Report authors: Tim Rollett, Emma Kamillo-Price and Chris Shillito, Tel: (37) 89235, (37) 86946, (37) 87840

Report of Director of City Development and Chief Executive

Report to Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth)

Date: 17th February 2021

Subject: Best Council Plan Performance Report Quarter 2 2020/21

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	☐ Yes ☒ No
Has consultation been carried out?	☐ Yes ☒ No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	☐ Yes ☒ No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	☐ Yes ☒ No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	☐ Yes ☒ No

Summary

1. Main issues

This report provides a summary of performance information relating to areas of the Best City Priorities Inclusive Growth and Housing that fall within the scope of the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board. It draws on a well-established set of indicators, which track key elements of the city's economy and housing market. Clearly, Covid-19 has and will have a major impact on the city, however, the precise effects are yet to manifest themselves fully, and data will lag these impacts.

2. Best Council Plan implications (see the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

The report provides an update on performance in delivering the Council's strategic ambitions, outcomes and priorities, as contained within the Best Council Plan 2020-25.

3. Resource implications

There are no specific resource implications from this report, although some performance indicators relate to financial and other value for money aspects.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- Note the performance information contained in this report 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.
- Note that the ‘measurable’ impact of Covid-19 is yet to fully flow into the data analysed.

1. Purpose of this report

1.1. This report is a periodic performance update to Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board providing a summary of the Best Council Plan Key Performance Indictors (KPIs) that relate to the Inclusive Growth priority. The report is based on the most recent performance results submitted to City Development Leadership Team (CDD) and the council’s Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) in November 2020.

1.2. Performance results relating to the Best Council Plan priority Sustainable Infrastructure were reported to the Board at their meeting on 20th January 2021.

2. Background information

2.1. Members will note that the Best Council Plan (BCP) sets out the council’s key outcomes and priorities. This report provides an overview of the relevant key performance indicators relating to this plan, enabling the Scrutiny Board to consider and challenge the council’s performance in these areas.

2.2. This report includes two appendices:

- Appendix 1: Best Council Plan 2020-25 Performance Summary Quarter 2 2020/21
- Appendix 2: Best Council Plan 2015-20 Performance Summary, 2019/20

3. Main issues

3.1. Best Council Plan Performance Quarter 2, 2020/21

3.1.1. Appendix 1 shows progress against the Inclusive Growth priority relevant to the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board within the BCP 2020–25.

3.1.2. In Appendix 1, Members will find a summary of the KPIs relevant to the Inclusive Growth portfolio area, showing the most recent results, the majority of which were reported to CDD and CLT in November 2020. Members are asked to note that although some KPIs are reported four times a year, others are available less frequently, such as annually. Members will also find that some indicators are reported in arrears and Members are advised that the period to which each result relates is shown in both the body of the report and the appendix.

3.1.3. In August 2020, as a direct result of the pandemic, the UK went into recession for the first time since 2008/09. The number of workers on UK payrolls is falling and more high street businesses are entering into administration. Due to the ongoing national lockdown restrictions, many businesses continue to face severe pressure, with concerns regarding business closures and redundancies. These impacts are being felt locally in Leeds too. In terms of the labour market, almost 90,000 employees were furloughed in the city after the pandemic took effect, with young people and low earners the most likely to have been affected as they are prevalent in the hardest hit sectors. The hospitality and retail sectors, both of which had a thriving presence in Leeds have been especially hard hit by the lockdown. The Office market in the city has also been affected, with potential far-reaching impacts about future working habits and associated impacts on consumer-demand and footfall in the city centre. We have yet to see the longer-term effect on unemployment levels in the city, mainly because firms have put employees on the Government-backed furlough scheme.

3.1.4. Most of the results included in this report are subject to a time lag in their publication e.g. performance relating to the 2019/20 may not be made available until 2020/21, and as such will not yet reflect the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. Members are made aware that the next set of results for Inclusive Growth will likely begin to highlight the impact of Covid-19.

3.1.5. The key challenge for the council and the city will be supporting Leeds's economic recovery from Covid-19, getting people back into work and building longer-term economic resilience. The council is working with a wide range of stakeholders to understand the impact on our economy and provide support where possible.

