
Meeting: Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 29 October 2015
Subject: Combined Quarter 4 2014/15 and Q1 2015/16 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 combined Quarter 4 2014/15 and Q1 2015/16 performance from Community Services and Regeneration and Business

Advising Officer: Marcel Coiffait, Director of Community Services
Jason Longhurst, Director of Regeneration and Business
Contact Officer: Heather Price – Head of Business Performance
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 2014/15 and Q1 2015/16 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 4 2014/15 and Q1 2015/16 are set out below. Appendix A provides the detailed performance data.
13. **Community Services - Quarter 4 2014/15**
There has been an increase in Serious Acquisitive Crime (5.5%) in Central Bedfordshire during 2014/15, compared to the previous 12 months. However, robbery offences have remained stable and there were 34 less domestic burglary offences recorded in 2014-15 than the previous year, a decrease of 3.5%. Increases were seen in vehicle crimes which have been linked to an organised crime group, and the Community Safety Partnership is working closely with Bedfordshire Police to target this group

14. There were 3278 incidents of domestic abuse (both crime and non crime) reported to Bedfordshire Police during 2014/15, an increase of 580 incidents when compared to the previous 12 months. The increase seen in incidents reported is due to recording changes in Bedfordshire Police. These changes will enable crimes to be recorded more accurately and means that domestic abuse victims will receive the specialist response and support that they require.
15. Anti-Social Behaviour incidents reported to Bedfordshire Police have remained fairly stable when compared to the previous 12 months. There were 255 more incidents reported in 2014-2015 than in the previous 12 months, an increase of 3.7%. Reports of nuisance motorcycles continue to be a significant percentage of incidents reported and the CSP is continuing to work closely with partners and Town Councils to tackle this issue.
16. Satisfaction with road maintenance has dropped from 35% in September 2014 to 31% in April 2015. However, longer term analysis shows a seasonal fluctuation, with spring results always coming below autumn results. Satisfaction compared to April 2014 shows a slight increase of 1%. Satisfaction with pavement maintenance has increased from 45% in September to 48% in April 2015.
17. The latest Active People Survey data (October 2014) showed a small decrease (0.8%) in the percentage of adults participating in sport or active recreation, which at 23.3% is 2.4% below the national average. Although rates in CBC are relatively stable at the moment, participation will increase once the delivery of the Physical Activity Strategy is implemented and facilities are improved.
18. End of year figures for Waste and for number of visits to libraries were not available in time for publication in the Q4 report. The number of visits to libraries will be available in the next reporting period, and Waste full end of year outturn figures are due to be released at the end of July 2015.

19 **Community Services - Quarter 1 2015/16**

Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) offences have increased slightly in Central Bedfordshire during Q1 2015/16 compared to the same period last year. 737 SAC offences were recorded, which is 21 more offences than were recorded in Q1 2014/-15, a 3% increase. This is due to an increase in theft from motor vehicle offences, where 432 offences were recorded, an increase of 61 offences, or 16% compared to the previous year. However, Q1 also saw reductions in the number of domestic burglaries, robberies and theft of motor vehicles. There were 27 less domestic burglaries in Q1 2015-16 compared to the previous year, a decrease of 13%. The number of robbery offences reduced by 10% and the number of theft of motor vehicle offences reduced by 9%.

20. There were 2,188 ASB incidents reported to Bedfordshire Police for Central Bedfordshire during the first quarter of 2015/16. This is an increase of 242 incidents on Q1 last year, an increase of 12%. The increase is predominately due to the increased reporting of nuisance motorcycles, mainly in the South of the area in Dunstable and Houghton Regis. The increase is likely to also be linked to the amount of communications that have been issued from the Community Safety Team, the Police and the local Town Councils encouraging the public to report incidents of nuisance motorcycles in attempt to gain a better understanding and details of the offenders in order to provide a proactive response.
21. The latest Active People Survey data (Apr 13 - Mar 15) shows the percentage of Adults in Central Bedfordshire taking part in sport or active recreation is 25.4%, an increase from previous results of 23.3%. The physical activity team will continue to develop and deliver Active Lifestyle Pathways for people who have additional needs, e.g. disability or mental health.
22. Latest figures for the number of visits to libraries saw a large decrease in visitor numbers for some libraries in Central Bedfordshire in 2014/15. The biggest decrease was at Shefford Library, which was flooded and had to move to temporary premises with periods of closure from July-October 2014. There were also some shorter periods of individual library closures for capital works projects (Potton, Ampthill). Some individual libraries showed increases in visitor numbers including Flitwick, Stotfold, Barton and Sandy.
23. End of year figures for Waste was not available in time for publication in the Q1 report but has since been reported and shows that 48.5% of waste was sent for recycling during 2014/15, which is below the annual target of 51%, and which is also slightly reduced from 2013/14, mirroring what is being seen in many LAs across the UK and likely to be the result of changes to buying behaviour and reductions in packaging materials. 22.1% of waste was sent to landfill in 2014/15, representing a small decline in performance compared to 2013/14. However this indicator has still performed extremely well against the 2014/15 annual target of 46%.
24. **Regeneration - Quarter 4 2014/15**
654 Affordable Homes were provided by the end of 2014/15, exceeding the target of 300, and representing a 50% increase on the number provided in the previous year. This is the highest since the creation of Central Bedfordshire Council in 2009.
25. Employment has continued to increase and the level of unemployment has fallen, reflecting signs of a strengthening local labour market and providing support for Central Bedfordshire's vision of being a 'great place to live and work'. Central Bedfordshire now has an employment rate of 81.6%, which is 9.1% above the national employment rate, and exceeds the target for Central Bedfordshire to remain 5% above the national rate.

26. The level of unemployment has also fallen, and the number of out of work benefits claimants and Youth Unemployment rates have also continued to show a steady decrease throughout the year, and remains significantly below comparator areas.
27. Skill levels amongst adults in Central Bedfordshire have also increased during 2014 compared to 2013. The number of adults qualified to NVQ Level 4 or above has increased to 35.1% and is now higher than SEMLEP and East of England levels. The number of adults qualified to NVQ Level 2 or above has increased to 74% and is above all comparator areas.
28. End of year outturn figures were not available for Broadband coverage for publication in the Q4 report, but will be available for the next reporting period.
29. We will continue to build on this good performance into 2015/16 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 aligned to our key businesses, sectors and potential investors.
30. **Regeneration - Quarter 1 2015/16**
31. Record levels of enquiries are being received following the launch of the new Be Central Bedfordshire website, which has had more than 2,700 hits. During the 1st Quarter 39 direct inward investment enquiries have been managed, an increase of 95% compared to the same period in 2014/15.
32. In the Adult Skills programme, there have been a total of 2,196 adult learner enrolments so far this year. Of the 1124 learners to have completed a programme in the year to date, there have been 529 positive outcomes in the form of entering employment, entering further or higher education, or going onto further training or an apprenticeship.
33. The Superfast Broadband Project is on track, with Phase 4 recently completed. In the first quarter of 2015-16, there was a target of enabling 6865 premises and 6986 were achieved across the partnership area. As of 30th June, a total of 23,058 premises now have the ability to order superfast broadband. This exceeds the envisaged quarterly target and accounts for 61% of the total premises expected, across the partnership.
34. Planning performance dipped slightly over the 1st Quarter due to a number of pressures on the service, but a focus on resources has improved performance which is now back in line with targets.
35. The number of people in employment fell slightly, but this is not in line with other data such as unemployment levels, which has continued to reduce. The fall in employment rate could be accounted for within the confidence level of the surveyed figure, but we will be monitoring this closely. Central Bedfordshire's employment is 5.7% above the national employment rate, and exceeds the target for Central Bedfordshire to remain 5% above the national rate.

36. Performance continues to be strong and reflects the realignment of the Directorates services and resources. This is ongoing as the Directorate faces fresh challenges resulting from the recent Government announcements regarding changes to Planning that will impact the service. Further changes to the welfare system, particularly around expectations on young people claiming Universal Credit, will also present challenges and an ongoing pressure for the Employment & Skills service.
37. Regeneration & Business will 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 aligned to our key businesses, sectors and potential investors.

Conclusion and Next Steps

38. Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider this report and make any recommendations to Executive.

Appendices:

Appendix A – (combined Quarter 4 2014/15 and Q1 2015/16 Performance Indicators)

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

Executive 7 July and 6 October 2015