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Jeff Hughes
*Head of Democratic and Legal
Support Services*

MEETING : ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
VENUE : COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD
DATE : TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER, 2012
TIME : 7.00 PM

PLEASE NOTE TIME AND VENUE

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Councillor Daniel Abbott (Chairman)
Councillors W Ashley, S Basra, R Beeching, E Buckmaster, P Gray,
N Poulton, C Rowley, B Wrangles and J Wyllie (Vice-Chairman)

Conservative Group Substitutes: Councillors A Dearman and M Pope

Independent Group Substitute: Councillor M Newman)

(Note: Substitution arrangements must be notified by the absent Member to Democratic Services 24 hours before the meeting)

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DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

1. A Member, present at a meeting of the Authority, or any committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee of the Authority, with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in any matter to be considered or being considered at a meeting:
 - must not participate in any discussion of the matter at the meeting;
 - must not participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting;
 - must disclose the interest to the meeting, whether registered or not, subject to the provisions of section 32 of the Localism Act 2011;
 - if the interest is not registered and is not the subject of a pending notification, must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days;
 - must leave the room while any discussion or voting takes place.

2. A DPI is an interest of a Member or their partner (which means spouse or civil partner, a person with whom they are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom they are living as if they were civil partners) within the descriptions as defined in the Localism Act 2011.

3. The Authority may grant a Member dispensation, but only in limited circumstances, to enable him/her to participate and vote on a matter in which they have a DPI.

4. It is a criminal offence to:

- fail to disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest at a meeting if it is not on the register;
- fail to notify the Monitoring Officer, within 28 days, of a DPI that is not on the register that a Member disclosed to a meeting;
- participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which a Member has a DPI;
- knowingly or recklessly provide information that is false or misleading in notifying the Monitoring Officer of a DPI or in disclosing such interest to a meeting.

(Note: The criminal penalties available to a court are to impose a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale and disqualification from being a councillor for up to 5 years.)

AGENDA

1. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Minutes (Pages 5 - 14)

3. Chairman's Announcements

4. Declarations of Interest

To receive any Member's Declarations of Interest and Party Whip arrangements.

5. "Green Deal" - Presentation

6. Background Briefing Presentation on Grounds Maintenance Contract

7. Environment Scrutiny Health Check April - June 2012 (Pages 15 - 30)

8. Environment Scrutiny Work Programme 2012/13 (Pages 31 - 38)

9. Urgent Business

To consider such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration and is not likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON TUESDAY
26 JUNE 2012, AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor D Abbott (Chairman).
Councillors S Basra, R Beeching,
E Buckmaster, P Gray, M Pope, C Rowley
and J Wyllie.

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors D Andrews and M Carver.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Cliff Cardoza	- Head of Environmental Services
Marian Langley	- Scrutiny Officer
Peter Mannings	- Democratic Services Officer
George A Robertson	- Chief Executive and Director of Customer and Community Services
Siobhan Smith	- Waste Services Officer

101 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was moved by Councillor P Gray and seconded by Councillor C Rowley that Councillor J Wyllie be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Environment Scrutiny Committee for the 2012/13 civic year.

After being put to the meeting and a vote taken, Councillor J Wyllie was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Environment Scrutiny Committee for the 2012/13 civic year.

RESOLVED – that Councillor J Wyllie be appointed Vice–Chairman of the Environment Scrutiny Committee for the 2012/13 civic year.

102 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors W Ashley and B Wrangles. It was noted that Councillor M Pope was substituting for Councillor B Wrangles.

103 MINUTES - 13 MARCH 2012

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

104 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed all new and returning Members to the first meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee for the 2012/13 Civic Year. He hoped that the Committee would have a productive year.

105 ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY HEALTH CHECK JANUARY THROUGH TO MARCH 2012

The Chief Executive and Director of Customer and Community Services submitted a report on the performance of key indicators relating to Environment Scrutiny Committee from January to March 2012, the detail of which was set out in the report now submitted. The report also covered the appropriate 2011/12 Performance Outturns.

The Director stated that updated health check graphs and tables had been provided to Members. He apologised that the Committee had been provided with the trend charts covering the previous year's figures in the Agenda papers.

The Director stated that, in respect of NI 191 – Residual household waste per household, the reported outturn for the year was 474kg, which exceeded the 2011/12 annual target of 459kg by 3%. Members were advised that Officers were reasonably satisfied with this outturn.

The Director advised that, in respect of NI 192 – Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting, the reported outturn for the year was that 48.35% of household waste collected had been sent for reuse, recycling or composting, which fell slightly short of the 50% target for 2011/12.

The Director commented that, in respect of NI 157c – Processing of planning applications: Other applications, the end of year performance outturn for 2011/12 was just below target at 92% against a very demanding target of 93%. Members were advised however, that performance was still exceeding the national target.

In response to a query from Councillor P Gray, the Head of Environmental Services stated that wheeled waste bins were the most appropriate solution for blocks of flats. At most locations the provision of recycling boxes was not considered appropriate due to health and safety concerns regarding the long distances and stairs that the residents or refuse crews would have to negotiate to empty the boxes. There are often storage issues for residents if recycling boxes were issued.

In response to a query from Councillor M Pope regarding the number of missed collections per 100,000 properties, the Committee was advised that this target often fluctuated and a target figure of 50 missed collections per 100,000 households was a very low figure.

The Chairman advised of two minor changes to the wording in the recommendations as detailed in the report now submitted. The Committee received the report.

RESOLVED – that (A) the report be received;

(B) the reported performance for the period January to March 2012 be received;

(C) the Outturns for 2011/12, as detailed in Essential Reference Paper 'C' of the report submitted, be received; and

(D) the 2013/14 target of 75% for EHPI 90b – Satisfaction with waste recycling, be supported.

106 2011/12 END OF YEAR SERVICE PLAN REPORT

The Leader of the Council submitted a report which detailed the 2011/12 Service Plan actions that had been achieved and those requiring a revised completion date.

The Chief Executive and Director of Customer and Community Services expressed the gratitude of Corporate Management Team (CMT) towards Heads of Service and Officers for the progress which had been achieved against the 2011/12 service plans. Members were invited to ask questions of Officers in respect of the report now submitted.

Councillor P Gray praised the achievements of Officers in meeting service plan actions, as detailed in the report now submitted and noted that two of the three incomplete actions were due to external delays and the third item was in hand. Councillor D Abbott also praised Heads of Service and Officers for a job well done.

The Committee received the report.

RESOLVED – that (A) the summary of achievements against the 2011/12 Service Plan actions be received; and

(B) the Service Plan Actions which required revised completion dates be noted.

107 CONTRACT PERFORMANCE ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATIONS

The Head of Environmental Services submitted an annual report detailing the 2011/12 performance of the two main contracts for Waste Services (Refuse and Recycling and Street Cleansing) and Grounds Maintenance.

The Committee was advised that there had been a slight increase in the level of missed bins per 100,000 collections from 34.56 in 2010/11 to 36.80 in 2011/12. Officers were not unduly concerned however, as this covered the peak period when the new contract had been introduced with vehicles and day round changes. The figure was still within target and the contract was progressing very smoothly.

