



**PROSPEROUS AND
ATTRACTIVE BOROUGH
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

Tuesday,
4 November 2008
10.00 a.m.

Council Chamber,
Council Offices
Spennymoor

AGENDA
and
REPORTS



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large print and audio format upon request**

العربية (Arabic)

إذا أردت المعلومات بلغة أخرى أو بطريقة أخرى، نرجو أن تطلب ذلك منا.

বাংলা (Bengali)

যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন।

(中文 (繁體字)) (Cantonese)

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

हिन्दी (Hindi)

यदि आपको सूचना किसी अन्य भाषा या अन्य रूप में चाहिये तो कृपया हमसे कहे

polski (Polish)

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie, prosimy dać nam znać.

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi)

ਜੇ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ, ਤਾਂ ਇਹ ਸਾਥੋਂ ਮੰਗ ਲਓ।

Español (Spanish)

Póngase en contacto con nosotros si desea recibir información en otro idioma o formato.

اردو (Urdu)

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھئے۔

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To notify the Chairman of any items that appear later in the agenda in which you may have an interest.

3. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2008. (Pages 1 - 6)

4. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

To consider the attached report. (Pages 7 - 16)

5. WORK PROGRAMME

To consider the attached report of Chairman of the Committee. (Pages 17 - 20)

6. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

Members are respectfully requested to give the Chief Executive notice of items they would wish to raise under the heading not later than 12 noon on the day preceding the meeting, in order that consultation may take place with the Chairman who will determine whether the item will be accepted.

**B. Allen
Chief Executive**

**Council Offices
SPENNYMOOR
27th October 2008**

Councillor G.C. Gray (Chairman)
Councillor B. Lamb (Vice Chairman)

Councillors Mrs. L. M.G. Cuthbertson, P. Gittins J.P., D.M. Hancock, Mrs. I. Hewitson, G.M.R. Howe, Mrs. S. J. Iveson, Mrs. E. Maddison, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, A. Smith and B. Stephens.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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Item 3

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

PROSPEROUS AND ATTRACTIVE BOROUGH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Council Chamber,
Council Offices
Spennymoor

Tuesday,
23 September 2008

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillor G.C. Gray (Chairman) and
Councillors Mrs. L. M.G. Cuthbertson, Mrs. I. Hewitson, G.M.R. Howe,
B. Lamb, Mrs. E. Maddison and A. Smith

In Attendance: Councillors V. Chapman, A. Gray, J.E. Higgin, T. Hogan and T. Ward

Invited to Attend: Councillor A. Hodgson

Apologies: Councillors P. Gittins J.P., D.M. Hancock, Mrs. S. J. Iveson,
Mrs. E.M. Paylor and B. Stephens

P&A.5/08 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
No declarations of interest were received.

P&A.6/08 **MINUTES**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

P&A.7/08 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW: THE COUNCIL'S CONTRIBUTION TO REDUCING ECONOMIC INACTIVITY (INCREASING EMPLOYABILITY) - PROGRESS UPDATE**
Consideration was given to a report detailing progress to date on the Cabinet's response and action plan following consideration of the recommendations arising from the Council's Contribution to Reducing Economic Inactivity (Increasing Employability) Review (for copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that Andy Palmer, Assistant Chief Executive, was present at the meeting to outline progress and respond to queries.

Members were reminded of the background to the Review and recommendations produced by the Review Group, the action plan which had been drawn up and suggested timescale.

The Committee was informed that all actions identified had been completed or were ongoing.

It was noted that, since the action plan had been prepared, the political landscape had changed with the advent of local government reorganisation.

Specific reference was made to the recommendation relating to lobbying the Government to provide further funds for neighbourhood focused regeneration activity. It was noted that the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund had been replaced with the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) under which Sedgefield Borough's allocation was approximately double the previous Neighbourhood Renewal Fund Allocation. The Local Strategic Partnership was commissioning a range of activities to promote employability from Working Neighbourhoods Funding.

With regard to the Local Strategic Partnership it was noted that under local government reorganisation its future was unclear. However, employability needed to be placed on the agenda of the new partnership arrangements.

Reference was made to the role of the voluntary and community sector in delivering services locally. It was explained that Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) funding was already being used for the voluntary/community sector to carry out grassroots work and this model would be enhanced through the WNF commissioning process..

