



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

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Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods)

Date: 14th June 2007

Subject: Performance Report Quarter 4 2006/07

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Scrutiny Boards now receive performance information on a quarterly basis with a view to raising any issues of concern and influencing the work programme.
- 1.2 This report discusses the key performance issues considered to be of significance identified for the relevant Corporate Priority Boards (CPB) as at 31st March 2007. In addition, the report also includes a predicted CPA score for 2007/08.
- 1.3 Highlighted in this report is information on the areas relevant to Environment and Neighbourhoods. To support this information, attached at appendix 1 is the table of performance indicators that fall within the remit of this Board for consideration.
- 1.4 The issues discussed in this report have been identified because performance in these areas impacts upon one or more of the following; the delivery of effective services, the delivery of our corporate priorities; our CPA score; or our ability to deliver efficiency savings.
- 1.5 Any improvement in assessment scores should potentially have a positive impact on the council's Direction of Travel assessment and Star Rating.

2.0 Main Issues

2.1 The table below summarises the Council's predicted CPA scores for February 2008.

	Direction of Travel	Star Category	Corporate Assessment	Level 1 Services			Level 2 Services			
				Use of Resources	Children & Young People	Social Care (Adults)	Benefits	Culture	Environment	Housing
CPA 2006	Improving Adequately	3 star	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3
CPA 2007 (provisional)		3 star	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3

2.2 The CPA 2007 provisional score is mainly based on the category scores allocated in 2006. Where this applies the cells are highlighted in grey. This information will be updated as and when assessment scores are confirmed during 2007/08.

3.0 Specific Issues for Environment and Neighbourhoods

- **BV-82a: The proportion of household waste sent by the authority for recycling.**
We have missed our target for recycling (BV-82a) for the year, largely due to our timber contractor refusing to accept MDF, and other low quality waste wood, during the first part of the year. In the latter part of the year we have implemented a new contract which once again allows MDF to be recycled through the household waste sites and performance has improved. The target for composting of waste (BV-82b) has been hit, due to the roll-out of the garden waste pilot, and the inclusion of gulley waste in the calculation.

- BV-82d: The proportion of household waste sent by the authority to landfill**
 The proportion of household waste sent to landfill has missed the target for the year by 0.9%. This is largely due to the reasons outlined above. Comparisons with other authorities should be made with caution, due to the availability of other disposal options in other large cities, e.g. Energy from Waste in Sheffield, Nottingham and Bristol.
- BV-91: Percentage of the population resident in the authority's area served by a kerbside collection of recyclables**
 Performance over the year has not reached the target of 95%. Although over 10,000 more households have been given access to a collection of recyclables over the year, the number of households in Leeds has also grown by 3,500 to 325,027. This has meant that the impact of the new roll-out has not been as strong as first predicted. In addition there are a number of property types which present particular difficulties which regard to kerbside recycling for example, farm routes, some high rise and some city centre properties. We continue to work to resolve these issues and provide a comprehensive kerbside recycling service.
- BV-90a, b, c, BV-89: Percentage of people expressing satisfaction with household waste collection, waste recycling, waste disposal, cleanliness standards**
 The figures for satisfaction may have been affected by a change in survey methodology, however overall satisfaction levels for waste and recycling and cleanliness are comparatively high when compared to other core cities and the national picture.
- BV-126: Domestic burglaries per 1,000**
 This result can be partially explained by a number of factors believed to be impacting adversely on performance:

 - Increase in student population over the last few years has brought a large number of vulnerable young people into high crime areas and thereby increasing the opportunities for offenders to target those at risk.
 - During the summer months of 2006 the hot weather provided increased opportunity for sneak in thefts. Sneak-ins currently running at over 20% of all domestic burglaries.
 - Location of bail hostels in high crime areas also increases the opportunities for individuals to re-offend.
 - Early prison release of prolific offenders and shorter sentencing for convicted offenders.
 - Increase in 'Hanoi' style burglaries where car keys are taken from insecure properties and high value vehicles stolen.

The Leeds wide Operation Strikeback has a dedicated team focusing on the most prolific offenders committing burglary and greater emphasis will be placed on linking these offenders with the Drug Intervention Programme to address their drug behaviour. We will continue with the proactive and reactive target hardening service to protect and reduce the risk to vulnerable neighbourhoods and properties and utilising technology e.g. smartwater and asset tracking. The Safer Leeds Acquisitive Crime Group will be split into 3 sub groups one of which will focus on domestic burglary. The control strategy will be reviewed and monitored on an ongoing basis in line with intelligence reporting.

- BV-127b: Robberies per year, per 1,000 population in the local authority area**
 This result can be partially explained by a number of factors believed to be impacting adversely on performance:

 - The impact of the National Crime Recording Standard is having an adverse effect on the number of robberies recorded. This is because the test applied by police crime evaluators, in accordance with Home Office counting rules, to demonstrate an offence of robbery is now wider than previously and as a consequence they now record more offences as robbery and fewer offences as theft from the person
 - In addition, there has been a growing trend of young people on young people robberies (mobile phones and portable electronic goods).

A review of the robbery control strategy has been undertaken in March 2007 following a visit from a Home Office consultant. The Safer Leeds Acquisitive Crime Group will be split into 3 sub groups one of which will focus on robbery. This is to be chaired by a DCI from North East

Leeds Police Division. The control strategy will be reviewed and monitored on an ongoing basis in line with intelligence reporting.

- **BV-203: The percentage change in the average number of families placed in temporary accommodation**

The return for BV-203 in 2006/07 shows a 24% rise in temporary accommodation placements. It is important to note that the indicator does not capture the actual number of families placed in temporary accommodation at a particular point in time. Rather the figure reported is the average number placed over the four end of quarter snapshots. This figure is compared to the equivalent figure for the previous year to calculate the percentage difference.

There was a significant increase in the number of families in temporary accommodation during the first three quarters of 2006/07. This was primarily due to the continued reduction in the number of social housing lettings which meant that households were waiting longer in temporary accommodation.

The Housing Services Division have developed a plan to reduce the number of temporary accommodation placements by 50% by 2010. This plan focuses on the need to maximise permanent accommodation options, including those within the private sector, identifies opportunities to prevent homelessness and also considers the role of housing support services in speeding up the re-housing process. There were 30 less families placed at the end of Q4 than the position at the end of Q3. The nature of the indicator means that if this rate of placement reduction is maintained the Council will in all likelihood attain upper quartile performance against BV-203 in 2007/08.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 Members are requested to note the information within this report and the table of performance indicators and decide whether further scrutiny is required.