The Head of Environmental Services advised that the percentage of household waste recycled and composted had increased again slightly from 48.28% in 2010/11 to 48.35% in 2011/12, falling slightly below the expected target of 50%. Members were advised that the economic downturn had had a negative effect on performance as the amount of material being recycled by residents had decreased as they were not buying as many newspapers, magazines.

Members were advised of a slight fall in commercial waste collection income although the Authority had maintained its customer base and continued to secure new customers. The Head of Environmental Services stated that the performance of street cleansing had decreased slightly. The East Herts performance was 1% for litter and 10% for detritus in 2010/11. In 2011/12, litter had increased to 2.3% and detritus fell to 6.9%.

Members were reminded that East Herts had a very low level of litter problems compared to many local authority areas and the low percentages reflected this. The Committee was also advised that there had been a significant decline in fly tipping due to increased. The level of enforcement activity has contributed to this.

Councillor M Pope referred to the methodology used for

measuring performance of street cleansing on major roads. He also referred to how the Authority addressed the build up of rubbish on the smaller roads across the District. The Head of Environmental Services undertook to respond to Councillor M Pope after the meeting.

Councillor D Andrews commented on whether Officers could update Members in respect of the current position regarding the treatment of weeds across East Herts. The Head of Environmental Services undertook to respond to this query after the meeting.

Councillor J Wyllie expressed concern that on a number of occasions the grounds maintenance staff had cut some grass on a verge on his garden adjacent to his house in Bishop's Stortford and in so doing had damaged some plants.

The Head of Environmental Services undertook to investigate the matter and respond outside of the meeting. He commented that East Herts Council grounds maintenance contractors covered numerous areas of grass verge and communal gardens and this occasionally resulted in confusion regarding ownership of some of these areas.

The Committee received the report.

RESOLVED – that the performance of the Council's main environmental management contracts be received and noted.

108 INCREASING DRY RECYCLING CAPTURE

The Head of Environmental Services submitted a report updating Members in respect of what was being done to improve recycling performance in East Herts.

Members were advised that recycling levels had fallen across East Herts, most likely due to the recession and an increasing trend towards the use of electronic media. This is a national trend. This reduction had had a

significant impact on the Council's income from the sale of recycling materials.

The Head of Environmental Services stated that in an effort to increasing dry recycling capture, Officers would be sending information to residents in areas with a lower than average recycling weight per household, in an effort to encourage them to recycle more. Areas with large numbers of flats had not been targeted by this exercise as their recycling tends to be lower anyway.

The Committee was advised that bin hangers are being left on residents' bins to encourage increased recycling and, where necessary, ensure any extra demand for recycling boxes was met. Officers had issued 2000 bin hangers already and there had already been 91 requests for additional boxes. Officers would report back to the Committee in terms of whether the campaign had been successful.

Councillor E Buckmaster emphasised the importance of reaching the right people with this campaign to avoid inadvertently upsetting residents who already recycled as much as they could under current arrangements.

Councillor M Carver, as the local ward Member, advised that he would have preferred more notice of the start of the scheme. He stated that he had been contacted by a number of residents.

Councillor P Gray commented that it was important to target young people to encourage recycling behaviour early. He asked whether there was work taking place with local schools to educate pupils throughout East Herts.

Councillor J Wyllie supported the use of the bin hangers to promote recycling and felt that, while the environmental benefits had its place, communicating the costs of not recycling was important. Residents needed to know that landfill was expensive.

In response to a question about the content of the bin hanger and how it communicated which materials could be recycled, the Head of Environmental Services stressed that leaflets and bin hangers were not the primary method of communication as a comprehensive calendar was issued several times a year that explained the “dos and don’ts” of using the brown bin and the blue and green boxes for recycling.

Members were reminded of the wide range of activities which had been taking place in schools across Hertfordshire as part of the Waste Aware campaign.

Members were advised of the methodology residents should use when leaving out recycling for the refuse crews, and also explained what could not be recycled and why. The Committee was also advised of the costs associated with landfill and recycling.

The Head of Environmental Services advised Members of the style of wording that was used in the literature sent to the areas where recycling rates were low. He stated that individual residents were not being targeted. It was not possible to know how much individual households were recycling. The tonnage of waste collected by each collection round had been divided by the number of properties to establish the average weight per household. This showed which areas produced the lowest amount of recycling per household. It was possible that some households in an area were recycling as much as they could while others were not recycling at all.

The Committee was advised that research had indicated that the groups that recycled the least were the most affluent residents and the poorest. The residents who were classed as middle income were the group that often achieved the best rates of recycling.

Members were advised that some villages appeared to be highly motivated to recycle but collection rounds were designed for efficiency and cut across a number of different communities.

The Head of Environmental Services agreed to meet with Councillor M Carver outside the meeting to consider the methodology and the specific implications for his ward.

The Chief Executive and Director of Customer and Community Services explained that Officers saw this campaign as a simple, non judgemental and inexpensive way to improve recycling rates across East Herts, particularly in the areas where the rate was low.

In response to comments from Councillors R Beeching and P Gray in respect of the Council's policy regarding brown bins, the Head of Environmental Services reiterated the policy of the Authority.

The Committee received the report and agreed to have a report later in the year when the recycling rates in these areas had been reviewed following the campaign.

RESOLVED – that the approach taken to improve recycling performance in areas where take up was low, be supported.

109 WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

The Chairman submitted a report setting out the Committee's future work programme for 2012/13, the detail of which had been set out in Essential Reference Paper 'B' to the report now submitted.

Members were advised that pages 78 – 79 of the report now submitted detailed items that Members had raised at the topic planning workshops. The Committee was advised that the highest priority item related to the 5 year review of the grounds maintenance contract.

The Scrutiny Officer stated that the Council would need to decide whether to extend or re-tender the Grounds Maintenance contract. Members were advised that a Task and Finish Group would be required to carry out this work and any interested Members should contact group

leaders with their expressions of interest. The Chairman of the Task and Finish Group would be a Member of Environment Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee approved the report, as amended.

RESOLVED – that the work programme be approved, as amended.

The meeting closed at 8.41 pm

Chairman
Date

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 11 SEPTEMBER 2012

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY HEALTHCHECK – APRIL 2012 TO JUNE 2012

REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

WARD (S) AFFECTED: All

Purpose/Summary of Report:

To set out a report on the performance of the key indicators that relate to Environment Scrutiny for the period April 2012 to June 2012.

RECOMMENDATION FOR SCRUTINY MEMBERS:	
(A)	The reported performance for the period April 2012 to June 2012 be received.
(B)	The Executive be advised of any further recommendations.

1.0 Background

1.1 This is a performance report relevant to the Environment Scrutiny terms of reference covering the period April 2012 to June 2012.




1.2 The report contains a breakdown of the following information by each Corporate Priority:



- An overview of performance, in particular where there have been issues and remedial actions taken during the period. Should members want more detailed information on a specific month, they should refer to that month's Executive Corporate Healthcheck report available on the council website.
- The indicators where data is collected monthly, with performance for June 2012 presented in detail (the most up to date available)

with previous months summarised in a trend chart.

- 1.4 All Councillors have access to Covalent (the Council’s performance management system), should they wish to interrogate the full range of performance indicators. The Performance Team are able to provide support and training on using the Covalent system if required.
- 1.5 **Essential Reference Paper ‘B’** Shows the full set of performance indicators that are reported on a monthly basis to this committee. Essential Reference Paper B has been sorted by status e.g. all performance indicators that are ‘red’ are listed first etc.