During discussion of this item clarification was sought on the involvement of the voluntary sector. It was explained that involvement would be through coaches and mentors who would be based in the community at community venues to offer advice and information on access to services. Voluntary organisations would receive direct financial assistance through the programme and would be utilised as direct delivery agents for employability services.

Following specific issues being considered the Cabinet Member then left the meeting to allow the Committee to deliberate and consider its recommendations.

AGREED : That the Committee is satisfied that all actions detailed in the action plan following the Review on Reducing Economic Inactivity (Increasing Employability) have been completed or are ongoing .

The Cabinet Member then returned to the meeting.

P&A.8/08

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REVIEW: FUTURE RECYCLING SERVICE OPTIONS - PROGRESS ON ACTION PLAN

Consideration was given to a report detailing progress to date on Cabinet's response and action plan following consideration of its recommendation arising from the Council's Future Recycling Services Options Review (for copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that Gordon Lennon, Technical Services Manager, was present at the meeting to outline progress and, together with the Lead Member for Environment Councillor Alan Hodgson, to respond to queries.

Members were reminded of the background to the Review and recommendations produced by the Review Group, the action plan which

had been drawn up and suggested timescales.

It was explained that a number of actions had been completed and some were still ongoing.

In respect of the preferred option for a co-mingled collection system in the long term, it was explained that a working group of senior waste management officers representing all of the Durham District/Borough Councils and the County Council were currently working on the development of the County Durham Waste Management Strategy and options were being considered.

With regard to the "Kerb It" scheme it was noted that the new jointly procured kerbside collection service offered by Greencycle plc, which had commenced on 1st April 2008, had provided enhanced opportunities for recycling including the collection of plastics, cardboard and tetrapack. The system was operating well and the tonnage collected had far exceeded expectations.

The Committee was informed that the segregated collection of glass for recycling was included in the new service proposals.

The Review Group had recommended that Sedgefield Borough Council's 29 bring sites be rationalised with the retention of six dedicated sites. Members were informed that all 23 of the identified redundant bring sites had been removed.

A separate free collection service for televisions, monitors and white goods was continuing to be provided.

With regard to the collection of green waste, it was noted that existing arrangements had been extended to continue until March 2009. Options for the collection of green waste following that date were being considered under the new Waste Management Strategy for the county.

Education and awareness raising was ongoing and would continue under the new authority.

During discussion of this item reference was made to a kitchen waste scheme which was being piloted in certain areas of the country and whether there was any likelihood of Durham County being included. In response it was explained that officers were not aware of any proposals for Durham County to be included in the pilot scheme.

The Committee considered that the recycling service had been a extremely successful and the Committee expressed its appreciation of the work undertaken by officers.

Following specific issues being considered the Cabinet Member then left the meeting to allow the Committee to deliberate and consider its recommendations.

AGREED : That the Committee is satisfied that all actions detailed in the action plan following the Overview and Scrutiny Review on the Future Recycling Services Options have been implemented or are ongoing.

P&A.9/08

BUILDING CONTROL SERVICE - PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Planning Services (for copy see file of Minutes) relating to progress on building control service performance indicators.

It was explained that Charlie Walton, Head of Planning and Technical Services, was present at the meeting to outline progress and answer queries.

The Committee was reminded that at its meeting on 29th January 2008 the Prosperous and Attractive Borough Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report that provided information on the performance levels in relation to the following indicators :-

**LP132 Percentage of applicants considering the Building Control Service very good or better and
LP134 Percentage of Building Control plans approved/responded to within 3 weeks.**

The purpose of the report was to explain the current performance levels and to identify actions to improve performance of the indicators.

Members were reminded that a new Building Control Manager had recently been appointed who was eager to provide a new impetus to service delivery. He had already demonstrated a willingness to introduce different methods of working with a renewed emphasis on performance management.

The percentage of applicants considering the Building Control Service very good or better for the period 1st January 2008 to 30th June 2008 was 93% which was consistently above the 89% target set for this period and was buoyed up by 100% same day inspection service as a result of the raised awareness of staff to this significant statistic.

The Committee was informed that the percentage of Building Control plans approved/responded within 3 weeks for the period 1st January 2008 to 31st March 2008 was 87% and this had risen to 96% for the period 1st April 2008 to 30th June 2008.

The Committee's appreciation was expressed to the Building Control Team for its commitment to continually improving the service.

