

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 Tuesday, 5th April, 2005

Place: Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

Room: Council Chamber

Time: 7.30 pm

Democratic Services Officer: Zoe Folley (Direct Line: 01992 564532)
Email: zfolley@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Members:

Councillors D Stallan (Chairman), M Woollard (Vice-Chairman), K Angold-Stephens, D Bateman, Mrs D Borton, Mrs J Davis, K Faulkner, Mrs R Gadsby, J Harrington, D Kelly, J Lea, L Martin, P McMillan, T Richardson, Mrs P Rush, Mrs P Smith and Ms S Stavrou

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 13 January 2005 (previously circulated)

3. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

(Head of Research and Democratic Services) To report the appointment of any substitute members for the meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Head of Research and Democratic Services) To declare interests in any item on this agenda.

5. MATTERS ARISING

(Chairman) To report back to the Committee on items previously considered and referred to either Council or Cabinet.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, together with paragraphs 6 and 25 of the Council Procedure Rules contained in the Constitution requires that the permission of the Chairman be obtained, after prior notice to the Chief Executive, before urgent business not specified in the agenda (including a supplementary agenda of which the statutory period of notice has been given) may be transacted.

In accordance with Operational Standing Order 6 (non-executive bodies), any item raised by a non-member shall require the support of a member of the Committee concerned and the Chairman of that Committee. Two weeks' notice of non-urgent items is required.

7. LIAISON WITH LONDON UNDERGROUND LIMITED

Recommendation:

To receive a presentation from London Underground Limited (LUL) on the services provided in the District

Mr Simon Williams of London Underground Limited (LUL) last attended the Committee on 23 November 2005. At the meeting discussions focused on several aspects of the service including station enhancements, parking facilities at stations, extension of services and the implications for transport links of emerging planning guidance.

Mr Williams will be attending the meeting to give a further presentation. During the discussion he will consider any previously raised questions and new issues.

8. HIGHWAYS LOCAL SERVICE AGREEMENT - PRESENTATION

Recommendation:

To receive a presentation from Essex County Council on the new Local Service Agreement.

Mr Trevor Williams will attend the meeting to give a presentation on the new Highways Local Service Agreement. Following the presentation, Members will be able to put questions to Mr Williams about the new arrangements.

9. BEST VALUE AND LOCAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2004/05 (Pages 1 - 10)

To consider the attached report and Indicators.

10. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

To consider whether, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press should be excluded from the meeting for the items of business set out below on grounds that they will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated:

Agenda Item No	Subject	Exempt Paragraph Number
Nil	Nil	Nil

To resolve that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items which are confidential under Section 100(A)(2) of the Local Government Act 1972:

Agenda Item No	Subject
Nil	Nil

Paragraph 9 of the Council Procedure Rules contained in the Constitution require:

- (1) All business of the Council requiring to be transacted in the presence of the press and public to be completed by 10.00 p.m. at the latest.
- (2) At the time appointed under (1) above, the Chairman shall permit the completion of debate on any item still under consideration, and at his or her discretion, any other remaining business whereupon the Council shall proceed to exclude the public and press.
- (3) Any public business remaining to be dealt with shall be deferred until after the completion of the private part of the meeting, including items submitted for report rather than decision.

Background Papers: Paragraph 8 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution define background papers as being documents relating to the subject matter of the report which in the Proper Officer's opinion:

- (a) disclose any facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based; and
- (b) have been relied on to a material extent in preparing the report does not include published works or those which disclose exempt or confidential information (as defined in Rule 10) and in respect of executive reports, the advice of any political advisor.

Inspection of background papers may be arranged by contacting the officer responsible for the item.

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Report to Overview & Scrutiny 2

Date of meeting: 5 April 2005

**Portfolio: Civil Engineering and Maintenance,
Environmental Protection, and Planning and
Economic Development**



Subject: Best Value And Local Performance Indicators 2004/05

Officer contact for further information: S Tautz

Committee Secretary: Z Folley

Recommendation:

That the Council's performance for the third quarter of 2004/05, in relation to Best Value and Local Performance Indicators for the Civil Engineering and Maintenance, Environmental Protection, and Planning and Economic Development Portfolios, be noted.

