

EXPLANATORY NOTE ON HANDLING ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENABLING MEASURES FOR LAAS (ROUND 3 LAAS AND ROUND 1 AND 2 REFRESHES)

Following consultation with the LGA, Government Offices and Central Government Departments, new processes have been put in place for handling enabling measures for round 3 LAAs and refreshes. Local authorities were notified of this by Regional Directors in July. Since then, Departments and GOs have been finalising the details of the arrangements with DCLG and these were signed-off by the LAA Programme Board on 13th September. This note provides clarification of the timescale, including an extended deadline for refresh requests and advice on the approach to requests received past the deadlines, and should be read in conjunction with the LAA guidance which can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/14/LocalAreaAgreementsGuidanceforRoundThreeandRefreshofRoundsOneandTwo_id1165014.pdf

During the development of LAAs, local areas may identify a particular barrier to achieving a desired LAA Outcome. Where this barrier is a result of Government policy or practice the local area may put forward an idea aimed at overcoming the barrier. The local area will develop this idea, in discussion with the Government Office, before putting forward a business case that will be submitted to the responsible Department for consideration. A list of Enabling Measures which Government Departments have agreed together with those they have been unable to agree to will be available in the near future at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1163512>

Agreement to LAA Enabling Measure requests is not only important in helping maximise delivery of better outcomes on the ground. Where requests cannot be agreed, Departments have been asked to summarise the reason for denial to help facilitate future negotiations and considerations.

1. Development of the request

Up until the end of September local areas will identify barriers to delivery of their LAA outcomes and possible ways to overcome them. They will discuss these with their Government Office as part of their wider LAA negotiations. The GO will help filter out any unnecessary requests (e.g. asking for things that are already allowed) and work with the area to develop the request into a sound business case. Local areas will pass their final business cases to the GO by 29th September.

Requests without business cases will not be accepted. Each business case will need to set out the following information. Areas should use the template located within Annex E of the LAA guidance:

- a. The LAA block and outcomes to which the request relates
- b. An exact description of the Enabling Measure request
- c. The constraint that the request seeks to overcome
- d. What difference, if the request is granted, would it make to the achievement of the outcome?
- e. How will this reduce bureaucracy/increase efficiency?

- f. What other options may be available to achieve this?

2. Considering and responding to the request

From November to December the relevant government department will consider requests, taking into account the views of GO Regional Directors on both individual cases and the network perspective, and respond back to local areas, via GOs. Local areas should then receive notification by mid January.

3. Refreshes of round 1 and 2 LAAs

It is recognised that revisions to the process of refreshing LAAs negotiated (in rounds 1 and 2) have meant that some local areas may not be clear on any new or improved outcomes, and on enabling measures to help them achieve these outcomes, until the end of November at the earliest. In these circumstances only, an additional decision-making round will take place. The process will mirror that of round 3 requests, but local authorities may submit a request to their GO by 20th December in order to receive a Departmental response by 26th February. This should allow agreed enabling measures to be taken into account for LAA refreshes before the end of the LAA year.

4. Additional requests

Both round 3 and refresh requests arriving after the relevant deadline will not generally be accepted but GOs and Departments will consider exceptional cases, based on the reason for late submission and significance of the request. Local areas should discuss requests that cannot meet the deadline with their local GO as soon as possible so it can be decided whether these will be accepted and a deadline date agreed to allow them to be considered by Departments in time to give a response as part of this decision-making round.

5. Publishing information on requests

DCLG will publish information on requests which have been agreed and denied on its website for the benefit of local areas. This will also be updated for any late refresh decisions. Departments will need to provide a short summary, to DCLG, of all requests they have agreed and not agreed to for publication online. DCLG will also ask Departments, periodically, to review the statements published online to ensure they remain up to date.

DCLG

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