

Report to: **Executive**
Date: **8 April 2008**
Report of: **Executive Member for Improvement**
Subject: **New National Indicator Set**
Ward: **All**

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To consider the Council's approach to the implementation of the Government's proposed new single set of National Indicators from 1st April 2008.

Consultation

- 2.1 Heads of Service responsible for collating and monitoring the data have been consulted, and discussions have taken place with the LSP Manager on a way forward to consider streamlining future arrangements for collecting data between the Council and the LSP.

Background

- 3.1 Government has reduced the total number of PIs for local government from 1200 to 198, plus a further 16 related to education. These indicators are known as the **National Indicator Set**, and will be the only indicators for which Government will be able to set targets for local government. The indicators are all prefixed NI, replacing the term BVPI.
- 3.2 Top tier and unitary Councils with their partners have to choose up to 35 NIs for inclusion in the Local Area Agreement. These should relate to issues which are the most pressing for that area. This process is almost complete in County Durham ready for the sign-off of the new LAA in May 2008. However all 198 indicators must be measured. Of these 198 indicators, 95 of these are existing measures, 39 are new indicators for which baseline data is available, but 64 are completely new.
- 3.3 There is a further set of Assessments of Police and Community Safety indicators (APACS indicators) including satisfaction indicators. Some of these are also included in the NI set and are currently subject to consultation.
- 3.4 A new biennial Place Survey, replacing the BV Satisfaction Survey, will capture opinion based data for the new set (20 of the indicators). The first Place Survey is planned for Autumn 2008. The LGR workstream in relation to Policy and Partnerships is currently considering how this can be taken forward collaboratively. The Housing Status survey will continue to be carried out, on a biennial basis, to capture tenants satisfaction with Local Authority Housing Services; this year's survey will be undertaken between June and November 2008.
- 3.5 The Government has indicated the spatial level at which each indicator must be reported- (County, District, Super Output Area, sub regional). The indicators relating to the District level are shown in the appendix. Note that

this is the spatial level at which Government requires reporting and we can make local decisions about any additional reporting we want to do.

- 3.6 It is understood that the NI set doesn't cover every issue that will be important to an area or a partner organisation. It is expected that local PIs will be developed and fully performance managed relating to these areas.
- 3.7 However there is clearly less likelihood that comparison of performance will be possible on local indicators.
- 3.8 In terms of reporting, Government intends in the long term to capture as much data as possible electronically from local authorities' performance management systems or from existing nationwide databases. From April 2008 there will be a single place to view national performance data, known as the Data Interchange Hub; it is envisaged that the majority of the National indicators will be directly reported into the data interchange hub by Government Departments. For the remaining indicators, local authorities will use the data interchange hub as the mechanism for supplying the data for the indicators
- 3.9 Data quality will continue to be audited as part of Use of Resources judgements.

4.0 Impact on the Council of the New National Indicator Set for 2008/2009

- 4.1 The shift from process/output measures, mainly concerned with the Council's own activities, to outcome measures is apparent. There are no longer any "Corporate Health" indicators, demonstrating the shift away from the organisation to the benefit/outcome to residents and communities. The new indicators reflect the place in which people live, and the quality of life of residents.
- 4.2 Many of these outcome measures have been performance managed through the LSP in the past but not reported into the Council as a complete set (such measures have been reported to Scrutiny through the work of specific teams; for example, business setup and skills related indicators have been reported by EDBS and the community safety figures by the Neighbourhood Initiatives team).
- 4.3 We therefore face a choice around how we manage performance in the future, and this needs to be made in the context of LGR. Some factors to consider:
 - the new Unitary Council will have to have a changed emphasis from output measures, BVPI style, to outcome measures, NI set/Local Area Agreement/LSP style. These will be the focus of CAA and we need to embed them in our future processes during 2008/9 as part of LGR workstreams
 - We will be required to report those NIs which are reportable at District level through the County Durham Partnership and, if included, LAA processes, from April 2008
 - The East Durham LSP manages performance against many of these outcome measures but the range of measures has changed, so the LSP will also need to adapt its approach

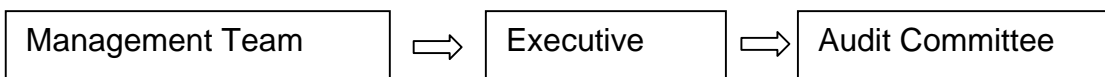
- It would seem logical to integrate the data collection of the same indicators into the Council and LSP so the same collection process is used. It is proposed that the existing reporting arrangements continue during the transitional year.
- BVPIs will cease to exist in March and there will be no comparator data. Our Council has found BVPIs a useful tool in driving up performance over the past three years, and people have embraced them and understand them. Whilst some of the measures remain the same, many areas of our work (particularly the more process oriented parts) will not be covered by the new set and we need to decide what local indicators to adopt, or whether service teams want to keep some former BVPIs as management indicators
- This is a challenging task when taken alongside the other commitments the Council has due to LGR, and the short lived nature of the arrangements we will need to put in place

4.4 The duty to publish a Best Value Performance Plan was removed by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act; however we will need to consider what alternative method we will use each year, to report our performance against the new National Indicators and against our Corporate Plan to our employees, key stakeholders and to our residents.