AGREED : That the Committee acknowledges the improvement made in respect of LP132 and LP134 (now CPA04 and CPA05) during the period 1st January 2008 to 30th June 2008

P&A.10/08 THE PROVISION OF CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISALS - PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Planning Services (for copy see file of Minutes) regarding progress on performance indicator BV219(b) relating to percentage of conservation areas in the local authority area with an up to date character appraisal.

It was explained that Charlie Walton, Head of Planning and Technical Services, was present at the meeting to outline progress and answer queries.

Members were reminded that, at its meeting on 29th January 2008, the Committee had considered a report providing information on the performance levels in relation to performance indicator BV219(b) percentage of conservation areas in the local authority area with an up to date character appraisal.

The purpose of that report was to provide an explanation on the current performance levels on which Members had expressed concern and to identify actions to try to improve the situation.

The report advocated that the Team Manager produce a Conservation Area Appraisal Action Plan setting out realistic timescales for their production and that the action plan be given priority status in the Team's work plan for 2008/09.

The action plan was circulated for Members' information (for copy see file of Minutes).

Unfortunately the target for 2008/09 of 19.9% had not yet been achieved with performance level remaining at 6.6%. Although the first quarter percentage had not changed from the previous quarter, progress was being made on two additional conservation areas, Shildon and Bishop Middleham. It was noted, however, that English Heritage had requested a review of the existing appraisal for the Cornforth Conservation Area, which had been carried out over 5 years previously. English Heritage had also insisted that Cornforth required a Conservation Management Plan. Both those exercises were currently underway and were expected to be completed fully in the new calendar year.

The additional work had taken priority over the other two appraisals as the Council was contractually bound to English Heritage as a result of the grant scheme currently underway in the Cornforth Conservation Area.

It was also pointed out that the potential developers for the Windlestone Hall site had submitted a substantial document, a draft Conservation Plan, which needed to be thoroughly examined by the Team Leader in close consultation with other officers in Planning and Technical Services.

AGREED : That the Committee is satisfied with progress in relation to BV21(b) percentage of conservation areas with an up to date character appraisal and accepts the reasons outlined in the report for targets not being met.

P&A.11/08 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the Work Programme for the Prosperous and Attractive Borough Overview and Scrutiny Committee (for copy see file of Minutes).

Progress in relation to the ongoing Prosperous Borough and Attractive Borough Review Groups was outlined.

AGREED : That the report be noted.

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Liz North 01388 816166 ext 4237 email: enorth@sedgefield.gov.uk