3.1.6. The Board's attention is drawn to the key performance indicators in Appendix 1 relating to the following areas:

3.2. Employment in Leeds

3.2.1. The analysis presented below, pre-dates Covid-19. It shows that Leeds continued to be a relatively strong engine for job creation, particularly driven by private sector. This performance should stand Leeds in good stead in the post-Covid-19 recovery. However, clearly the crisis is adversely affecting the levels of employment in the city, with jobs being lost in those sectors most adversely impacted. These sectors are also most likely to employ young people, and low earners, further compounding inequalities.

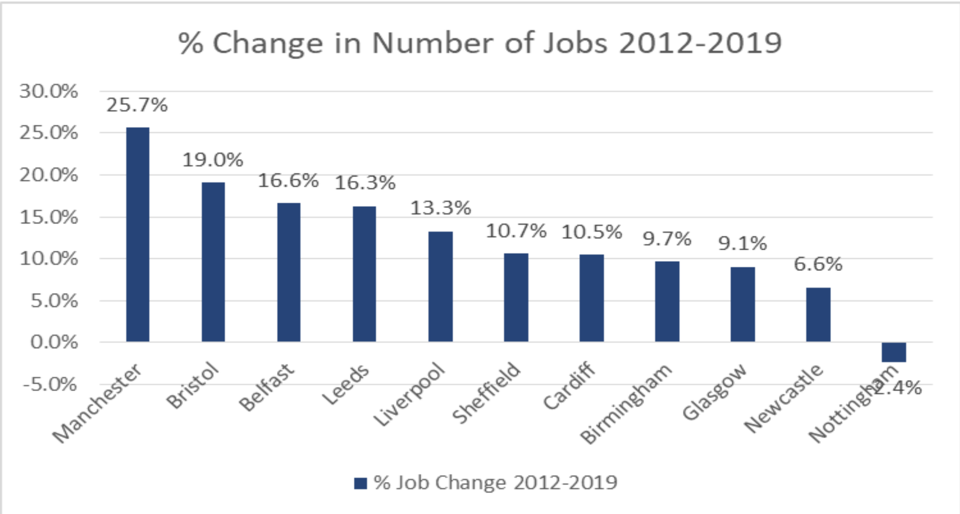
3.2.2. Based on the data available this annual indicator reports the number of jobs whilst showing the split between the private (employees and working proprietors) and the public sectors in Leeds using the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES). This is the official source of job and employment estimates and is conducted by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). The survey collects employment information from businesses across the whole of the UK economy for each site they operate, enabling the production of estimates by detailed geography, industry (by using Standard Industrial Classification codes) split by full-time and part-time workers and public or private sectors.

3.2.3. In November 2020 the provisional result for all employment (the number of jobs) for the calendar year 2019 was released and this rose from the confirmed 2018 result of 471,200 jobs to 471,800 jobs. A small increase of 0.13% since 2018, although of note is that the latest 2019 result is provisional and will be updated to the confirmed result in November 2021.

3.2.4. The table shows the changes between 2018 and 2019 split between full time and part time employees in both public and private sector jobs, as well as working proprietors and highlights changes in the sectors. In Leeds, although the overall number of jobs rose slightly, largely the effect of increases in full time public sector jobs, private sector jobs fell overall by 0.4%.

	Employment in Leeds								
	Public Sector			**Private Sector**			**All Employment**		
	Full Time Employees	Part Time Employees	All Employees	Full Time Employees	Part Time Employees	All Employees	Total Employees	Working Proprietors	Total Employment
2019 (provisional)	56,100	25,400	81,500	265,300	114,900	380,200	461,700	10,100	471,800
2018	52,900	26,500	79,400	267,800	113,800	381,600	461,000	10,200	471,200
Change	+3,200	-1,100	+2,100	-2,500	+1,100	-1,400	+700	-100	+600
% Change	+6.0%	-4.2%	+2.6%	-0.9%	+1.0%	-0.4	+0.2%	-1.0%	+0.13%

3.2.5. The graph below shows the percentage change in the total number of jobs, both public and private sector (including working proprietors) for each of the core cities between 2012 and 2019. As seen below, the number of jobs between 2012 and 2019 in Leeds rose by 16.3%, fourth highest amongst the 11 core cities over the same period.



3.3. <u>Gross Value Added (GVA) per filled job</u>

3.3.1. GVA is a measure of the increase in the value of the economy due to the production of goods and services. There are three official measure of GVA – Income (I) based, productivity (P) based and the more recent Balanced (B) based figures. We have adopted the balanced approach for reporting in our Best Council Plan and our Economic Indicators. GVA per filled job is then used to express our productivity level which apportions GVA to the number of jobs in the city. How this changes over time is generally regarded as the single most important indicator of the health of local and regional economies, how they grow over time, of productivity, incomes and the welfare of people living in a region. The data is released in December each year by the ONS one year in arrears.

