
Meeting: Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 26 September 2012
Subject: Quarter One 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 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 1 is set out below. Appendix A provides the detailed performance data.

Director's Summary

13. The Quarterly Economic Monitoring Report shows that 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. For example, the number of people in employment (aged 16 to 64) is currently 7.1% above national average and so exceeds the MTP target of 5% above national average. The Economic Growth, skills and Regeneration Service continues to perform well in its response to these challenges, as shown by the recently received Matrix Accreditation for its Work Clubs. This recognises the high quality of the information, advice and guidance provided to job seekers.
14. The number of affordable homes built in Quarter 1 is the highest level achieved by the Council to date. The 92 units delivered were mainly provided as part of wider development sites under S106 agreements. 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.
15. The Council's Building Control Team scooped six awards at the Local Authority Building Control Awards for Building Excellence, including the overall winner category, on 17 May. The Council took prizes in the Best Sustainability, Best Social Housing and Best Community Building categories, as well as highly commended for Best Educational Building and Best Social Housing. Overall winner on the night was a project to restore and adapt for community use, two former wards at Moggerhanger House which won Best Community Building and was voted the Supreme Winner of all 11 categories.

16. The Council has been awarded £4.9 million of funding from the Department of Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund. Our 'Smarter Routes to Employment' scheme aims to relieve transport congestion and boost economic growth by promoting sustainable travel in the Dunstable, Houghton Regis and Leighton Buzzard areas. It is a significant help to the Council's Local Transport Plans and will support the local economy by providing residents and businesses with a better choice of local journeys which will reduce car use, cut costs and improve health.
17. Our bid was one of only two which were successful in this region, and part of a national £113 million fund given to a number of local authorities as part of the second allocation of funding from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund.
18. In support of one of the Community Safety Partnership's priorities for 2012/13 the Community Safety Team has commissioned Bedfordshire Probation Trust to deliver a community based domestic abuse perpetrator programme pilot. The programme is aimed at those who recognise that they need support and assistance to address their behaviour and agree to attend. Sessions are held at different locations in the area, with each session looking at a different aspect of domestic abuse and helping participants to learn how to respond to conflict in a different and non-abusive way. Support for partners of those attending the programme will also be offered and they will be put in touch with local support groups.

Conclusion and Next Steps

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

Appendix:

Appendix – (Quarter 1 Performance Indicators)

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

Executive 21 August 2012