



Local Public Service Agreement



**LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND
THE GOVERNMENT**

Introduction

1. Cheshire County Council and the Government have made this Local Public Service Agreement (Local PSA) with the intention of further improving the services to local people that Cheshire County Council provides. This agreement covers the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2008.
2. The agreement records the present intentions of the Council and the Government. It is entered into by both in good faith, but it is expressly recognised that neither can fetter the future discretion of the Council or of Ministers and Parliament. The agreement is therefore not intended to create legal relations. Subject to that, the following points are agreed.

The Intentions of Cheshire County Council

3. Cheshire County Council will use its best endeavours to achieve more demanding performance targets than those it would be expected to achieve in the absence of this Local Public Service Agreement. These enhanced targets are specified in Schedule 1 to this agreement. The term "Cheshire" in this agreement refers to the administrative area of Cheshire County Council.

The Intentions of the Government

4. The intentions of the Government set out in this agreement are subject to the outcome of any statutory consultations and any necessary approval of the Treasury and Parliament.
5. The Government will implement the changes to statutory and administrative requirements set out in Schedule 2 to this agreement, subject to confirmation of the legal and operational feasibility of the changes described and to Parliamentary approval of any necessary legislation. The Government will also undertake the discussions with the Council described in Schedule 2.
6. It is recognised by Cheshire County Council that, on further investigation, it may be necessary to modify the detail of the changes set out in Schedule 2 in ways that seek so far as possible, to give substantially the same extent of benefit to the Council. It is recognised by the Government that, if a change set out in Schedule 2 proves infeasible, it will use its best endeavours to provide an alternative that corresponds as closely as possible and has, so far as possible, substantially the same effect.

7. The Government will pay Cheshire County Council a grant of £1,428,690 in 2005/2006. The conditions attached to this “pump-priming” grant are set out in Schedule 3.
8. The Government will pay a performance reward grant to Cheshire County Council, as set out in Schedule 4 to this agreement, if it achieves all the enhanced targets (“performance target with Local PSA”) specified in Schedule 1. Schedule 4 also sets out the grant it intends to pay if the Council secures a substantial improvement in performance that falls short of the target. The Schedule also stipulates the intended timing of payments of the grant. Cheshire County Council undertakes to provide audited information confirming the extent of improvement in their performance relative to the Local PSA performance targets set out in Schedule 1, as a precondition for the determination and payment of the performance reward grant.

Date of Agreement:

For Cheshire County Council

For Her Majesty’s Government

.....
Councillor Paul Findlow
 On behalf of Cheshire County
 Council

.....
The Right Hon Phil Woolas MP
 Minister of State, Office of the Deputy
 Prime Minister

.....
Jeremy Taylor
 Chief Executive

.....
The Right Hon Des Browne MP
 Chief Secretary to Her Majesty’s
 Treasury

The above ministers sign on behalf of their colleagues listed below:

The Right Hon John Prescott MP
 Deputy Prime Minister

The Right Hon Gordon Brown MP
 Chancellor of the Exchequer

The Right Hon Patricia Hewitt MP
 Secretary of State for Health

The Right Hon Ruth Kelly MP
 Secretary of State for Education and
 Skills

The Right Hon Charles Clarke MP
 Home Secretary

The Right Hon Margaret Beckett MP
 Secretary of State for Environment,
 Food and Rural Affairs

The Right Hon David Blunkett MP
 Secretary of State for Work and
 Pensions

The Right Hon Alistair Darling MP
 Secretary of State for Transport

It is recognised that the target outcomes anticipated as a result of this agreement are dependant upon the joint commitment of all partners.

The signatories below endorse and confirm the commitment of the organisations they represent to the successful delivery of the target outcomes.