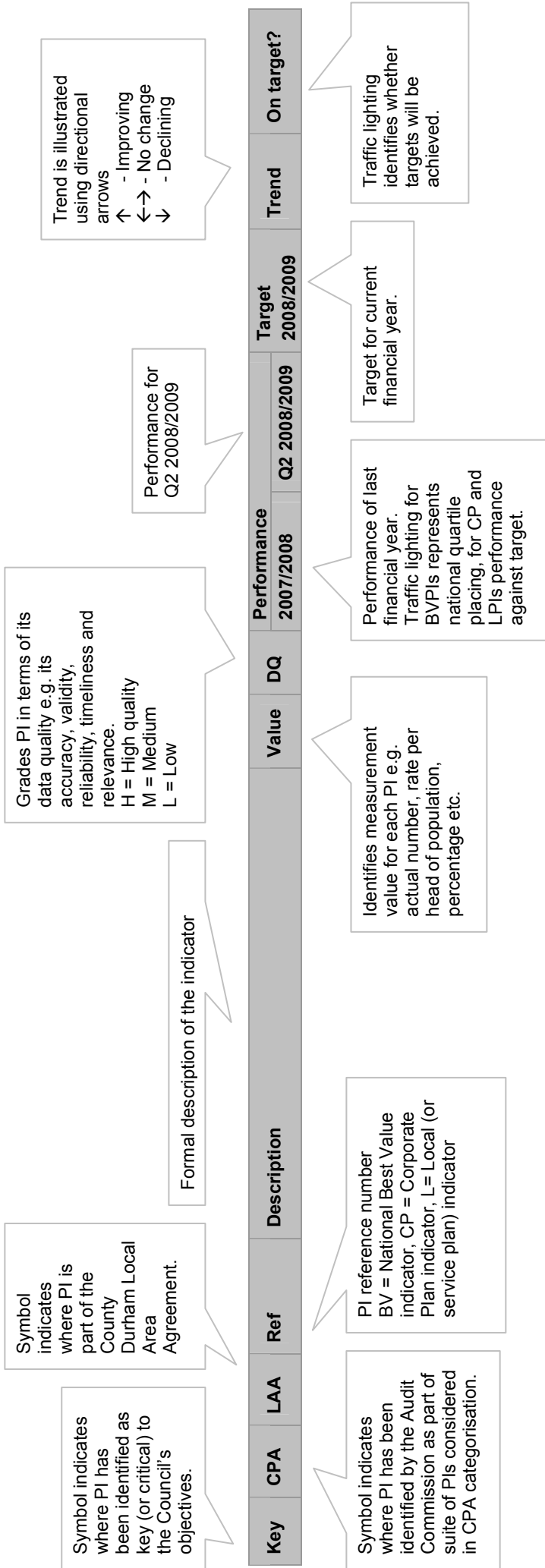


**PROSPEROUS AND ATTRACTIVE BOROUGH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
PERFORMANCE UPDATE REPORT
2007/2008 OUTTURNS (START APRIL 2007- END MARCH 2008)**

Strategy and Regeneration
Chief Executive's Department
Sedgefield Borough Council
(01388) 816166
www.sedgefield.gov.uk
Contact: pstephens@sedgefield.gov.uk



COLUMNS OF THIS REPORT EXPLAINED



SUMMARY

Purpose of this report

This is the biannual 2008/2009 performance report, covering the period from the 01 April 2008 to 30 September 2008.

The report provides data on 34 performance indicators. 6 performance indicators are rated key to the Council's aims and objectives.

Whilst providing a full summary of performance, this is essentially an exception report, drawing attention to where performance is off (or significantly above) target to promote discussion and action. A summary of the key points is set out below.

Prosperous Borough

The training centre indicators have demonstrated improvement around the Train 2 Gain and the Entry to Employment Programme. The support of businesses indicators remain strong with only 2 indicators performing off target. Participation in Your Business Forum is off target however plans are in progress to increase attendance with a series of events. VAT registrations have been affected due to the current economic climate and are off target at the end of quarter 2.

Attractive Borough

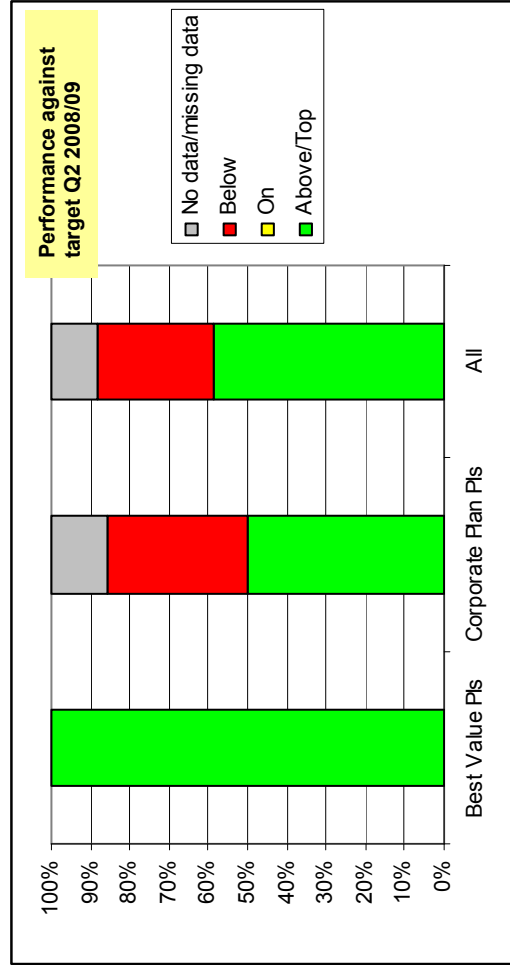
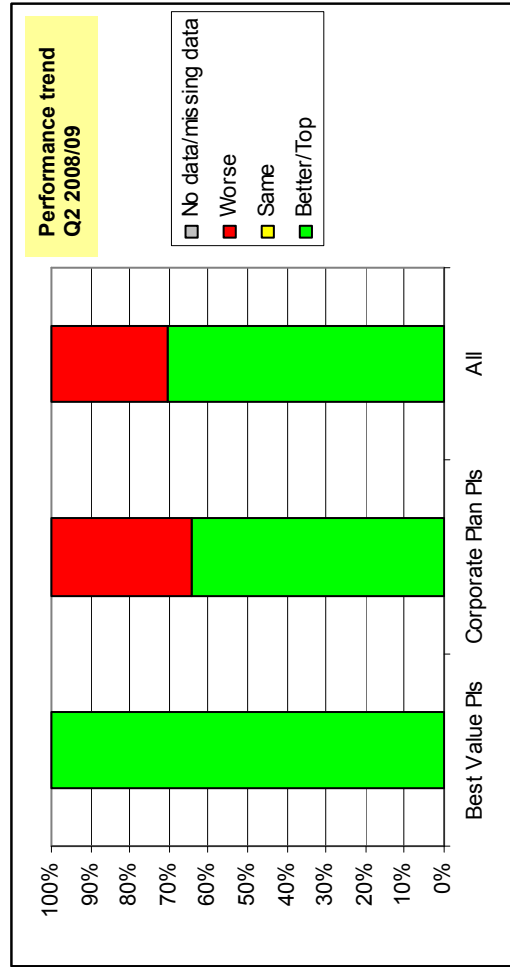
The waste indicators have improved upon 2007/08 outturns however remain below target due to the introduction of a new recycling scheme and the associated teething problems. Satisfaction with Building Control remains high and the planning indicators are all on target and improving upon 2007/08. Interest in cultural activities remain high and this is reflected in the cultural indicators which are all performing on target.

