

Report of Director of City Development

Report to Sustainable Economy and Culture Scrutiny Board

Date: 17th March 2015

Subject: 2014/15 Quarter 3 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 3 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 3 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 two 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 3 progress updates reflect an amended set of priorities and success measures.

3. Main issues

Quarter 3 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 The attached Performance Summary (Appendix 2) 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:
- Percentage of adult population (16+) active for 30 mins once per week
 - Achieve the housing growth target
 - The number of people Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI)

Percentage of adult population (16+) active for 30 mins once per week

- 3.5 The percentage of Leeds' residents (16+) that are active at least once a week stands at 39.5%, which is marginally down from 39.9% a year ago. This is one of the key indicators in the Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy, 2013-2018. Due to the low number of survey participants used by Sport England, the small decrease in percentage is not considered statistically significant.
- 3.6 The indicator does not include all physical activities e.g. dancing, commuting by cycle or walking, which are discounted due to the narrow definition applied, and therefore the indicator may not be entirely reflective of these activities which are equally beneficial to people's health. The impact of current initiatives being delivered such as working with dance groups to increase participation are not counted despite these being in the NHS and Public Health's definition of physical activity.
- 3.7 Leeds ranks as 68 out of 324 local authorities in England, but notably the result is almost 5% higher than the Yorkshire average (34.9%), and is almost 4% higher than the national average (35.8%). With the exception of Nottingham, Leeds' result exceeds all the English Core Cities. 2012/13 saw an increase in participation in sport throughout the UK in the wake of the 2012 Olympics; however in the last two years this has reduced to closer to pre-Olympic levels.
- 3.8 The Sport Service is currently running many well promoted projects including Leeds Let's Get Active; working with Adult Social Care to increase access to Leisure Centres for older people, people with learning disabilities and people with physical impairments; joint commissioning with the NHS; and an expansion of sports' provision in Leeds' schools as part of the Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy. Complementing these local initiatives, there are now central government funded projects to increase participation levels, e.g. through the launch of "This Girl Can", aiming to increase female participation in sports.

Achieve the Housing Growth Target

- 3.9 The red rating assigned to the indicator 'achieve the housing growth target' reflects that as at quarter 3, the number of empty properties increased by 1,097, however 1,417 new homes have been developed to date. Including both empty properties and newly developed homes, it is currently projected that by the end of 2014/15 the figure will be 2,598 homes, i.e. a shortfall of 1,062 homes compared to the 2014/15 Core Strategy target of 3,660 homes.
- 3.10 The 'long term empty properties returned to use' part of this indicator relates to private sector properties excluding second homes, Registered Social Landlord properties, student accommodation and partially occupied shared accommodation. The target for this element of the indicator is to achieve a reduction of 400 compared to the 31st March 2014 (4,747 homes). At the end of quarter 3, this figure stood at 5,844 i.e. an increase of 1,097 properties. It is anticipated that this figure will fluctuate throughout the year.
- 3.11 The number of long term empty properties in the city is calculated from data held by Council Tax. Whilst the quarter three end figures show an increase of 1,097 in empty properties this is not the actual picture of the number of long term empties but represents a statistical quirk as a result of Council Tax activity. At the end of November 2014 the number of long term empty properties stood at 3,976 a reduction of 771 from 1st April 2014. However, in December Council Tax review the number of properties receiving a student exemption. If the service have not received notification that the property continues to be occupied by students the exemption is removed. The properties are flagged as long term

empty properties until such time as the owner or tenants confirm that they are occupied by students. This process is normally complete by the end of quarter four and the number of long term empties returns to normality.

- 3.12 The drop in newly developed homes, relative to previous years, is largely the result of national drivers slowing demand and affecting market recovery in Leeds, including the mortgage market review, messages about interest rates and nervousness about weaker growth prospects across the Eurozone. Quarter 3 has started to show an increase in completions at 542 homes within the quarter, with totals for the first three quarters of 1,417 new homes.
- 3.13 Currently, projections for newly built homes indicate that 2,198 new homes are likely to be developed by the end of 2014/15. Projections of future housing growth are estimated by considering past trends and also by assessing the wider housing market context. There are currently 113 active sites with planning permission with 25 of these sites to deliver 50 plus homes.
- 3.14 Housing starts and completions are picking up and whilst the Council will not meet its target for 2014/15, there are signs that these should be more achievable in 2015/16. This will largely be dependent on improvements in delivery by volume house builders, as currently figures are being bolstered by the Council's delivery of affordable housing, empty properties returned to use and also by development on smaller sites. The Housing Growth Team will continue to identify opportunities to accelerate growth and to closely monitor the situation.

The number of people Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI)

- 3.15 In quarter 3 2014, 88 people were Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) on the roads in Leeds, compared with 84 in quarter 3 of 2013. Between January and September 2014, 240 people were KSI compared to 217 in the same period in 2013, a rise of 11%, and also above the 2011-13 average of 221 KSI's.
- 3.16 From 2007 to 2011 KSI's in Leeds reduced, and since then they have remained relatively stable, however 2014 is showing a significant increase. It is likely that KSIs in 2014 will exceed the 2013 figure and the Best Council Plan 2014/15 target of up to 272 KSI's will not be met. This upward trend is also being replicated across West Yorkshire.
- 3.17 Child, cycle and notably pedestrian casualties are all higher than in 2013. Fatal road injuries are also higher when compared to the same point last year. A number of causes have been found including an increase in criminal driver activities and an increase in the number of cyclists on the city's roads.
- 3.18 Work is being undertaken to address the increase, notably via the Road Safety Action Plan. Key initiatives included in the 2015/16 Capital Programme are: junction amendments on busy cycle corridors; motorcycle specific schemes; extending 20mph zones across the district; and consideration of a 20mph limit in the city centre. Child Pedestrian training, cycle training (Bikeability) and school road safety education schemes are also ongoing along with local road safety campaigns e.g. the West Yorkshire 'Look Out' campaign. The Road Safety Action Plan is also being reviewed to run from 2016/17 to 2019/20.

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 3 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 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.