

**PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 4 (APRIL 2010 – MARCH
2011)**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee with a performance update against the former national indicators relating to the period April 2010 to March 2011.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Performance against the national indicators, particularly those identified as priorities identified in the former Local Area Agreement (LAA) have been reported to Scrutiny Committee throughout 2010/11 as part of the quarterly performance monitoring arrangements. This report provides the end of year position.
- 2.2 In October 2010 the Government announced that from April 2011 there would no longer be a requirement for council's to produce an LAA. In 2010/11 the Government also announced the demise of the National Indicator set and a move towards self regulation and improvement with an emphasis on reporting against local priorities.
- 2.3 As a consequence the performance framework of Sunderland City Council is being reviewed. A new framework is being developed that focuses on local priorities and the achievement of outcomes relevant to the people, place and economy of Sunderland. The new framework will form the basis of future performance reporting to scrutiny.

3.0 Performance

Community Cohesion

- 3.1 Following the need for the council to make significant efficiencies, it was agreed that the council would not request an external assessment to seek level 1 'Excellence' against the Equality framework for Local Government. Instead, to support improvement planning for equalities a self assessment activity was conducted internally and following a robust self assessment process the conclusion was that the evidence supported the council remaining at level 2 'Achieving'.
- 3.2 During the self assessment process, views were captured from elected members, managers, employees, and employee equality groups, trade unions, the

Independent Advisory Groups (community stakeholder groups), members of the Corporate Community Group and also members of the Operational Equality Group.

- 3.3 As at 31st March 2011, 2.54% of the authority's top 5% earners were from a black or ethnic minority, a marginal improvement on both the previous year and against target. However, in terms of all staff, regardless of earnings, just 1.07% from an ethnic minority: which represents both a decrease on the previous year and performance being below target.

Housing

- 3.4 Supply in the housing market and prevention of homelessness are key areas in addressing sustainability across the city.
- 3.5 Under the former Local Area Agreement a key priority was identified for the city in relation to encouraging the provision / development of good quality modern, affordable family homes and increasing the numbers of executive homes in high quality environments that will appeal to high income earners. A key aspect to this is increasing the overall availability and supply of housing which also impacts on the cost. During 2010/11, 13 less houses (371 houses) were provided compared to the previous year when 384 were provided (NI 154). This, however, is still 21 more than originally anticipated for the year (i.e. the target). A recent key development has been the Lambton Cokeworks site where a major new build is taking place providing a mix of housing and country park.
- 3.6 In terms of affordable housing (across the public sector) there was a 114% increase against target and a 65% increase on the previous year for the number of affordable homes (NI155) delivered in 2010/2011 (315 delivered compared to 147 target for 2010/11 and 191 in 2009/2010).
- 3.7 In respect of returning private sector housing into occupation or being demolished (BV064) the target has been achieved with 376 private sector vacant dwellings returned into occupation or demolished as a direct result of action by the local authority: a 13.3% increase on the 2009/2010 outturn. At the same time, despite a marginal deterioration from the previous year, performance in regard to private sector homes vacant for 6+ months (LPI042) was within target with 2.48% of private sector homes vacant (for 6+months) by 31st March 2011 (marginal increases experienced throughout the last two quarters).
- 3.8 In terms of homelessness:-
- 3.9 Homelessness Prevention - Activities across the council cover the provision of information, advice and support to individuals and families early to reduce their risk of homelessness before these individuals become "accepted". A key measure of this is LPI044 for the total number of homelessness cases prevented in 2010/2011 – with 708 cases prevented, there has been a 0.8% decrease on the previous year and a 3% under performance against target. A fall in the number of people seeking help and advice is seen as a contributing factor and an area for improvement.

- 3.10 Statutory Homelessness Acceptances - Activities across the council cover housing advice and housing allocations to those individuals and families to which the council has statutory responsibilities for homelessness. A key measure of this is LPI065 for the total number of homelessness acceptances in 2010/2011 – with 168 acceptances throughout the year, this represents a 5.6% improvement on the 2009/2010 outturn, which is however, 12% below target.
- 3.11 Use of Temporary Accommodation - Activities across the council cover the statutory homelessness acceptance of families and individuals that need to access temporary accommodation and are then supported to identify and move to more permanent solutions in the city. There have been 9 households living in temporary accommodation (NI156) throughout the year, which is more than double the target of 4, however the figures remain stable on the previous year. At the same time performance against NI183a for the ‘average length of stay in bed and breakfast accommodation of households which include dependent children or a pregnant woman and which are unintentionally homeless and in priority need’ has exceeded the maximum targeted 2 weeks at 6.33 weeks, which is also a deterioration on 5 weeks achieved for 2009/2010. It is thought that B&B accommodation measure has been negatively affected by the reduction in alternative suitable accommodation throughout the city.