1. (Heads of Service/Heads of Human Resources and Performance Management) Progress in meeting the targets set by the Government's statutory Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) and the Local Performance Indicators (LPIs) previously adopted by the Council, is reported to members on a quarterly basis.
2. Details of the Council's BVPI and LPI performance for the third quarter of 2004/05, in relation to the Civil Engineering and Maintenance, Environmental Protection, and Planning and Economic Development Portfolios Portfolios, is attached as Annex 1 to this report. Appropriate Heads of Service will be in attendance at the meeting to respond to any questions raised by members in respect of the indicators and performance thereon.
3. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) has recently published final proposals for BVPIs for 2005/06. Following a fundamental review of the existing BVPIs and after extensive consultation with stakeholders, ODPM has reduced the overall number of indicators to ninety-four, although it should be noted that these cover all tiers of local government including the police and fire services, and that not all are therefore required to be collected by the council. Fourteen indicators have been deleted from the existing set, ten new BVPIs have been introduced and a further twenty-six have been amended. ODPM has stated that it now intends to leave the set largely unchanged for the next two to three years, to enable authorities to build up valuable performance data. Details, definitions and calculation methods of the BVPIs for 2005/06 runs to over 300 pages in length, and a copy of the ODPM publication has therefore been placed in the Members' Room.
4. At the next cycle of meetings, overview and scrutiny will be asked to identify those indicators that members wish to monitor on a regular basis for 2005/06, based on priorities and outturn performance for the current year. In response to the findings of the council's Comprehensive Performance Assessment, work has begun on a review of the LPIs currently adopted by the council, and proposals for a revised suite of local indicators will also be reported to the committee at its next meeting.

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Performance Indicator Monitoring Schedules 2004 – 2005

Third Quarter Overview and Scrutiny Committee 29 March 2005

Performance Management Unit

Tony Tidey (Head of Human Resources and Performance Management) (Ext 4054) (Email: titdey@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)
Stephen Tautz (Senior Performance Management Officer) (Ext 4180) (Email: stautz@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)
Valerie Loftis (Market Research and Consultation Officer) (Ext 4471) (Email: vloftis@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

Key

N/A – Not available (from Audit Commission figure only)

N/S – Not set by service area (for monitoring purposes only), for Local Performance Indicators

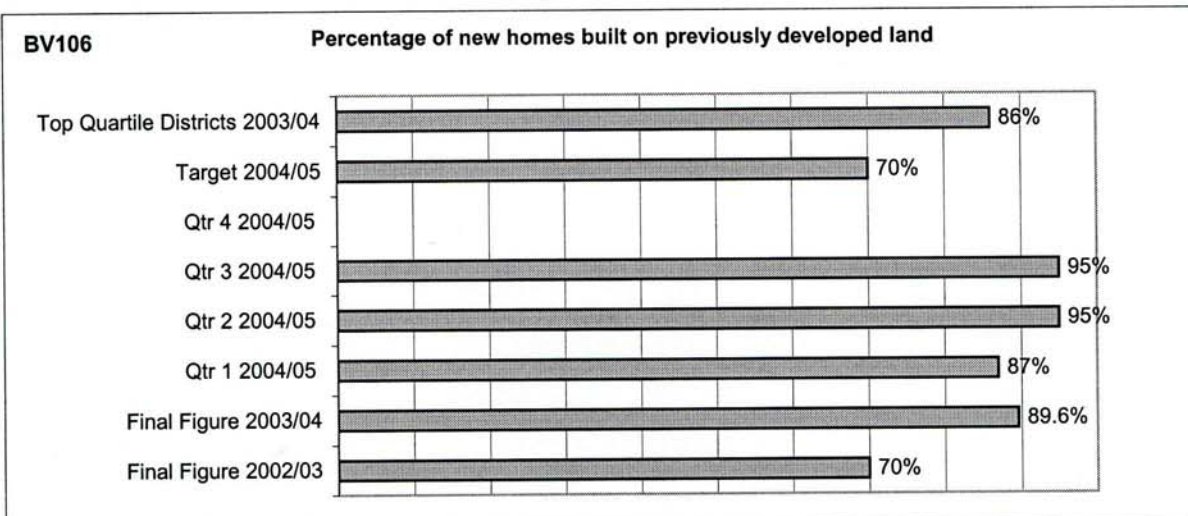
TBA - Late data not supplied by service area to be tabled (yellow copy)

