

## Scrutiny review of Performance Indicators - Environment Scrutiny

### Review Findings

- 1.1 **Purpose:** To review the relevance of the council's performance indicators and to determine if any new measures need to be introduced to help support the delivery of the council's priorities.
- 1.2 **Introduction:** Each scrutiny committee appointed a review team to scrutinise their basket of performance indicators. The team worked alongside the Performance Team, with technical support from service teams, to consider different options.
- 1.3 Background information was provided for each scrutiny committee as follows:
- How to establish good performance indicators
  - The different types of performance indicators available
  - Terms of reference of each scrutiny committee
  - The current basket of performance indicators for each committee
- 1.4 **Scrutiny focus:** Each review team asked the following questions:
1. Are there any measures in the current performance indicator set that you find unhelpful? If yes could we amend or remove them?
  2. Are there areas based on your committee's terms of reference and council priorities that are not covered by a performance measure? If 'yes' would be it beneficial to have a measure?  
  
A further question you may ask is 'What do I need to know in my role as scrutiny member to make sure things are getting better in the council?'
  3. Can measures from the LGA 'LG Inform' performance system be utilised? Are any relevant to what you would like to measure?

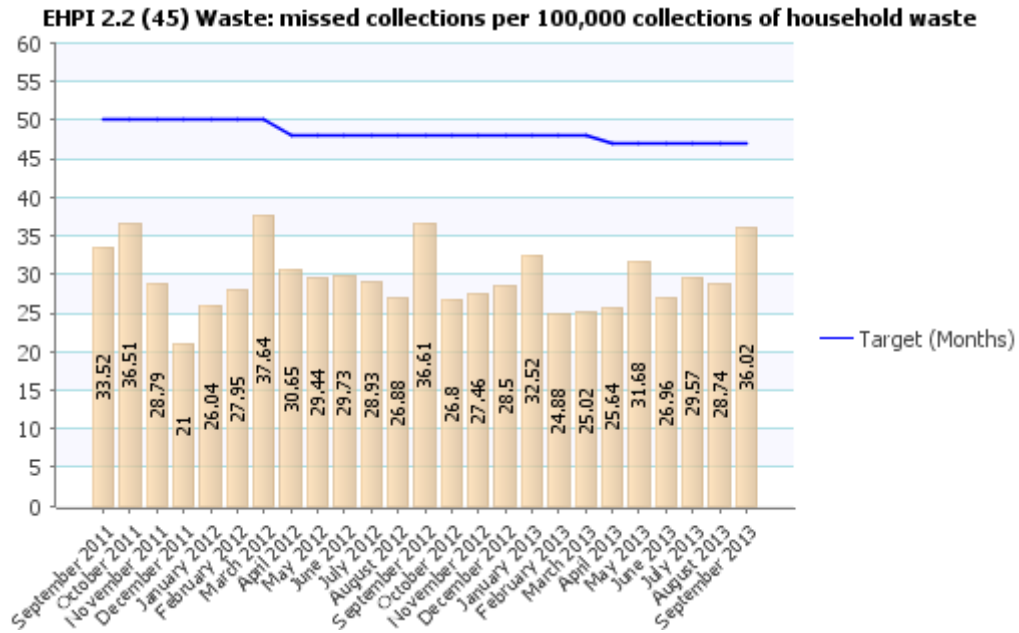
<b>Environment Scrutiny Committee</b>		
Review Team Members	Councillor Daniel Abbott	
	Councillor John Wyllie	
	Ceridwen Pettit - Corporate Planning and Performance Manager	
	Karl Chui - Performance Officer	
Number of review meetings held	2	Tuesday 2 July Tuesday 23 July
Total number of Performance Indicators relevant to Environment Scrutiny's terms of reference <b><u>pre review</u></b>	28 (76 indicators in total across the council, inclusive of unit cost measures)	

### 1.5 Scrutiny Review Recommendations - Summary:

1. All performance indicators were felt to be current and relevant, apart from the following which have been proposed for deletion:
  - Local Biodiversity - EHPI 197
  - Abandoned Vehicles - EHPI 218a and EHPI 218b
  
2. Members were keen that further measures be provided regarding the waste and recycling service and support the introduction of two new waste minimisation measures as follows:
  - Total waste collected by the district (kg per household) - the purpose behind this indicator is to show over time whether waste produced by householders is reducing or increasing. The Council works with the Herts Waste Partnership to actively encourage residents to think

about how they can minimise the amount of waste they produce and therefore the cost to the tax payer of collecting and disposing of it.

- Percentage of residual waste (refuse) sent for disposal - the aim behind this indicator is show how much 'black bin' residual waste (refuse) is being disposed of. The indicator will be the opposite of EHPI 192 – which only shows the percentage of recycling and not whether less is going to landfill.
3. Members felt that no further measures, available on the LG Inform performance system, need to be utilised at this stage. Key service areas are already covered by the council's current indicator set e.g. planning applications, waste and recycling and unit cost measures.
  4. The concern regarding road closure applications does not lend itself to performance indicator monitoring. Therefore the review team request that Environment Scrutiny Committee consider scrutinising this as part of their overall work programme.
  5. Lastly Members supported the recommendations made by the:
    - Community Scrutiny review team that an additional reference paper to the Healthcheck report be added, setting out a more detailed description of each performance indicator.
    - Corporate Business Scrutiny review team that:
      - i) the format of the scrutiny healthcheck reports are updated to show two years of trend data to assist performance analysis (see illustrative graph below) and



- ii) wording is added to all indicators in the indicator title section indicating whether it is a minimising or maximising measure.

Full details on the review team’s comments and recommendations can be found in **Essential Reference Paper ‘C’ and Essential Reference Paper ‘D’**.

**1.6 Scrutiny Review Conclusion:**

If Environment Scrutiny Committee support the review team’s findings and recommendations:

- The number of indicators relevant to Environment Scrutiny will reduce to 27. (Less the three proposed for deletion and an increase of two in relation to waste minimisation).
- The proposed changes will be incorporated into the 2013/14 Performance Indicator Estimate and Future Targets report, for Executive to consider in March 2014, in preparation for 2014/15.