PROSPEROUS BOROUGH

2008/09 Performance

Of 17 Prosperous indicators, 12 have demonstrated improved performance against 2007/2008 actual outturns, and 5 are performing at a worse level. 10 indicators are on schedule to achieve their 2008/2009 targets, and 5 were off target. Narrative for the 'exception indicators' is included in the table overleaf.

Indicator type	Total No.	QUARTILE				TREND				TARGET				
		Top	Average		Bottom	No data/missing data	Better/Top	Same	Worse	No data/missing data	Above/Top	On	Below	No data/missing data
			Above	Below										
Best Value PIs	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Corporate Plan PIs	14	Not applicable				9	0	5	0	0	7	0	5	2
All	17	0	0	0	0	3	0	5	0	0	10	0	5	2



PROSPEROUS BOROUGH PI TABLE

Key	LAA	Ref	Description	Value	DQ	Performance		Target 2008/2009	Trend	On target?
						2007/2008	Q2 2008/2009			
Objective: Improved business and employment opportunities										
		CPP02	Percentage of industrial property let	%	H	98%	94%	90%	↓	Yes
		CPP03	Percentage of rent reviews/lease renewals	%	H	96%	98%	98%	↑	Yes
☑		CPP04	Percentage of unemployed adults undertaking training with SBC who gain employment	%	H	30%	23%	30%	↓	No
			Comment: - Performing 7% below target. There is evidence that over the past 2 months there has been a significant decline in job opportunities in the local job market and this is having an impact on job outcome rates.							
		CPP05	Percentage of young people who are undertaking Entry to Employment Programme (with SBC) who progress onto a positive outcome	%	H	68%	67%	60%	↓	Yes
		CPP06	Overall success rate of young people who have completed an apprenticeship programme with Sedgefield Borough Council	%	H	69.66%	69%	70%	↓	No
		CPP07	Number of groups receiving financial assistance through Local Improvement Programme	No.	H	16	14	19	↑	Yes
☑		CPP08	Number people achieving NVQ Level 2 through Train 2 Gain	No.	H	53	42	72	↑	Yes
☑		CPP09	Number of people benefiting from enterprise coaching on a 1-1 basis through the Council's Enterprise in Deprived Communities programme	No.	H	306	344	320	↑	Yes
☑		CPP10 (i)	Number of new start businesses registering with the Inland Revenue as a result of support received through Sedgefield Borough Council	No.	H	107*	13	30	N/A	No
			Comment: - Performing off target to date. This indicator is thought to have been affected by the recent bad turn in the economic climate.							
		CPP10 (ii)	Number of new start businesses by receipt of evidence as a result of support received through Sedgefield Borough Council	No.	H	107*	88	120	N/A	Yes
		CPP11	Number of businesses actively participating in Your Business Forum Steering Group	No.	H	25	34	25	↑	Yes
		CPP12	Number of new clients using revised Shildon Business Centre offer	No.	H	8	7	30	↑	No
			Comment: - Performing 8 new clients below target. Due to the time of year client interest is low. To tackle this, a marketing plan is being produced to advertise the service across Sedgefield Borough. This should raise the targets for Q3.							

