

Report to: Planning Services Scrutiny Panel

Date of meeting: 26 February 2015



Portfolio: Planning Policy (Councillor R. Bassett)

Subject: Key Performance Indicators 2014/15 - Quarter 3 Performance

Officer contact for further information: B. Copson (01992 564042)

Democratic Services Officer: A. Hendry (01992 564246)
M. Jenkins (01992 564607)

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Scrutiny Panel review performance in relation to the key performance indicators within its areas of responsibility, for the third quarter of the year.

Executive Summary:

1. Pursuant to the Local Government Act 1999, the Council is required to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions and services are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
2. As part of the duty to secure continuous improvement, a range of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) relevant to the Council's services and key objectives, are adopted each year. Performance against the majority of KPIs is monitored on a quarterly basis, and has previously been a focus of inspection in external assessments and judgements of the overall progress of the authority.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

3. The KPIs provide an opportunity for the Council to focus attention on how specific areas for improvement will be addressed, and how opportunities will be exploited and better outcomes delivered.
4. A number of KPIs are used as performance measures for the Council's key objectives for each year. It is important that relevant performance management processes are in place to review and monitor performance against the key objectives, to ensure their continued achievability and relevance, and to identify proposals for appropriate corrective action in areas of slippage or under performance.

Other Options for Action:

5. No other options are appropriate in this respect. Failure to monitor and review KPI performance and to consider corrective action where necessary could have negative implications for judgements made about the Council's progress, and might mean that opportunities for improvement are lost.

Report:

6. A range of thirty-six Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for 2014/15 was adopted by the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee in March 2014. The KPIs are important to the improvement of the Council's services and the achievement of its key objectives, and comprise a combination of some former statutory indicators and locally determined performance measures. The aim of the KPIs is to direct improvement effort towards services and the national priorities and local challenges arising from the social, economic and environmental context of the district, that are the focus of the key objectives.
7. Progress in respect of each of the KPIs is reviewed by the relevant Portfolio Holder, Management Board, and overview and scrutiny at the conclusion of each quarter. In order to enhance the value of the on-going review of KPI performance throughout each year, no indicators are subject to scrutiny or performance reporting at year-end only.
8. Improvement plans are produced for all of the KPIs each year, setting out actions to be implemented in order to achieve target performance, and to reflect changes in service delivery. In view of the corporate importance attached to the KPIs, the improvement plans are agreed by Management Board and are also subject to ongoing review between the relevant service director and Portfolio Holder over the course of the year.
9. As part of the overview and scrutiny review undertaken in 2013/14, changes have been made to arrangements for the quarterly review of KPI performance. From this municipal year, the existing scrutiny panels (Finance and Performance Management, Housing, Planning Services, Safer, Greener, Cleaner) are now each responsible for the review of quarterly performance against specific KPIs within their areas of responsibility, rather than all indicators being considered by the Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel as previously. Therefore this report includes in detail only those indicators which fall within the areas of responsibility of the Planning Services Scrutiny Panel.

Key Performance Indicators 2014/15 - Quarter 3 Performance

10. The overall position with regard to the achievement of target performance for **all** of the KPIs at the end of the third quarter (1 July to 31 December 2014) of the year, was as follows:
 - (a) 26 (72%) indicators achieved the cumulative third quarter target;
 - (b) 10 (27%) indicators did not achieve the cumulative third quarter target, although 1 (3%) of these KPIs performed within the agreed tolerance for the indicator; and,
 - (c) 29 (81%) indicators are currently anticipated to achieve the cumulative year-end target.
11. Six (6) of the Key Performance Indicators fall within the Planning Services Scrutiny Panel areas of responsibility. The overall position with regard to the achievement of target performance at the end of the third quarter of the year for these six indicators, was as follows:
 - (a) 3 (50%) indicators achieved the cumulative third quarter target, and
 - (b) 3 (50%) indicators did not achieve the cumulative third quarter target, although 1 (17%) of these KPI's performed within the agreed tolerance for the indicator,
 - (c) 5 (83%) are currently anticipated to achieve the cumulative year-end target.
12. A headline third-quarter performance summary in respect of each of the KPIs falling within the Planning Services Scrutiny Panel areas of responsibility for 2014/15, is

attached as Appendix 1 to this agenda together with details of the specific nine-month performance for each indicator.

13. The 'amber' performance status used in the KPI report identifies indicators that have missed the agreed target for the quarter, but where performance is within an agreed tolerance or range. The KPI tolerances were agreed by Management Board when targets for the KPIs were set in February 2014, or were subsequently determined by the appropriate service directors.
14. The Scrutiny Panel is requested to review nine-month performance in relation to the KPIs for 2014/15 within its areas of responsibility.

Resource Implications:

Resource requirements for actions to achieve specific KPI performance for 2014/15 will have been identified by the responsible service director/chief officer and reflected in the budget for the year.

Legal and Governance Implications:

There are no legal or governance implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Relevant implications arising from actions to achieve specific KPI performance for 2014/15 will have been identified by the responsible service director/chief officer.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:

There are no implications arising from the recommendations of this report in respect of the Council's commitment to the Climate Local Agreement, the corporate Safer, Cleaner, Greener initiative, or any crime and disorder issues within the district. Relevant implications arising from actions to achieve specific KPI performance for 2014/15 will have been identified by the responsible service director/chief officer.

Consultation Undertaken:

The performance information and targets set out in this report have been submitted by each appropriate service director and have been reviewed by Management Board. The individual KPI improvement plans for 2014/15 will be agreed by the Board.

Background Papers:

Third-quarter KPI submissions held by the Performance Improvement Unit. KPI calculations and supporting documentation held by respective service directorates

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management

There are no risk management issues arising from the recommendations of this report. Relevant issues arising from actions to achieve specific KPI performance for 2014/15 will have been identified by the responsible service director/chief officer.

Equality:

There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Relevant implications arising from actions to achieve specific KPI performance for 2014/15 will have been identified by the responsible service director/chief officer.