

press release

Swindon Sets Out Bold Ambitions In New Local Area Agreement

Regenerating the town centre, raising the educational achievement of all children, improving Swindon's reputation through investing in culture and reducing its carbon footprint are among the priorities set out in Swindon's second Local Area Agreement.

This new document, which will be officially launched on Tuesday, 9 September, outlines key ambitions and targets for the Borough until 2011.

The Local Area Agreement (LAA2) sets out objectives to deliver the short to medium-term priorities of Swindon's new Community Strategy, A Shared Vision for Swindon 2008-2030, which was launched at the beginning of the year following a year of community consultation.

LAA2 is co-ordinated by the Swindon Strategic Partnership (SSP), which brings together all the key players who deliver public services locally. These include Swindon Borough Council, the Police, Primary Care Trust (PCT), town and parish councils and representatives from business, voluntary and community groups.

Tackling obesity and teenage pregnancy rates, helping people feel safe, improving the skills of the workforce and making Swindon one of the best business locations in the UK are amongst the aims of Swindon's LAA2.

Swindon is required under Government legislation to submit this document which builds on the first LAA, signed in June 2006.

A local area agreement is a three-year arrangement between a local area and central government. In addition to setting local priorities, it also contributes to national Government targets.

The document is available online at www.swindonlaa.org.uk for everyone to view.

Councillor Roderick Bluh, Swindon Borough Council Leader and Chairman of the Swindon Strategic Partnership Board, said: "This is an ambitious document, which bears testimony to the high aspirations we have for the Borough and its residents. The objectives require great partnership working. I'm sure the organisations involved will rise to the challenge of realising these goals, which seek to improve the surroundings and quality of life for everyone."

Ends
9th September 2008

