



REPORT TO: GREENER STRATEGIC GROUP - 26 MARCH 2009

SUBJECT: SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT 2009-10

**BY: MORAY COUNCIL; CORPORATE POLICY UNIT
MANAGER**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The Greener Strategic Group is asked to note that current status of the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 2009-10 and to become involved in the development of the local action delivery plans.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 **The Greener Strategic Group is asked to note that current status of the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 2009-10 and to become involved in the development of the local action delivery plans.**

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The SOA has been finalised by the Community Planning Board at their meeting on 5 February 2009. The suggested amendments were incorporated into the final draft, which were approved by the Full Council meeting on 25 February. The document was submitted to the Scottish Government by 27 February to meet their deadline.

3.2 The SOA is now in a negotiation period with the Scottish Government. Once they have completed their review of all 32 local authority's submissions, they will provide formal written feedback to the Council by the end of March.

3.3 In the meantime, all statutory partners will be asked to approve the SOA with their respective Boards. This is to ensure that the partners sign up to the whole SOA and not just parts of it. Contained within the guidance on the Governance and Accountability for SOAs from the Scottish Government, it states that "each partner is signed up to deliver all of the services and infrastructure necessary to achieve outcomes".

- 3.4 The Community Planning Board will then be asked to agree the final SOA at their next meeting on 7 May 2009. The official sign off by the partners is by 5 June 2009.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 At the Full Council meeting, a number of areas requiring work in the interim were highlighted. These areas included reviewing the performance reporting against the SOA and the development of local delivery actions plans for each of the 24 outcomes. The development of the local delivery action plans will assist all partners to consider resource implications against the outcomes.
- 4.2 The work on the development of the local action delivery plans need to begin. Given the timing of the strategic groups, this is the second theme group to meet following the approval of the final draft SOA and therefore the opportunity is being taken to involve the theme group at the meeting. Two of the theme groups, Safer & Stronger and Wealthier & Fairer have already met this cycle and will therefore be contacted through the Lead Officer. The Healthier theme group will be meeting shortly but the Lead Officer will be notified before the meeting.
- 4.3 Also contained within the guidance on the Governance and Accountability for SOAs from the Scottish Government states that once Partnerships have agreed on the outcomes to be achieved "it would normally be delegated to Chief Officers to come up with appropriate recommendations about implementation arrangements. This will be likely to include each partner looking at how they individually can contribute to outcomes and prioritising these contributions through their corporate, service and financial planning process."
- 4.4 It may be that each partner needs to think in terms of 'lead' and 'value added' roles with respect to outcomes. A 'lead' role is where a partner has a substantial primary role in delivering the outcome; a 'value added' role is where that is not the case but value can be added by innovative thinking, targeted partnering, etc. Each partner will need to do work on this themselves and for accountability show that a 'golden thread' runs from the SOA through their planning, resourcing and performance management processes. This individual work needs to be shared and a matrix of contribution and performance commitments created for reporting individual and collective progress. This work will be captured in the local delivery action plans
- 4.5 Theme Group Lead Officers will be asked to lead on the development of the local delivery actions plans in conjunction with partners and other theme groups.

- 4.6 In order to progress this, it is proposed that for each outcome a lead agency and supporting agencies are nominated; and the expectations are from others to support the delivery against the outcomes are identified.
- 4.7 Partners and theme group lead officers will be asked to identify the actions they are delivering against the outcomes in reasonable detail and what other agencies can do to contribute to the delivery against the action.
- 4.8 Given this, it is important that all members of the theme group consider the outcomes and identify what contributions they can make to assist in the development of the local delivery plans. This contribution should not be limited to the "obvious" outcome against a particular theme but looking through all outcomes to ensure that supporting roles and actions are identified as well. A copy of the final draft SOA is attached as a reference. **(APPENDIX)**
- 4.9 Having said that some work on this has been captured through the consultation during the development of the SOA where some actions were offered but not included in the official SOA document. These actions are contained in "Related Actions and Strategies" which is appended to the SOA submission. This also is attached to this report for reference. **(APPENDIX)**
- 4.10 A copy of the full SOA document is available on the Community Planning website.
- 4.11 It is hoped that initial work can be undertaken with partners during March and April. In mid-April the Improvement Service will be assisting some of the partners to consider the initial local delivery plan information to agree a framework for overall delivery of the SOA.

5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Community Plan / Theme Plans / Partner Plans

The Single Outcome Agreement will set out the strategic priorities for all public agencies in Moray and is effectively the community plan. It will drive the corporate development plan and heavily influence service improvement plans.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Single Outcome Agreement is a public statement of the joint commitment and mutual accountability of the Scottish Government and community planning partners to deliver agreed outcomes. It is a new way of conducting business which was established by the signing of the Concordat by the Scottish Government and Scottish local authorities in late 2007.

(c) Resources (Financial, Staffing and Risks)

There are no immediate financial or resource implications though it is expected that all partner agencies will be willing to review structures, processes and deployment of resources to optimise delivery of outcomes.

(d) Consultations

The Community Planning Partners have been consulting with the community and voluntary sector on the priorities which have been drawn from the evidence base. Exercises have been carried out with the voluntary sector, the equalities forum, the patient participation forum and the general public through the Citizens Panel. In addition HIE have carried out a consultation with the business sector to inform the priorities for economic development in the area. All of these surveys have been carried out with the assistance of an external consultant.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 The Greener Strategic Group is asked to note that current status of the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 2009-10 and to become involved in the development of the local action delivery plans.

The development of the local delivery outcome plans needs to begin now by identifying lead and supporting agencies, current actions and what others could contribute. This work will be assisted by the theme lead officers with support from the Corporate Policy Unit within the Council's Chief Executives' Office.

Author of Report: Bridget Mustard, Corporate Policy Unit Manager

Background Papers: Scottish Government guidance

Ref: