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**Meeting:** Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
**Date:** 1 July 2016  
**Subject:** Quarter 3/4 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 Community Services and Regeneration and Business

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**Advising Officer:** Marcel Coffait, 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 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 are set out below. Appendix A provides the detailed performance data.

**Community Services**

13. In Q4 there were 884 SAC offences recorded in Central Bedfordshire. This is an increase of 95 offences on Q4 2014-15, an increase of 12%. Three of the four SAC offences have shown an increase when comparing Q4 this year to Q4 last year. Robbery offences have increased by 20%, Domestic Burglary offences by 19% and TFMV (theft *from* a motor vehicle) offences by 19%. TOMV (theft *of* a motor vehicle) offences have decreased by 30% this quarter when compared to last year. TFMV offences continue to be higher than levels seen in previous years, which have been linked to an organised crime group who are targeting a specific type of vehicle.
14. In Q4 2015-16 there were 1634 ASB incidents reported to Bedfordshire Police for Central Bedfordshire. This is a decrease of 97 offences when compared to Q4 last year, a decrease of 6%. Lower levels are predicted for Q4 as the poorer weather and shorter nights tends to see a lower number of incidents. Levels are expected to show a seasonal increase in Q1, along with an expected increase in nuisance motorcycle complaints.

15. Commercial performance has been maintained through Q4 (at 8.1%), which reflects a strong performance from the mixed portfolio. Industrial property continues to underpin the strong commercial return; however, the return dipped (0.6%) as works were undertaken to improve units released by Highways. Acacia Close remains fully occupied. Consideration is being given to a roof repair programme causing minimum disruption to occupiers. Demand for industrial in Dunstable remains buoyant. Income was received from the Ivel Medical Centre increasing the performance of Business Units (2.7%).

Farm performance has been maintained through Q4 (1.2%). Back rent continues to be recovered following a rent review settlement and regularisation of leases. A meeting is programmed with Bedford Borough Council to discuss mineral extraction royalties and the sharing of common data (e.g. land sale prices).

## 16. **Regeneration**

17. Since April 2015 we have managed 177 investment enquiries, almost doubling the 2014/15 total enquiries. These Investment enquiries have resulted in 1457 jobs from 14 successes – Amazon DCI, BCS, Bowmans, East Anglian Air Ambulance, RAM Power, Easymix, LRI, Harvey Group, Calsonic, Manor Concepts expansion, Retro-me, Input 86, Fratellis Italian Restaurant, Opus International. The Be Central Bedfordshire website has received over 10,500 visits (against a target of 6000)
18. The Superfast Broadband Project continues to deliver to plan. 15,585 premises have been directly enabled to receive superfast broadband services (speeds of greater than 24 Megabits Per Second) exceeding the 15,500 premises originally contracted. This brings superfast coverage in Central Bedfordshire to 90%, meeting the Council's Adopted Local Broadband Plan target. To date 68 cabinets have been upgraded, across a wide geographical spread.
19. Planning performance has continued to fluctuate during Quarter 4 due to resource pressures on the service, which is a national issue. The service is actively working to resolve this through working in partnership with ICS and undertaking a comprehensive review of the application processes to enable it to become more efficient and streamlined, with a strong focus on the customer experience.
20. Overall and youth unemployment rates in Central Bedfordshire have remained stable, along with the number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), and all remain low compared to national rates.

21. Performance continues to be strong and reflects the realignment of the Directorates services and resources. This is ongoing as the Directorate acts upon the challenges that resulted from the Government announcements regarding changes to Planning that has an impact on the service. The changes to the welfare system, particularly around expectations on young people claiming Universal Credit, has also presented challenges and ongoing pressures that the Employment & Skills service have to meet. 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**

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

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A – (Quarter 4 Performance Indicators)

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