Family group comparisons cannot be made against local performance indicators

Red	Below target
Amber	Uncertain to achieve
Green	On target

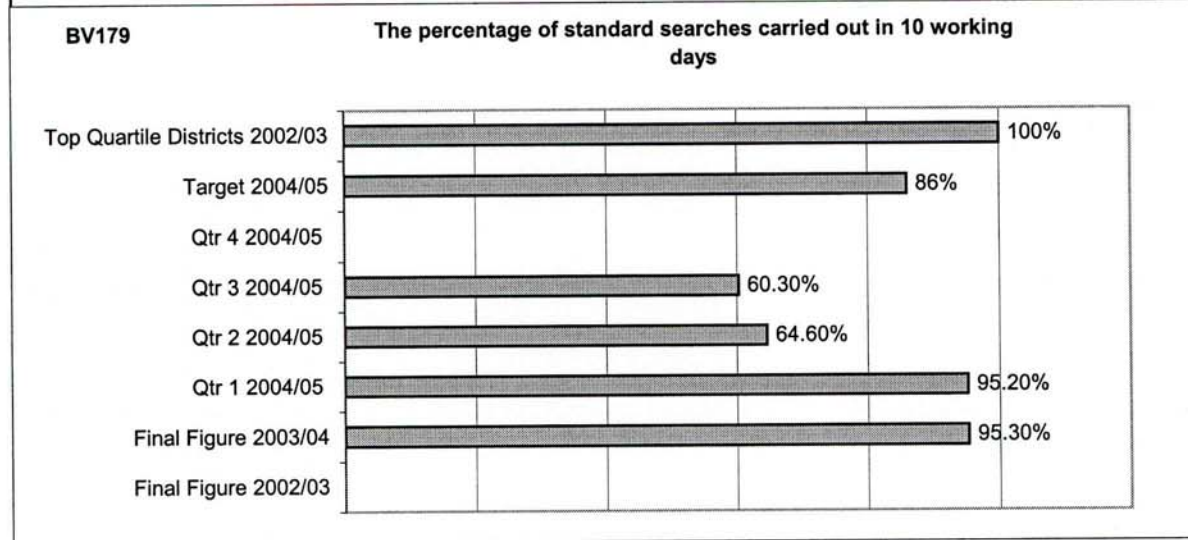
BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR MONITORING SCHEDULE 2004/05

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Comment on performance/target	
Green	The internal development monitoring system that is now in place (as opposed to relying on Essex County Council) means that quarterly figures can be provided. Completion of figures will generally be 1-2 months after calendar period due to delays in receiving completion information from external building inspectors. Apr-December is up until 30 November only, and will be revised upon receipt of NHBC data in February.

