
Meeting: Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 25 October 2011
Subject: Quarter One Performance Report
Report of: Cllr Ken Matthews , Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Strategic planning and Economic Development and Cllr Brian Spurr, Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Services
Summary: The report highlights the Quarter One performance from Sustainable Communities.

Advising Officer: Alan Fleming, Acting Director of Sustainable Communities
Contact Officer: Iain Melville, Performance Improvement Manager
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

1. The quarterly performance report underpins the delivery of the Council's priorities

Financial:

2. No Direct Implications

Legal:

3. No Direct Implications

Risk Management:

4. Areas of ongoing under performance are a risk to both service delivery and the reputation of the Council

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

5. No Direct Implications

Equalities/Human Rights:

6. This report highlights performance in respect of how the Council and its services impact across all communities within Central Bedfordshire, so the specific areas of underperformance can be highlighted for further analysis/drilling down as necessary.

Community Safety:

7. The corporate performance suite includes an indicator on Serious Acquisitive Crime.

Sustainability:

8. No Direct Implications

Procurement:

9. No Direct Implications

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Committee is asked to:-

10. **Note and consider the report.**

Background

11. The Council's framework for performance management supports the delivery of the Council's priorities.
12. The Director's Summary for Quarter 1 is set out below. Appendix A provides the detailed performance data.

Director's Summary

13. Sustainable Communities continues to deliver high performance across a range of indicators. The Economic Growth indicators continue to show the impact of the economic downturn and show that Central Bedfordshire appeared to fair well through and maintain above average performance in comparison to our neighbouring authorities. Success areas from the services include the adoption by Council of the Dunstable Master Plan in May and the Biggleswade Town Centre Master Plan in July 2011. These Master Plans are being used to guide ongoing investment strategies for these areas.
14. Consultation is underway on the first CBC Economic Development Plan, which incorporates the first all age skills strategy. This is due to be presented to Council in December for full adoption. The Timebank Project will be officially launched on the 22 September 2011. This provides support to new and existing businesses and seeks to promote growth and investment in the area. We are the first council in country to trial this approach following a pilot in Manchester.

15. Highways continues to work closely with Amey to maximise the cost effectiveness of the work carried out on our roads network, faced as we are with reduced funding for this work in 2011/12. As a result, whilst there has been a reduction in the length of road being resurfaced, this is being balanced by an increase in the length of road being surface dressed.
16. Planning has seen a dip in performance this quarter. There was a low survey response rate in quarter 1 with only 14 forms received of which ten applicants/agents were satisfied with the service provided. Dissatisfaction relates to a number of issues which have been reviewed and assessed by the Development Management Team and appropriate action taken where possible. On a positive note, Building Control has won four Local Authority Building Control Excellence Awards for the Central Region. These projects have been worked on with local companies and will now go through to the national finals in November.
17. Public Protection, Community Safety, Waste and Leisure continue to show strong performance in each area. We have increased recycling to over 51% in 2010/11 through continued improvement of the recycling service, such as offering reuse and plasterboard recycling at HWRCs and continued promotion of waste minimisation and recycling including targeted work in areas where there has historically been low levels of recycling. The amount of residual waste produced per head of population has also been dramatically reduced and we are top of the 'Race to Zero Waste' league table for the Eastern Region and sixth in the country.
18. Quarter 1 performance in respect of serious acquisitive crime, which includes domestic burglary, robbery and thefts of and from motor vehicles has improved by 16% when compared to the same quarter in 2010/11 with 136 less crimes. Whilst there was a slight increase in thefts from vehicles (up 11%) there were significant reductions in thefts of vehicles (down 25%) and domestic burglaries (down 44%). There were 147 fewer domestic burglaries in quarter 1 2011/12 than there were in 2010/11. This reduction in domestic burglary has been achieved through the successful targeting and subsequent arrest of identified offenders.

Conclusion and Next Steps

19. Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes and considers this report.

Appendices:

Appendix A – (Quarter 1 Performance Indicators)

Background papers and their location: (open to public inspection)

Executive 4 October 2011