



REPORT OF:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
TO:	POLICY COUNCIL
ON:	3 RD DECEMBER 2009

SUBJECT: PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT FRAMEWORK 2010-11

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To report the Performance Agreement Framework for 2010 – 11 to Policy Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations to Policy Council are:

- That Policy Council reaffirms the existing strategic priorities for 2010/11 and the continued use of the Performance Agreement.
- 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.

3) Introduction

In 2008 Policy Council revised the Strategic Objectives for the Council and agreed on the following:

- '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*

The "outcome/performance" priorities were identified to reflect the Council's commitment and responsibilities in delivering the 2008-2011 Local Area Agreement, as such the majority of these measures have three year targets established against them.

The "organisational delivery" priorities represent key areas where the Council needs to drive improvement within the organisation, in order to ensure that it continues to deliver efficient and effective outcomes for local people.

The 2009-2010 priorities are outlined within the Performance Agreement 2009-2010, copies of which are available within the party group rooms, or online via the following link http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/upload/pdf/Performance_Agreement_Web1.pdf.

4) Outcome/performance priorities

The outcome / performance priorities, taken from the LAA, are subject to an annual review and refresh with Central Government. The first annual review in 2009 saw a large number of changes, due to many of the national indicators being new and requiring baseline information to be gathered in 2008.

The majority of the targets negotiated during the first review are now finalised with Central Government and cannot be changed. However due to the unknown impacts of the recession, targets for a number of LAA indicators relating to the economy and housing have not yet been finalised and are to be reviewed again in December/January.

The indicators that will be subject to formal review with Government are:

- NI151 Overall employment rate
- NI153 Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods
- NI154 Net additional homes provided
- NI155 Number of affordable homes delivered
- NI165 Working age population qualified to at least level 4 or higher
- NI166 Median earnings of employees in the area

Other than the potential changes outlined above, it is not anticipated that there will be any other significant amendments to the outcome priorities prior to March 2011. The current Vision 2030 development process will identify themes around which priorities for future local area agreements can be built from 2011 onwards, and the outcome of this process will be reported through to Policy Council in December 2010.

5) Organisational delivery priorities

The aim of the organisational delivery priorities is to ensure that Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council strives to achieve continuous improvements in service delivery. As such, the majority of 2009-2010 organisational delivery priorities were identified in order to capture the recommendations from the 2009 Corporate Assessment, and ensure that improvements were implemented and key issues addressed.

2009 has seen the implementation of a new assessment framework for councils and local strategic partnerships, known as the Comprehensive Area Assessment. The focus of the framework is two-fold, partly to look at the improvements delivered across the area, in the form of an Area Assessment, and also to judge the Council's effectiveness and ability to achieve outcomes, in the form of an Organisational Assessment. The key inspectorates have been liaising with the Council around the Area Assessment and Organisational Assessment since May 2009 and results of these assessments will be published on 10th December.

It is likely that the Organisational Assessment will identify areas where the Council can make further improvements to the delivery of its services. Therefore it is recommended that organisational delivery priorities for 2010-11 be identified once formal feedback on the Organisational Assessment has been received in December.

6) Council Policy Framework

The Council's 'Policy Framework', as set out in its Constitution, consists of the key strategies, policies and plans that support the delivery of the strategic objectives agreed by the Full Council, and which the Executive Board is charged with delivering. The Policy Framework establishes the context for decision-making across the Council, and should therefore be both balanced and comprehensive; broadly comprising:

- Strategies, policies and plans that remain a statutory or mandatory requirement; and
- Major strategies, policies and plans considered key to effective and efficient corporate governance

It is proposed that the review of Organisational Delivery priorities, referenced in section 3 above, provides a timely opportunity to review and refresh the Council's Policy Framework. Such a refresh would ensure that those strategies, policies and plans considered key to the Council's improvement journey are formally collated, quality-assured and brought to Executive Board's attention.

It is therefore recommended that a review of the Policy Framework takes place in concert with the review of Organisational Delivery priorities, and that an update report be provided to a future Council Forum to this effect.

**COUNCILLOR MIKE LEE
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL.**