Corrective action proposed (if required)



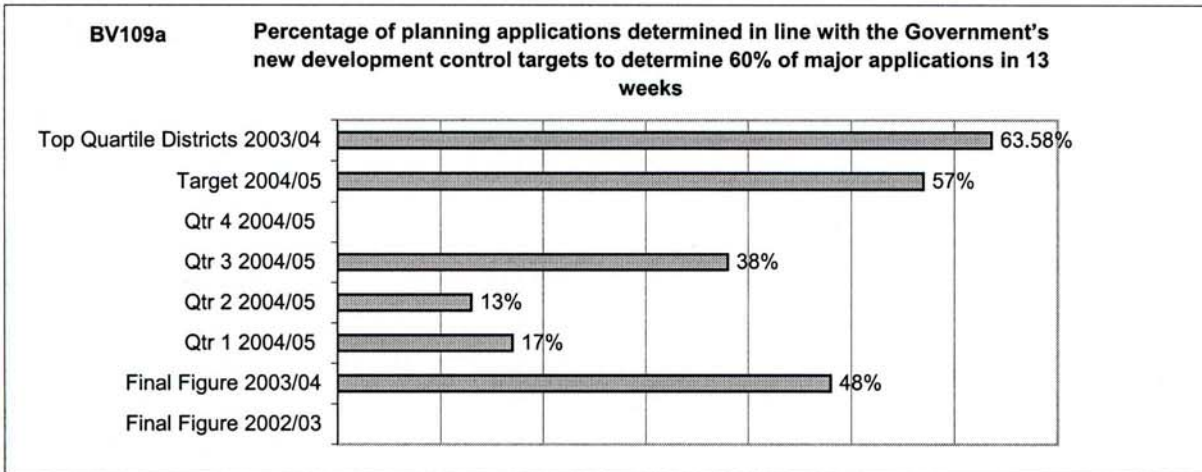
Comment on performance/target	
Red	There has been a reduction in resources within LLC since August 2004. This together with staff sickness and family bereavement has had a detrimental effect on the turnaround time for Searches.

Corrective action proposed (if required)

Following a report to Cabinet, approval has been given for an additional full-time temporary member of staff. An appointment is expected within the next few weeks.

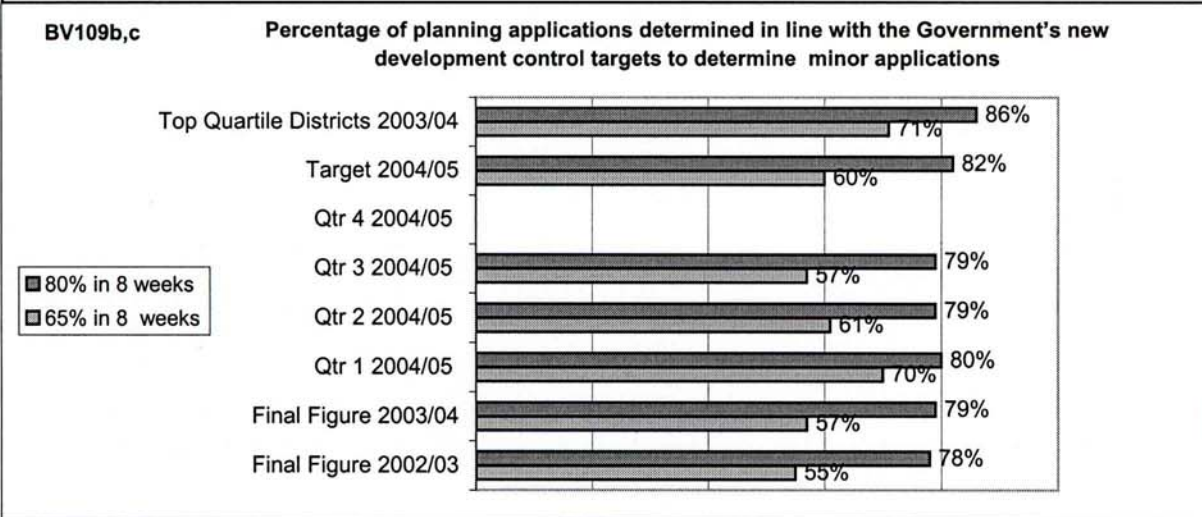
BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR MONITORING SCHEDULE 201

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Comment on performance/target	
Red	This performance is derived from very few cases and therefore the % figure is relatively meaningless. Whilst the ODPM recognises that we handle few major applications, more emphasis is being placed upon this performance. There is a need to identify where any improvements can be made.

