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**Meeting:** Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
**Date:** 10 April 2014  
**Subject:** Quarter 3 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 3 performance from Community Services and Regeneration and Business Support

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**Advising Officers:** Marcel Coffait, Director of Community Services  
Jason Longhurst, Director of Regeneration and Business Support  
**Contact Officer:** Sally Wileman – Service Development Officer  
**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 3 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 Directors' Summaries for Quarter 3 are set out below. Appendix A provides the detailed performance data.
13. **Community Services**  
Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) which includes domestic burglary, robbery, theft of motor vehicle and theft from a motor vehicle continues to be a serious concern as the Quarter 3 rate of 3.1 crimes per 1,000 population is higher than the same quarter in both 2011/12 and 2012/13 and represents an upward trend. The crimes which are increasing are domestic burglaries and theft of motor vehicles. In response specific police operations are being undertaken to target these issues and these are being supported by the Community Safety Partnership through joint communications about securing property etc. Domestic burglary has been identified as one of the CSP's priorities in its annual strategic assessment and it will continue to focus partnership resources on this area.
14. Recorded Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) has shown the expected seasonal decline from Quarter 2 but has declined in real terms from the equivalent quarter in 2012/13. 2013/14 Quarter 3 results are at their lowest for 21 months but the CSP has identified reducing the number of victims of ASB as a priority in its strategic assessment for 2013/14 with resources being prioritised to protect vulnerable victims
15. Due to the external verification of data through the Waste Data Flow system the 13/14 Quarter 2 figures are provisional. From Q2 the main disposal route used for Central Bedfordshire residual waste is Mechanical Treatment and Energy from Waste, further improving the diversion of waste from landfill.

16. The percentage of adults taking part in sport or active recreation in Central Bedfordshire has increased in the latest Active People Survey (APS) carried out by Sport England to 23.6%. However, this is a slower rate of increase than the average rate seen across all English Authorities and Central Bedfordshire has fallen below the average performance of 24.8%. Our Leisure Strategy is a long term plan to improve performance with significant capital being invested to improve our own facilities and our recently awarded leisure contract has a greater focus on increasing participation for all abilities. We have also made bids for Sport England funds aimed at increasing participation from groups which are known to be underrepresented including people with disabilities and the 14 - 18 age group.

17. **Regeneration**

Latest data from the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) 2012 tells us that there were 85,800 jobs in Central Bedfordshire in 2012. This represents a 2.2% increase on 2011 and 1,800 additional jobs (based on updated estimates for 2011, taken from BRES in November 2013). The picture in Central Bedfordshire is more positive than in comparator areas over the same period. England and the East of England saw a 0.7% increase in jobs, whereas job numbers in SEMLEP fell by 0.7%. This is reflected in the overall employment rate where Central Bedfordshire continues to perform above national averages for number of working age residents in employment.

18. Quarter 3 showed an increase of 1,300 working age people in employment. This equates to an employment rate of 75.8% which is an increase from the previous quarter (74.8%) and is still above England (71.3%). This means we are 4.5% above the national employment rate. The gap is narrowing towards meeting our MTP target of 5% above the national employment rate. In Quarter 3 we are marginally above the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership area (SEMLEP) (75.1%) having been marginally below in Quarter 2. Additionally, the level of key out of work benefit claimants fell by 580 people, in terms of number of claimants between February and May 2013 to 11,660 people or 7.0%. The rate is the lowest it has been since November 2008.

19. The Planning Division continues to provide Planning Performance Agreements and Pre-Application advice to help ensure positive and timely resolution of development schemes. Residential schemes continue to achieve the CABE target for excellent design under the Building for Life criteria.

**Conclusion and Next Steps**

20. 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 18 March 2014