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## Report of the Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement

### Meeting: Environment and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008

Subject: Performance Report Quarter 4 2007/08

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity ☐

Community Cohesion ☐

Narrowing the Gap ☐

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## 1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report discusses the key performance issues considered to be of corporate significance identified for each of the Directorates as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008.

## 2 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to highlight key performance issues at the end of Quarter 4 (1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008) and to provide additional contextual information where relevant.

## 3 Background Information

- 3.1 This 'highlight report' has been prepared following the Accountability process, which includes the CLT meeting on 20th May and Leader Management Team on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008. Separate reports have been prepared for each of the scrutiny boards.
- 3.2 Scrutiny board arrangements have been slightly amended this year which has meant that performance information has had to be split differently between boards. For some PI's this split is not straightforward, for example, is teenage conception a health issue or a children's issue? For this reason we have decided for quarter 4 to report such indicators to both relevant boards. As the new arrangements bed-in greater clarity may emerge, although in theory there would appear to be no reason why dual reporting could not continue.
- 3.3 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.

## 4 Directorate Performance Issues

## **4.3 Environment and Neighbourhoods**

### **Waste Management (BV82a-d and BV-84a-b)**

2007/08 has been a very successful year in terms of the reducing, reusing and recycling Leeds' waste. The proportion of waste recycled or composted has risen from 22.3% in 2006/07 to 25.9% in 2007/08 (BV-82A&B). Over 10,000 tonnes more waste has been recycled or composted than in 2006/07. This is largely due to the pilots of garden waste collection delivering nearly 3,500 tonnes of green waste (36% more than we originally estimated), an increase in the amount of glass collected at bring banks (up 18% year on year) and an increase in the amount of recycling collected at the kerbside of over 2,200 tonnes (up 9% year on year).

This has had a positive affect on the proportion of waste sent to landfill, with 73.7% of waste being landfilled (BV-82d), compared to 77.1% in 2006/07. Effectively, 17,042 tonnes less waste was sent to landfill in 2007/08 compared to the previous year (equivalent to the weight of more than 2,400 double-decker buses).

The total amount of waste being created in the first place has also decreased, from 467kg per head of population to 440kg per head in 2007/08 (BV-84b). Some of this reduction is due to an increase in population figures, however the overall amount of waste arising has also reduced by 7,700 tonnes year on year (a 2.3% reduction year on year).

### **Homelessness Prevention (inc. Sanctuary scheme performance)**

Homeless prevention performance continues to show significant improvements and this year's targets have been exceeded. This is due to a variety of prevention measures and improvements to services. A key contributory factor has been the success of the Sanctuary scheme which has benefited over 300 households which is far in excess of the 250 target for 2007/08. Through this scheme a range of security measures are installed in a person's property, including an emergency alarm so that they can make contact with the police in an emergency situation. The scheme provides families with a way of avoiding the disruptive effects of leaving their homes and entering the homelessness process. It should be noted that, of the 305 sanctuary installations carried out in 2007/08, only 15 recipients of the service subsequently made a homeless application, suggesting a high impact on preventing homelessness. The number of individuals and families in temporary accommodation has come down and has been stabilised, however, there is an anticipated pressure emerging as a result of the Government's drive to resolve a significant number of asylum cases which will need careful management over the coming weeks.

### **Decency (184a and b)**

Council house decency continues to improve and ALMOs are on target to deliver decency by 2010/11. In 2007/8 a further £165.4m (provisional figure) was spent on capital investment to council houses in Leeds. As a result of this and previous investment, nearly 78% of council houses in Leeds met the government's decent homes standard at 31 March 2008. A further £110.9m investment is planned on council houses in 2008/9. It is estimated that, by 31 March 2009, 85% of council houses will meet the government's decent homes standard.

### **Rents (BV66a)**

Performance has dropped slightly since last year and continues to give cause for concern, although we have managed to maintain a CPA mid threshold position in 2007/08. Strategic Landlord is planning to work with ALMOs to identify and accurately diagnose performance issues, including local variations in practice and performance and learn from best practice and high performing authorities, with a view to driving up performance across the board.

## **5 Recommendation**

That Members note the content of this report and comment on any particular performance issues of concern.