PROSPEROUS BOROUGH PI TABLE

Key	LAA	Ref	Description	Value	DQ	Performance		Trend	On target?	
						2007/2008	Q2 2008/2009			
		CPP13	Number of businesses attending Your Business Forum workshops Comment: - Performing 53.5 businesses below target. Attendance this quarter was disappointingly low; however, this was a consequence of a number of seminars and conferences taking place. Plans are in progress to launch the newly branded South Durham Business Network (aiming to officially launch during January 2009). This will be a significant event with local dignitaries and hopefully a/some celebrity(s). Early forecasts for attendance at this event are around 150.	No.	H	259	84	275	↓	No
		CPP14	Number of people benefiting from grants awarded through the Enterprise in Deprived Communities programme	No.	H	92	87	100	↑	Yes
Objective: Reduced social exclusion										
		XBV076 (c)	Number of fraud investigations per 1,000 caseload	No.	H	45.32	26.83*	50	↑	Yes
		XBV076 (d)	Number of prosecutions and sanctions per 1,000 caseload	No.	H	7.61	5.24*	6	↑	Yes
		XBV79 (b) [ii]	HB overpayments recovered during the period as a percentage of the total amount of HB overpayment debt outstanding at the start of the period plus amount of HB overpayments identified during the period	%	H	44.63%	24.98%*	47%	↑	Yes

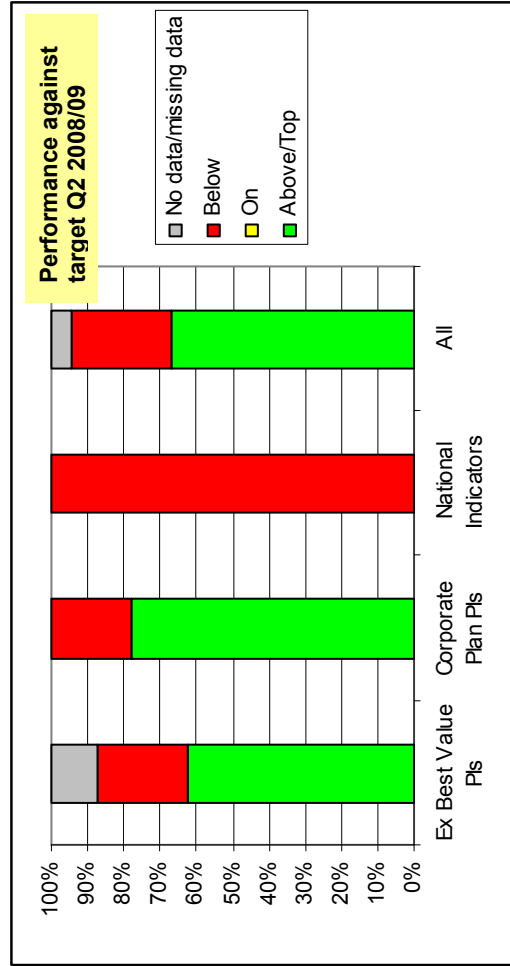
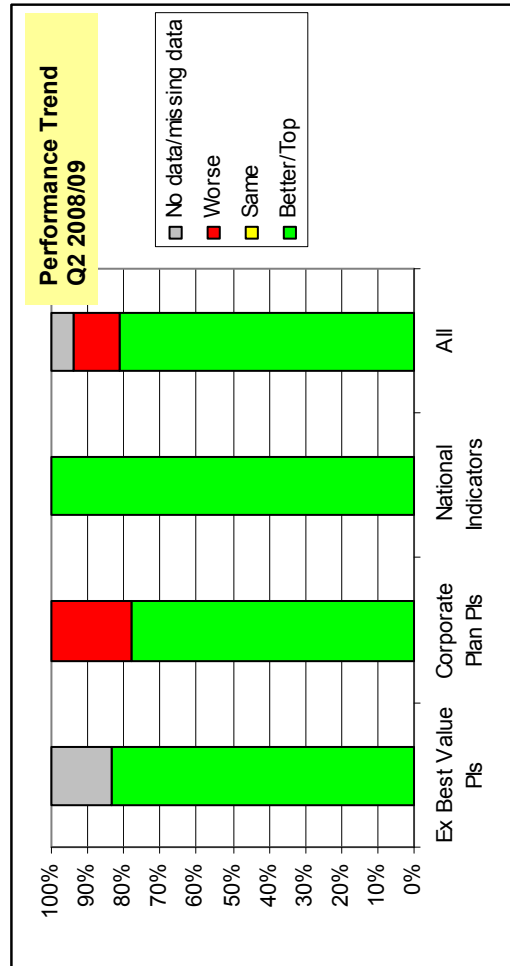
* This indicator has been split for 2008/09

