

To: Chief Executives & LAA Contact
Officers Round 1 and 2 LAs

Brian Stevenson
Deputy Director: Local Government Practice
(North West)

CC: GONW Lead Negotiators
Round 1 and 2 LAA areas

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Dear colleague

REFRESH OF ROUND 1 AND 2 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS

The LAA Guidance published earlier this year explained that Government Offices would be confirming arrangements for the annual refresh of existing Local Area Agreements. I am writing to provide you with this information and to invite you to discuss the issues further with David Davies.

There are a number of funding streams – including Neighbourhood Renewal funding - which are being automatically pooled in LAAs from April 2007 and the refresh of your agreement will need to take account of these new funding streams. You will also need to include the additional mandatory outcomes and indicators which are set out in the LAA Guidance for Round 3 areas. You may also wish to propose changes to existing outcomes, indicators and targets and consider whether to propose pooling or alignment of any additional funding streams. New outcomes and indicators need cover only the remaining period of your 3 year agreement. You may wish to plan for additional years but these will not be considered by Ministers.

In terms of process, you need not provide a revised agreement. All that is necessary is for you to make clear the changes you are proposing to your agreement - the attached template should be used to capture these.

If you have identified the need for further Enabling Measures during the implementation of your LAA, we would be pleased to receive business cases along with the refresh template. Your GONW team will be happy to discuss requests and assist with the development of business cases where appropriate.

All refresh proposals need to be sent to your GONW Lead Negotiator by December 20th in order to ensure negotiations are concluded in time for the first monthly payments to be made in April 2007. Refreshed LAAs require Ministerial sign-off and we will be sending recommendations to the Department for Communities and Local Government on the 19th January. The Minister of State for Local Government, Phil

Woolas, will consult with cabinet colleagues and then write to you confirming his agreement to the proposed changes.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with David Davies should you wish to discuss these issues further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Stevenson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and a long, sweeping underline.

Brian Stevenson