On behalf of the Cheshire Partnership

Signature	Signature
Title	Title

On behalf of Chester City Council

Signature	Signature
Title	Title

On behalf of Congleton Borough Council

Signature	Signature
Title	Title

On behalf of Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council

Signature	Signature
Title	Title

On behalf of Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council

Signature	Signature
Title	Title

On behalf of Macclesfield Borough Council

Signature	Signature
Title	Title

On behalf of Vale Royal Borough Council

Signature

Signature

Title

Title

On behalf of Cheshire Police Authority

Signature

Signature

Title

Title

On behalf of Cheshire Fire Authority

Signature

Signature

Title

Title

SCHEDULE 1: PERFORMANCE TARGETS

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Improved Life Opportunities

Target 1 – Tackling anti-social behaviour

A reduction in the proportion of people who are concerned about anti-social behaviour.

Indicators by which performance will be measured

1. The percentage of people who are either "fairly worried" or "very worried" about anti-social behaviour in Crewe and Nantwich, as measured by the Cheshire Police Authority Safer Communities Public Perceptions Survey
2. The percentage of people who are either "fairly worried" or "very worried" about anti-social behaviour in Cheshire (excluding Crewe and Nantwich), as measured by the Cheshire Police Authority Safer Communities Public Perceptions Survey

Note: The survey targets for indicator 1 as expressed already incorporate a confidence interval of 5%. The survey targets for indicator 2 as expressed already incorporate a confidence interval of 2%.

Baseline performance - (year ending 31 March 2006)

1. To be established
2. To be established

Performance at the end of the period of the Local PSA - (year ending 31 March 2008)

Performance expected without the Local PSA

1. A reduction of 3% from baseline performance
2. A reduction of 3% from baseline performance

Performance target with the Local PSA

1. A reduction of 10% from baseline performance
2. A reduction of 6.5% from baseline performance

Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA

1. A reduction of 7% points in the percentage of people worried about anti-social behaviour in Crewe and Nantwich
2. A reduction of 3.5% points in the percentage of people worried about anti-social behaviour in Cheshire (excluding Crewe and Nantwich)

Interim Target - (year ending 31 March 2007)

1. A reduction of 4.6% points in the percentage of people worried about anti-social behaviour in Crewe and Nantwich
2. None

Attributed Performance Reward Grant

In accordance with the provisions of Schedule 4 of this agreement, it is agreed that the potential Performance Reward Grant attributed to this target is £1,423,933.

Performance Reward Grant will be allocated as follows:

1. Indicator 1: 35%
2. Indicator 2: 65%

Improved Life Opportunities

Target 2 - Building Positive Parenting

Reducing Youth Re-Offending in Cheshire

Indicators by which performance will be measured

1. The proportion of young people whose parents have taken up a parenting intervention who re-offend within 12 months, as measured by Cheshire County Council figures based on YOT database information
2. The proportion of young people who re-offend within 24 months, as measured by YOT cohort data

Baseline performance - (performance of the 1 October to 31 December YOT cohort for 2003, calendar year ending 31 December 2004 for indicator 1; performance of the 1 October to 31 December YOT cohort for 2002, two years ending 31 December 2004 for indicator 2)

1. To be established
2. To be established

Performance at the end of the period of the Local PSA - (performance of the 2006 calendar year Cheshire County Council cohort year ending 31 December 2007 for indicator 1; performance of the 1 October to 31 December YOT cohort for 2005, two years ending 31 December 2007 for indicator 2)

Performance expected without the Local PSA

1. A 3% improvement from current performance
2. A 5% improvement from current performance

Performance target with the Local PSA

1. A 8% improvement from current performance
2. A 7% improvement from current performance

Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA

1. A 5% points improvement from current performance
2. A 2% points improvement from current performance

Interim Target

1. None
2. None

Attributed Performance Reward Grant

In accordance with the provisions of Schedule 4 of this agreement, it is agreed that the potential Performance Reward Grant attributed to this target is £1,423,933.

Performance Reward Grant will be allocated as follows:

1. Indicator 1: 65%
2. Indicator 2: 35%

Definitions

"Young" means aged between 10 and 17 on the date of the offence.

"Offender" means a person receiving a substantive outcome.

"Substantive outcome" means a police reprimand, final warning without intervention, final warning and offending programme, referral order, reparation order, supervision order or action plan.

"Re-offend" means commit another offence which receives a substantive outcome.