The codes used in relation to performance indicator monitoring are as follows:

Status	
	This PI is 6% or more off target.
	This PI is 1-5% off target.
	This PI is on target.

Short Term Trends	
	The value of this PI has changed in the short term.
	The value of this PI has not changed in the short term.

2.0 Report – Indicators grouped by Corporate Priority

Place

Performance analysis

- 2.1 **NI 157b – Processing of planning applications: ‘Minor’ applications.** Performance was ‘Red’ for June 2012. 13 out of a total of 36 decisions took longer than the target timescale. In six of these cases the requirement for a committee decision lengthened the decision timescale.
- 2.2 **NI 157c – Processing of planning applications: Other applications.** Performance was ‘Amber’ for June 2013. 16 out of a total of 112 decisions were made outside of the decision making timescale. Reasons for this include referral of cases for committee decisions and the need for further information to be sought before a decision could be reached.

- 2.3 **NI 191 – Residual household waste per household.** The amount of waste sent to land fill in June was up on April and May 's performance. This was due to June falling as a 5 week month.
- 2.4 **NI 192 – Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting.** Performance in June has improved against May, with organic waste boosting recycling tonnages.
- 2.5 The following indicators were 'Green', meaning that the targets were either met or exceeded for June 2012. They were:
- EHPI 2.1d – Planning Enforcement: Initial Site Inspections.
 - EHPI 2.1e – Planning Enforcement: Service of formal Notices.
 - EHPI 2.2(45) – Number of collections missed per 100,000 collections of household waste
 - EHPI 2.23 – Planning decisions delegated to officers
 - EHPI 218a – Abandoned Vehicles – % investigated within 24 hours
 - EHPI 218b – Abandoned Vehicles – % removed within 24 hours of required time
 - NI 157a – Processing of planning applications: 'Major' applications

Please refer to **Essential Reference Paper 'B'** for full details.

Prosperity

Performance analysis

- 2.6 The following indicators were 'Green', meaning that the targets were either met or exceeded for June 2012. They were:
- EHPI 6.8 – Turnaround of pre NTO PCN challenges
 - EHPI 6.9 – Turnaround of NTO Representations

Please refer to **Essential Reference Paper 'B'** for full details.

CONCLUSION

- 2.7 In conclusion Members are asked to:
- Note the performance indicator analysis for the period April 2012 to June 2012 in **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**
 - Agree the recommendations at the start of this report.

3.0 Implications/Consultation

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers:

- 2011/12 Estimates and Future Targets Report – Executive 6 March 2012.

Should members require any guidance notes or Performance Indicator definitions please contact a member of the Performance team in the contacts listed below.

Contact member:

Councillor Malcolm Alexander – Executive member for Community Safety and Environment.

Councillor Paul Phillips – Executive member for Economic Development.

Contact Officer:

Simon Chancellor – Head of Finance and Performance

Contact Tel Ext No 2050

Simon.chancellor@eastherts.gov.uk

Report Author:

Karl Chui – Performance Monitoring Officer

Contact Tel Ext No 2243

karl.chui@eastherts.gov.uk

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives:	<p>Place <i>This priority focuses on the standard of the built environment and our neighbourhoods and ensuring our towns and villages are safe and clean.</i></p> <p>Prosperity <i>This priority focuses on safeguarding and enhancing our unique mix of rural and urban communities, promoting sustainable, economic and social opportunities.</i></p>
Consultation:	Performance monitoring discussions have taken place between Directors and Heads of Service.
Legal:	There are no legal implications.
Financial:	There are no financial implications.
Human Resource:	There are no Human Resource implications.
Risk Management:	There are no Risk implications.

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Environment Scrutiny Corporate Healthcheck April to June 2012/13

Traffic Light Red
Description Place

Planning and Building Control

PI code	Short Name	Status	Current Value	Current target	Short term trend	Notes	Recommendations made during last Scrutiny meeting on 26 th June 2012
NI 157b (BV109b)	Processing of planning applications: Minor applications		64.00%	70.00%		Target not achieved. 13 out of a total of 36 decisions took longer than the target timescale. In six of these cases the requirement for a committee decision lengthened the decision timescale	None