Corrective action proposed (if required)	
It is proposed to carry out a process review for major applications during this quarter.	



Comment on performance/target	
Amber	b)Although meeting the target is not certain, any shortfall will be minor

Corrective action proposed (if required)	

BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR MONITORING SCHEDULE 2004/05

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BV200	Plan Making a) Do you have a development plan (or alterations to it) that has been adopted in the last 5 years and the end date of which has not expired? If 'No', are there proposals on deposit for an alteration or replacement, with a published timetable for adopting those alterations or the replacements plan within 3 years?
Top Quartile Districts 2003/04	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> This indicator cannot be presented graphically </div>
Target 2004/05	
Qtr 4 2004/05	
Qtr 3 2004/05	
Qtr 2 2004/05	
Qtr 1 2004/05	
Final Figure 2003/04	
Final Figure 2002/03	

TBA	Local Plan alterations (First Deposit) were published for public comment between 22 June and 12 August 2004. (The Local Plan was adopted in January 1998) A redeposit of the Alterations for a second public consultation exercise (under the transitional arrangements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) is planned for May or June 2005, with a public inquiry to be held early 2006 and aiming for formal adoption before 21 July 2006 - after this date the alterations (if not adopted) would require strategic environmental assessment under European Union Directive 2001/42/EC. This programme could potentially be seriously affected by work on the East of England Plan (RSS14) – both the public consultation (ends March 16) and the Examination in Public – due to start September 2005. The Forward Planning team has also been a member of staff short since July 2004.
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Corrective action proposed (if required)

Make decisions on prioritisation of work – officers are involved in many other issues and it may become necessary to downgrade a number of these. Consider use of consultants for individual projects.

BV204	Percentage of appeals allowed against the authority's decision to refuse planning applications																
Top Quartile Districts 2003/04	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Period</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Target 2004/05</td> <td>25%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Qtr 4 2004/05</td> <td>25%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Qtr 3 2004/05</td> <td>25%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Qtr 2 2004/05</td> <td>26%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Qtr 1 2004/05</td> <td>45%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final Figure 2003/04</td> <td>18%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final Figure 2002/03</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Period	Percentage	Target 2004/05	25%	Qtr 4 2004/05	25%	Qtr 3 2004/05	25%	Qtr 2 2004/05	26%	Qtr 1 2004/05	45%	Final Figure 2003/04	18%	Final Figure 2002/03	
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Comment on performance/target