"12 months" means the 12 months following the day on which they receive a substantive outcome

"24 months" means the 24 months following the day on which they receive a substantive outcome

"Cheshire County Council cohort" means the County Council Parenting Initiative cohort

"YOT cohort" means the YOT cohort data exercise for the Youth Justice Board as defined by substantive outcome above.

Means of measurement

It is agreed that the performance will be based on a complete count of young offenders who receive a substantive outcome between 1 October and 31 December in the year specified.

The numerator is the number of young offenders in the year specified who re-offend within the specified period (12 months for indicator 1, 24 months for indicator 2). The denominator is the number of young offenders in the year specified.

Improved Life Opportunities

Target 3 – Employment opportunities for people with disabilities

To increase the number of people on an incapacity benefit getting a job.

Indicators by which performance will be measured

1. The number of day care clients who have been claiming an incapacity benefit* helped by Cheshire County Council Social Service Department to start a period of supported employment, work experience, training or voluntary work that lasts for 4 hours a week or more for 13 consecutive weeks, as measured by Cheshire County Council data
2. The number of disabled people** who have been claiming an incapacity benefit* and are helped by Cheshire County Council to gain paid employment of 16 hours a week or more for at least 13 consecutive weeks, as measured by Cheshire County Council data

* Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Income Support on the basis of incapacity, and National Insurance Credits only on the basis of incapacity.

** with a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

Baseline Performance - (Calendar year ending 31 December 2004)

1. 8
2. 0

Performance at the end of the period of the Local PSA (three year cumulative for 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 year ending 31 March 2008)

Performance expected without the Local PSA

1. 18
2. 0

Performance target with the Local PSA

1. 56
2. 70

Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA

1. 38
2. 70

Interim Target - (two year cumulative for 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 year ending 31 March 2007)

1. None
2. 40

Attributed Performance Reward Grant

Notwithstanding the provisions of Schedule 4 of this agreement, it is agreed that the potential Performance Reward Grant attributed to this target is £811,000.

The Performance Reward Grant will be allocated as follows:

Indicator 1: 18%
Indicator 2: 82%

Conditions

1. To count towards this target Cheshire County Council will need to demonstrate that each client counted has been given help and support that is significantly more than Jobcentre Plus provision. This will need to be demonstrated through agreements reached between the Council and Jobcentre Plus, by client records, feedback or other sources such as independent evaluation.
2. For the purposes of Indicators 1 and 2 people starting work experience, training, voluntary work or a job during the period of the agreement may be claimed as sustained for up to 13 weeks after the Agreement expires.
3. Whilst it is possible for the same individual to be counted as success for Performance Indicators 1 and 2, it is not permissible to count an individual as a success more than once for the same indicator.

Improved Life Opportunities

Target 4 - Delivering Services to Children and Young People

Indicators by which performance will be measured

1. Percentage of children achieving point 6 (good) levels of attainment in PSED at the end of the Foundation Stage in Cheshire apart from those children living in areas within the top 30% Index Multiple Deprivation (IMD)* and areas covered by the local Sure Start programmes*
2. Percentage of children achieving point 6 (good) levels of attainment in CLL at the end of the Foundation Stage in Cheshire apart from those children living in areas within the top 30% IMD* and areas covered by the local Sure Start programmes*
3. Reduction in the gap between the percentage of children achieving point 6 (good) levels in PSED at the end of the Foundation Stage living in areas within the top 30% IMD and areas covered by the local Sure Start programmes*, and those children living in other areas of Cheshire.
4. Reduction in the gap between the percentage of children achieving point 6 (good) levels in CLL at the end of the Foundation Stage living in areas within the top 30% IMD and areas covered by the local Sure Start programmes*, and those children living in other areas of Cheshire

* Wards in the top 30% of the IMD are:

Chester District: Lache Park; Newton St Michaels; Boughton; Hoole Groves

Macclesfield District: Handforth; Knutsford Over; Macclesfield South; Macclesfield West; Hurdsfield

Vale Royal District: Northwich Witton; Northwich Castle; Frodsham North; Leftwich and Kingsmead; Rudheath and South Witton

