including Social Enterprise sub-set
- Average earnings of residents in the borough
- 167 Congestion – average journey time per mile during the morning peak
- New East Blackburn NEET; No. of businesses assisted to adopt innovation and technology
- 79: Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19
- Improve performance of Pakistani heritage boys entitled to free school meals achieving 5+ GCSEs A\*-C incl. English & Maths
- Improve performance of white boys entitled to free school meals achieving 5+ GCSEs A\*-C incl. English and Maths
- The gap between the percentage of Children Looked After attaining 5 A\* to C at GCSE or equivalent and overall performance at this level in Blackburn with Darwen



## Organisational delivery priorities (2008-09) – draft March 2008 (Finance Council)

## Shaping a Better Blackburn with Darwen for Today's and Future Generations

## Achieving first class services

## Deliver a 'fit for purpose' organisation

**Existing plans and strategies from which measures and targets will be derived for the 'organisational delivery' priorities.**

- Medium term financial strategy
- Corporate performance assessment 'use of resources' elements:
  - Financial reporting
  - Financial management
  - Financial standing
  - Internal control
  - Value for money
- Organisational development strategy
- Corporate assessment preparation
- Management accountability framework outcomes
- Risk register actions
- IDEA Peer Review action plan

