

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: New Communities Portfolio Holder 26 January 2010
AUTHOR/S: Executive Director (Operational Services) / Corporate Manager
(New Communities)

NEW COMMUNITIES PERFORMANCE UPDATE REPORT

Purpose

1. This report outlines the progress made by the New Communities Service in meeting its targets, as set in the published 2009/10 Service Plan. The Portfolio Holder is requested to note the progress made to date. The information presented details the service performance for the period up to the end of quarter 3 (31 December 2009).
2. This report is presented in conjunction with the financial report to provide a comprehensive overview of the state of the service, both financially and in terms of its delivery. As referenced in the revenue and capital estimates report presented separately, the New Communities service area has met its identified savings targets (£40,000) within the year and has delivered generally strong performance against targets.
3. This not a key decision, however has been brought forward to inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made over the current year, and it was first published in the November Forward Plan.

Arts Strategy 2009-12

4. With one exception, the actions identified for 2009/10 are on target or have been completed. The exception is Action 1.4 (1) of the Arts Action Plan which involves working with the Portfolio Holder and members to consider how the arts can contribute to the delivery of wider corporate priorities and objectives in the future. This has been deferred due the current restructure of the service and the savings target.

Exception areas.

5. The New Communities Service has been charged with the delivery of a number of the Council's key indicators. The performance report for identifies the good progress made against these priorities.
6. (a) **Unavailable data**
 - (i) SX054 (Growth Area planning permissions) indicators. This data is provided by County Council, and has not been received to date. Data provided to the 6 month point has shown that permissions granted places the authority on target. It is not anticipated that this indicator will turn red upon receipt of information from the County Council.
 - (ii) NC4 (Fitness for Health) Data awaited from external supplier. Indicator has previously been green. It is anticipated that this will remain green for quarter 3.

- (b) **Red Indicators**
- (i) NI188 (Adapting to Climate Change). This indicator is based upon single year data. It is anticipated that this indicator will be green at the end of the year. Satisfaction of criteria for level 1 in place for next assessment and in line with LAA target of Level 1 by end 2009/10.
 - (ii) NC8 (Action Plan to Improve Communications). The production and adoption of the engagement strategy has been delayed following the departure of the officer charged with this and due to discussions with partners. At the start of the year this was intended to be complete by the end of Q3 and it is anticipated that this work will be completed by the year-end.
- (c) **Amber Indicators**
- (i) NI186 (per capita CO2 emissions in the local area). This indicator will always remain amber. The council is a key contributing agent, but precise quantification of this contribution will never be possible. The indicator value is provided annually by DEFRA and is subject to an 18-24 month time lag in reporting. NB. DEFRA have recently recalculated the 2005 baseline figure for South Cambs as 9.39t co2/year, the most recent figure shows a slight reduction to 9.7 t co2/year.
 - (ii) NC5 (Number of events in the arts guide). Lower level of submitted events than anticipated (38 rather than 50).
 - (iii) NC6 (Amount of external funding attracted to grants given). No grants approved due to agreed timetable. Likely to be green at year end
 - (iv) NC9 (more efficient work practices). Issuing of questionnaires delayed due to other work priorities and restructuring of the service. Questionnaires will now to be issued in early February with view to compiling and analysing by 31st March 2010 in line with target. This indicator is expected to be green at the year end.

Implications

7.	Financial	The concurrent financial report outlines the service progress against the financial targets made. It should be noted that the performance of the service has been achieved against a background of a reduction in expenditure of £40,000.
	Legal	None
	Staffing	The new communities service has been undergoing a restructure during the quarter. Service performance has generally been maintained at high levels. Exceptions to this are highlighted with this report.
	Risk Management	The new communities service maintains a comprehensive risk register, which feeds major and significant risks to the corporate risk register. The Service is a contributor and key partner in wider strategic risk management regarding the delivery of growth sites, working with the City and County Councils within the Cambridgeshire Horizons Partnership.
	Equal Opportunities	None.

Effect on Strategic Aims

8.	Commitment to being a listening council, providing first class services accessible to all.
	Action 06, to review grant system has been successfully completed.

Commitment to ensuring that South Cambridgeshire continues to be a safe and healthy place for all.
Action 11 & NI110 are both green. Good progress is being made in this area.
Commitment to making South Cambridgeshire a place in which residents can feel proud to live.
The Climate Change Action Plan is delayed, and will go to Portfolio Holder in March. Strong delivery in the Sustainable Parish Energy Plan, with targets for number of Parish Councils engaged exceeded.
Commitment to assisting provision for local jobs for all.
Economic Development indicators show that strong progress has been made in this area. The Economic Development strategy has, however been delayed by approximately 2 months.
Commitment to providing a voice for rural life.
Improved work in the delivery of Section 106 agreements has been carried out. The establishment of a single database of agreements and the monitoring of existing agreements has been put in place.

Conclusions/Summary

9. The performance, in terms of budget and performance indicators confirms that the service is generally on target to deliver the Council aims within the agreed timescales. This has been completed against a backdrop of meeting identified savings targets within the year and undertaking a significant restructure.

Recommendations

10. It is recommended that the portfolio holder note the progress made to date against identified targets, and the action taken on the exception areas.

Background Papers: Detailed performance report (Appendix 1)

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