Congleton District: Alsager East; Buglawton; Congleton North; Sandbach East

Wards covered by local Sure Start Programmes are:

Blacon (Chester); Crewe; Ellesmere Port; Neston; Winsford

Baseline performance - (academic year ending summer 2004)

1. 88.6%
2. 80.12%
3. 16.3%
4. 21.4%

Performance at the end of the period of the Local PSA - (two year average for the academic years 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 ending academic year ending Summer 2008)

Performance expected without the Local PSA

1. 90.35%
2. 81.87%
3. 16.3%
4. 21.4%

Performance target with the Local PSA

1. 93.85%
2. 85.37%
3. 14.8%
4. 19.75%

Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA

1. 3.5% points increase
2. 3.5% points increase
3. 1.2% point reduction
4. 1.2% point reduction

Interim Target

1. None
2. None
3. None
4. None

Attributed Performance Reward Grant

In accordance with the provisions of Schedule 4 of this agreement, it is agreed that the potential Performance Reward Grant attributed to this target is £1,423,933.

Performance Reward Grant will be allocated as follows:

1. Indicator 1: 32.5%
2. Indicator 2: 32.5%
3. Indicator 3: 17.5%
4. Indicator 4: 17.5%

Safe and Healthy Communities

Target 5 - Improving the quality of life of older people

Number of emergency unscheduled acute hospital bed days occupied by a person aged 75 or more in NHS hospitals in Cheshire

Indicator by which performance will be measured

Number of emergency unscheduled acute hospital bed days (defined in the Department of Health guidance for Local Delivery Plans 2005-2008*) occupied by a person aged 75 or more** in NHS hospitals in Cheshire***

* In year bed-days of Finished Consultant Episodes (FCEs) where the admission method is reported as an emergency (HES field admimenth, codes 21, 22, 23, 24, 28) and where in-year bed days are defined as the difference between the date at the end of the episode and the date at the start of the episode, or 1 April of the data year (whichever is later). Data is on a commissioner basis.

Exclusions

The target excludes emergency bed-days with the following primary diagnosis and external cause codes:

Primary diagnosis codes

A00-B9, relating to infectious and viral diseases

O00-Q99, relating to abortion and complications and abnormalities arising in labour, delivery and the neonatal and perinatal periods

External cause codes

V01-V99, relating to vehicular accidents

** To count in this target, a person aged 75 or more must be registered with a GP in the Cheshire PCT areas (residence in Cheshire is not required); people who are registered with a GP outside the Cheshire PCT areas will not be counted for the purposes of this target (even if resident in Cheshire)

*** Hospitals in the PCT areas for Halton and Warrington are not covered by this target

Baseline Performance - (year ending 31 March 2004)

To be established (provisional figure is 208,800 emergency unscheduled acute hospital bed days)

Performance at the end of the period of the Local PSA - (year ending 31 March 2008)

Performance expected without the Local PSA

13.70% more emergency unscheduled acute hospital bed days than the finalised current performance

Performance target with the Local PSA

9.04% fewer emergency unscheduled acute hospital bed days than the finalised current performance

Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA

An improvement of 22.74% fewer emergency unscheduled acute hospital bed days

Interim Target - (year ending 31 March 2007)

An improvement of 13.70% fewer emergency unscheduled acute hospital bed days

Attributed Performance Reward Grant

Notwithstanding the provisions of Schedule 4 of this agreement, it is agreed that the potential Performance Reward Grant attributed to this target is £2,135,901.

Safe and Healthy Communities

Target 6 – Reducing the fear of crime

Reduction in signal crimes and the fear of crime

Indicators by which performance will be measured

1. The percentage of people who are either "fairly worried" or "very worried" about crime in the wards of Chester City, Blacon (Chester), Bollington, Alsager, Audlem, and Stanney Grange, as measured by the Cheshire Police Authority Safer Communities Public Perceptions Survey
2. The percentage of people who are either "fairly worried" or "very worried" about crime in Cheshire (excluding the wards of Chester City, Blacon (Chester), Bollington, Alsager, Audlem, and Stanney Grange), as measured by the Cheshire Police Authority Safer Communities Public Perceptions Survey
3. Increase in sanction detections* for violent crime** in Cheshire

* A detection in which a person was charged, reported for summons, cautioned or issued with a fixed penalty notice, or the offence was taken into consideration by a court. Street warnings for possession of Cannabis are also counted as sanction detections.