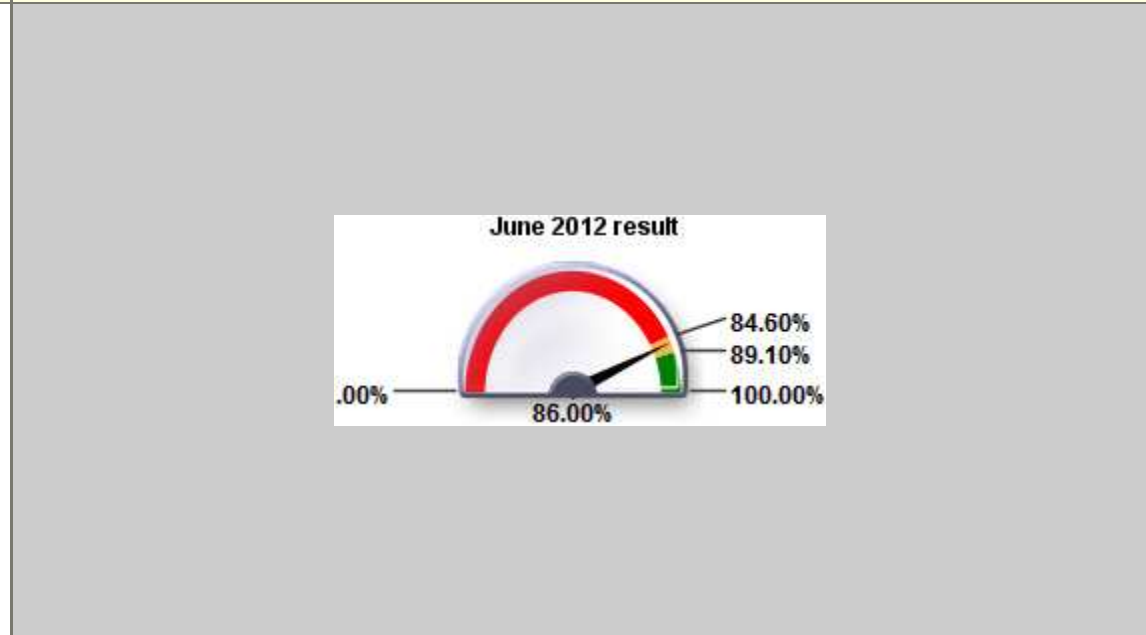
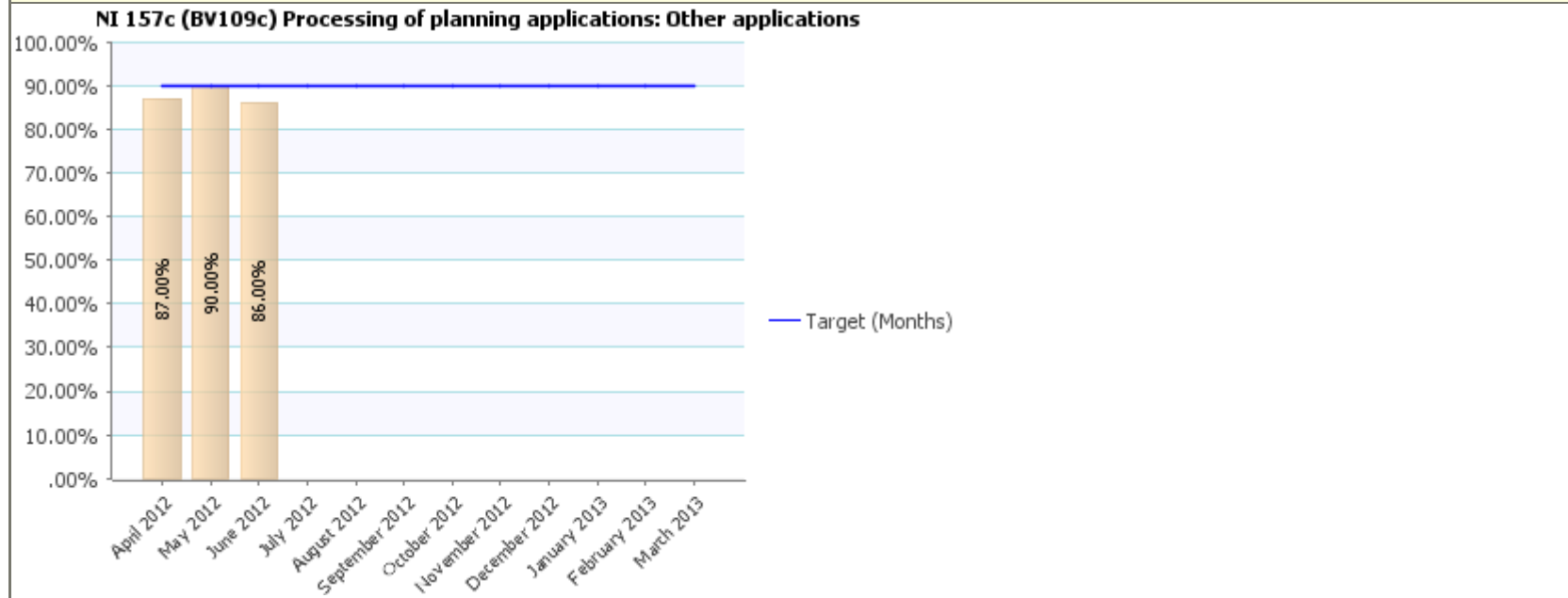
Trend Chart	Performance Gauge												
<p>NI 157b (BV109b) Processing of planning applications: Minor applications</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Performance Data (April to June 2012)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Value (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>April 2012</td> <td>72.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 2012</td> <td>73.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 2012</td> <td>64.00%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Value (%)	April 2012	72.00%	May 2012	73.00%	June 2012	64.00%	<p>June 2012 result</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Value (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>64.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65.80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>69.30%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Value (%)	64.00%	65.80%	69.30%
Month	Value (%)												
April 2012	72.00%												
May 2012	73.00%												
June 2012	64.00%												
Value (%)													
64.00%													
65.80%													
69.30%													

Traffic Light Amber
Description Place

Planning and Building Control

PI code	Short Name	Status	Current Value	Current target	Short term trend	Notes	Recommendations made during last Scrutiny meeting on 26 th June 2012
NI 157c (BV109c)	Processing of planning applications: Other applications		86.00%	90.00%		Target not achieved. 16 out of a total of 112 decisions were made outside of the decision making timescale. Reasons for this include referral of cases for committee decisions and the need for further information to be sought before a decision can be reached.	None

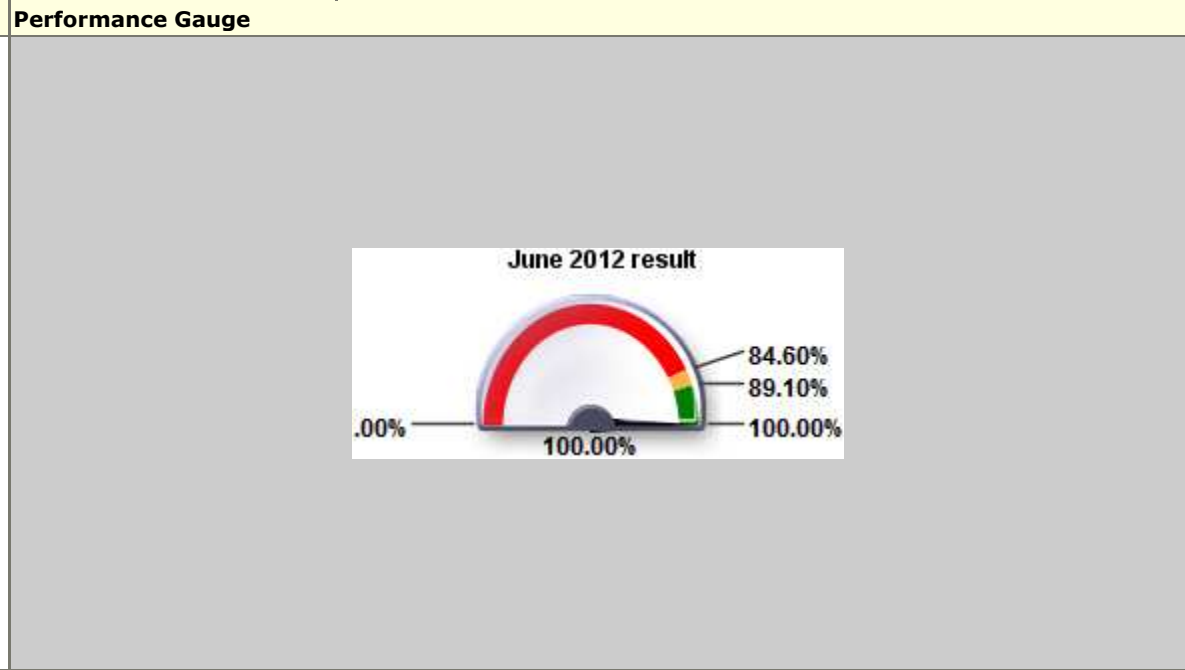
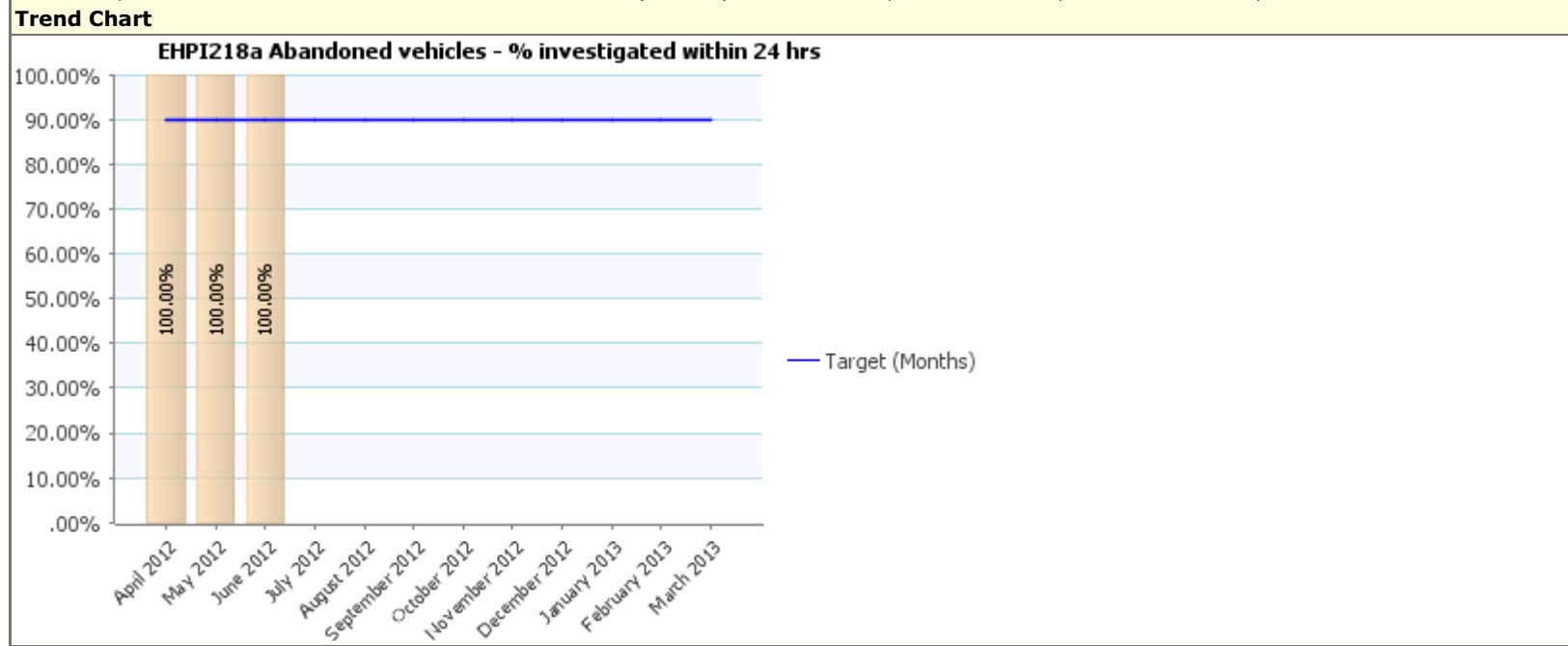
Trend Chart **Performance Gauge**



