



To: Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Report by: Leader of Council – Cllr. Sian Reid
Relevant scrutiny committee: Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Wards affected: All Wards

LAA Performance Report 2009/10 - ECONOMIC PROSPERITY PARTNERSHIP (Greater Cambridge Partnership)

Not a Key Decision

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The City Council is a key partner in Cambridgeshire Together. This partnership had overall responsibility for negotiating the Local Area Agreement (LAA) for Cambridgeshire and is overseeing its delivery.
- 1.2 Cambridgeshire Together has delegated responsibility for delivery of targets within the LAA to 6 thematic strategic partnerships. The Leader sits on Cambridgeshire Together and an Executive Councillor from the City Council sits on each of the thematic strategic partnerships.
- 1.3 It was agreed as part of the Council's 'Principles of Partnership Working' that they should present an annual report on performance against their partnership's LAA targets to the relevant City Council Scrutiny Committee. This paper relates to the LAA targets delegated to the Greater Cambridge Partnership under the theme of Economic Prosperity. The Leader represents the City Council on this partnership.

2. Recommendations

The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Consider the 2009/10 year-end performance against the LAA indicators that have been assigned to the Greater Cambridge Partnership.
- 2.2 Advise the Leader of any performance issues that she should report back to the GCP.

3. Background

- 3.1 An approach to our involvement in, and reporting on, county-wide thematic strategic partnerships was agreed by the Leader at Strategy and Resources scrutiny committee on 19 January 2009. Executive Councillors, nominated by the Council, now sit on the Cambridgeshire Together Board alongside other key public service stakeholders in the county and are involved in each of its six thematic strategic partnerships.
- 3.2 It was agreed that they should present an annual report on performance against their partnership's LAA targets to the relevant City Council Scrutiny Committee. This paper relates to the LAA targets 'owned' by the Greater Cambridge Partnership under the theme of Economic Prosperity. The Leader represents the City Council on this partnership.

4. Introduction to Greater Cambridge Partnership

- 4.1 The Greater Cambridge Partnership Board (GCP) provides a vision to help realise the economic potential of the greater Cambridge. It is also leading on the economic prosperity theme in the LAA and working with partners to achieve the economic prosperity targets.
- 4.2 The GCP has set up a Senior Economic Prosperity Officer Group, which has task groups covering, regulation, culture, economic business development and skills reporting to it. Living Sport, the County Sports Partnership for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, which is responsible for promoting and encouraging sports and physical activity at all levels across all age groups, reports to this group. The Cambridgeshire Together Board has received regular updates from GCP on the impact of the economic downturn on Cambridgeshire's communities.
- 4.3 A recent duty to produce an Economic Assessment for the county has been placed on Cambridgeshire County Council. The Assessment will act as a shared economic evidence base for the county and district councils. On 23rd September 2010 government announced that it "did not intend to monitor or assess assessments" and clarified that local authorities are free to determine the breadth and scope of their own assessments so that they reflect local priorities.
- 4.4 The County Council is working closely with district councils and the GCP to produce the assessment and will incorporate alongside

statistical data, information from business and third sector stakeholders. This will be finalised in December 2010 and will inform work to establish a Local Enterprise Partnership.

4.5 GCP oversees the performance of the following LAA targets:

- NI 163 – Working age population qualified to at least level 2 or higher
- NI 171 New business registration
- NI 182 – Satisfaction of businesses with local authority regulation services
- NI 8 – adult participation in sport

5.0 Performance against LAA targets

5.1 The following LAA indicators, shown in Table 1 (below), in this area were thought to be under-performing against their targets at the end of the LAA's second year.

Table 1: Underperforming Indicators at end of year 2009/10

NI	Description	Baseline	Current Performance	Target 2009/10
NI 8	Economic Prosperity Adult participation in sport and active recreation	22.2%	22.3%	24.7%
NI 171	Economic Prosperity New Business Registrations	100.8%	89%	Refreshed Target 98%

5.2 Living Sport is leading work across the county to ***improve adult participation in sport*** (NI8) and is coordinating responses through its network to improve performance. The Council is continuing to pursue actions, set out in the recently agreed Sports Strategy 2009/2012, to improve this form of participation locally but believes the indicator provides a fairly limited measure because it fails to take into account people who are active in other ways. This is particularly relevant in the City, where levels of walking and cycling are high, and many people seek to incorporate a physically active lifestyle within their commuting arrangements.

5.3 The Council is lobbying for a more relevant and comprehensive assessment of physical activity and sport that will incorporate our approach to active communities and better reflect present national direction contained in NICE Guidance and "Be Active Be Healthy". Cambridge LSP received a presentation on this matter and supported this approach.

- 5.4 The decline in business start-ups figures, shown in ***new business registrations***, published for 2008, underlines that the local economy was weakening before the country went into official recession in 2009. Discussions with a number of key business leaders in the area indicate that the squeeze on availability of finance for companies began at the end of 2007 and continued throughout 2008 and 2009. Funding for business expansion remains a key issue for companies in Greater Cambridge.
- 5.5 Other reports on this agenda gives details of proposals to radically change partnership structures across the county to take account of the new government's agenda, the end of the Local Area Agreement, pressures on funding and proposals to form Local Enterprise partnerships. It is in this context that work to improve the environment for business growth will be taken forward.
- 5.6 Further information about the work and performance of the GCP can be found at their website: <http://www.gcp.uk.net/>

6. Implications

Financial

- 7.2 Failure to meet all the LAA targets at the end of the 3 year period (2008/09 – 2010/11) would have reduced the amount of reward grant awarded to Cambridgeshire Together. However, it now seems unlikely that this money will be made available.

Staff

- 7.3 A considerable number of City Council staff from all departments are working with partners to deliver the LAA.

Equal Opportunities

- 7.4 Equality and Inclusion is a key strand of the LAA

Community Safety

- 7.5 Safer and Stronger Communities is a key strand of the LAA

8. Background papers

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Cambridgeshire Area Self Assessment – May 2010
Local Area Agreement, Year End Performance Report - May 2010
Proposals for a New Model of Partnership Working – May 2010
Cambridge LSP, Performance Management Report – January 2010

9. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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