



Nottinghamshire Partnership Executive – 2 March 2010

LAA Refresh - 2010

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Executive on the progress with refreshing a number of targets for the final year of the LAA, and to agree the revised targets that have been negotiated.

Background

2. On 3 April 2009 we agreed a refresh of our 2008 to 2011 Local Area Agreement. However, 5 indicators would be subject to a further refresh for the final year of the LAA. This delay was made to recognise the impact of the economic downturn on some targets.
3. In addition to the “economic indicators” NI 112 - Under 18 Conception rate has been revisited as there has been national concern over this target.
4. Therefore the indicators subject to this further refresh were:-

Indicator No	Descriptor
NI 112	Under 18 conception rate
NI 146	Adults with learning difficulties in employment
NI 151	Overall employment rate (working age)
NI 152	Working age people on out of work benefits
NI 154	Net additional homes provided
NI 171	New business registration rate

5. Without doubt achieving outcomes against most of these indicators has been affected by the current economic climate. Officers leading on negotiations on behalf of the partnership have worked with colleagues at Government Office to agree pragmatic and meaningful targets for what is in effect the final year of this LAA.

NI 112 – Under 18 Conception rate

6. In addition to the indicators above there have been problems on a national basis with NI 112 – Under 18 Conception Rate. A number of local areas have refused to sign off a year 3 target for this indicator, believing that there is little point in signing an unrealistic and unachievable target.
7. It has now been agreed nationally that we can take this indicator out of reward. This would be beneficial to the partnership as reward calculations for LAA2 will be based on an average achievement of all our targets – we are not going to achieve the 50% reduction from the 1998 baseline. This has been agreed on the firm understanding that we continue to prioritise this agenda and do all we can to improve delivery and make progress against the national target.

NI 146 - Adults with learning difficulties in employment

8. Due to issues with agreeing baseline data this indicator has been problematic for most areas choosing it as an LAA target – Nottinghamshire is in this position. CLG have advised Government Offices that localities should still work on agreeing a meaningful local target but these will not be included in the calculations for reward.

NI 151 - Overall employment rate (working age)

9. The Nottinghamshire employment rate has remained relatively buoyant during a difficult time for the country as a whole. Negotiations have taken into account the traditional volatility of our local labour market and realism in terms of “lag” between the impact of the recession and the overall employment rate. The final year target for NI 151 that has been agreed by the Economic Development and Enterprise Partnership and approved by GOEM is 72.5%.

NI 152 - Working age people on out of work benefits

10. The sharp rise in Job Seekers Allowance clients has impacted on the overall number of people on working age benefits and the measures to mitigate this like the Future Jobs Fund have yet to make an impact. This target is focussed on Ashfield, Bassetlaw and Mansfield Districts and the final year targets agreed are:-
- Ashfield 16%
 - Bassetlaw 13.9%
 - Mansfield 17.3%

NI 154 - Net additional homes provided

11. Refreshing this target has been extremely difficult and negotiations are ongoing, it is likely that we will agree a revised target that is between 70% - 80% of the original target. A further update will be provided at the meeting on 2 March 2010.

NI171 - New business registration rate

12. Our original strategy with this target was to agree what is known as a convergence target – in effect we were attempting to get closer to the rate of new business starts in the East Midlands. Analysis of latest performance data shows a slight divergence from the regional rates. Given this information and concern that this trend may continue has led to the EDEP choosing to negotiate an absolute target for the final year of the LAA. We have agreed that our target for 2010/11 is - 47.2 new businesses per 10,000 of the population. This is the same rate as baseline year of 2007.

Summary of refresh

Indicator No	Descriptor	Notes
NI 112	Under 18 conception rate	Retain as a priority and remove from reward
NI 146	Adults with learning difficulties in employment	Retain as a priority and remove from reward
NI 151	Overall employment rate (working age)	72.5%
NI 152	Working age people on out of work benefits	Ashfield 16% Bassetlaw 13.9% Mansfield 17.3%
NI 154	Net additional homes provided	Continue negotiations
NI 171	New business registration rate	47.2 new businesses per 10,000

Recommendations

13. The Executive considers the content of this report and:-
- i. Agrees the refreshed targets for NI 152, NI 153, & NI 171
 - ii. Retains NI 112 and NI 146 as partnership priorities, and removes them from the reward process – for the reasons detailed above.
 - iii. Authorizes the Partnership Manager to:
 - a. agree with lead officers and GOEM the refresh of NI 154.
 - b. obtain “sign-off” of the refreshed LAA by the LSP Chair

Paul Roberts
Nottinghamshire Partnership Manager