Traffic Light Green
Description Place

Environment Services

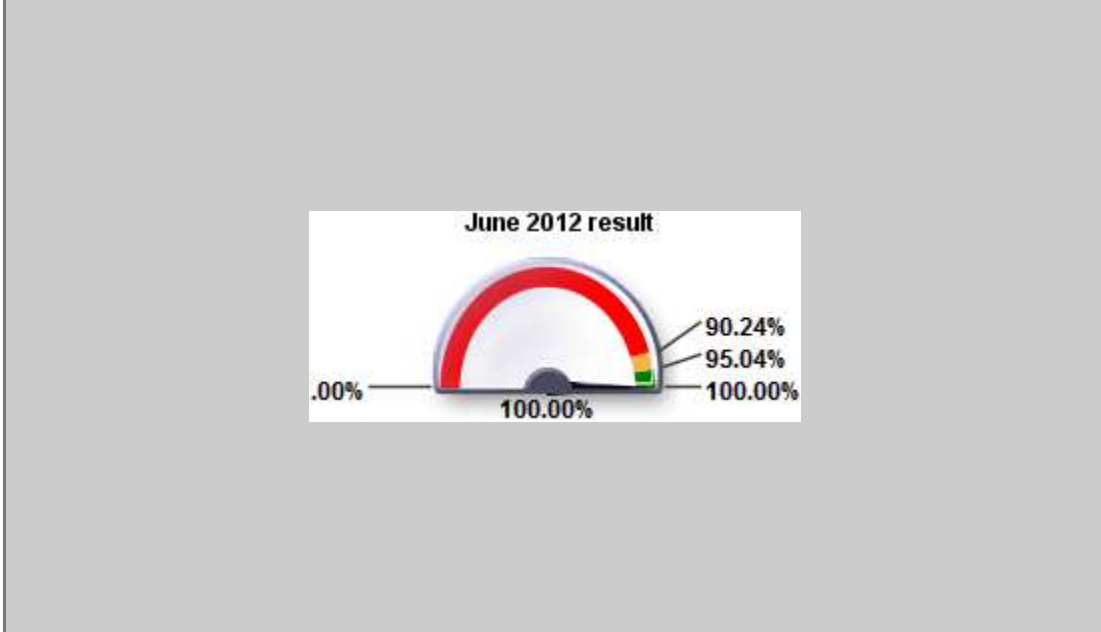
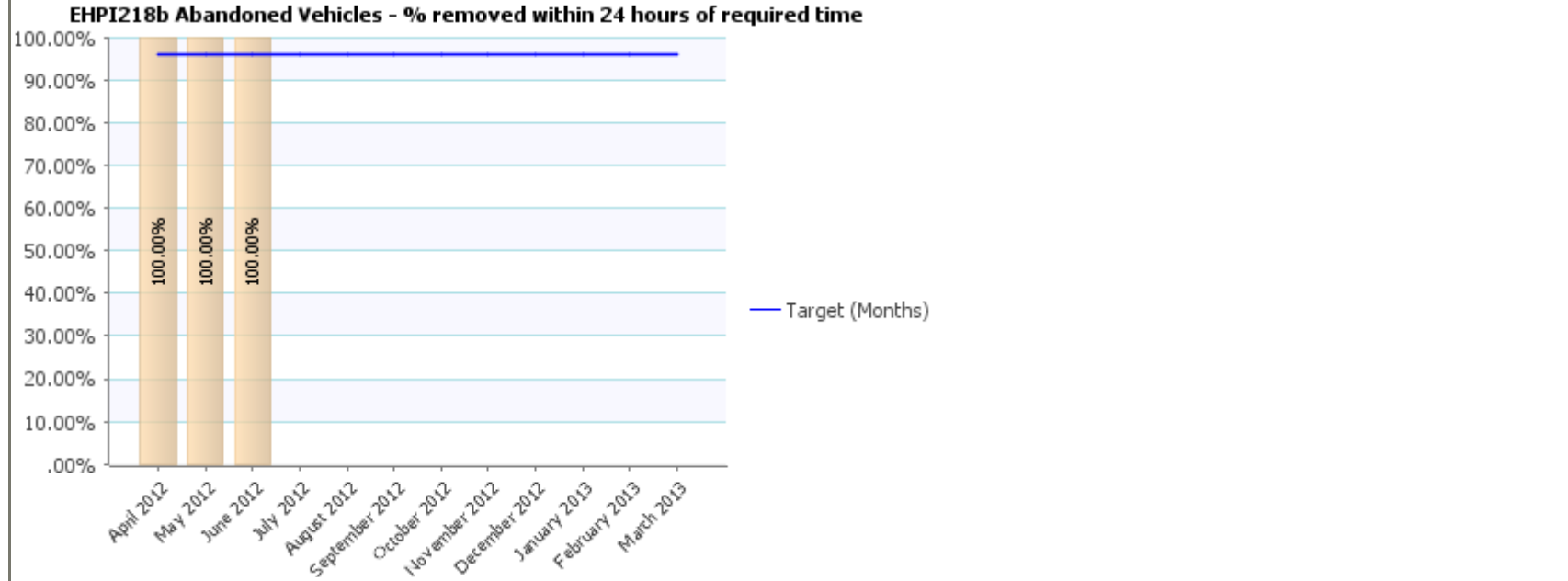
PI code	Short Name	Status	Current Value	Current target	Short term trend	Notes	Recommendations made during last Scrutiny meeting on 26 th June 2012
EHPI218a	Abandoned vehicles - % investigated within 24 hrs		100.00%	90.00%		8 abandoned vehicles all seen within 24hrs, still within target.	None



