

**Environment Scrutiny
Sub-Committee
18th September 2006
Looking after the Environment
Quarter 1 performance 2006/07**



Report of the Head of Corporate Policy

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide a performance update for quarter 1, 2006/07, for the authority's corporate priorities and the Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) relevant to our Corporate Aim, Looking after the Environment.
- 2 Performance for quarter 1, 2006/07 for BVPIs aligned to Looking after the Environment is available in Appendix A (corporate priorities) and Appendix B (BVPIs). Unless otherwise stated, 12 month rolling totals have been used throughout this document. Therefore any reference to data for quarter one relates to 12 months ending 30 June 2006 and 2005/06 year-end relates to the 12 months ending 31 March 2006. This allows comparisons to be made between quarter one, 2005/06 year-end and targets.

Priorities for Improvement

There is one priority area for improvement aligned to our Corporate Aim, Looking after the Environment.

Improving the Quality of the Environment

Within this theme there are 3 outcomes that have been identified as areas we want to improve.

Less waste sent to landfill - to know if we are succeeding at this we are measuring:

- **BV 82a - household waste recycled**
61 fewer tonnes of household waste was sent for recycling during quarter one. This small decrease of 0.14% can be attributed to a number of reasons.
 1. Chester-le-Street and Derwentside have reported actual tonnages for quarter one and all other districts have been

estimated. It is likely that these estimates are lower than the actuals.

2. Changes to wood recycling have had an impact on the rate of recycling, although this has been off-set by an increase in the amount of recycling achieved by the kerb-it scheme.
3. Third party charities contribute to the recycling rate of the authority. However, they do not submit their results until the year end, so this data has yet to be included in the 2006/07 data.

The authority has received WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) funding for 18 months, starting October 2006. This funding will be used for a communications campaign promoting kerb-it recycling, targeting those with traditionally low recycling rates, e.g. students and deprived areas. Roadshows to increase awareness of recycling will start September 2006. To ensure that the recycling rate is not deteriorating, a more detailed analysis of the data will be carried out during October 2006.

- **BV 82b - household waste composted**

The 4,399 tonne (16.2%) increase in the amount of household waste composted has been achieved due to the aerobic digester operating at full capacity again, following a problem during 2005/06. This has increased the proportion of all household waste composted. To further promote composting, awareness campaigns are being organised at local events, e.g. farmers' markets.

- **BV 82d - household waste landfilled**

5,546 fewer tonnes of household waste were landfilled during quarter one, compared to 2005/06, a reduction of 2.8%. This reduction can be attributed to the increase in composting as a result of the aerobic digester operating at full capacity again and a reduction in the amount of household waste.

Less waste collection – to know if we are succeeding at this we are measuring:

- **BV 84a – household waste collection**

The permit scheme is continuing to have a positive impact on the amount of household waste collected per head of population. A reduction of 3.3kg per head of population (1,639 tonnes) was achieved during quarter one.

Footpaths in better condition - to know if we are succeeding at this we are measuring:

- **BV 187 – condition of surface footway**

This indicator is calculated on an annual basis so there is no data available for quarter 1.

Other Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs)

- 3 There are 15 BVPIs relevant to our Corporate Aim, Looking after the Environment that are not corporate priorities. Of these indicators, 5 indicators improved performance, 2 deteriorated, 3 remained static and 5 are calculated on an annual basis so the data is not available.

It should be noted that 6 indicators have achieved the year-end 2006/07 target in quarter one.

Performance	BVPI
Improved	82ci - % household waste energy recovered 82cii – household waste energy recovered 102 – local bus passenger journeys per year (estimate) 109a - % planning applications – major 215b – rectify street lights – DNO (T)
Static	200a – Plan making – development plan (T) - YES 200b – Plan making – milestones (T) - YES 200c – Plan making – monitor report (T) - YES
Deteriorated	84b – household waste % change 178 - % footpaths etc. easy to use 215a – rectify street lights – non-DNO (T)
No data	87 – Cost of waste disposal per tonne 165 - % crossings adapted 223 - % principal roads maintenance 224a - % non-principal road maintenance 224b - % unclassified road maintenance (T)

(T) denotes that the target for that indicator was met.

Areas of improved performance

- 4 The performance of a number of indicators improved during quarter 1, 2006/07. Of particular note:
- **BV 82c - household waste energy recovered**
An additional 30 tonnes (15% increase) of waste energy recovered during quarter one, which along with composting and recycling has had the effect of reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill.
 - **BV 102 – local bus passenger journeys per year**
Quarter one has experienced a 0.8% increase in the estimated number of bus passenger journeys. This equates to 191,083 journeys and may be attributed to more passengers using the Park and Ride and the introduction of free concessionary fares from April 2006.

- **BV 109a - % planning applications – major**
The percentage of major planning applications determined within 13 weeks has increased from 65.25% to 68.91%.
- **BV 215b – rectify street lights – DNO (T)**
1.3 fewer days were taken to repair a street lighting fault, where response time is under the control of Distribution Network Operator (DNO) during quarter one, which is 10 days less than the 2006/07 year end target.

Areas of deteriorated performance

- 5 The performance of a number of indicators deteriorated during quarter 1, 2006/07. Of particular note:
- **BV 178 - % footpaths etc. easy to use**
This BVPI is calculated using a 5% random sample, which is undertaken in 2 stages (May and November), of the network by length. Therefore, quarter 1 performance is based on a random sample of 2.5%. This is a small sample size and any anomalies can have a disproportionate effect on the result, e.g. if a 3km piece of footpath has an issue anywhere along the footpath, then the entire length, in this example 3km, is deemed to have failed. On completion of the second sample in November, the results will be combined and analysed so that any trends can be identified.
 - **BV 215a – rectify street lights – non-DNO (T)**
It took the authority 0.03 days (43.2 minutes) longer to repair a street lighting fault, during quarter 1. However, the authority has met its 2006/07 target.

Recommendations

That Corporate Scrutiny Sub-Committee Members:

- (i) note the contents of this report
- (ii) agree to receiving subsequent quarterly performance progress reports

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