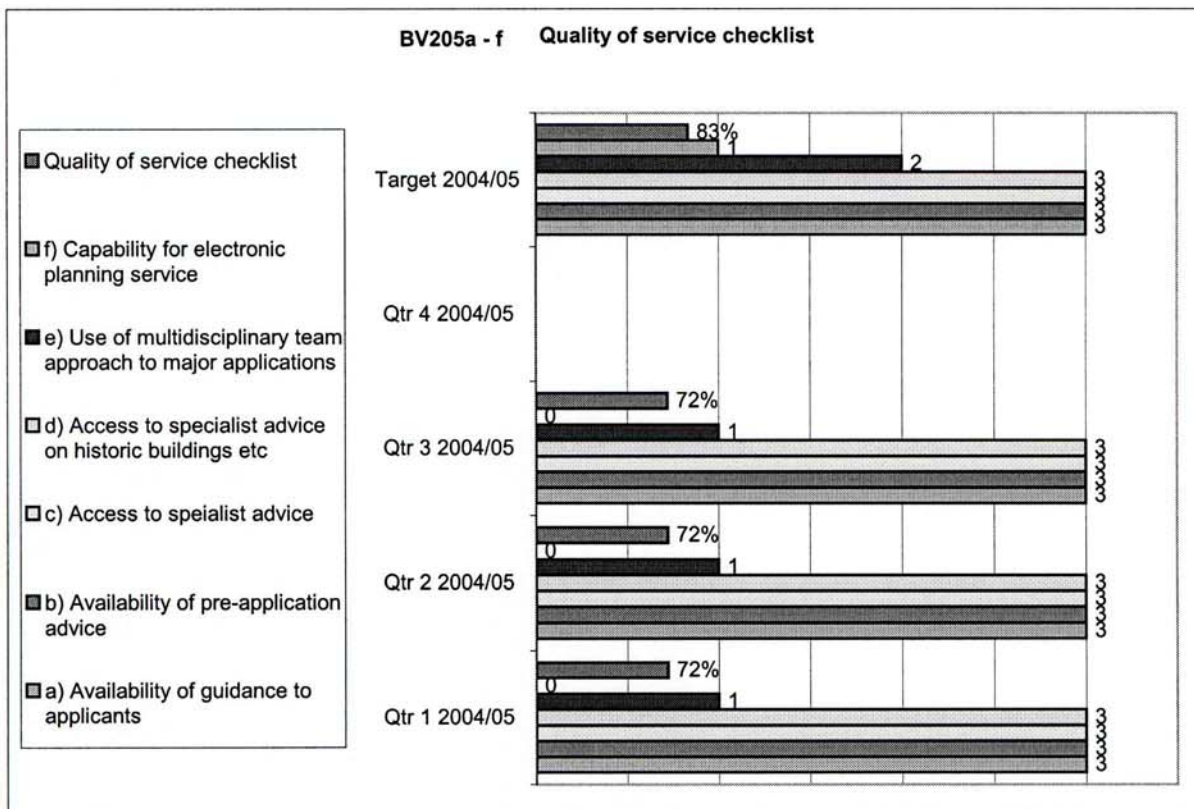
Green	Following some poor decisions at the beginning of the year, performance is now returning to the expected level.
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Corrective action proposed (if required)

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BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR MONITORING SCHEDULE 2004/05