Environment Services

PI code	Short Name	Status	Current Value	Current target	Short term trend	Notes	Recommendations made during last Scrutiny meeting on 26 th June 2012
EHP1218b	Abandoned Vehicles - % removed within 24 hours of required time	✓	100.00%	96.00%	▬	100% no abandoned vehicles removed. Remains above target.	None

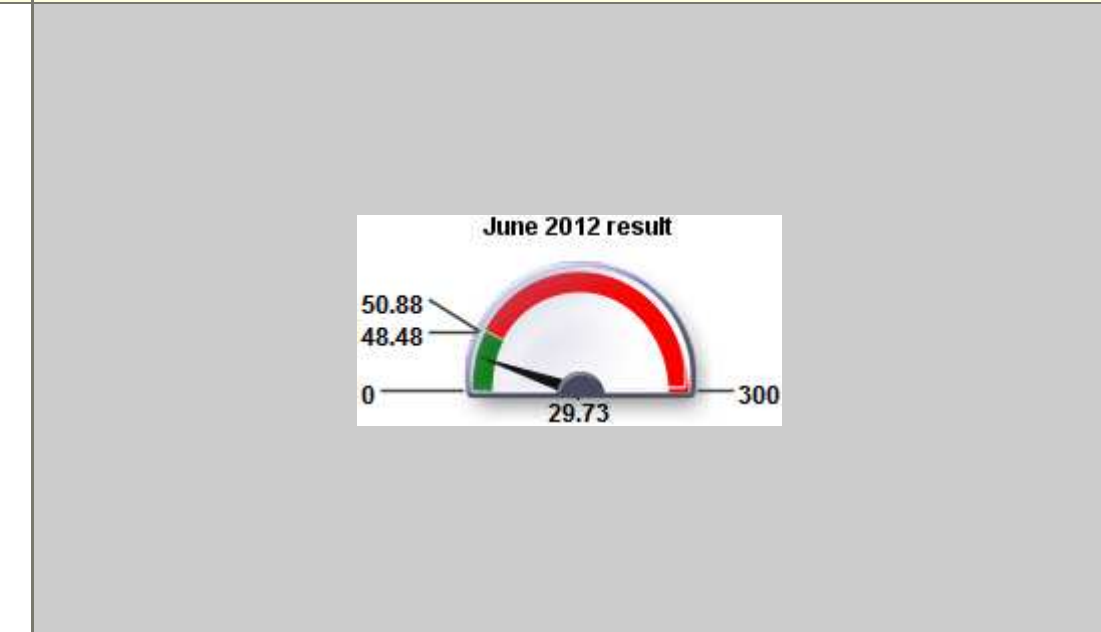
Trend Chart **Performance Gauge**



Environment Services

PI code	Short Name	Status	Current Value	Current target	Short term trend	Notes	Recommendations made during last Scrutiny meeting on 26 th June 2012
EHP12.2 (45)	Waste: missed collections per 100,000 collections of household waste	✓	29.73	48	⬇	The good performance during April & May has been continued through June.	None

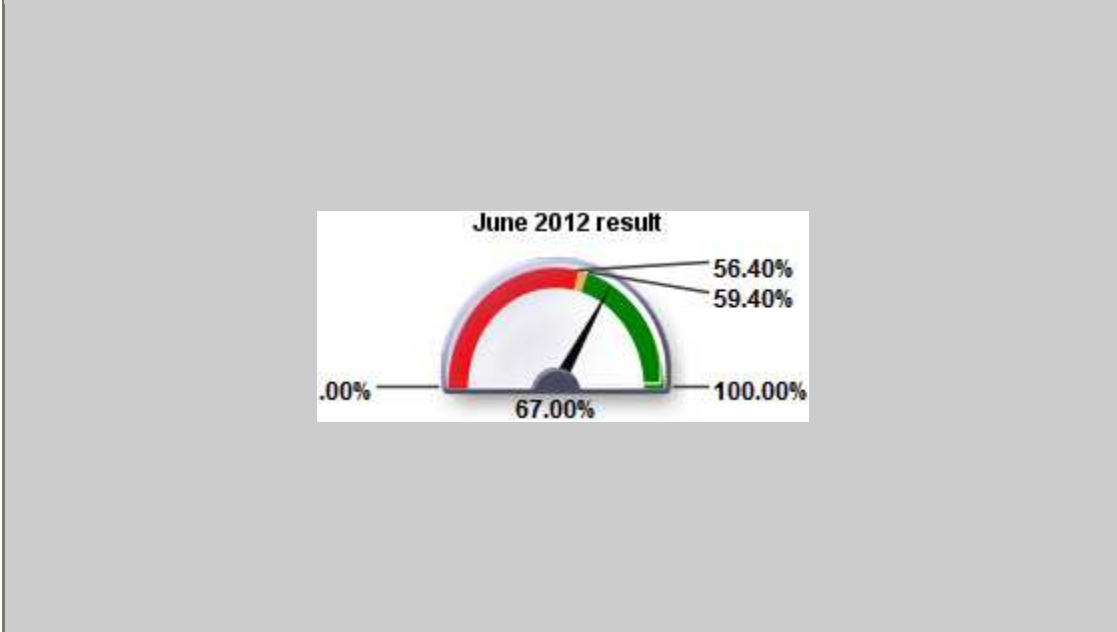
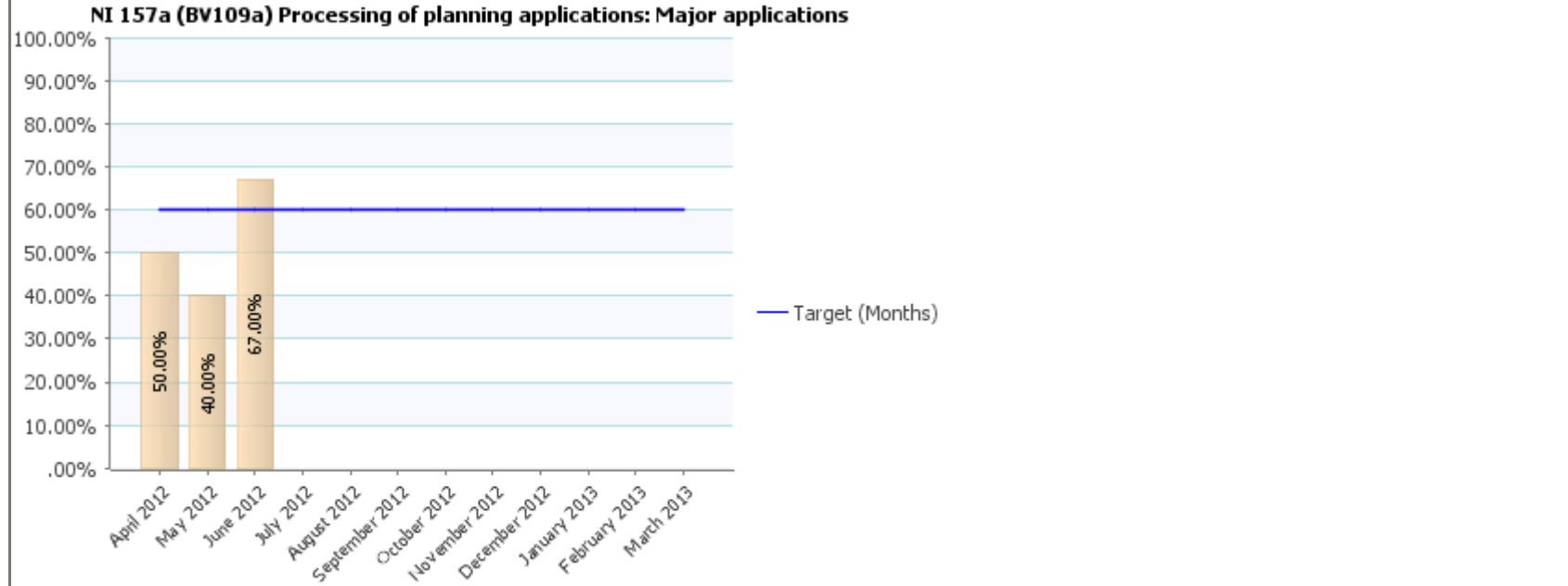
Trend Chart **Performance Gauge**