3.3.2. Like the section above, GVA data pre-dates Covid-19. Leeds, like the rest of the UK, is likely to see a significant hit on economic output. Even before the crisis, productivity was a long-standing challenge for Leeds, as it is in all of the Core Cities.

3.3.3. A key area for concern is the ‘hollowing-out’ of skilled and semi-skilled occupations, traditionally in the manufacturing sector, but increasing across a wider range of sectors. Although Leeds produces a range of highly skilled jobs, recent employment and output growth has seen a rise in ‘lower productivity’ sectors such as consumer-services, gig economy workers, low paid jobs, portfolio workers (with several part time jobs) and this continues to impact on growth and productivity. These sectors are often most severely affected by Covid-19. It will be important that recovery efforts look to boost productivity as well as replacing jobs.

3.3.4. The GVA per filled job provides an indicative assessment of the productivity of businesses and individuals in Leeds. GVA per filled job is a measure of the productivity of those who are actually in work, as opposed to the per head calculation which used the number of residents of the local authority to provide the result. The calculation is based on the number of jobs in the city, whether these are residents or commuters into Leeds and also adjusts for double-jobbing i.e. when some individuals hold two or more jobs.

3.3.5. The GVA per filled job result for the calendar year 2018 (the latest figures available), grew by 1.4% compared to 2017, from £52,568 to £53,311 per filled job. This GVA per filled job ranked Leeds third amongst the core cities (excluding Newcastle for which figures were not available), behind Belfast and Manchester.

3.3.6. The result for the 2019 calendar year will be available early in 2021 and will be reported to this Board later in the year.

3.4. <u>Number of new business start-ups</u>

3.4.1. This indicator reports business start-ups using figures from BankSearch which compiles information from Companies House and High Street Business Bank account openings data. The data is reported in calendar years and the target for 2020/21 is an increase against the number of start-ups reported for the calendar year 2019 i.e. greater than 4,338 start-ups.

3.4.2. Between January and September 2020, there were 2,780 start-up businesses in Leeds. Compared to the same period in 2019, there were 19% or 654 fewer business start-ups in Leeds. The number of start-ups fell further in Leeds than in Yorkshire & Humber (-15.8%) and England (-15.5%). This growth rate ranks Leeds at 139 out of the 317 English districts a fall from 116 out of 326 at the end of 2019.

3.4.3. Between January and September 2020, the wards with the greatest number of start-ups were Little London & Woodhouse, Gipton & Harehills and Crossgates & Whinmoor; with the fewest start-ups in Kippax & Methley, Garforth & Swillington and Otley & Yeadon.

3.5. Number of business scale ups

3.5.1. The annual business scale ups indicator is calculated using the Mint BVD business demography product which uses the Inter-Departmental Business Register. The two main sources of input are the Value Added Tax (VAT) system from HMRC (Customs) and Pay As You Earn (PAYE) from HMRC (Revenue) with some additional data including from Companies House. Only limited companies with their registered addresses in Leeds (those registered elsewhere but with branches in Leeds are excluded) reporting over 20% growth in turnover or employment annually for three years are included. There is a reporting lag of over a year for this indicator due to delays in businesses submitting their final accounts for inclusion in the results, as such, the annual result for the period 2018/19 will be available in April 2021.

3.5.2. The annual result reported is that 467 businesses scaled up in Leeds in 2017/18 i.e. had 20% growth in either turnover or employment over the previous three years. Scale ups have been sustained at a similar level to that previously reported i.e. 461 businesses scaled up in 2016/17, and is indicative of business confidence in the city at that time, although the time lag in the data should be noted. Also, given that the data set is largely limited to PAYE and VAT registered business, wider economic activity in the city is not captured within these results. Of the 467 businesses that scaled up in Leeds, 395 were in the main city area and 72 were in the city fringe areas of Pudsey, Wetherby and Otley.

3.6. Business survival rate

3.6.1. This new annual indicator reports the number of new businesses still trading after 5 years. The data comes from Business Demography which is an annual publication produced from the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR), and reported via the ONS. The publication focuses on changes to the registered business population, i.e. those businesses registered at HMRC for Value Added Tax (VAT) and/or Pay As You Earn (PAYE) and at Companies House.