ATTRACTIVE BOROUGH

2008/09 Performance

Of 17 indicators, 13 have demonstrated improved performance against 2007/2008 actual outturns, and 2 have performed at a worse level. 12 indicators have performed above the 2008/2009 targets, and 5 were under target. Narrative for the 'exception indicators' is included in the table overleaf.

Indicator type	Total No.	QUARTILE				TREND				TARGET			
		Top		Bottom		Better/Top	Same	Worse	No data/missing data	Above/Top	On	Below	No data/missing data
		Average	Below	Average	Below								
Ex Best Value PIs	7	4	1	1	1	5	0	0	1	5	0	2	1
Corporate Plan PIs	9	Not applicable				7	0	2	0	7	0	2	0
National Indicators	1					1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
All	17	4	1	1	1	13	0	2	1	12	0	5	1



ATTRACTIVE BOROUGH PI TABLE

Key	LAA	Ref	Description	Value	DQ	Performance			Trend	On target?
						2007/2008	Q2 2008/2009	Target 2008/2009		
Objective: A cleaner, greener, sustainable environment										
			Percentage of population served by kerbside collection of recyclables	%	H	100%	100%	100%	↑	Yes
			Percentage of households resident in the authority's area served by kerbside collection of at least two recyclables	%	H	100%	100%	100%	↑	Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Percentage of abandoned vehicles removed within 24 hours from the point at which the Authority is legally entitled to remove the vehicle	%	H	100%	0	95%	N/A	N/A
Comment: - There were no abandoned vehicles removed in quarter 1, it is assumed the price of scrap metal has led to people scrapping their cars rather than abandoning them.										
			Percentage of conservation areas in the local authority area with an up-to-date character appraisal	%	H	6.60%	6.60	19.9%	↔	No
Comment: - Performing 13.3% under target. One conservation area appraisal is due to go to Council for approval; 2 CAAs are currently underway. End of year target will be met as it stands in present time.										
			Number of grounds maintenance-related complaints received per 100,000 head of population	Per 100,000	H	1	0.33	2	↑	No
			Number of collections missed per 100,000 collections household waste	Per 100,000	H	17	78	10	↓	No
Comment: - Performing 68 missed collections per 100,000 off target. The high number of missed collections is due to a new kerbside recycling scheme introduced in April 2008. The first 3 months of the contract the number of missed collections was extremely high, the number of missed collections is reducing month by month.										
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	%	M	17.98%	23.39%	27%	↑	No
Comment: - This target may not be achieved as the anaerobic digester is out of commission and no date has been given when it will be operational.										
Objective: Improved design and quality of towns and villages										
			The percentage of appeals allowed against the authority's decision to refuse on planning applications	%	H	28.6%	33.3%	20%	↓	No
Comment: - Performing 13.3% off target. The quarter 2 figure of 33.3% reflects one appeal which was upheld out of a total of 3 in this period.										
			Percentage of applicants considering building control service very good or better	%	H	95%	90%	89%	↓	Yes

