
Meeting: Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 13 November 2014
Subject: Quarter 1 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 1 performance from Community Services and Regeneration and Business

Advising Officer: Marcel Coffait, Director of Community Services
Jason Longhurst, Director of Regeneration and Business
Contact Officer: Sally Wileman – Service Development Officer
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The quarterly Medium Term Plan performance report underpins the delivery of all Council priorities. |
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Financial:

- | |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. The indicator set monitors a wide range of indicators, which help to provide an understanding of the Council's effective use of resources. |
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Legal:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. None. |
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Risk Management:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Any areas of ongoing underperformance would be a risk to both service delivery and the reputation of the Council. |
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Staffing (including Trades Unions):
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. None. |
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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 1 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 1 are set out below. Appendix A provides the detailed performance data.
13. **Community Services**

Quarter 1 saw an increase in the rates of serious acquisitive crime and anti-social behaviour incidents than were recorded in the same quarter in 2012/13. Whilst there were only slight increases in the number of robbery and domestic burglary offences and anti social behaviour increased by 8.5%, theft of motor vehicles (TOMV) increased significantly with 78% more offences this quarter compared to the same time period last year. This was due to a long term TOMV series seen across Bedfordshire and following targeted action by Bedfordshire Police, offence levels are now decreasing.

14. The Spring 14 Residents' Tracker Survey results indicated that satisfaction with Highways continues to be an issue for our residents and there is now an agreement with the service provider that public satisfaction is a key performance indicator, with a financial penalty should we not achieve our target for satisfaction with roads and pavement maintenance.
15. The latest provisional data showed a drop in the percentage of waste being sent for recycling, reuse or composting, the cumulative performance for the 2013/14 year at 49.8% shows a small decline from 2013/14.
16. The latest Active People Survey data shows a small rise in the percentage of adults participating in sport or active recreation which at 24.2% is just below the national average.

17. **Regeneration**

Most recent employment data (March 14) shows the fifth successive quarterly increase in the employment rate. This latest data shows that at 77.4%, the Central Bedfordshire employment rate is now 5.5% above the national rate, 1.9% above the East of England and 1.7% above the SEMLEP average. The number of people in employment has grown by 3,500 (2.8%) in the last quarter and over 4,800 (3.9%) since March 2013, which shows positive signs of the continued economic recovery.

18. We will continue to build on this good performance in 2014/15, as we actively work to encourage the growth of suitable businesses in Central Bedfordshire; influencing this through effective use of our assets, sector development and a package of support from Central Bedfordshire Council.
19. A key factor in the development of new businesses and jobs is the need to have the right information technology in place. Good progress is being made in the roll out of both 2Mb and superfast broadband, with provisional outturn data for 2013/14 showing at 76.8% superfast broadband coverage has increased 6.5% since 2012/13 and the access to at least 2Mb broadband provisional outturn data shows a 91.4% coverage is available indicating a 0.8% increase since 2012/13.

Conclusion and Next Steps

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

Appendices:

Appendix A – (Quarter 1 Performance Indicators)

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

Executive 14 October 2014