
Report of Director of City Development

Report to Sustainable Economy and Culture Scrutiny Board

Date: 16th December 2014

Subject: 2014/15 Quarter 2 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

This report provides a summary of performance against the strategic priorities for the council and city relevant to the Sustainable Economy and Culture Scrutiny Board, in line with the process agreed at the Board's meeting on 17th December 2013.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to

- Note the Quarter 2 performance information and to consider if they wish to undertake further scrutiny work to support improvement over the coming year in any of these areas.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report presents a summary of the quarter two performance data for 2014/15, and provides an update on progress in delivering the relevant priorities in the City Priority Plan 2011-15 and the Best Council Plan 2013-17.

2. Background information

- 2.1 Members will be aware that the delivery of the City Priority Plan is shared with partners across the city while the Best Council Plan sets out the Council's key objectives and priorities. This report provides an overview of the performance relating to both plans enabling the Scrutiny Board to consider and challenge the council's performance as well as seeking to influence partners' contributions through existing partnership arrangements.
- 2.2 This report has 2 appendices:
- Appendix 1 – SEC Board Progress Update (relating to the City Priority Plan, Best City for Business Objective)
 - Appendix 2 – Performance Summary (relating to the Best Council Plan)
- 2.3 Members will also be aware that the Best Council Plan has been reviewed for 2014/15, and from Quarter 2 progress updates reflect an amended set of priorities and success measures.

3. Main issues

Quarter 2 Performance Summary

City Priority Plan

- 3.1 The attached update (Appendix 1) outlines progress against the 'Big Ideas' identified by the Sustainable Economy and Culture Board in line with the City Priority Plan. These derive from the three priorities aligned to the Board and their associated obsessions, shown in brackets:
- Drive the sustainable growth of the Leeds economy to support the creation of new jobs and skills (maximising job growth)
 - Promote low carbon businesses, buildings, energy generation and connectivity across the City (becoming a low carbon city)
 - Raise the profile of Leeds and its cultural opportunities (enjoying an active and creative city)

Best Council Plan

- 3.2 Appendix 2, Performance Summary, shows progress against the priorities relevant to the Sustainable Economy and Culture Scrutiny Board within the Best Council Plan.
- 3.3 A number of the Best Council Plan success measures are reported annually, as shown on the Performance Summary.
- 3.4 The Board's attention is drawn to those rated as amber or red relating to:
- Achieve the housing growth target
 - The number of people Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI)

- 3.5 The amber rating assigned to the indicator 'achieve the housing growth target' reflects that at quarter 2, 1,723 new homes had been provided, including both long term (6 months plus) empty homes returned to use and newly developed properties, i.e. 47% of the 3,660 target. Of these, 848 were empty properties returned to use and 875 were newly developed homes.
- 3.6 The 'long term (6 months plus) empty properties returned to use' aspect of this indicator relates to private sector properties excluding 2nd homes, Registered Social Landlord properties, student accommodation and partially occupied shared accommodation. The target for this element is to achieve a net reduction of 400 from the position at the end of March 2014 (4,747 homes). The latest figure for the end of quarter 2 shows this figure to be currently standing at 3,899 i.e. a decrease of 848. However, this part of the indicator has a tendency to fluctuate throughout the year and the figure at the end of March 2015 is not guaranteed to reflect such a good result.
- 3.7 The delivery of new homes against its part of the annual target i.e. 3,260 homes, has fallen below that anticipated. 2014/15 Forecasts were based on increasing completions since April 2012, the high level of starts in quarter 4 2013/14, and the availability of land supply with planning permission.
- 3.8 The levelling out of housing delivery is likely to be as a result of a number of national factors including:
- slowing of the housing market and growing caution among potential homebuyers and builders through the summer;
 - tightening of lending criteria via the Mortgage Market Review (MMR) causing a dip in mortgage lending;
 - signs the economy is cooling and nervousness about weaker growth prospects across the Eurozone;
 - prospects through the summer of an interest rate rise in early 2015.
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- 3.9 Signs are that the national impediments to housing delivery have eased and completions should return to the trends experienced during 2013/14. There are a large number of starts in the pipeline on 112 sites which should come forward quickly as demand increases; this is the greatest number of active sites in Leeds in any one year since 2008/09. Much will depend on performance in quarter 3 and quarter 4. Whilst signs are that national factors are looking more positive, in the past local factors, such as site conditions during the winter months, have played a role.
- 3.10 From the local perspective, the establishment of the Housing Growth Team brings together an enhanced resource to accelerate housing growth, both through direct delivery and as part of the Council's enabling role. Housing Growth will be regularly reviewed by the Housing Growth Members' Steering Group, which is due to consider at its next meeting, on 12th December, how progress against targets will be reported.
- 3.11 The overall figures for road injuries were at an all-time low in 2013, however progress in reducing the Killed and Serious Injuries (KSI) figures has levelled off over the last three years which is reflected by the present red rating. The first half 2014 figures suggest that this trend is set to continue showing 14% up on 2013 and 4% on the 2011-13 average with the year-end figures anticipated to similar or slightly higher than last year. Both pedestrian and cyclist figures are showing higher, although there is some indication that the rate of increase for cyclist casualties may be lower despite continuing signs of growth in use. There is an increase in child casualties, however this is very much against the trend and

thus too early to view this as a change to the prevailing downward trajectory by the year end. At the time of writing fatal road injuries are higher than last year; examination of the circumstances shows a diverse pattern, including a significant proportion having dangerous driver behaviour as the key factor.

- 3.12 A road safety action plan remains in place and during 2014 the focus of behaviour initiatives continues on supporting the most vulnerable road users, pedal and motorcyclists, pedestrians and children. Pedestrian skills and Bikeability training continues with some enhancement to the latter. A “Look-out” campaign was run over the summer across West Yorkshire and plans are being prepared for next year including how enhanced activity and promotion could be used in Leeds, something which will be raised during the 2015-16 budget round. A programme of engineering measures is in place with significant activity to support cycle safety through further route development, particularly the City Connect Cycle Superhighway, which is accompanied by an extensive enhancement to the already planned 20 mph speed limit projects and work to highlight hotspot locations. After a review of pedestrian casualty patterns, schemes are in preparation for two district centre hot spots in Harehills and consideration is being given to the role a 20 mph speed limit might offer for the city centre as part of the wider programme for local safety improvement schemes. In recognition of the vital role of the police and the present casualty picture, work has been instigated to review the situation and our joint working.

4 Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

This is an information report and as such does not need to be consulted on with the public. However all performance information is published on the council's and is available to the public.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 This is an information, rather than a decision-making, report so demonstrating due regard is not necessary. However, it should be noted that the Sustainable Economy and Culture Board's remit has direct benefits to those living in the most deprived areas of the city, and those who fall within the protected characteristics.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 This report provides an update on progress in delivering the council and city priorities in line with the council's performance management framework.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 There are no specific resource implications from this report.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 All performance information is publicly available and is published on the council website. This report is an information update providing Scrutiny with a summary of performance for the strategic priorities within its remit and as such is not subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 There is a comprehensive risk management process in the Council to monitor and manage key risks. This links closely with performance management.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 This report provides a summary of performance against the strategic priorities for the council and city related to Sustainable Economy and Culture Scrutiny Board.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Members are recommended to:
- Note the Quarter 2 performance information and the issues which have been highlighted and consider if they wish to undertake further scrutiny work to support improvement over the coming year in any of these areas.

7.0 Background documents¹

- 7.1 City Priority Plan 2011 to 2015
- 7.2 Best Council Plan 2013 - 17

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.