



## SPECIAL POLICY AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

27 February 2006

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Report of the Chief Executive

### **ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COUNTY DURHAM LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

#### **purpose of the report**

1. To submit for consideration, a draft Local Area Agreement (LAA) for County Durham, and to seek views on Wear Valley Council's engagement with the proposed agreement.

#### **background**

2. Durham County Council is the lead authority for the negotiation of an LAA for the County of Durham.
3. They have been engaged with District Councils and other public sector agencies in developing a draft LAA and negotiating its content and targets with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) through Government Office North East GONE.
4. A copy of the draft agreement (that also contains the background information regarding the development of the LAA) is attached as an annex to this report.
5. The final draft document has to be with the ODPM by 28 February 2006. The County Council, as the 'Accountable Body' needs to have agreement from the partners who have been involved in developing the proposal that they will engage with the LAA when it comes into effect in April 2006.
6. It is important to note that the development of a LAA for the County will be an iterative process. Over the year ahead partners will have the opportunity to carry out further work, discuss issues in more detail and refresh this document. Indeed some partnerships across the country view the first three years as the timescale for getting the LAA right in the first instance.
7. Therefore the views of colleagues on the content of the draft LAA and whether or not Wear Valley Council should engage with the agreement once ratified are sought.

#### **RECOMMENDED**

that consideration be given to the draft proposal and Wear Valley Council's position with regard to it.

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