

Performance Update

Date: 26th June 2024

Report of: Director of City Development

Report to: Infrastructure, Investment & Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

This report provides a summary of performance against the strategic priorities for the council and city and other performance areas relevant to the Infrastructure, Investment & Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board and in line with the Best City Ambition. ([link here](#))

This report covers quarter 4 / year-end 2023/24 Performance information (or latest available where quarter 4 data is not available).

Performance was previously reported to the Board in January 2024 (quarter 2 2023/24).

Recommendations

- a) Members are recommended to note the performance information contained in the Appendix to 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.

What is this report about?

- 1 This report provides members with the opportunity to consider the performance information contained in the Appendix to 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.
- 2 Specific points to note are:
 - Unemployment in Leeds: The unemployment rate for January to December 2023 stood at 2.8% (11,100 working age people), which is a slight drop from the 2.9% last reported to CDD but an increase on the 2022 figure of 2.5%. The 2023 figure is below the regional, UK, and core cities average.
 - Number of new business start ups: There were 5,102 start ups registered in 2023/24 – up from 4,950 start ups in the previous year. This represents a 3% increase.
 - New homes: In 2023/24, the gross building of completed dwellings was 4,340 units. With 13 units demolished during the year, this equates to 4,327 net completions from new builds and conversions. A further 114 completions have been recorded as part of older persons accommodation (from 228 bedspaces), therefore, final net performance against the CS target is 4,441 in total and +1,194 above target. This is the greatest level of delivery in a financial year since recording began in the 1970s and the 2nd highest output in any 12-month rolling period since the 2007 boom.
 - Affordable Homes: Q4 2023/24 has seen the delivery of 197 affordable homes, bringing the cumulative total for 2023/24 to 704. This is a 10 year high for affordable housing delivery in Leeds and is significantly higher than the average delivery over the last 10 years, which averaged 484 per annum.
 - Residential developments built to required accessible and adaptable (A&A) standards: Figures for quarter 4 continue to meet the targets.
 - Killed and seriously injured – Between January and March 2024 across all road users there were 110 people killed or seriously injured in Leeds, which compares with 123 for the same period in 2023. On average, between 2015 and 2019, there were 105 people killed or seriously injured each year over these months.
 - The figures for Children and Young People are 12 compared with 16 in January to March 2023.
 - Physically Active Adults: The Inactive rate for Leeds has fallen from 24.3% (Nov 2021 to Nov 2022) to 23.9% for the period Nov 2022 to Nov 2023. Which now means less than 160k adult population are inactive and over 443k are now classed as very active which is also up by 0.8% to 66.4%. It is also lower than the National (25.7%), regional (27.7%) and core cities (25%) averages.
 - City Centre footfall: Footfall for the whole of 2023 was up +2.7% on the whole of 2022 and for the first 3 months of 2024, footfall is up 1.6% on the corresponding months in 2023. Footfall levels remain around 13% down on pre-Covid levels, largely as a consequence of lower Mon-Fri footfall due to new working habits.
 - % of Planning Applications Determined on Time: Performance against all application types remains above targets. Whilst the service performs very highly on all application types, it currently makes high use of extension of time agreements which ensures there is certainty and communication with applications on determination timescales. However, the Government has recently published a consultation (“An Accelerated Planning Service”) which proposes to curtail the use of these agreements. This has the potential to have a significant impact on performance figures going forward.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 3 This is an information report and not a decision report, so it is not necessary to conduct an equality impact assessment. However, some of the data provided will link to wider issues of equality and diversity, and cohesion and integration, and there may be occasions when Scrutiny Board members will want to look more closely at these issues and may request further information to inform their investigations.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

- 4 This report supports the 3 pillars by providing performance information for Infrastructure, Investment & Inclusive Growth that relates to the economic growth of a healthy city with high quality services. It demonstrates what action is being taken to affect performance (where relevant) and to allow the board to challenge the same and consider whether any further focus should be given to any particular area in supporting these pillars.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 5 This is an information report and as such does not need to be consulted on with the public. However, performance information is published on the council's website and is available to the public.

What are the resource implications?

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

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 7 There is a comprehensive risk management process in the council to monitor and manage key risks that could impact on delivery of the aims set out in the Best City Ambition. The provision of accurate and timely performance information assists the risk management process in functioning effectively, with some of the KPIs acting as 'early warning indicators' that a risk may be increasing in significance or about to occur.
- 8 Without a comprehensive set of performance indicators, regularly reported to the right stakeholders within the council, there is a risk that poor performance may not be identified, and corrective action not taken to address them. This could result in problems with service delivery and have an adverse impact against the Best City Ambition.
- 9 The council's Corporate Risk Register includes three risks directly linked to one or more of the KPIs summarised in this report:
- Insufficient Housing Growth
 - Economic growth lag, increasing inequalities
 - Transport issues: Keeping the city moving

What are the legal implications?

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

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

11 N/A

How will success be measured?

12 N/A

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

13 N/A

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Performance Report (Summary of Key Issues)

Background papers

- Best City Ambition