3.6.2. Business demography measures businesses that were active during the reference year, therefore the latest publication (November 2020) measures businesses that were active between December 2018 and December 2019, i.e. that the business had either turnover or employment at any time during that period, and is reported in November of the following year, i.e. a lag of 11 months.

3.6.3. The latest result showed that 42.9% of businesses which started up during 2014 in Leeds were still trading after 5 years. This is unchanged since the previous result (42.9%), a figure which is also used as the current target.

3.6.4. 1,835, or 42.9%, of the 4,275 businesses which started up during 2014 in Leeds were still trading after 5 years. Although the Leeds 5-year business survival rate is unchanged from the previous year, it has overtaken Bristol to become highest amongst the Core Cities:

Leeds - 42.9%; Bristol - 42.8%; Sheffield- 41.6%; Cardiff - 41.4%; Birmingham - 38.3%; Nottingham - 38.5%; Newcastle upon Tyne - 40.1%; Manchester - 38.2%; Glasgow City - 37.3% Liverpool - 36.8%

3.6.5. Business survival rates are one indicator of the enterprise dynamics of a local economy, the most dynamic economies in the UK have high business start-up rates and high rates of businesses closing, reflecting that entrepreneurs have confidence to start up and invest. The critical issue is does a local economy have a growing business stock (a positive net balance between business births and businesses which have stopped trading) and is there evidence that a proportion of that business stock is demonstrating high growth.

3.7. Change in business rates payable since 2017 revaluation

3.7.1. Business rates i.e. National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR), underwent a revaluation applicable from the 1st April 2017 which means that the amount of gross NNDR payable in 2017/18 will constitute a baseline against which future years' NNDR can be reported. The business rates growth indicator is reported gross of appeals, discounts and reliefs, in order that it is more reflective of the change in the absolute rateable value in Leeds and is more indicative of business and economic growth in the local economy.

3.7.2. The difference in gross business rates payable between the 1st April 2020 and the 30th September 2020 is reported here, i.e. the within year change. On the 1st April 2020, £467m NNDR was payable, however by 30th September this had fallen to £463.25m i.e. a reduction of £3.75m or 0.8%. It is expected that gross rates payable will rise as backlogs in the Business Rates Team and Valuation Office Agency (VOA) are cleared, and once refurbished properties are completed and reassessed for inclusion on the ratings list.

3.7.3. In response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has put in place a number of initiatives to support businesses including business rates relief for a range of occupied retail, leisure and hospitality properties. This support and the ongoing economic situation for businesses will have an impact on future levels of business rates payable.

3.7.4. Overall, Leeds has a dynamic start-up sector, which again is likely to be heavily impacted by the current crisis. However, those factors that have driven start-up activity, such as the strong presence of business network in health, fintech and digital industries, together with strong links into Universities should serve the city well in recovery.

3.8. Visitor economic impact for Leeds

3.8.1. Like the employment and GVA sections earlier in this report, the results for visitor economic impact data pre-dates Covid-19. In between the three national lockdowns, there has been some retail, hospitality and cultural activity in the city, however the visitor economy has been temporarily decimated by the impact of the pandemic.

3.8.2. This annual indicator reports the economic impact to the city of the visitor economy. The data is taken from the Economic Impact Report produced by Global Tourism Solutions (GTS), where particular local information and data is provided to GTS such as footfall; hotel occupancy and rates; events; attractions; and this is input into the Economic Impact Model which provides data about the economic impact of various types of visitors in Leeds.

3.8.3. This indicator reports the economic impact of 'Day and Night Visitors' to the Leeds economy. The latest result from the annual 2019 Economic Impact Report for the

Visitor Economy (published in summer 2020) predates the impact of the pandemic and the results should be viewed in this context.

3.8.4. The Economic Impact Report indicates that the economic impact of the visitor economy in Leeds (day visitors and staying visitors) grew by almost 4.3% between 2018 and 2019, by an additional £58m to £1.89bn, an increase of 7.8% on 2018. In 2019, 30.42m day and staying visitors spent a total of 33.73m days in Leeds, supporting 21,520 people in direct/indirect visitor economy employment.