** Assault on a Police Constable, Common assaults (excluding on a PC), Harassment, Other crimes of violence, Robbery of business property, Robbery of personal property, Sexual offences, Violence against the person - serious.

Note: The survey targets for indicator 1 as expressed already incorporate a confidence interval of 2.5%. The survey targets for indicator 2 as expressed already incorporate a confidence interval of 3%.

Baseline performance (year ending 31 March 2006 for indicators 1 and 2; year ending 31 March 2005 for indicator 3)

1. To be established
2. To be established
3. 32%

Performance at the end of the period of the Local PSA (year ending 31 March 2008)

Performance expected without the Local PSA

1. A reduction of 3% from baseline performance
2. A reduction of 3% from baseline performance
3. 41%

Performance target with the Local PSA

1. A reduction of 10% from baseline performance
2. A reduction of 6% from baseline performance
3. 45%

Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA

1. A reduction of 7% points in the percentage of people worried about crime in the wards of Chester City, Blacon (Chester), Bollington, Alsager, Audlem, and Stanney Grange
2. A reduction of 3% points in the percentage of people worried about crime in Cheshire (excluding the wards of Chester City, Blacon (Chester), Bollington, Alsager, Audlem, and Stanney Grange)
3. A 4% points increase in sanction detections for violent crime

Interim Target - (year ending 31 March 2007)

1. A reduction of 4.6% points in the percentage of people worried about crime in the wards of Chester City, Blacon (Chester), Bollington, Alsager, Audlem, and Stanney Grange
2. None
3. A 2.6% points increase in sanction detections for violent crime

Attributed Performance Reward Grant

In accordance with the provisions of Schedule 4 of this agreement, it is agreed that the potential Performance Reward Grant attributed to this target is £1,423,933.

Performance Reward Grant will be allocated as follows:

1. Indicator 1: 21%
2. Indicator 2: 39%
3. Indicator 3: 40%

Safe and Healthy Communities

Target 7 – Increasing safety from domestic abuse

An increase in the physical and emotional safety of those experiencing domestic abuse, particularly women, together with an increase in the accountability of perpetrators by increased multi-agency work, particularly the criminal justice agencies and voluntary specific services for support and advocacy.

Indicators by which performance will be measured

1. Number of domestic violence incidents* in Cheshire reported to police
2. Percentage of recorded domestic violence* that are repeat incidents in the previous twelve months**
3. Percentage of offenders brought to justice (ie convicted) as a proportion of total number of reported incidents ***

*Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults, aged 18 and over, who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality (the definition employed by Cheshire Constabulary).

** This indicator measures the percentage of times any person is a repeat victim, not the percentage of victims.

*** Average of data collected in December of each of the specified three years for the National CPS Domestic Violence Snapshot

Baseline performance - (calendar year ending 31 December 2004 for indicators 1 and 2, three year cumulative for the three years ending 31 December 2004 for indicator 3)

1. 6184 incidents
2. 39%
3. 1.8%

Performance at the end of the period of the Local PSA - (three year cumulatives ending year ending 31 December 2007 for indicators 1, 2, and 3)

Performance expected without the Local PSA

1. 19,305 incidents
2. 38%
3. 2.1%

Performance target with the Local PSA

1. 19,804 incidents
2. 34%
3. 3.3%

Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA

1. An additional 499 incidents reported
2. A reduction of 4% points
3. A 1.2% points increase in convictions for domestic violence

Interim Target - (two year cumulative ending 31 December 2006)

1. An additional 333 incidents reported
2. A reduction of 2.7% points
3. A 0.8% points increase in convictions for domestic violence

Attributed Performance Reward Grant

In accordance with the provisions of Schedule 4 of this agreement, it is agreed that the potential Performance Reward Grant attributed to this target is £1,423,933.