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

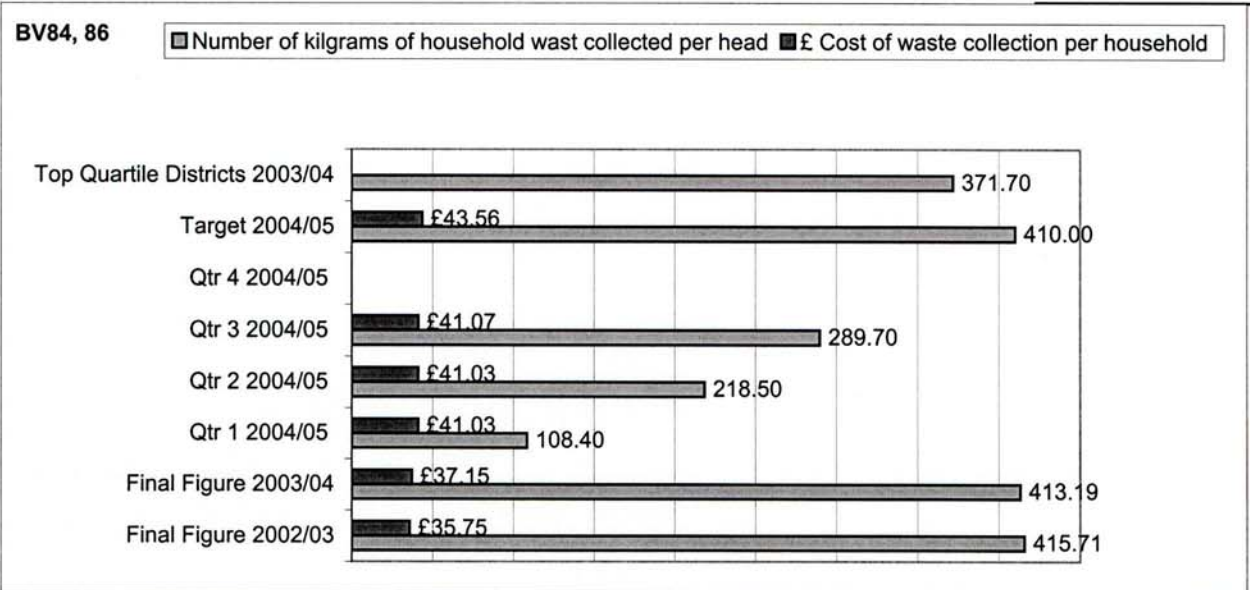


Comment on performance/target

a Green	<p>This BVPI relates to procedures in place in handling major applications. Since this authority handles few major applications, it has not been priority to have standing procedures in place, but each is dealt with in the most effective way in each case. However, it was the intention to move closer to the ODPM's model by the end of the year.</p>
b Green	
c Green	
d Green	
e Green	
f Amber	<p>Electronic delivery of the planning service is a priority for this year but little progress is possible until the new integrated Planning package is procured, installed and live, which is estimated to be not until summer 2005.</p>
Amber	<p>This BVPI is calculated from the following 6 criteria with a maximum 3 points for each one. See below for comments on progress to improving scores where appropriate.</p>
Corrective action proposed (if required)	
<p>Electronic delivery of the Planning Service is a priority for the current year, but little progress is possible until the new integrated Planning/Building Control package is procured, installed and live. The overall quality score at the end of the first quarter is 13 points out of a maximum of 18, which equals 72%.</p>	

BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR MONITORING SCHEDULE 2004/05

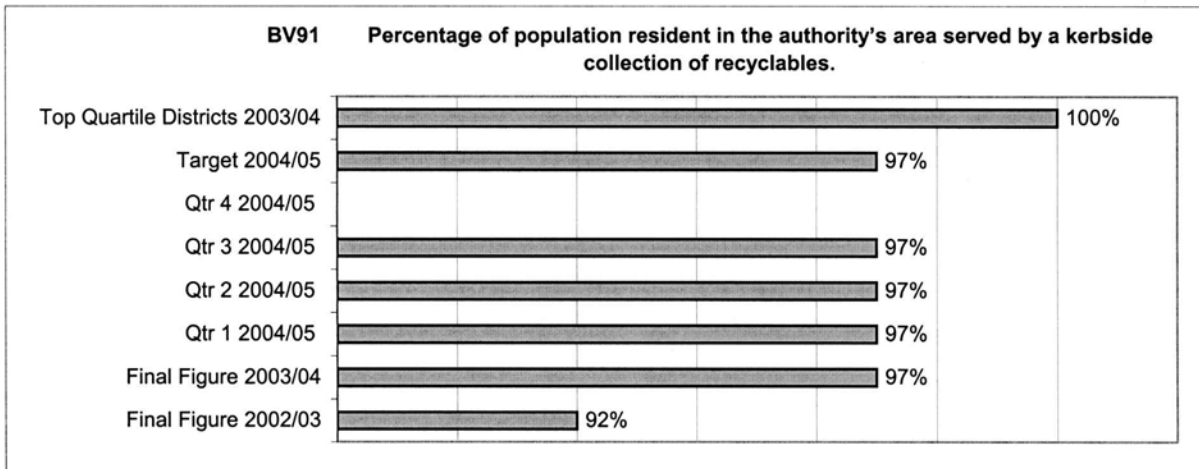
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Comment on performance/target	
Green	BV84 This figure is encouraging but the Christmas holiday generates significant volumes of waste which will increase the amount collected in the next quarter. However, given the total to date, the target appears achievable.
Green	BV86 Calculation based on contractual obligations including refuse collection and recycling but not including the new doorstep glass service. 2004/05 out turn will reflect actual expenditure reconciled at year end, once data for recycling audited by Essex County Council.
Corrective action proposed (if required)	
None Required	