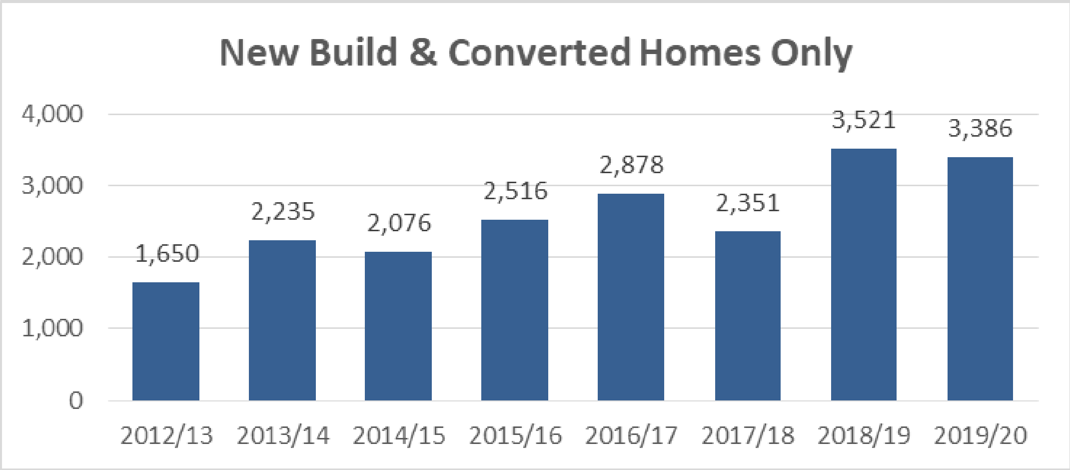
3.8.5. Day visitors continued to make up the majority of visitors accounting for 92%, with the remaining 8% representing staying visitors. Since 2013 Leeds has seen 22% growth in visitor numbers and 43% increase in their economic impact. FTE jobs supported by the sector has similarly grown by 22%. There is steady growth in the staying visitor market with visitor numbers growing by 28%, compared to that of day visitor market in which visitor numbers have grown by 21%.

3.9 <u>Growth in new homes in Leeds</u>

3.9.1 The Growth in new homes indicator shows those homes in Leeds which have been newly built or converted into residential properties. With the adoption of the new Core Strategy Selective Review (CSSR) in September 2019, an annual target of 3,247 new homes applies from 1st April 2017 to the 31st March 2033.

3.9.2 The total number of new build and converted homes delivered during 2019/20 was 3,386, slightly lower than in 2018/19 (3,521) but above the new target of 3,247 per year. This includes developments completed as part of permitted development approvals for office to residential use. In total, 3,877 units have been approved by this route since 2014 at an average of 845 new homes per annum representing less than 10% of overall approvals. These schemes helped to kick-start development in the city centre after the previous recession and have made a modest but important contribution to overall numbers during the last six years. More recently, the potential of this delivery route has come under greater focus following flexibilities announced by the Government highlighting the opportunities for the conversion of office space for residential occupation particularly in the city centre. An increase was recorded in 2020/21 with 1,173 units approved as part of permitted development applications representing over 30% of all approvals.

3.9.3 The trend in new build and converted homes since the original Core Strategy was adopted in 2012 is shown in the chart below. A small decrease in performance between 2018/19 and 2019/20 reflects a dip in output in the final month of the year as construction sites started to prepare for the restrictions that were to be required in the response to Covid-19 and implement necessary procedural changes for site safety.



3.9.4 In the first quarter of 2020/21, 417 new homes were completed, the lowest level of quarterly delivery since 2012. This is the result of unprecedented disruption on construction sites following the coronavirus pandemic restrictions with impacts on construction and demand.

3.9.5 However, in the second quarter (and likely as a result of Government relaxations on stamp duty and lockdown exemptions for construction), 1,195 units were completed, of which 1,042 units were on brownfield (87%) and 153 (13%) on greenfield land. This is a significant uplift on the previous quarter and puts performance back on track to meet the annual target. This brings the total number of new homes to 1,612 for the year.

3.9.6 1,195 completions in a 3 month period is the largest return for a number of years, and was driven by a number of big construction schemes that are now starting to translate into completions. The total this quarter largely consisted of completions on two big student accommodation schemes in the city centre at Portland Crescent (308 units) and Podium Buildings on Merrion Way (246 units).

