

# Briefing Note No. 02 /08

## Single Outcome Agreement

June 2008



### The Single Outcome Agreement (SOA)

#### The Concordat

The Scottish Government and Scottish Local Authorities have signed up to an agreement to work together. The agreement called 'The Concordat', signed on 15 November 2007, sets the context for a new relationship between the Scottish Government and local government based on mutual respect and partnership. The key components of the Concordat are:

- Reductions in ring-fencing
- Less monitoring and reporting
- Improvements in performance management and self assessment
- Better partnership working

Councils will assist the Scottish Government in achieving its National Outcomes in a local context. In return the Scottish Government have greatly reduced 'ring fenced' funding, allowing councils greater freedom to spend their allocations on local priorities. External audits and inspections will be reduced and councils will instead develop their performance management systems. Councils have agreed to a Council Tax freeze this year (and for following two years subject to budget setting).

#### Second Stage

The second stage of this joint commitment involves a 'Single Outcome Agreement' between individual councils and the Scottish Government. For this first year, North Ayrshire Council took the lead in drawing up the agreement. This first SOA has been completed and will be signed off by the Leader of North Ayrshire Council and the Scottish Government Minister during July 2008. Next year, the SOA will be between the Community Planning Partnership and the Scottish Government. The community planning partners contributed to the drawing up of the initial SOA and agreed a Statement of Intent within the SOA endorsing the process and committing to a full role in the preparation of the next SOA due in April 2009. By then the Council Plan and Community Plan Action Plans will be merged into a single Community Planning Partnership SOA Action Plan.

#### Heart of the Agreement

At the heart of the SOA is social and economic regeneration. The agreement places great emphasis on getting more people into work and training and on educational attainment. It also points the way towards more joint delivery of services with Health. There are also requests of the Scottish Government that need to be addressed if the outcomes are to be achieved. The SOA is, in effect, a high level summary of the Council Plan and is closely aligned with the North Ayrshire Community Plan. It also includes reference to the proposals for the new Fairer North Ayrshire Fund which replaces and draws together 6 previous funding streams to tackle poverty and deprivation. The Fairer North Ayrshire Fund will be integrated within the SOA process.

## What does it look like?

The structure of the document consists of a few pages setting the context followed by appendices. The key appendix is Appendix E which covers 14 of the Scottish Government's 15 National Outcomes and relates them to 34 proposed Local Outcomes for North Ayrshire, with measures and targets. There is a template for each Local Outcome.

## North Ayrshire Local Outcomes

The North Ayrshire Local Outcomes, set out under the relevant National Outcomes, are as follows:

1. We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe
  - a Transport links and services to and from North Ayrshire have improved
  - b Tourist visitor expenditure has increased
  - c North Ayrshire is perceived as an attractive place to do business
2. We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people
  - a More people are in work and training
  - b We have secured sustainable additional economic investment
3. We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation
  - a Opportunities for lifelong learning have increased
4. Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens
  - a Levels of educational attainment and achievement have improved
  - b More young people are leaving school for positive destinations (further education, higher education, employment or training)
5. Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed
  - a Opportunities to support the positive development of vulnerable young children have increased
6. We live longer, healthier lives
  - a Health and wellbeing have improved
  - b Health inequalities have reduced
  - c Access to services relating to substance misuse has improved
  - d More vulnerable people are supported within the community
  - e People are more active more often
7. We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society
  - a Levels of homelessness have reduced
  - b Fewer people are living in poverty
  - c Disadvantage on the basis of race, disability, gender, age, religious belief or sexual orientation is reduced
8. We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk
  - a More children and young people live in a safe and supportive environment
9. We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger
  - a Fear of crime and anti social behaviour has reduced
  - b Levels of crime and anti social behaviour have reduced

- c Road safety has improved
- 10. We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need
  - a The quality of social housing has improved
  - b Availability of affordable housing has improved
  - c The condition of roads, footways and lighting has improved
- 11. We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others
  - a Levels of voluntary action and community involvement have increased
  - b Partnership working between the public, community and voluntary sectors has improved
- 12. We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations
  - a Our environment is protected and enhanced
- 13. We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity  
(No NA Outcomes)
- 14. We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production
  - a Recycling of waste has increased and the amount of waste going to landfill has decreased
  - b The Council's carbon footprint has reduced
- 15. Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs
  - a Public perceptions of Council services have improved
  - b More customer needs are met at the first point of contact
  - c Public services are more efficient and effective
  - d Our workforce is more flexible, skilled and customer focused
  - e The Council is perceived as a good employer

### **Want to know more?**

If you would like further information on this briefing, contact details are below. The final SOA document is available on the Council website from the end of June 2008 :  
[www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

For further information on the Single Outcome Agreement please contact Alastair Osborne, Policy Officer, Chief Executive's, North Ayrshire Council on 01294 324126

**[www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/communityplanning](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/communityplanning)**