



Report of the Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement

Meeting: Environment and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board

Date: 19th September 2007

Subject: Performance Report Quarter 1 2007/08

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report discusses the key performance issues considered to be of corporate significance identified for the Environment and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board as at 30th June 2007. In addition, the report also includes a predicted CPA score for 2007/08 and a performance table detailing all PI's for this Board.

2 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to present the key areas of under performance at the end of Quarter 1 (1st April and 30th June 2007).

3 Background Information

- 3.1 This 'highlight report' has been prepared in readiness for the Accountability process, which includes the CMT meeting on 14th August, Leader Management Team on 23rd August and Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11th September.
- 3.2 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. This report is supported by detailed PI information.
- 3.3 Any improvement in assessment scores should potentially have a positive impact on the council's Direction of Travel assessment and overall CPA Star Rating.

4 CPA Performance issues

4.1 The table below summarises our 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 Service Assessment	Environment Service Assessment	Housing Service Assessment
CPA 2006	Improving Adequately	3 star	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3
CPA 2007 (provisional)		4 star	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

4.2 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.

4.3 The provisional CPA 2007 Service Assessment scores for Culture, Environment and Housing are included in each Accountability report. These are mainly based on 2006/07 year-end returns, however there are a number of instances where other methods are used.

4.4 The Audit Commission have confirmed the PIs which are to be included in the 2007 CPA Service Assessments and the thresholds to be used to calculate the scores. The above scores have been updated to reflect this, however it must be noted that there are still several outstanding issues which could result in the Culture service assessment score becoming a 2.

The Housing score also takes into account service inspections undertaken between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2007.

4.5 At this stage we are unable to make an informed judgement as to our predicted Direction of Travel score.

4.6 For a more detailed breakdown of the CPA service assessment scores please see Appendix 1.

5 Environment and Neighbourhoods Performance Issues

5.1 Waste

5.1.1 The first three months performance for waste and recycling is very positive with our highest recycling and composting rate ever recorded. For the period from 1st April to 30th June 2007, 26.1% of Leeds' household waste was recycled or composted, an increase of 19% on the figure of 21.9% in the same period last year. The level of waste generate per household continues to fall with nearly 3kg per household less waste being generated compare to the same period last year.

5.1.2 The pilot of garden waste collection continues to yield higher than predicted volumes of garden waste, with over 1,300 tonnes being collection in the first quarter of the year. The tonnage of waste composted has risen by 9% compared to the same period last year.

5.1.3 Although our performance is better than ever, our aim is now to recycle over 50% of Leeds' waste by 2020. The environmental and financial pressures on the authority to reduce our reliance on land filling waste, coupled with the recent announcement of a 50% national target on recycling for 2020, mean that we need a step change in the way we deal with waste in the city. Over the last year we have been working to assess which kerbside waste schemes would help us to recycle as much as we can. Following widespread public consultation, we have put together a package of recycling services which, if implemented, should yield a recycling rate of over 50% by 2020. This Recycling Strategy for Leeds will be tabled for discussion at Executive Board in September.

5.1.4 We are also looking at the ways in which we deal with the waste that isn't recycled. We are looking at alternatives to landfill using cleaner, more environmentally friendly technologies to treat the waste that is not recycled and gain value from it. Several sites which may be used for these facilities, and for any facilities associated with the enhanced recycling services described above, will need to be located somewhere within the Leeds boundary. Several sites that could be used for this are identified in the Aire Valley Area Action Plan which will be tabled for consultation at Executive Board in September.

6 Housing

6.1 BV-203 (CPA): % change in families placed in temporary accommodation (reduction) - This indicator has been deleted by the CLG for 07/08.

6.1.1 The Directorate has continued to monitor this area through the more practical measure, of the numbers of households placed in temporary accommodation (LKI-HAS10). This indicator shows the progress the Directorate has made in tackling the numbers utilising temporary accommodation, despite the continuing scarcity of social rented housing options.

6.1.2 The numbers placed in temporary accommodation peaked at the end of the third quarter 06/07 (615 households) but, following development of a focused action plan, the homeless services has reduced this to the current figure of 469 households (end of 1st qtr 07/08). This represents a 24% reduction over this period. The reduction brings the volumes in temporary accommodation back on target with the overall goal of reducing temporary accommodation usage by 50% by 2010, and year end performance predicted as being better than the 07/08 target of 410 units. Alongside this the Homeless service has continued to provide a reduction in the overall number of households accepted as homeless.

6.1.3 Housing Services has achieved this very significant reduction through a combination of: more focused prevention work in partnership with other public and private partners improvements in prevention outcomes, maximising accommodation options in the public and private sector and ensuring that housing support services deliver their expected outcomes.

6.1.4 There will be a continued focus in 07/08 on the ability of the service and its partners to prevent homelessness, within a context of dwindling housing supply. However the focus on prevention and the reduction in supply does create tensions between customers' expectations and the waiting time for a social housing outcome which has risen from 27 weeks at the end of 05/06 to 37 weeks currently. Alongside the development of prevention services and alternative housing options, the development of the Affordable Housing Plan and the welcome support from Government for increasing the supply in this sector are key to sustaining the overall service improvements.

7 Recommendations

7.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee considers the Quarter 1 performance information and highlight any areas for further scrutiny.