

REPORT TO: Halton Strategic Partnership Board
DATE: 15 March 2006
SUBJECT: Performance Management Review

1.0 PURPOSE

Each year the Government Office carries out a performance review of all Local Strategic Partnerships. This takes the form of a self-assessment by the Partnership and a formal review process by Government officials. Government Office has now released details of the methodology and timetable for the coming year. The purpose of this report is to share this with partners.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Halton Strategic Partnership Board notes the report.

3.0 BACKGROUND

The Government view is that the primary purpose of the annual performance management review process is to provide LSPs with evidence of how they are delivering better outcomes for local people and help identify what might be done to improve performance. In particular it is about:

- Achieving delivery of national floor targets and local targets in the Community Strategy and Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy;
- Measuring progress in narrowing the gap between the most deprived neighbourhoods/communities and the rest of the borough;
- Identifying how NRF is being used to support this delivery and progress and also identifying its impact on mainstreaming;
- Ensuring the LSP is adding value and delivering real improvements for the community;
- Ensuring that community participation, diversity and race equality are integral to the delivery outcomes.

Using the NRU's traffic light system Halton's overall performance last year was given an overall Amber Green assessment. This indicated that a clear evidence trail existed showing that activities and interventions across most of the LSP have been successful in delivery and there are clear actions to address the rest.

The issued guidance is not materially different from last year. We are particularly asked to assess progress against targets and in improving conditions in deprived neighbourhoods, as well as effectiveness as a working partnership. This should lead to an Improvement Plan of the key actions necessary to improve performance over the coming months. We are expected to provide Government office with three key things:

- An assessment of progress against floor targets;
- An Improvement Plan

- A Partnership self-assessment

This material needs to be submitted by the end of May and the formal review meeting will then take place before the end of July.

The performance management process is a way of helping the Government Office regionally, and the NRU nationally, to identify where support might be best focused. The Improvement Plan is therefore felt to be of critical importance. Members will note that our Improvement Plan is at Item 6 of the Agenda for approval by the Board. Members should also note that our Annual Targets Review document is being prepared now and will be subject to discussion at our Performance Review day on 5 April.

The self assessment is the one piece of work that needs some consideration. It is suggested that the LSP Team will do an initial draft in early April. This will be circulated to the Chairs for refinement and addition of evidence. A more advanced draft can then be shared with the Board at its meeting in May.