

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

**Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board**

**Date: 8 December 2014**

**Subject: Quarterly Performance Report (including Stronger developments)**

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**

Last year the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board agreed revised arrangements for reporting performance across its remit. This includes receiving on an alternate basis a detailed report on performance in areas relating to the 'Stronger' and 'Safer' communities respectively. It also allows the Director / Assistant Chief Executive an opportunity to highlight good performance as well as identify any emerging areas of concern or risks. This report provides details on both Safer and Stronger elements of the Board's remit, but includes specific details in relation to some aspects of Stronger to reflect some of the emerging developments and the Board is invited to focus in on these aspects as part of its deliberations.

**Recommendations**

Members are invited to consider the quarterly report of the Director of Environment and Housing and the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) and consider specifically some of the emerging developments relating to Stronger Communities aspects.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Board with an update from the Director of Environment and Housing and the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities), highlighting areas of good performance as well as challenges, and emerging areas of concern or risks. It also provides an opportunity for the Board to consider some of the emerging developments relating to Stronger aspects of the Board's remit.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 This report takes account of the changing corporate reporting arrangements, and the agreed arrangements for providing performance information to Scrutiny Boards, as well as the specific requirements agreed by this Board.

## **3 Main issues**

### **Citizens and Communities**

A detailed account of the current position can be found at Appendix 1. Briefly the main areas covered are:

#### **3.1.1 Communities Board**

The Communities Board is continuing to develop projects in a number of areas including locality focused and citywide projects. The projects are of 1 year duration, and, to ensure success, caution and sensitivity are being exercised in their establishment. It is anticipated that, once started (January) the work will be more visible, and the pace will increase. In addition, the Board is currently exploring its role in relation to cohesion and resilience and looking at how it can support the citizens@leeds work to tackle poverty and deprivation.

#### **3.1.2 Migration Work**

Work has taken place based on feedback from CLT, work with the Cross Council Migration Group and the Migration Partnership, which has resulted in a number of key deliverables being agreed.

#### **3.1.3 Poverty Truth Challenge**

Work has continued to take place following the launch to 200 people held at the Civic Hall in February 2014. The following 3 work strands have been established:

- Young people achieving potential
- Stigma and the perception of poverty
- Mental Health and Poverty

#### **3.1.4 Strengthening local accountability and being more responsive to the needs of local communities**

- All the community committees have now completed their first round of meetings and the second round will be completed by the end of November. All community committees have developed and are delivering against their engagement plans. A summary of the plans is at Appendix 2.

- A report to CLT on 2 September 2014 explored some of the different ways social contracts can be used and a framework is being developed.
- A report to Executive Board in October 2014 outlined progress in this area and a further update will be given to Executive Board in March 2015.

### 3.1.5 Resilience

Community resilience' is seen as the ability of individuals, households and communities to negotiate adverse conditions rather than be overcome by them. In order to more fully understand communities and to encourage/promote civic responsibility and the social contract concept work is taking place to try to ascertain a method of understanding/measuring resilience.

## 3.2 Environment & Housing

3.2.1 A highlight report is given as Appendix 3 to this report; this contains quarter 2 data, or latest available data where we are able to provide it.

3.2.2 Areas of performance to highlight include:

- Domestic Burglary which continues to show year on year improvement. Although the number of recorded offences has increased since the last quarter, there has been a change in recording procedure, with multiple offences recorded where a shared property is burgled. Leeds has held its position against other core cities and ranks better than four other authorities as of September 2014. Leeds has reduced its burglary rate by half in the last four years.
- Anti-social Behaviour – In the 12 months to the end of October 2014, there were 5,207 new enquiries allocated to LASBT, a 10.5% (+546) increase on the previous 12 month period. 1,463 new enquiries were received in quarter 2 which is an approximate 1% increase on the same period for 2013/14. There has been an increase in noise reports reflecting the integration of the daytime service and out of hours noise nuisance into LASBT.
- Domestic Violence has shown a slight increase in the prevalence of repeat victimisation from the previous period (up to 35.3% as of October 2014 from 34% at the end of quarter 1). 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 September 2014 the 12 month rolling repeat suspect rate stood at 16.2% (2,311 repeat suspects).
- Drugs and Alcohol programmes which are continuing to deliver improved levels of successful completions against previous years' performance.
- Missed bins figures are showing a month on month improvement over the last quarter with factors such as the phase 1 introduction of in-cab technology and a change to a four-area crew supervision pattern having a positive impact.

- Recycling YTD figures (August 2014) are showing a slight reduction of 1% than for the same period last year despite kerbside recycling volumes being up by 6.7% (adding 1.9% to the NI recycling performance). This overall slight reduction is partially attributed to AWM recycling less from their plant and doing more energy recovery than recycling. In addition, only 80% of street arisings are being accepted as composting as per EA discussions as to the correct definitions of their treatment.

(September YTD data (to be verified) shows a reduction of 0.6% on the same period last year although kerbside recycling volumes are up by 8.4%.)

- Tonnage to landfill which although not currently on target, is showing slightly reduced YTD (August 2014) figures than for the same period last year. Kerbside collected black bin waste is showing a reduction of 2,564t for the same period, having included the disposal of additional residual waste from new properties in the city.
- Grounds maintenance - The current position regarding the Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract is captured in the report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development entitled "Grounds Maintenance – Recommendation Tracking" which was considered by the Board on 10th November. The contract is at a review point and the Council is considering how it may make allowances for exceptional weather conditions going forward. This will include a contingency plan whereby additional operational resources in residential areas are provided by the Parks and Countryside service during the peak flush of growth.

## **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.

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**

Performance across the portfolio of the Board's remit is generally good and holding well or improving, although there are challenges around recycling and avoiding waste going to landfill.

Work is continuing to develop around the 'Stronger' agenda. Much of this is in early stages and specific performance measures are being developed. Conversations with the Becketts' University have indicated that they will provide a critical friend to proposed approaches to performance in relation to the Communities' Board.

## **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 Members are invited to consider the quarterly report of the Director of Environment and Housing and the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) and focus in particular on 'Stronger' aspects covered within the report.

## **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

None

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<sup>1</sup> 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.