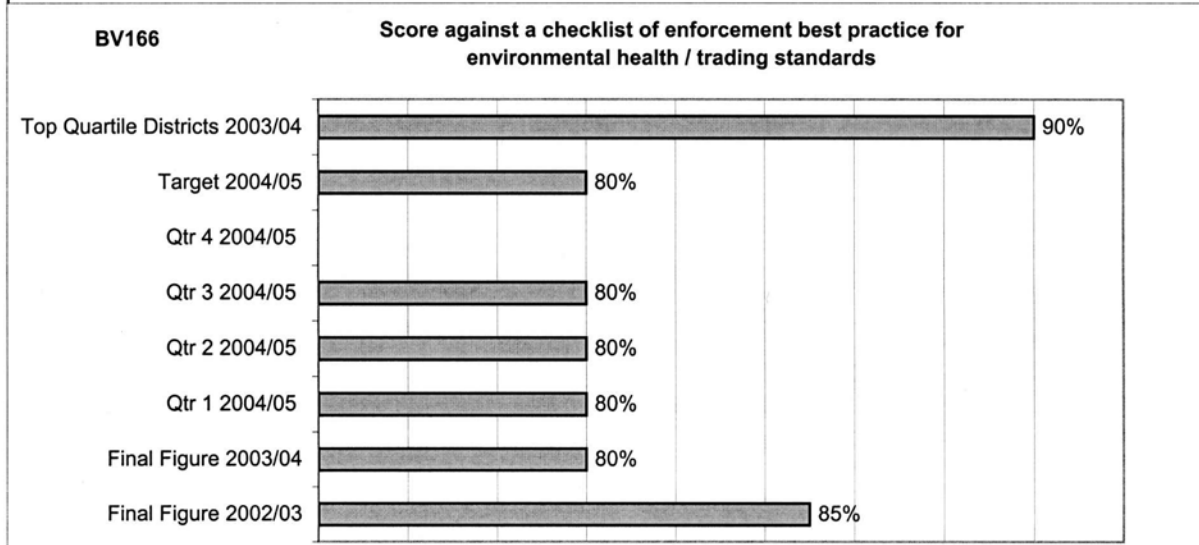
BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR MONITORING SCHEDULE 2004/05

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Comment on performance/target	
Green	Until changes are made to the collections regimes this number will not change. The number is different for different materials, with 97% having a basic dry recyclable collection, but fewer having garden waste and glass (circa 80%)

Corrective action proposed (if required)



Comment on performance/target	
Green	

Corrective action proposed (if required)

BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR MONITORING SCHEDULE 2004/05

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Ref	Definition	Final Figure 2002/03	Final Figure 2003/04	Qtr 1 2004/05	Qtr 2 2004/05	Qtr 3 2004/05	Qtr 4 2004/05	Target 2004/05	Top Quartile Districts 2002/03
BV180	The energy consumption/m2 of local authority operational property, compared with comparable buildings in the UK as a whole a) b)	-	-	-	-	-		N/S	a)83% b)68%
Comment on performance/target									
This indicator cannot be calculated on a quarterly basis, and will be reported at year end.									
Corrective action proposed (if required)									
Ref	Definition	Final Figure 2002/03	Final Figure 2003/04	April - July 2004/05	April-Nov 2004/05	Apri - Mar 2004/05	Target 2004/04	Top Quartile Districts 2003/03	
BV199	The proportion of relevant land and highways as defined under EPA 1990 Part iv section 86 (expressed as a percentage) that is assessed as having combined deposits of litter and detritus (e.g. sand, silt, and other debris) across four categories of cleanliness (Clean, Light, Significant, Heavy)	TBA	21% est	34%	34%		18%	12%	
Comment on performance/target									
Red	It has taken some time to understand the mechanism of this indicator and the earlier data was probably flawed. This has led to a target for 04/05 being set which is in all probability unachievable. However, the current level of grade C and below remains unacceptably high. The target for 05/06 needs conseration in the light of these comments.								
Corrective action proposed (if required)									
Changes have been and are being made to cleansing schedules and monitoring. Additional waste management officer have been approved and changes are to be made to methods of contractor supervision. Some High Roads have been brought back into scheduled cleansing against scheduled inspection in order to improve standards.									