3.9.7 There remains a healthy pipeline of sites under construction comprising over 100 active sites with around 5,200 individual units being built (over 75% on previously developed land) including large sites in the city centre and inner areas such as Mustard Wharf and Hunslet Mill and more traditional builds from volume homebuilders at Thorpe Park and Spofforth Hill. The output of completed homes on those sites continues, although at reduced levels. A number of large city centre schemes including build to rent and student accommodation remain under construction. These together with an acceleration of output across all sites (aided by the Adoption of the Site Allocations Plan in 2019) and completion of one or more of the large city centre schemes will be critical to meeting the Core Strategy annual target.

3.10 Number of affordable homes delivered

3.10.1 The National Planning Policy Framework 2019 definition of Affordable housing is housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers.

Examples of this can include products such as Social Rent, Affordable Rent, Buy to Rent, Intermediate Rent, Shared Ownership and Discounted Sale. The Councils

Core Strategy (Policy H5) states that the mix of affordable housing should be designed to meet the identified needs of households as follows:

• 40% affordable housing for Intermediate or equivalent affordable tenures

• 60% affordable housing for Social Rented or equivalent affordable tenures

3.10.2 This indicator shows completed affordable homes (AH) which are ready for habitation and is calculated from a number of sources:

- Delivered as a condition of planning, i.e. via a Section 106 agreement.
- Affordable Housing Providers:
  - delivered by Registered Providers (RP) from Homes England (HE) grant funding utilised for new build, acquisition and refurbishment schemes
  - delivered through Providers programmes with no grant funding input
  - delivered with support from the Right to Buy (RtB) Replacement Programme by affordable housing providers for new build, acquisition and refurbishment schemes
- Leeds City Council:
  - delivered through the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) new build programme
  - delivered through HE grant funding used for new build, acquisition and refurbishment schemes
  - delivered by the Council via RtB grant funding and used for new build, acquisition and refurbishment schemes

3.10.3 Similarly to the growth in new homes indicator above, with the adoption of the Core Strategy Selective Review (CSSR) at Full Council on the 11th September 2019, a new AH target applies from 1st April 2017 to the 31st March 2033. The new AH target increased from 1,158 to 1,230 annually, comprising the annual in-year need target for AH of 434 plus an additional annual requirement of 796 AH to contribute towards historic under-provision.

3.10.4 At the end of 2019/20, the total of AH had increased by 439, compared to a total of 433 for the 2018/19 period.

3.10.5 As at Q2, 143 affordable homes were delivered: 49 through s106 planning obligations; 28 by Registered Providers (RP); and 66 through the Council Housing Growth Programme (CHGP). Despite the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, the total is almost unchanged from Q2 in 2019/20 when142 units were delivered. Due to the initial cessation of onsite delivery and subsequent resumption with stringent site restrictions, caused by the pandemic, RP delivery has been very low.

3.10.6 RPs have rescheduled a number of schemes due in 2020/21. Further work will be undertaken with RPs and Homes England (HE) to understand the impact on the programme and site delivery, including seeking an extension from HE to the Shared Ownership Affordable Housing Programme.

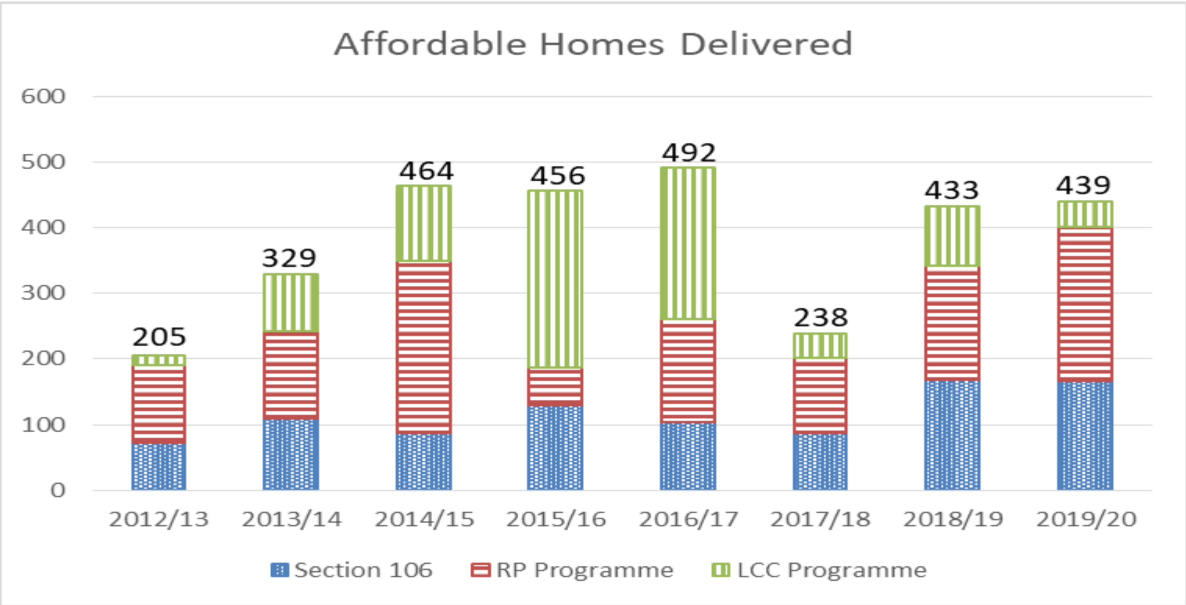
3.10.7 The CHGP has 691 new homes (185 Extra Care; 490 general needs; and 16 working age adult bungalows) at various stages of development including: 12 units securing planning approval; 256 in preparation for planning submissions; 226 in mid-procurement; and an additional 197 in pre-procurement.