5.0 Existing Arrangements

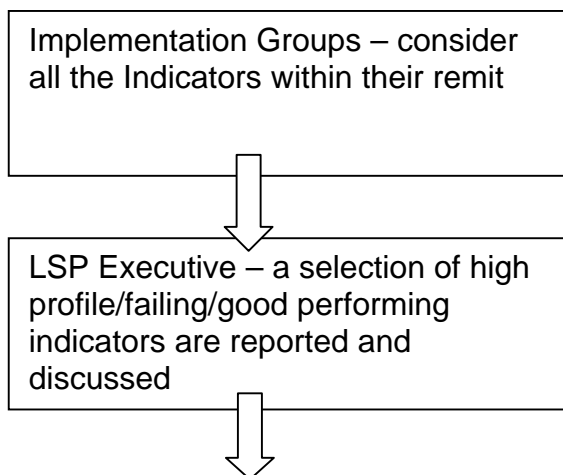
5.1 In terms of the Council’s current arrangements for reporting data, the data is collected quarterly, collated into report and table, highlighting areas for concern, describing improvements in areas identified for specific focus, and showing current quartile position for those PI’s aiming for Top Quartile position by year end.

The Council’s reporting mechanism for BVPI’s and Local PI’s:

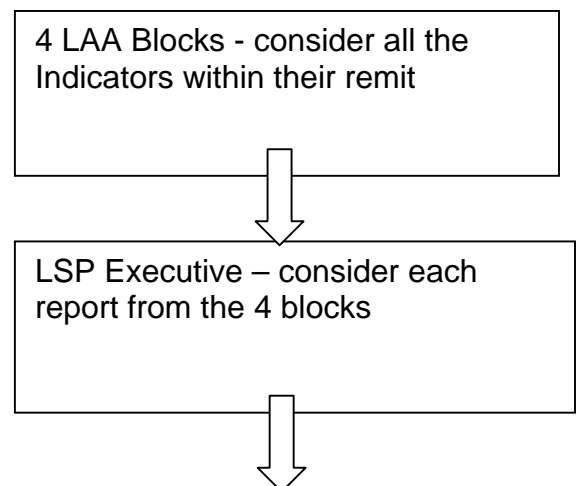


East Durham SP Reporting:

Floor Targets (incl BVPI’s)



LAA indicators



Full LSP - a selection of high profile/failing/good performing indicators are reported and discussed

Full LSP – consider each report from the 4 blocks

6.0 Proposed changes for the reporting of the new National Indicators

6.1 Guidance published by the CLG in relation to the new National Indicator set sets out which organisation will collect and report on each indicator. The new national indicator set replaces BVPIs and widens the data collection agencies to cover organisations outside of the Council. The CLG is also looking to streamline the reporting mechanisms to reduce the public sector reporting burden, by implementing a system, which adopts the COUNT principle (collect once, use numerous times). As described above, organisations will do this through a central data portal, the Data Interchange Hub.

6.2 Consideration of which indicators to include for reporting to the Council from 1st April has focussed on the following criteria

- ease of transition to the new data set;
- ensuring any gaps in relation to areas of importance are filled with local indicators;
- and concentrating on data quality for those indicators which the Council is responsible for.

Although there is a significantly reduced number of indicators for the Council to report from 1st April, a number of these indicators are brand new and require new systems of data collection and measurement to be set up. As current data collection is carried out by different Officers to meet the needs of performance reporting of the Council, LSP and the Indicators around the LAA outcomes, it is essential that we use this resource in the most effective way to enable development of these mechanisms.

6.3 In relation to the indicators which reflect the levels of crime within an area, future responsibility for reporting of that data will rest with the CDRP, however, as we consider that the Council can continue to play an important role, as part of the Community Safety Partnership, in influencing some of the issues around crime within an area, (eg licensing laws) it is proposed that the Council will continue to reporting them. These indicators are shown below:

- NI 15 Serious violent crime rate
- NI 16 Serious acquisitive crime rate
- NI 20 Assault with injury crime rate
- NI 30 Reoffending rate: Prolific Priority Offenders
- NI 32 Repeat incidents of domestic violence

6.4 If we consider the indicators, to be reported at a District level, the reporting requirement on the Council reduces from 95 to 51 (including the 20 Place Survey questions which replace the Best Value Satisfaction Survey indicators).

