
Meeting: Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 26 July 2012
Subject: Quarter Four Performance Report
Report of: Cllr Nigel Young , 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 Four performance from Sustainable Communities.

Contact Officer: Iain Melville, Acting Head of Service Development
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.

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 4 is set out below. Appendix A provides the detailed performance data.

Director's Summary

13. Across the board, Sustainable Communities continues to deliver high performance across a wide range of indicators. The Economic Growth indicators continue to show the impact of the economic downturn and show that Central Bedfordshire has fared relatively well and maintains above average performance in comparison to our neighbouring and national authorities. The service continues to perform well in its response to these challenges and the first CBC Economic Development Plan was adopted by the Council in November. The service has also completed Master plans or Site Development Briefs in five of Central Bedfordshire's town centres and has secured, invested, or is seeking to invest over £12 million to stimulate private sector growth in delivering these.
14. The number of affordable homes created has exceeded its target of 300 by 140. This compares 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.
15. Four of the projects which Building Control worked on in 2011, with local companies, won Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Excellence Awards for the Central Region. In March 2012, the Building Control team entered five projects, in eight categories, for this year's LABC awards. Three of these projects were award winners and the project for the Restoration of Nissen Huts at Moggerhanger park was the winner in Best Community Building and was also the winner of the Supreme Award being voted the best of all 11 category winners.

16. 2011/12 has seen significant reductions in domestic burglaries, theft of motor vehicles, and robberies but a small increase in theft from motor vehicles. This has resulted in a significant decrease in Serious Acquisitive Crime and whilst this improvement reflects the work of all involved in the Community Safety Partnership, including the Police, Probation, etc, the Council continues to play a significant role. For example in the last twelve months the Environmental Protection Team and Trading Standards have supported the Police in operations targeting metal theft. The Council's CCTV team has instigated 173 arrests some directly relating to Serious Acquisitive Crime, such as robbery, but also covering matters such as criminal damage, assault, drugs misuse, drink driving and possession of offensive weapons. Alongside this work the Council's support for the Integrated Offender Management programme both in financial terms and service support from teams such as the Community Safety Team and Child Protection Team, is showing positive results. The programme which helps offenders reduce their offending behaviour through a package of support has seen those involved in the scheme and at liberty in Central Bedfordshire, reduce their re-offending rate in Quarter 4 2011/12 to 0.96 offences per offender, down from 1.96 in Quarter 4 2010/11.
17. During March, the Financial Investigation Unit in Public Protection has seen the largest payout of Home Office incentivisation monies. In total, CBC received over £115,000 for assisting other public bodies with their criminal confiscation proceedings under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.
18. The amount of residual waste produced per head of population has been dramatically reduced and we are top of the 'Race to Zero Waste' league table for the Eastern Region and sixth in the country.

Conclusion and Next Steps

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

Appendices:

Appendix A – (Quarter 4 Performance Indicators)

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

Executive 3 July 2012