Performance Reward Grant will be allocated as follows:

1. 34% for indicator 1
2. 33% for indicator 2
3. 33% for indicator 3

Note on calculations

Performance in indicator 3 will be measured as an average over the three years 2005, 2006 and 2007, based on the following formula:

$$\frac{A_{2005} + A_{2006} + A_{2007}}{T_{2005} + T_{2006} + T_{2007}}$$

where, for example, A₂₀₀₆ is the number of convictions in the year and T₂₀₀₆ is the total number of incidents.

Safe and Healthy Communities

Target 8 – Reducing death and injuries on Cheshire roads

Reducing the numbers of people killed or seriously injured on Cheshire's roads, excluding motorways.

Indicator by which performance will be measured

Number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) on the roads in Cheshire excluding motorways, as measured by STATS 19.

Baseline performance (excluding motorways)

1994/98 average	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
788	552	522	480	496	484

Performance at the end of the period of the Local PSA - (year ending 31 December 2008)

Performance expected without the Local PSA

453 KSI

Performance target with the Local PSA

432 KSI

Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA

21 fewer people killed or seriously injured.

Interim Target - (year ending 31 December 2007)

445 KSI

Attributed Performance Reward Grant

Notwithstanding the provisions of Schedule 4 of this agreement, it is agreed that the potential Performance Reward Grant attributed to this target is £2,135,901.

Sustainable Communities

Target 9 – Improving street environment

Indicators by which performance will be measured

1. The proportion of land and highways in the Districts of Chester; Crewe and Nantwich; Ellesmere Port and Neston; Macclesfield; and Vale Royal assessed as having significant or heavy deposits of litter and/ or detritus, as measured by data used for BVPI 199
2. The percentage of the category 1, 1a and 2 footway network that is in need of maintenance, as measured by BVPI 187

Current performance (year ending 31 March 2005 for indicator 1, year ending 31 March 2004 for indicator 2)

1. To be established
2. 52%

Performance at the end of the period of the Local PSA (year ending 31 March 2008)

Performance expected without the Local PSA

1. An improvement of 3% points from current performance
2. 47%

Performance target with the Local PSA

1. An improvement of 6% points from current performance
2. 38%

Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA

1. A 3% points improvement
2. A 9% points improvement

Interim Target

1. None
2. None

Attributed Performance Reward Grant

In accordance with the provisions of Schedule 4 of this agreement, it is agreed that the potential Performance Reward Grant attributed to this target is £1,423,933.

Performance Reward Grant will be allocated as follows:

Indicator 1: 50%

Indicator 2: 50%

Special conditions relating to indicator 1:

1. 20% of the Performance Reward Grant for indicator 1 will be lost if, in the year ending 31 March 2008, performance in Chester is above 15%.
2. 20% of the Performance Reward Grant for indicator 1 will be lost if, in the year ending 31 March 2008, performance in Congleton is above 20%.
3. 20% of the Performance Reward Grant for indicator 1 will be lost if, in the year ending 31 March 2008, performance in Crewe and Nantwich is above 10%.
4. 20% of the Performance Reward Grant for indicator 1 will be lost if, in the year ending 31 March 2008, performance in Ellesmere Port and Neston is above 12%.
5. 20% of the Performance Reward Grant for indicator 1 will be lost if, in the year ending 31 March 2008, performance in Macclesfield is above 10%.
6. 20% of the Performance Reward Grant for indicator 1 will be lost if, in the year ending 31 March 2008, performance in Vale Royal is above 18%.

Therefore, if five or six of the above conditions are breached, Cheshire will receive no Performance Reward Grant in relation to indicator 1.

Sustainable Communities

Target 10 - Increasing community environmental well being

To support communities to become more sustainable through decreasing energy consumption, increased levels of renewable energy and greater awareness of energy efficiency and maximising the link between good environmental management and financial savings.