7.0 “Filling the gaps” – local priorities

7.1 Having taken account of the National indicators, consideration needs to be made of any gaps in the set, which focus on either how the Council is performing as an organisation or which are considered as being of particular importance to the residents of Easington, as identified within our Corporate Plan. In relation to the Council’s performance, consideration has been made of the indicators included in our current “Corporate Basket”. Out of the indicators included within our existing “basket”, 7 of these will continue to be measured as national indicators. In addition to these, it is proposed that we continue to report on and monitor the following “ex” BVPI’s from the existing basket which no longer appear in the new NI set:

- Percentage of Council Tax collected (BVPI 9)
- The average working days lost due to sickness absence
- Average time taken to re-let Council owned homes.

A table showing these indicators is shown in Appendix 1

7.2 It is also proposed that the BVPI in relation to DDA compliance and our buildings open to the public is kept in the set to ensure completion of the work in this area.

7.3 In relation to the Corporate Plan, it is proposed that we include the following key indicators for the Council’s focus, over the next year

- Overall Crime rate per 1000 population
- Deliberate secondary fires

7.4 In addition to these, it is felt that the following new indicator, which measures the numbers of deliberate and secondary fires and is reportable by the Fire and Rescue Authority should also be included in the set:

- NI 33 arson incidents

7.5 Consideration of the indicators included within the Durham Local Area Agreement has also been made with the following seen as ones to be included within the Council’s new reporting set:

- NI 111 First time entrants to the Youth Justice system aged 10 to 17
- NI 117 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)
- NI 123 16 plus current smoking rate
- NI 151 Overall employment rate
- NI 152 Working age people on out of work benefits
- NI 171 VAT registration rate
- NI 173 People falling out of work and onto incapacity benefits

Proposals

- 8.0 It is proposed therefore, that the data around the set of Indicators listed in Appendix 2 is collected and reported on a quarterly basis. This data set consists of:
- Indicators for which the Council has responsibility for reporting
 - A selection of County Durham LAA Indicators
 - A number of appropriate CDRP Indicators
 - Corporate Plan priorities
 - Additional “local” indicators, important to the Council
- 8.1 This would give a set of 65 indicators to be collated and reported on a quarterly basis.
- 8.2 It is further proposed that this information will be presented to the Council in accordance with the existing arrangements. Work as part of the Partnerships and policy workstream will determine any future developments in relation to the Unitary Performance Management framework and arrangements for reporting during the transitional period. Any changes affecting the Council will be reported through as the work progresses and options are proposed.

Implications

Financial Implications

This report has no direct financial implications; however performance is a factor in making financial decisions.

Legal Implications

The Council and LSP has a duty to report on the new National Indicator set from April 2008

Policy Implications

Performance is a key component of the Audit Commission’s CPA/proposed CAA framework

Local Government Review

Consideration of the implementation of the new National Indicator Set has included reference to the Policy and Partnerships Workstream; the implications of the Council’s own performance management arrangements during the transitional year, and the alignment of reporting and collation of data returns leading up to the establishment of the new Council.

Risk Implications

A risk assessment has been carried out.

Communications

Discussions with Heads of Service and Officers responsible for collecting and reporting this information are currently taking place to enable mechanisms for delivery of the data to come into effect on 1st April 2008

Corporate Implications

Corporate Plan and Priorities

Performance against the key National Indicators in relation to the Corporate Plan will be taken into account.

Service Plans

Performance targets are embedded in specific teams' Service Plans. Improving service performance is a driver of teams' priorities in any given year.

7.3 Performance Management and Scrutiny

This report presents the proposed revised arrangements for reporting performance to Working Executive, Audit Committee and Scrutiny.

7.4 Sustainability

There are no sustainability implications.

7.5 Expenditure related to 'well-being' powers

There are no direct well being implications.

Human Resource Implications

There are no HR implications.

Information Technology

Discussions on the implications of future reporting of data through the Data Interchange Hub will take place with the Head of Information Services.

Equality and Diversity

There are no direct Equality and Diversity implications.

7.9 Crime and Disorder

There are no direct crime and disorder implications.

Human Rights

There are no human rights implications.

Social Inclusion

There are no direct social inclusion implications.

Procurement

There are no specific procurement issues.

Recommendations

Members are asked to consider the new National Data set and agree to the proposal for future reporting.

Background Papers

Guidance- new National Indicator set

Local Area Agreement for County Durham January 2008

LSP performance arrangements