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**Meeting:** Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 10 April 2012

**Subject:** Quarter Three 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 Three performance from Sustainable Communities.

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**Advising Officer:** Gary Alderson, Director of Sustainable Communities

**Contact Officer:** Iain Melville, Performance Improvement Manager

**Public/Exempt:** Public

**Wards Affected:** All

**Function of:** Council

<b>CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS</b>
<b>Council Priorities:</b>
1. The quarterly performance report underpins the delivery of the Council's priorities.
<b>Financial:</b>
2. No direct implications.
<b>Legal:</b>
3. No direct implications.
<b>Risk Management:</b>
4. Areas of ongoing under performance are a risk to both service delivery and the reputation of the Council.
<b>Staffing (including Trades Unions):</b>
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.

**Public Health:**

7. No direct implications.

**Community Safety:**

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

**Sustainability:**

9. Included in the indicator set are a broad range of indicators relating to sustainability including those covering employment, affordable housing and waste.

**Procurement:**

10. No direct implications.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to 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 3 is set out below. Appendix A provides the detailed performance data.

**Director's Summary**

13. Central Bedfordshire continues to perform above regional and national averages for economic growth, although this is against a backdrop of real world economic challenges that are affecting the whole country. The service continues to perform well in its response to these challenges. Building on the first CBC Economic Development Plan, agreed by Executive in November, the first Quarterly Economic Monitoring Report was published at the start of February. The Monitoring Report highlights the national picture, what is happening in Central Bedfordshire and progress against the Economic Development Plan.

14. Planning continues to perform well. Notification was received in November that the Council has achieved approximately £1.8m in additional Homes Bonus payments for 2012/13 as a result of housing completions in the current financial year. This was the 20th highest award nationally out of 353 Local Planning Authorities and signifies the extent to which Central Bedfordshire remains a growth area. The high level of completions that have been achieved also reflects the fact that development plans and briefing of sites has been proactive and therefore, unlike some planning authorities without any LDF documents at all, the Council is in a position to promote the allocations that have been made to deliver development in the locations it has chosen and to high standards of quality and supporting infrastructure.
15. With a quarter of the financial year still to go, the Council has exceeded its target of 300 affordable housing completions per year. Overall, the figures compare extremely favourably to the national trend, which has seen a large reduction in affordable housing. Much of the affordable housing has been delivered in partnership with housing associations and developers to provide a range of types and tenures that meet the needs of various communities across Central Bedfordshire. As a result, many Central Bedfordshire families and households who had previously spent a long time on the waiting list for property have now been placed in new homes that meet their needs. Through partnership working, the Council has ensured that all the units have been built to a high quality design standard, so that they are great places to live where a strong community spirit will be felt.
16. The Council continues to deliver value for money on its highways services as reported to the November Executive by the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Due to the £3M of funding being brought forward from the 2012/13 budget, a further 17.092km of resurfacing has been scheduled for Quarter 4. The extra work planned in Quarter 4 has increased the scheduled 2011/12 length from 18km to just over 35km.
17. Quarter 3 has seen significant reductions in domestic burglaries, theft of motor vehicles, and robberies but an increase in theft from motor vehicles. The Community Safety Partnership is working closely with a number of key partners to tackle the increase in theft from motor vehicle. Along with the CSP, the Council's Community Safety, Housing and Child Protection teams are working hard on the Integrated Offender Management programme. This aims to stop the most prolific offenders reoffending by offering them help and support. If this help is not accepted then they are targeted through proactive policing.
18. The provisional Quarter 2 figure for recycling (54.2%) has seen a further improvement compared to the same period last year. This has been achieved 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 51.6% outturn for 2010/11 places the Council seventh out of all unitary councils across the country. In addition, residents produced 50kg less residual waste per person than the UK average. If this waste had been disposed of in residents' black bins and sent to landfill, it would have cost the Council £2.6m in landfill tax.

## **Conclusion and Next Steps**

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

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A – (Quarter 3 Performance Indicators)

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

Executive 27 March 2012