Indicator by which performance will be measured

The reduction in tonnage of Carbon Dioxide emissions by private sector households in Cheshire, as measured by HECA data

Baseline performance (three year average for the three years ending 31 March 2004)

An average reduction of 47,094 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide per year

Performance at the end of the period of the Local PSA (three year average for the three years ending 31 March 2008)

Performance expected without the Local PSA

An average reduction of 47,567 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide per year

Performance target with the Local PSA

An average reduction of 53,669 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide per year

Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA

An increase in the reduction of Carbon Dioxide by 6,102 tonnes on average per year

Interim Target (two year average for the two years ending 31 March 2007)

An increase in the reduction of Carbon Dioxide by 6,102 tonnes on average per year

Attributed Performance Reward Grant

In accordance with the provisions of Schedule 4 of this agreement, it is agreed that the potential Performance Reward Grant attributed to this target is £1,423,933.

Sustainable Communities

Target 11 – Improving Housing Standards in Cheshire

To maximize the use of existing housing stock in Cheshire by improving standards and reducing the number of empty properties.

Indicators by which performance will be measured

1. The number of private sector houses not meeting decency standards (defined in "A decent home: The definition and guidance for implementation", ODPM, February 2004)*, as measured by adding the totals from the Chester City, Crewe and Nantwich, Congleton, Ellesmere Port and Neston, Macclesfield and Vale Royal Housing Stock Condition Surveys
2. The number of private sector vacant dwellings** brought back into use, as measured by data used for BVPI 64***

* The Decent Homes Standard (without the linkage to vulnerable people), i.e. the standard that links to the physical aspects of the property. This includes: -

- Meeting the current minimum statutory standard for housing (Fitness).
- Being in a reasonable state of repair.
- Reasonably modern facilities and services.
- Reasonable degree of thermal comfort.

At the back of the Decent Home Standard guidance, there is a definition of "poor condition", which can be used.

There is however under the HHSRS Category 1 hazards, which the LA has a duty to deal with, so these could be looked at as well, as they may be classed as failing the first and second headings above.

Therefore looking at the areas of work, which we can include, are: -

- The grant/loan-aided works look at bringing a property up to fitness levels.
- Enforcement action.
- Works to empty properties.

** To be counted for the purposes of this indicator, private sector dwellings will have been vacant for a minimum of three months.

*** BVPI 64

The number of private sector vacant dwellings that are returned into occupation or demolished during 2003/04 as a direct result of action by the local authority.

The number of private sector vacant dwellings that are returned into occupation or demolished during 2003/04 as a direct result of action by the local authority. An authority should include any dwelling that it considers was re-occupied or demolished during the year directly as a result of action it undertook or initiated.

For the purpose of this indicator only, ODPM and the Audit Commission have agreed that '**Private Sector**' means **any non-HRA dwellings in the Local Authority area**. This includes both Housing Association stock and other public sector dwellings such as properties owned by government departments, NHS Trusts etc. In two-tier authorities properties owned by the shire authority will also count as private sector for the purpose of this indicator. The National Association of Empty Property Practitioners issued this clarification in their guidance for the 2002/2003 indicator set.

The following is an indicative list of actions that would count towards the indicator. The list is not exhaustive and local authorities may include additional actions if they are satisfied that they genuinely contributed towards the dwelling being returned to use or demolished:

- Grants, loans or other financial assistance either provided or facilitated by the authority;
- Leasing arrangements;
- Advice given to owner which is followed and results in the empty dwelling being returned to use -for example, provision of advice on:
 - The authority's empty homes strategy;
 - options on sale and letting issues;
 - grants, other financial assistance and availability of tax concessions
 - landlord forum or accreditation scheme;
 - repairs, including details on building contractors meeting minimum standards;
- Referral to RSL or other intermediary with relevant expertise;
- Enforcement action, including repair notices, CPO, works in default, enforced sale; and
- Enquiries made to establish ownership of property and follow-up action.

Where a vacant dwelling is converted into several flats or units, the number of flats that are subsequently re-occupied during the year may count towards the indicator.

Where a non-residential vacant property is converted into a dwelling, that dwelling (or the number of flats or units in it) that is subsequently re-occupied during the year may count towards the indicator. Second homes, holiday homes, and vacant dwellings that are normally occupied by students should not be counted in this indicator.