Culture

- 3.12 A very strong exhibition programme at Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens (including ‘Writers of Influence’ from the National Portrait Gallery, and ‘China: Journey to the East’) was of influence in attracting higher than anticipated levels of visits to and usages of the museum during 2010/2011:
- 4% more visits to/usages of museums per 1,000 population than targeted (1542, compared to 1482 targeted) and 1% more than the previous year (BV170a).
 - 1.8% more visits in person per 1,000 population than targeted (1316, compared to 1293 targeted). Although a slight decline on the previous year, visitor numbers are still higher than those recorded during 2005 and 2009.
 - 4.74% increase in the number of pupils visiting museums and galleries in organised school groups (BV170c) with the highest proportion of pupils visiting during the 3 month period, December to March. Development of new resources to support visits, an ongoing review of the promotional programme (including school assemblies), the re-launch of the Tyne And Wear Museums Website and other projects/initiatives have had a direct and positive impact on performance in this area.
- 3.13 In total, 39.40% of residents say that they have engaged in the arts at least three times in the last 12-months (NI011) compared to 55.20% who say they have attended a museum or art gallery at least once in the previous year (NI010). Both have improved year on year, although the percent stating they have attended a museum or art gallery is lower than the projected target.

Sport and Leisure

- 3.14 Attendances at the city's leisure complexes during 2010/2011 was encouraging despite the withdrawal of the free swimming programme in July 2010 and the challenging weather conditions in November and December 2010. Whilst swimming attendances (LPI022) were 92,601 (12%) lower than projected at 667,214 swims, the target had been based on a free swimming programme being in place. However, dry sports visits (LPI023) in the city's leisure centres whilst slightly below last years levels were well above target by 76,516 visits.
- 3.15 The percentage of adults participating in sport and physical activity (NI008) has increased in Sunderland since the last survey from 19.5% in 2009/2010 to 22.50% in 2010/2011. Research shows that Sunderland performance levels are higher than the average scores for Tyne and Wear (21.32%), the North East (22.05%) and England (22.06%). These statistics are compiled over a rolling two year period (October 2008-October 2010) for comparison purposes with the original 2005 sample size of 1000. However, one key point to note is that the Active People Survey 4 (500 sample size) outturn was 24.0%, which is regarded as a significant rise from the previous APS3 score of 19.9%.
- 3.16 In Sunderland, the percentage of the adult population who volunteer in sport for at least one hour a week (LPI018) has also increased from 4.94% in 2009/2010 to 7.20% in 2010/2011. Again research shows that the Sunderland performance is higher than the average scores for Tyne and Wear (4.9%), the North East (4.9%) and England (4.5%).
- 3.17 The Play Pathfinder Programme now completed has seen the development of new or significantly refurbished 28 plays areas since 2009. In 2007, just 19% of children had access to high quality play 1km from their door (LPI066). Currently, 70% of children have access to high quality play facilities, which was 5 percentage points above the projected target of 65% for 2010/11. New facilities and programmes have been developed to enhance local provision and to make a positive contribution to social inclusion
- 3.18 The City Council have continued to drive forward participation levels in sport and physical activity, which has seen unprecedented increases not only in volunteering and adult participation levels, but also the numbers involved in coaching, competitive and organised sport. It is suggested that the improved performance is attributable to:
- Leading the work of the Active Sunderland Partnership Board to drive forward a joined up approach to increasing participation
 - Investment into modern, high class sport and swimming facilities
 - An affordable pricing framework for residents
 - Citywide wellness provision 7 Wellness Centres

- Wellness service delivering preventative services to drive forward participation
 - Community Wellness Programme within 8 Community Wellness venues
 - Mums on the move / Maternity Lifestyle Service
 - Wellness on 2 Wheels, Cycle Sunderland
 - Wellness Walking programme, Walks in the Park, Nordic Walking
 - Active Sunderland Project
- Wellness service delivering targeted services to improve health and drive forward participation
 - Exercise Referral and Weight Management Programme
 - Lifestyle Activity and Food Programme
 - Employee Wellness Programme
- Wellness service delivering specialist services to improve health and drive forward participation
 - Specialist Weight Management Service
 - Stop Smoking Service
- Football Investment Strategy, developing new facilities and pathways for participation
- Partnership working to deliver such activities such as the Active Sunderland Week, Niall's Mile, leisure centre's open weekend and the Beach Festival of Sports.

3.19 Sport England have commented on Sunderland's performance:

"On behalf of Sport England I wish to congratulate Sunderland on their excellent Active People results. Participation rates have risen significantly since the survey was first introduced and Sunderland has seen some of the biggest increases both in the region and nationally. Sunderland have always support the importance of sport for local communities and the recent results are testament to the significant investment into facilities and the excellent sport, health and well-being opportunities provided in the city. Well done"

Judith Rasmussen, Strategic Lead, Sport England

Sustainability

- 3.20 The percentage of CO2 reduction from Local Authority Operations (NI 185) and the percentage of CO2 emissions across an agreed set of sectors (housing, road transport and business) against emissions from the 2005 baseline year have increased and the targets for both indicators have been met.
- 3.21 Performance in relation to planning to adapt to climate change (NI 188) and flood and erosion risk management (NI 189) remains stable, although the target for Ni 189 has not been met. Parts of the Act have already been implemented and others are being phased in over the next few months. The Act creates a whole new series of actions and responsibilities for Councils to follow. Presently, these are being looked at by the Council's Flood Defence Group as to how they can be best delivered across the authority. Whilst a number of the actions are relevant (being actioned) they should now be considered in the wider requirements that have come out of the 2010 Act.

Appendix 1 provides an overview of the position of relevant performance measures associated with sustainable communities.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 That the committee considers progress made by the Sunderland City Council and the Sunderland Partnership and those areas requiring further development to ensure that performance is actively managed.

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