



**Report of the Leader of the Council
To Policy Council
On 7th December 2006**

SUBJECT:
Performance Agreement Framework 2007/08

Purpose

Annual Policy Council approves the Strategic Framework upon which the Performance Agreement is developed, which lays out the priorities of the Council for the year ahead.

Recommendations:

- (i) That Policy Council approves the updated framework for the Performance Agreement 2007/08.
- (ii) That as in previous years, Policy Council approves required updated changes, as detailed within this report, to be undertaken through delegated authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council.
- (iii) That Policy Council notes the Performance against the Performance Agreement 2005/06.
- (iv) That Policy Council notes current Performance against the performance Agreement 2006/07.

Background:

The Policy Council in 2005 approved revisions to the Strategic Objectives of the Council that reflected the current local government environment, particularly in relation to Children Services. Within the Performance Agreement 2006/07 a move from delivering the Council's priorities through Projects based upon themes to delivering them based on Outcomes that demonstrates implementation against our Strategic Objectives was approved. This is the model that is now being supported by the Government within the recent Local Government White Paper and will be the basis for developing the post 2008 Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) framework.

The 2006 Policy Council is required to approve the proposed framework for 2006/07. Unlike last year there are no major revisions – the Strategic Objectives remain unchanged, however other elements are updated to reflect the Council's current environment.

Policy Council also reviews performance against previously set priorities and a report on the delivery of the 2005/06 Performance Agreement and current progress against the 2006/07 Performance Agreement is also included.

Key Issues:

Appendix A - contains the detail of the updated Framework.

Strategic Objectives: -

No changes proposed, these were revised last year and agreed as long term.

Outcomes: -

We are proposing minor changes (highlighted in red). Within 'Create Sustainable Communities and Neighbourhoods' to refine wording to demonstrate quality of life as reflected within the neighbourhoods and Community Cohesion as it relates to Blackburn and Darwen. The emphasis for this Objective is now upon improving the capacity of the communities. The Community Leadership outcome is moved to Highest Quality Services and expanded upon in relation to driving Partnerships for delivery. Both of these moves are in line with proposals within the recently published Local Government White Paper.

Measures: -

There are changes proposed due to the incorporation of the Local Area Agreement (LAA). Last year the LAA was still in development and not all of the Measures that are the responsibility of the Council for delivery were included in the Performance Agreement 2006/07. This has been rectified for 2007/08 to demonstrate our commitment to delivery of the LAA (highlighted in red). The LAA is currently undergoing an annual refresh during which all current LAA targets will be scrutinised by the LSP and Government Office for the North West (GONW). We submit our proposals in mid-December and then negotiations will be undertaken until March. All of these approved changes will be subsequently updated within the Performance Agreement Framework.

Those in black are the LAA targets that were included in 2006/07.

Those in Blue are those that were within the Performance Agreement last year and are proposed to roll forward but are non-LAA, these are priorities for the Council.

Within the Highest Quality Services Measures none of these are LAA and all Measures reflect Council priorities. The measure which is red is an IIP measure that has been included to replace the staff satisfaction survey (a biannual survey not due 2007/08).

Measures require quantification of targets for 2007/08. We are awaiting 2006/07 delivery to set the level appropriate and also with regard to the LAA targets alignment with the targets agreed with the GONW.

Possible required updated changes.

It may be necessary to undertake amendments to the framework in order that it is aligned to further detail that is published following the White Paper and decisions on LEGI and Building Schools for the Future prior to publication of the Performance Agreement. These will ensure that in 2007/08 the Council is working towards on an appropriately updated Strategic Framework. As in previous years, these necessary changes in detail will be through the Delegated Authority of the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader.

The Policy Council Report also includes feedback on delivery of the Performance Agreement 2005/6 and a current position of delivery of the Performance Agreement 2006/07.

Appendix B - is the 2005/06 Corporate Projects delivery summary.

Appendix C - is the 2005/06 BVPI Appendix from the 2006/07 Performance Agreement

Appendix D - summarises performance on delivery of the 2006/07 Performance Agreement from Quarter 1 and 2 monitoring.

Policy and Corporate Implications (including consultation process):

The recommendations will ensure that the Council operates under and deliver upon the priority Strategic framework in 2007/08.

Financial implications:

This report will influence the budget for 2007/08 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.

Legal implications/Powers:

None

Other resource implications:

None.

Councillor Kate Hollern
Leader of the Council

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