



Report of the Head of Corporate Policy

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide a half-year performance update (2005/06) for Best Value Performance Indicators and other measures relevant to Building a Strong Economy.

Building a Strong Economy

Once again there are only 2 indicators aligned to Building a Strong Economy to report at the half-year point. However, we have recently learnt that the LGA and the Audit Commission have just launched a new set of voluntary Economic Regeneration Performance Indicators (ERPI's). A Durham County Council Officer through involvement in CEDOS (Chief Economic Development Officer Society) has been involved in the development of this robust set of indicators. The Indicators cover a broad range of service areas including employment, skills, town centre management, tourism, business and enterprise and will be a useful performance measurement tool for this authority. It is hoped that we can introduce these ERPIs into our corporate performance management and reporting over the coming months.

Half-year Performance

- 2 Of particular note
 - ◆ EC1 Local jobs supported through business grants and incentives. Although the performance against the annual jobs target in the first quarter got off to a slower than anticipated start, there has been an encouraging improvement in the second quarter. The half-year figure stands at 624 jobs supported (42% of the annual target of 1,500). In line with proposals put forward when the new scheme was introduced in October 2004, a review of the first year of operation has taken place. Following the review, the maximum value of the Business Development Grant has been increased from £10,000 to £20,000 and this is confidently expected to lead to a significant increase in activity.
 - ◆ BV100 - Number of days of temporary traffic controls or road closure on traffic sensitive roads caused by road works per km of traffic sensitive road – this previously top quartile indicator has not achieved its zero target. This has arisen due to works on the A167 with the Chilton Bypass and the new Park and Ride facility at Sniperly.

Recommendations

- 6 That Economy Scrutiny Sub-Committee Members:
 - (i) note the contents of this report
 - (ii) agree to receiving quarterly performance progress reports throughout 2005/06

Contact: Bev Stobbart Tel: 0191 383 4001
