

To the Chair and Members of the Regeneration and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Performance Update Report, March 2011

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel	Wards Affected	Key Decision
<i>The Mayor, Peter Davies</i>	RE	ALL	N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report is to inform members of the Regeneration & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel of performance issues, particularly in relation to delivering Doncaster's Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets. A complete listing is provided in Appendix 1.
2. The overall picture is: - 17 indicators are Green (on track); 5 Indicators are Amber (off track); and there are 3 indicators that are Red (significantly off track). There are also 5 indicators that are data only Indicators which do not have a target and as such are not traffic lighted. This means that 68% of the indicators, that are rated, are rated as Green.
3. Although the report will highlight the indicators that are red and deteriorating ambers (exceptions), it will also outline data only indicators of note and will give an outline of the overall performance trends achieved in separate areas of the Regeneration & Environment Directorate's responsibilities.
4. Data provided on employment and benefit claimants are given for the 16 to 64 age group

EXEMPT REPORT

5. N/A

RECOMMENDATION

6. To receive and comment upon the performance information contained within the report and Appendix 1.

BACKGROUND

7. The Panel's Scrutiny Consultant and Officers from the Performance and Improvement Team work together using information contained within the Quarterly Performance reports, to produce a shorter more manageable report than the full list of indicators covered in Appendix A, many of which are not measured on a quarterly basis.
8. The indicators in this report will relate only to those indicators that have been agreed as part of the Local Area Agreement process for Doncaster 2008-2011 or are key indicators in the Work Skills and Enterprise programme.

REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT PERFORMANCE

Economic Regeneration

9. Quarter 4 saw good results in this area of economic regeneration, with no Red Indicators. The Red indicator, shown in Appendix 1, NI_163 - Proportion of population aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 2 or higher, is an annual indicator and was reported to the Economy & Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 10 January 2011.
10. The Success Doncaster Programme indicators, which were included in the Local Area Agreement, continuing to show good progress with them all achieving target.
11. The wider employment picture is mixed. The number of vacancies available through Job Centre Plus at the end of Q4 2011 was 368 up on January 2011.
12. Doncaster had almost double the regional average percentage change in JSA claimants from the end of Q3 to the end of Q4, rising by over 1,200. This equates to an increase of 15% from Q3.
13. The JSA claimants and current vacancies number represents 4.8 JSA claimants to each vacancy, which is unchanged from the end of Q3. Doncaster's figure for JSA claimants to each vacancy is better than the Regional average (6.2) and the England average (5.8).
14. The latest information for 2010/11 shows that the median gross weekly pay has increased from £439 in 2009/10 to £467 in 2010/11. This increase is better than many of our sub regional and regional neighbours and we now have the second highest median pay in South Yorkshire and the seventh highest median pay in the region.
15. Saturday footfall in the town centre retail core shows signs of stabilising. In March footfall was down just 1% on the same month in 2010 (as against the national average for the month which was down 1.3% on the previous year).

This, however, follows a long trend of increases and still represents the second highest Saturday footfall recorded for March in Doncaster's prime retail core for five years.

16. Footfall in the Waterdale area continues to be of concern with a further drop of 3.75% for Wednesday, although it saw a modest increase of 0.25% for Saturday. The plans for the Civic and Cultural Quarter should address the footfall issues in the Waterdale.

Environment

17. The performance in this area has been strong, with all of the indicators, which were included in the Local Area Agreement, continuing to show good progress and achieving target. Levels of Litter and Detritus are lower and recycling rates remain high.

Strategic Housing

18. The performance in this area has faced difficulties, with some key indicators being red or amber due to targets being set in 2007 ie prior to the recession.
19. The 2010/11 net increase in the number of new homes in the Borough is 249, which is a shortfall of 351 against the target of 600. The target was set in 2007. Joint work is being undertaken by Economic Regeneration and Strategic Housing to engage developers to encourage them to develop in Doncaster, despite lack of development finance and mortgage lending.
20. Affordable homes delivered in 2010/11 is 123 against a target of 453. The target was set before the recession, in 2007. A lower number of Empty Properties brought back into use for affordable housing purposes and slippage of some affordable housing schemes, which will complete in early Q1 2011/12, has also contributed to this underperformance. Significant work has taken place with the HCA, housing associations and developers to enable a pipeline programme of new affordable housing schemes to continue the development of new homes year on year and the results of the HCA affordable housing bidding process will be announced in July 2011.
21. In 2008 the number of empty properties was 5,619. At Q4 2011, the Empty Property figure of 4,618 is higher than the target of 4,291. Whilst the number of empty properties in Doncaster has decreased, it is still too high, the figure has reduced significantly over the last year (although figures have been increasing again in recent months) However, Doncaster is reducing empty properties at a faster rate than other South Yorkshire LAs. DMBC's approach is featured as a national best practice case study in the HCA's empty property toolkit guidance for other local authorities to adopt. However, there is still a need to bring down the numbers to well below the regional average.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

22. No options to be considered

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

23. No Options Recommended

Impact on the Council's Key Objectives

Doncaster Priorities	Implications of this initiative
A Prosperous Place	X
Skills & Lifelong Learning	X
Healthy & Caring	
Safer, Cleaner & Greener	X
Equality of Opportunity (Cross-Cutting)	
Improving Neighbourhoods Together (Cross-Cutting)	X
Protecting The Environment (Cross-cutting)	X
Achieving Excellence	

RISKS & ASSUMPTIONS

19. There are no specific risks and assumptions associated with this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

20. There are no specific Legal Implications associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

21. There are no specific financial implications associated with this report. Should any specific initiatives be undertaken in response to the contents, they will be the subject of separate consideration.

CONSULTATION

22. Previous Scrutiny Panels (Economy and Enterprise and Safer Stronger and Sustainable) were consulted upon which Local Area Agreement Indicators that fall into the Regeneration and Environment Theme they wished to be included in the Quarterly performance reports to the panels.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

23. Doncaster Local Area Agreement 2008-2011: LAA Shared Priorities and Agreed Indicators.
24. Appendix 1: Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Pls

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