Current performance - (as at 31 December 2004 for indicator 1, cumulative from 1 April 2002 to 31 December 2004 for indicator 2)

1. 7816 private sector properties not meeting decency standards
2. 296 private sector properties brought back into use

Performance at the end of the period of the Local PSA (three year cumulative ending 31 March 2008 for indicators 1 and 2)

Performance expected without the Local PSA

1. 6787 private sector properties not meeting decency standards
2. 433 private sector properties brought back into use

Performance target with the Local PSA

1. 6632 private sector properties not meeting decency standards
2. 476 private sector properties brought back into use

Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA

1. An additional 155 private sector properties to meet decency standards
2. An additional 43 private sector properties brought back into use

Interim Target - (two year cumulative ending 31 March 2007 for indicators 1 and 2)

1. An additional 106 private sector properties to meet decency standards
2. An additional 28 private sector properties brought back into use

Attributed Performance Reward Grant

Notwithstanding the provisions of Schedule 4 of this agreement, it is agreed that the potential Performance Reward Grant attributed to this target is £2,036,866.

Performance Reward Grant will be allocated as follows:

Indicator 1: 67%
Indicator 2: 33%

SCHEDULE 2: FREEDOMS & FLEXIBILITIES

No freedoms and flexibilities have been given in relation to this agreement.

SCHEDULE 3: PUMP PRIMING GRANT IN SUPPORT OF INVEST TO SAVE OR INVEST TO IMPROVE PROJECTS

To assist in achieving the targets set out in this Agreement, the Government will make a pump priming grant of £1,428,690 to Cheshire County Council as a contribution towards expenditure of an “invest to save” or “invest to improve” nature. This grant will be paid no later than the financial year end 2005/2006.

The grant is intended to assist the authority in achieving the targets set out in the agreement. It must be spent, during the period of this Local PSA, or as otherwise agreed with the Government. Conditions protecting the proper use of public funds will apply.

SCHEDULE 4: PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT

The provisions of this Schedule are subject to any additional provisions on the performance reward grant elsewhere in the Agreement.

The total potential grant

The total potential grant is equivalent to 2.5% of the authority's net budget requirement for 2004/2005. It is divided equally among the targets except where specified otherwise. Where a target has sub-targets, the amount for the target is sub-divided equally among the sub-targets unless otherwise specified. The relevant net budget requirement for Cheshire County Council is £608,617,000. Under the terms of guidance relating to LPSAs the relevant figures for Borough and City Councils may be included, subject to those authorities demonstrating full support for, and participation in, the Agreement. This support and participation has been ratified by all seven local authorities in Cheshire.

The county total net budget requirement, including districts, is £683,488,000. Total grant if all the targets were fully achieved would be £17,087,200.

The relevant figures for each District are as follows:

Chester City Council - £14,849,000

Congleton Borough Council - £8,772,000

Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council- £12,919,000

Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council - £9,865,000

Macclesfield Borough Council - £15,675,000

Vale Royal Borough Council - £12,791,000

The reward for achievement on a target

The proportion of the potential grant attributed to a target or sub-target that is payable is the same as the proportion of the 'enhancement in performance with the Local PSA' specified in Schedule 1 that the authority achieves, subject to a maximum proportion of 100% and a minimum of 60%. If the authority achieves less than 60% of that enhancement in performance, nothing is included in the grant in relation to that target or sub-target.

Payment of the grant

Main grant

The grant will be paid in two equal instalments in the financial year following that in which the end date of the Local PSA falls, and the next financial year, subject to the qualification below relating to interim payments on account.

Interim payment on account

Where the Council and the Government have agreed an interim level of performance in relation to a target (or sub-target), as specified in Schedule 1, and the Council and partners achieve it, the Government intends to pay one-fifth of the relevant potential grant in the financial year before the first year in

which the main grant would be due. This is treated as a 'payment on account'. The definitive calculation of the grant will be made as described above. The balance of the grant entitlement will be paid in equal instalments in the two subsequent financial years. If the definitive calculation yields a grant entitlement less than the 'payment on account', the excess will be recovered.

Half of each instalment of the grant will be paid as a capital grant, and half as a revenue grant.