3.10.8 This is a reflection of the complex challenges around sites, procurement and planning, and work continues to be undertaken to consider whether the council has the right tools, funding and partners in place to increase and maximise AH delivery.

3.10.9 A number of RPs are negotiating with/have entered into HE strategic partnerships enabling greater flexibility in grant allocations, contingent upon exceeding Business Plan targets by 20%. Some RPs are submitting planning applications for significant developments or acquiring large sites. The most significant are:

a) The acquisition by the Guinness Partnership Trust of a large site in South Bank with permission for over 1,000 new homes, around 40% at affordable rent through a Strategic Partnership with HE.

b) The acquisition by Clarion of the Kirkstall Road (former City Reach) site, which has scope for over 1,000 new homes, of which around a third are expected to be affordable.



4. Corporate considerations

4.9 Consultation and engagement

4.9.1 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 website and is available to the public.

4.10 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

4.10.1 This is an information report, rather than a decision report and so due regard is not relevant.

4.11 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

4.11.1 This report provides an update on progress in delivering the council priorities in line with the council's performance management framework.

Climate Emergency

4.3.2 The Council declared a climate emergency in March 2019 with the stated ambition of working to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030 for the city. The delivery of the strategic ambitions, outcomes and priorities contained within the BCP 2020-25, as indicated by the performance of the key performance indicators (KPI's reported above), already incorporate consideration of climate emergency interventions. Services will continue to consider additional actions in the work they deliver to support the BCP as they further develop their approach to responding to climate change and its mitigation. Reference is made to climate emergency actions where appropriate within the KPI updates above.

4.12 Resources, procurement and value for money

4.12.1 There are no specific resource or procurement implications from this report, although some performance indicators relate to financial and other value for money aspects.

4.13 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

4.13.1 All performance information is publicly available and is published on the council website. This report is an information update providing the Scrutiny Board with a summary of performance for the strategic priorities within its remit and as such is not subject to call in.

4.14 Risk management

4.14.1 There is a comprehensive risk management process in the council to monitor and manage key risks. This links closely with performance management.

4.14.2 The council's Corporate Risk Register includes a risk directly linked to one or more of the KPIs summarised in this report:

- Economic Growth Lag: The rate of economic growth falls behind that of other core cities, and growth fails to benefit the most deprived households in the city.
- Insufficient Housing Growth: Failure to meet additional housing supply targets, appeals against Protected Areas of Search sites and the impact on the ability to provide homes for the people of Leeds.

5. Conclusions

5.9 This report provides a summary of performance against the Inclusive Growth priority for the council and city related to the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board.

5.10 Whilst this performance report highlights the progress made in delivering the Inclusive Growth portfolio area, it also acknowledges (where applicable) the initial impact on our performance of COVID-19 which took effect across the nation from the end of the municipal year 2019/20. The results included in the report should be interpreted in this context. The report acts as a signpost to the wide ranging impacts of the pandemic on our performance into 2021/22 and beyond.

6. Recommendations

6.9 Members are recommended to:

- Note the performance information contained in this report 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. Background documents[1]

7.9 The Best Council Plan 2020-25

[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.