
Meeting: Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 13 December 2012
Subject: Quarter Two 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 Two performance from Sustainable Communities.

Advising Officer: Gary Alderson, Director of 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 Medium Term Plan performance report underpins the delivery of all Council priorities.

Financial:

2. The indicator set monitors a wide range of indicators, which help to provide an understanding of the Council's effective use of resources.

Legal:

3. None.

Risk Management:

4. Any areas of ongoing underperformance would be a risk to both service delivery and the reputation of the Council.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

5. None.

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. Active recreation is included in the indicator set.

Community Safety:

8. The levels of Serious Acquisitive Crime and anti-social behaviour are included in the indicator set.

Sustainability:

9. Included in the indicator set are a broad range of indicators relating to sustainability including those covering employment, access to broadband, library usage, active recreation and waste.

Procurement:

10. None.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Committee is asked to:-

- 11. Note and consider the report.**

Background

12. This report marks a change from previous corporate performance reports, as it now focuses on a set of indicators that support the monitoring of progress against the priorities in the Medium Term Plan.
13. The Director's Summary for Quarter 2 is set out below. Appendix A provides the detailed performance data.

Director's Summary

14. 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 6.4% above national average and so exceeds the MTP target of 5% above national average.

15. The service continues to perform well in its response to these challenges and is responding in a number of ways. For example, it is delivering a programme of visits to at least 30 of the top 100 key businesses, with Member support, to identify how the Council can assist their growth. The Skills Summit was held on 8 October with key business and educational organisations to engage with partners in the delivery of the All Age Skills Strategy objectives. A video and others materials have been produced promoting Dunstable and Houghton Regis. A programme for other areas is also being developed.
16. The percentage of approved applications for residential developments of ten or units having CABE excellent design status continues at 100%. Through partnership working, the Council has ensured that all the affordable houses 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. An additional 57 units were delivered in Quarter 2.
17. The allocating of new housing, infrastructure, employment growth and protecting the countryside and the environment will be set out in CBC's first Development Strategy. Public consultation on the draft Development Strategy has now been completed with over 3,000 comments received. It has been considered by OSC in October before the pre-submission Development Strategy was agreed by Executive on 6 November 2012 and Full Council on 29 November 2012.
18. To help ensure the Council meets its target of achieving above average satisfaction with road and pavement repairs by 2016, the Council is reviewing key areas of service delivery to meet resident's expectations. These include new approaches to maintenance and improved communication with residents.
19. The latest results of the Sport England Active People Survey were published on 22 June 2012 with a result for Central Bedfordshire of 25.3%. This represents a 3.3% increase which Sport England calculates as a significant change in the number of adults participating in sport and active recreation in Central Bedfordshire.
20. To support this target in the MTP, the Council is developing CBC's first Leisure Strategy. The Executive will be considering Chapter 1: Leisure Facilities Strategy in January. This will be followed by Chapters on Recreation and Open Space; Playing Pitches and Physical Activity. The overarching Leisure Strategy will go to Executive for approval in July 2013. The Leisure Strategy and associated chapters will then be agreed as Supplementary Planning Documents.
21. Houghton Regis Library has become the first of our libraries to benefit from an £805k investment in library services by the Council. Self service technology, improvements to buildings and layouts, development of family read and relax areas and installation of refreshment facilities have all been put in place and are a result of extensive consultation with residents. Our aim is to build on the continuing increase in visitor numbers to our libraries with a target of a 20% increase in visitors by 2016.

Conclusion and Next Steps

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

Appendices:

Appendix A – (Quarter 2 Performance Indicators)

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

Executive 4 December 2012