Planning and Building Control

PI code	Short Name	Status	Current Value	Current target	Short term trend	Notes	Recommendations made during last Scrutiny meeting on 26 th June 2012
NI 157a (BV109a)	Processing of planning applications: Major applications		67.00%	60.00%		Target Achieved. 2 applications out of 3 were determined on time	None

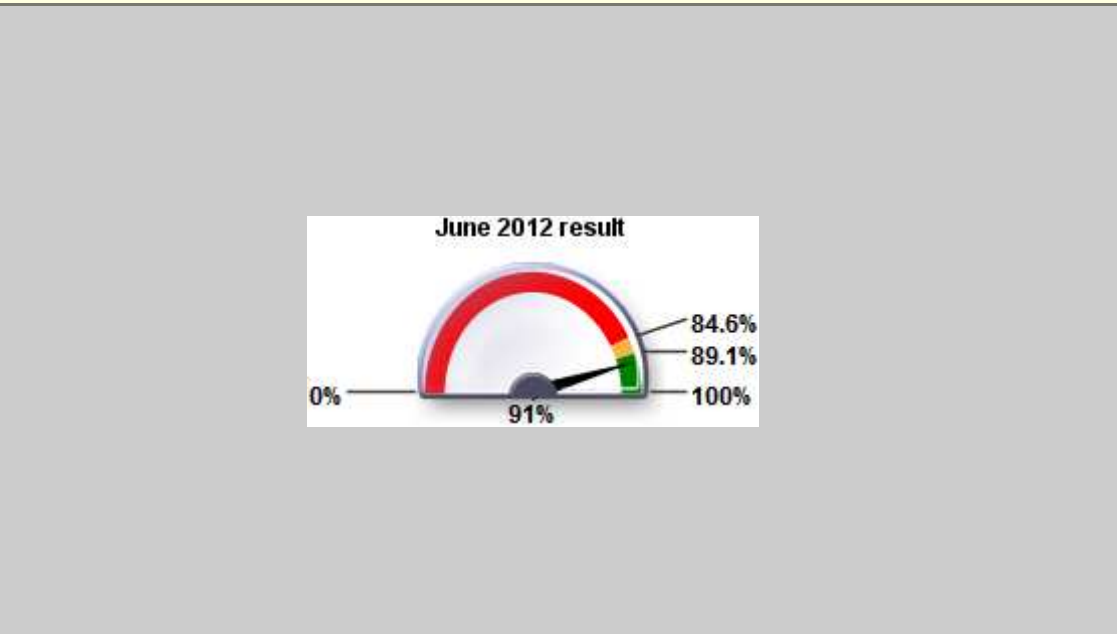
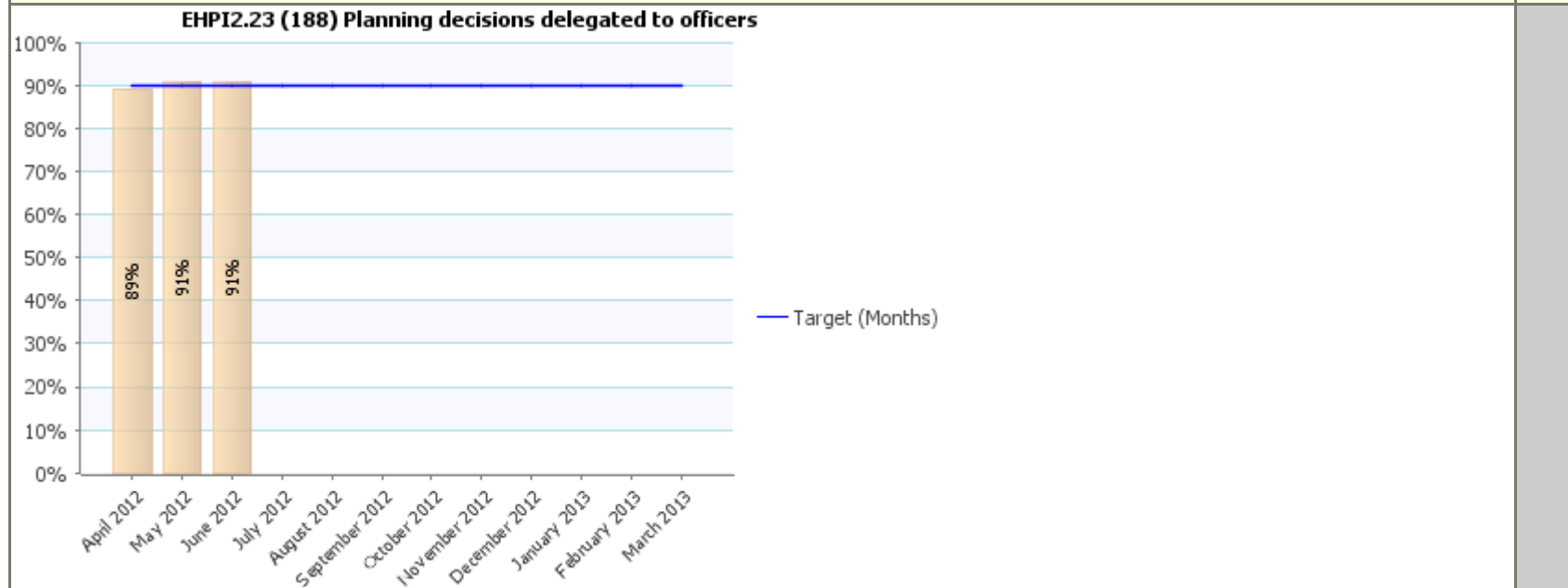
Trend Chart **Performance Gauge**

