

**Report of Director of Environment and Housing and Assistant Chief Executive
(Citizens and Communities)**

Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board

Date: 15th September 2014

Subject: 2014/15 Quarter 1 Performance Report

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. Last year the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board agreed revised arrangements for reporting performance across its remit. This includes receiving on a quarterly basis a report which highlights good performance as well as performance in service areas where trends are changing and/or performance is showing signs of deterioration. It also allows the Director / Assistant Chief Executive an opportunity to identify any emerging areas of concern or risks. This report sets out the position at Quarter 1 in relation to the performance areas relevant to the board. Appendices 1 and 2 provide separate highlight reports from the Director of Environment and Housing and the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities).

Recommendations

2. Members are invited to consider the Quarter 1 highlight reports of the Director of Environment and Housing and the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) which are provided as appendices to this covering report.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Board with Quarter 1 highlight reports from the Director of Environment and Housing and the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities), showing areas of good performance as well as performance issues linked to changes in trends or where performance has dipped. It also provides an opportunity for the Director and Assistant Chief Executive to identify any other emerging areas of concern or risks.

2 Background information

- 2.1 This is a new way of reporting performance that was agreed by the Board last year. It also takes account of the changing corporate reporting arrangements. In addition to receiving quarterly highlight reports, the Board will receive, on an alternate basis, more detailed reports covering the Safer and Stronger aspects of the Board's remit from the Director of Environment and Housing and the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities). These will be provided at Quarter 1 and Quarter 2.
- 2.2 This quarter is therefore focusing on the Safer element and members are invited to note the Safer Leeds Accountability Report Cards which are appended to this report (Appendices 3a, 3b and 3c) These provide more detailed information on performance trends and outline the key actions that have taken place, as well as planned activities for the next quarter.

3 Main issues

3.1 Environment & Housing

- 3.1.1 The highlight report is given as Appendix 1 to this report.

- 3.1.2 Areas of performance to highlight include:

- Domestic Burglary which continues to show year on year improvement. Leeds has maintained its position against other core cities and has closed the gap between the next city. Trends are continuing to be tracked on a monthly basis to identify any areas for concern at a district and local level.
- Anti-social Behaviour – there has been an increase in noise reports reflecting the integration of the daytime service and out of hours noise nuisance into LASBT. The last 12 months show an increase of 12.4% on the same period in the previous year.
- Domestic Violence which is showing continuing improvement in terms of repeat victimisation rates. To support the domestic violence strategy, the service has started to monitor repeat suspect rates and will use information to influence delivery. In the 12 months to June 2014 the 12 month rolling repeat suspect rate stood at 16.2% (2,287 repeat suspects).
- Drugs and Alcohol programmes which are continuing to deliver improved levels of successful completions.

- Missed bins figures based on customer feedback which have dropped over Quarter 1 and show significant improvement on 2013/14 Q1 figures.
- Recycling YTD figures which, although slightly below the year-end target, is still showing the highest ever performance by the Council at 43.7% - 3.4% higher than 2012/13.
- Tonnage to landfill which has met the target and is showing significant year on year improvement – 22,000 tonnes less waste to landfill than the previous year.
- Members may also wish to note that a new system is due to be introduced which it is anticipated will allow us to provide more up to date figures for recycling and landfill.
- Grounds maintenance will be reviewed once the end of the mowing season is reached in late October and we will be in a better position to present a full “season” view reflecting seasonal issues and the effect of weather factors.
- Street cleanliness figures for 2013/14 were reported to Members at the last Scrutiny Board Meeting. The summer survey is still ongoing so we expect to provide updated figures for the next board meeting.

3.2 Citizens & Communities

- 3.2.1 The Communities Board has now met three times and is due to meet again on the 12th September. A steering group is developing project proposals which it is hoped will be signed off by the Board at this meeting. Once these are agreed, with associated work activities, appropriate performance measures will be developed and will in the future be reported to this board.
- 3.2.2 To support and promote the community committees strong new branding and guidance has been developed, 8 out of 10 community committees have fully operational ‘Facebook’ pages, and a communications officer has been appointed for 12 months to help build the capacity of the area support teams to make best use of new social media and communications to better engage with local people.
- 3.2.3 In addition, the revised Best Council Plan 2013-17 includes the priority ‘strengthening local accountability and being more responsive to the needs of local communities’ which is within the remit of this board. Work is ongoing to develop performance management arrangements for the revised plan and this board will receive information in relation to this priority once arrangements are finalised. It is expected that this will be in time for the next round of reporting to the board in December.
- 3.2.4 The highlight report at Appendix 2 reflects the current position stated above.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 This is a performance report for the Board's information and as such there is no need for wider consultation. If the Board determines that any performance area requires further investigation, then it may be decided that the views of interested parties should be sought or that existing information reflecting the views of customers and others stakeholders should be provided to the Board.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 This is not a decision-making report and as such there is no need for an EIA screening document to be completed.
- 4.2.2 The business of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board is to consider the extent to which the corresponding Partnership Boards are delivering City Priorities and also to review and challenge the Council's own performance in relation to the Safer/Stronger agenda in particular as outlined in the Best Council Plan 2013-17. As part of this role, the Scrutiny Board will consider the extent to which the relevant partnership boards and directorates are addressing cross-cutting issues, including equality and diversity and cohesion and integration. This will be taken into account when determining the performance information the Scrutiny Board may require. Specifically, the Board's remit also includes scrutiny of cohesion and integration matters under the Stronger Communities element of its work.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The performance information received by the Board allows it to assess and challenge performance in relation to the delivery of specific city priorities and priorities within the Best Council Business Plan 2013-17.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 The Board has specifically asked that the performance information provided is based on information that is already available, and has determined that it will only require more detailed reports where it wants to examine performance areas in more depth, thereby ensuring that reporting arrangements remain efficient and effective.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 The report is provided within the context of the formal role of Scrutiny Boards within the Council's constitution. There is no decision being made and there is therefore no call-in requirement.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 The provision of performance information to the Board is designed to enable the Board to fulfil its role effectively and as such will minimise the risks of non-delivery

of City Priorities and Best Council Business Plan Priorities. Care is being taken to make use of existing data rather than create an additional reporting burden.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Performance in Quarter 1 across the areas of responsibility of the Director of Environment and Housing and the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens & Communities) continues to be generally good, with improving performance trends across the majority of services.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Members are invited to consider the Quarter 1 highlight reports of the Director of Environment and Housing and the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) which are provided as appendices to this covering report.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.