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**Meeting:** Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
**Date:** 25 July 2013  
**Subject:** Quarter 4 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 4 performance from Sustainable Communities.

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**Advising Officer:** Marcel Coffait, Director of Community Services  
**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 acknowledge the continuing overall strong performance in Quarter 4 for the indicators being used to help support monitoring of progress against the Medium Term Plan priorities and to recommend officers to further investigate and resolve underperforming indicators as appropriate.**

**Background**

11. This report focuses on a set of indicators that support the monitoring of progress against the priorities in the Medium Term Plan (MTP).
12. The Director's Summary for Quarter 4 is set out below. Appendix A provides the detailed performance data. This is the final performance report for Sustainable Communities. The Quarter 1 report will be split between the new Directorates of Community Services and Regeneration and Business Support.

**Director's Summary**

13. Across the board, Sustainable Communities continues to deliver high performance across a wide range of indicators that supports the delivery of the Medium Term Plan.
14. The Economic Growth indicators continue to show the impact of the economic downturn but the service continues to perform well in its response to the challenges. The area continues to attract significant commercial investment interest in both existing and new enterprises. The Council has undertaken 30 high level visits this year to some of the top local businesses in our area to understand how best it can help them. Internally we have trained 116 business facing Council officers to gain a better awareness of business needs in providing corporate service to them.
15. Close working relationships have been forged with Center Parcs UK who will be opening the new Woburn Center Parcs Village in Summer 2014 supporting local procurement of goods and services and local recruitment plans. The construction of new business incubation facilities such as the Incuba Centre at Dunstable is now well underway and will open in September 2013. Over 100 new business start up have been supported by the Council and its partners and the new Business Timebank service continues to offer free business advice through a growing panel of professional business advisers across the area.
16. CBC's planning policy quality standards continue to ensure that all approved applications with 10 or more houses meet the CABA design standard and the number of affordable homes created has exceeded its target of 300 by 18.

17. The Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan was considered at Executive to approve the total number of pitches and plots required to 2031, followed by Council on 18 April. A public consultation took place between May and June 2013, where residents could offer feedback. The Plan is scheduled to be adopted in July 2014.
18. 2012/13 has seen significant reductions in Serious Acquisitive Crime. The Integrated Offender Management Programme has shown encouraging results with the nominated cohort of offenders re-offending rates reduced. This, along with the significant overall reduction in recorded crime, shows the importance of the Community Safety Partnership working with prolific offenders.
19. The first year of the two year Library Modernisation Programme was completed with Shefford library re-opening on 23 February. All the Council twelve libraries have now have self service (RFID) technology installed. In the next two years, £850k will be invested in updating buildings, self-service technology, developing the online library and piloting library access points in rural communities. Each library as part of the Library Strategy has a detailed route map suggesting the areas for continued development that guide investment decisions.
20. The Leisure Facility Strategy was considered at Executive in January 2013. It will provide clear direction for Council policy and capital investment which aims to ensure we create sustainable communities and provide high quality facilities for our residents to take part in regular physical activity. This includes the proposal for a new Leisure Centre in Flitwick.
21. The new residual waste treatment and disposal contract for the north commenced October 12 and is starting to show significant improvements in recycling rates and waste sent to landfill. The target in the MTP is to reach 60% recycling by 2020 which is being delivered through improvements to existing collection and HWRC contracts, the new interim residual treatment and disposal contracts and also the BEaR project which will provide 1 new and 3 improved Household Waste Recycling Centres, recovery of recyclables from residual waste, processing of organic waste and the roll out of food waste collection to the south of CBC.

### **Conclusion and Next Steps**

22. 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 25 June 2013