

Report of the Director of City Development

Scrutiny Board (City Development)

Date: 18th December 2007

Subject: BV165 Performance Indicator

Electoral Wards Affected:

ALL

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Executive Summary

This report sets out the current position of the BV165 performance indicator (% of pedestrian crossings with facilities for disabled people) as a result of external audit carried out in July this year.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 This report has been prepared in response to the Board's request for information arising from the recent external audit of our BV165 Performance Indicator (PI).

2.0 Background Information

2.1 BV165 PI is concerned with signal-controlled pedestrian crossings incorporating dropped kerbs, tactile paving and audible and tactile signals (as appropriate). It is considered important for several reasons,

- Promotion of access and disability rights;
- Compliance with Disability Discrimination Acts;
- Meeting Diversity needs.

2.2 After the first external audit of the Leeds BV165 PI, carried out in July 2006, the Audit Commission issued the following recommendations of good practice: that procedures should be introduced "to document the 'system' used to collect and

process the data in accordance with the definition, including controls and audit trails” and that a “re-inspection of sites under new definitions” should be carried out.

- 2.3 To meet the first recommendation a BV165 process map was developed early in the spring of 2007 and disseminated to all highway engineers during the summer period. This BV165 process map is now used for all projects, carried out on the highway network, which incorporate work adjacent to signal-controlled pedestrian crossings.
- 2.4 The second recommendation, to carry out a re-survey of all sites with signal controlled pedestrian crossings (481 signal installations), was completed in April 2007. The re-inspection showed that 396 signal-controlled pedestrian crossings were DDA compatible being “fit for purpose”.
- 2.5 In July 2007, external auditors sampled 20 of these compatible signal-controlled crossings and verified the Leeds BV165 performance indicator figure for 2006/2007 to be 77.3% (19 crossings passed). The figure of 77.3% placed the Leeds BV165 PI into the top quartile percentage range (beneficial for the Leeds comprehensive performance assessment [cpa]).

3.0 Main Issues for Consideration

- 3.1 The external auditors issued one recommendation to be carried out before their next audit in summer 2008. The existing BV165 working spreadsheet and forms associated with the new process map should be incorporated into the main UTM database. Work is currently underway to achieve this recommendation.
- 3.2 We have set our target performance indicator figure for 2007/2008 at 82%. We are confident this target can be achieved which will keep Leeds in the upper quartile percentage range of the BV165PI.
- 3.3 To achieve this target we are currently carrying out a programme of work to re-visit all sites similar to the crossing that failed the sample audit and undertaking remedial work to bring these crossings up to the “fit for purpose” standard.
- 3.4 The new “National Indicators” list for 2008/2009, which replaces the existing performance indicators, does not contain any reference to a performance indicator for “percentage of pedestrian crossings with facilities for disabled people”. It is still our intention however, to improve this percentage performance indicator each year until we achieve 100% DDA compatibility.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

- 4.1 This report does not raise any issues for Council policy and governance.

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 5.1 This report raise no specific legal and resource implications.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 This report has set out the current position regarding the Leeds BV165PI following the external audit carried out in July 2007.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 Members are requested to note and comment on the contents of this report.