

Communities Scrutiny Sub-Committee



4th September 2006

Performance Update and Review of Medium Term Improvement Priorities

Report of Ann Campbell, Head of Corporate Policy

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to
 - provide an update on performance for Quarter 1 2006/07; and
 - seek the views of the sub-committee to inform the review of the Council's medium term improvement priorities.

Quarter 1 Performance 2006/07

2. Attached as Appendix 1 is a performance update for quarter 1 of 2006/07. This performance information focuses on our current priorities for improvement and other key performance indicators. As well as providing information on current performance this provides useful context for our annual review of improvement priorities.

Review of Medium Term Improvement Priorities

3. On an annual basis the Council reviews its medium term priorities for improvement. Following our review of priorities in 2005 we revised the Council's Statement of Medium Term Improvement Priorities. The revised statement includes more specific outcomes that we want to achieve over the next three years for each of the six key priority areas.
 - Protecting and supporting vulnerable children
 - Improving educational attainment/achievement
 - Protecting/supporting vulnerable adults
 - Improving health
 - Promoting economic well-being
 - Quality of the Environment

A copy of the Statement Of Medium Term Improvement Priorities is attached as Appendix 2.

4. The current improvement priorities were agreed following an evidence-based approach, taking account of feedback from consultation and external assessment and also baseline information on the relative position in County

Durham in respect of national floor targets in key areas such as health, worklessness, educational attainment and crime. They also reflect discussions with partners to agree priorities and outcomes for inclusion in the Local Area Agreement for County Durham.

5. As part of our consultation arrangements in 2006 we are seeking views on our current priorities. In particular we are seeking views as to whether they are still relevant and whether there are any other factors that we should be taking into consideration. The views of Overview and Scrutiny members will be taken into consideration as part of the annual review.

Recommendations

6. It is recommended that members:
 - note the performance information provided in Appendix 1; and
 - give their views on the Council's medium term improvement priorities to be taken into consideration in the overall annual review.

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