ATTRACTIVE BOROUGH PI TABLE

Key	LAA	Ref	Description	Value	DQ	Performance		Target 2008/2009	Trend	On target?
						2007/2008	Q2 2008/2009			
		CPA05	Percentage of building control plans approved / responded to within three weeks	%	H	87%	96%	89%	↑	Yes
		CPA06	Percentage of complaints relating to alleged breach of Planning Control resolved within 12 weeks	%	H	80.5%	87%	77%	↑	Yes
		CPA07	The percentage of decisions delegated to officers as a proportion of all decisions	%	H	92.9%	94.3%	90%	↑	Yes
		CPA08	Standard land searches completed within 10 days	%	H	97.54%	98.67%	89%	↑	Yes
		CPA09	Average time to process standard land searches (days)	Days	H	4.89	4.72	6.5	↑	Yes
Objective: Increased involvement in cultural activities										
		XBV170 (a)	Number of visits / usages to museums per 1,000 population	Per 1,000	H	2,247	1,339	2,127	↑	Yes
		XBV170 (b)	Number of visits in person per 1,000 population – museum	Per 1,000	H	1,688	1,053	1,596	↑	Yes
		XBV170 (c)	Number of pupils visiting museums in organised school groups	No.	H	3,356	2,509	3,500	↑	Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		CPA03	Number of people spectating or participating in a cultural activity	No.	H	14,339	7,376	14,500	↑	Yes

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Item 5

PROSPEROUS AND ATTRACTIVE BOROUGH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4th NOVEMBER 2008

REPORT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME

SUMMARY

This report sets out the Committee's current Work Programme for consideration and review.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Committee's Work Programme be reviewed.

DETAIL

1. In accordance with Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rule 8 of the Council's Constitution, Overview & Scrutiny Committees are responsible for setting their own work programme.
2. Each Overview & Scrutiny Committee should agree a realistic, achievable and considered work programme on the understanding that, from time to time, more urgent or immediate issues may require scrutiny. Issues may, for example, be raised by Cabinet reports, Members' constituency business or be referred to Scrutiny by Cabinet in advance of a Cabinet decision.
3. The current Work Programme for this Committee is appended to the report which details:-
 - Scrutiny Reviews currently being undertaken.
 - Scrutiny review topics held in reserve for future investigation.
 - A schedule of items to be considered by the Committee for the period to 31st March 2009.
4. **Scrutiny Review**

The Committee should aim to undertake a small number of high quality reviews that will make a real difference to the work of the Authority, rather than high numbers of reviews on more minor issues. Overview & Scrutiny Committees should normally aim to undertake two reviews concurrently. Any additional review topics that have been agreed by Members will be placed on a reserve list and as one review is completed the Committee will decide on which review should be undertaken next.

A workshop was held for Overview & Scrutiny Members on 20th February 2008 to discuss the role of the Committees within the period leading to the establishment of a new Unitary Council in April 2009. One element of the workshop was to consider a number of options for undertaking scrutiny reviews

within this period. Members supported undertaking a State of the Borough Review, which would look at achievements within each of the Council's ambitions. The Review would provide a benchmark for future assessment, highlight areas for improvement and make recommendations to the new council where appropriate.

It was proposed that Overview & Scrutiny Committees establish Review Groups to examine each of the Council's ambitions as follows:-

Committee	Review Groups
Healthy Borough with Strong Communities O&S Cttee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Healthy Borough Review Group• Strong Communities Review Group
Prosperous and Attractive Borough O&S Cttee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prosperous Borough Review Group• Attractive Borough Review Group

The final reports from each of these reviews would be combined to form a single State of the Borough report.

5. Business for Future Meetings

The Committees Work Programme for the period leading to the establishment of a new Unitary Council in April 2009 is attached for consideration.

Members are requested to review the Committee's Work Programme and identify, where necessary, issues that they feel should be investigated by the Committee. The Work Programme will need to be carefully managed to ensure that the most important issues are considered in the limited time available.

It will not always be possible to anticipate all reports which will need to be considered by an Overview & Scrutiny Committee and therefore a flexible approach will need to be taken to work programming.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None associated with this report.

7 CONSULTATION

Contact Officers: Gillian Garrigan
Telephone No: (01388) 816166 ext 4240
Email Address: jslee@sedgefield.gov.uk

Ward(s): Not ward specific
Background Papers None

**PROSPEROUS & ATTRACTIVE BOROUGH
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

WORK PROGRAMME

Ongoing Reviews

State of the Borough Review

Future Reviews

There are currently no review topics identified by the Committee for future review. As one review is completed Members will decide which review should be undertaken next.

ANTICIPATED ITEMS

2008/09 Municipal Year

9 December 2008

- *Prosperous Borough Overview & Scrutiny Review Group Report*
- *Attractive Borough Overview & Scrutiny Review Group Report*

27 January 2009

- *Sedgefield Borough Council's Climate Change Strategy – Progress Update*

10 March 2009

- *No items identified*

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