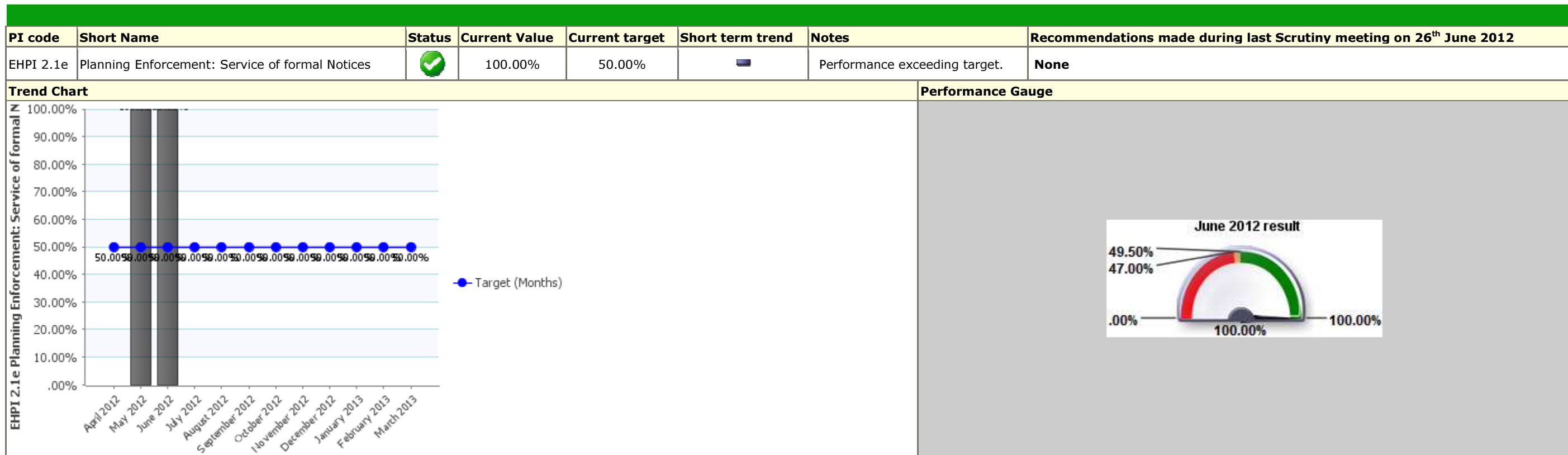
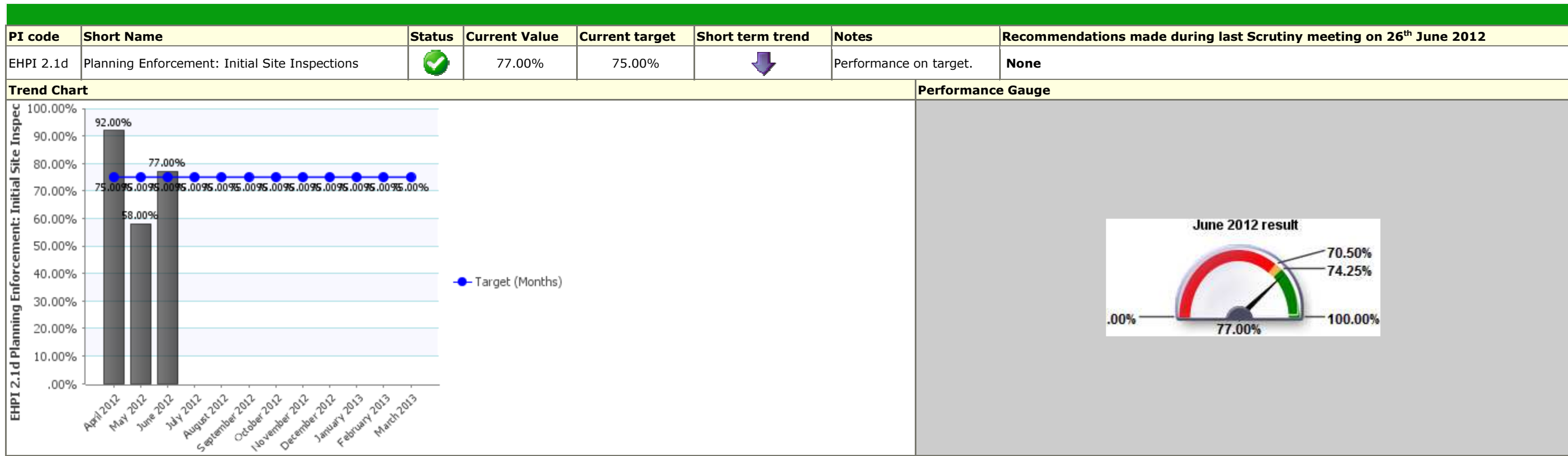


Planning and Building Control

PI code	Short Name	Status	Current Value	Current target	Short term trend	Notes	Recommendations made during last Scrutiny meeting on 26 th June 2012
EHPI2.23 (188)	Planning decisions delegated to officers		91%	90%		Performance on target.	None

Trend Chart **Performance Gauge**

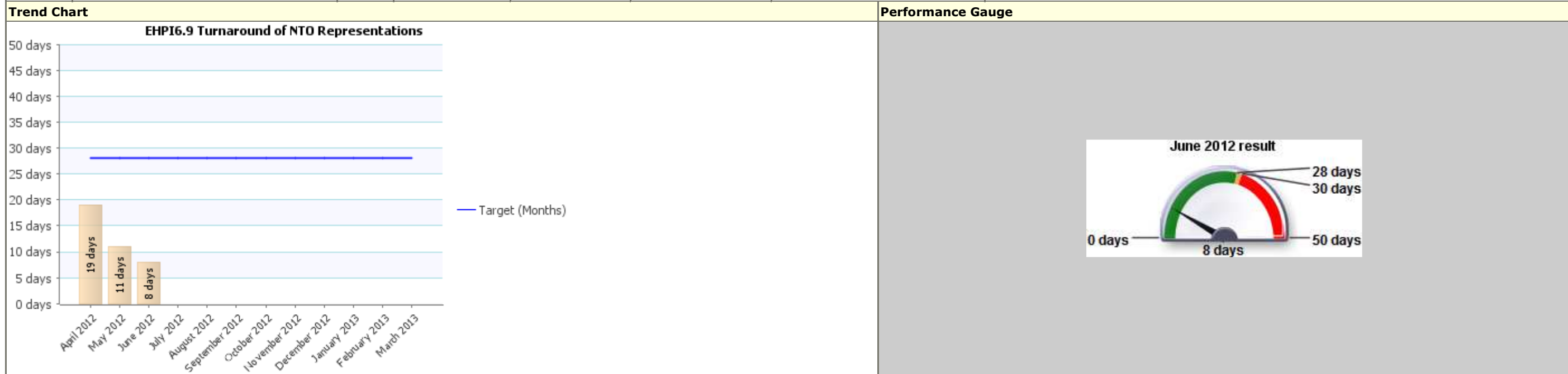




Traffic Light Green
Description Prosperity

Parking Services

PI code	Short Name	Status	Current Value	Current target	Short term trend	Notes	Recommendations made during last Scrutiny meeting on 26 th June 2012
EHPI6.9	Turnaround of NTO Representations		8 days	28 days		This PI remains within target	None



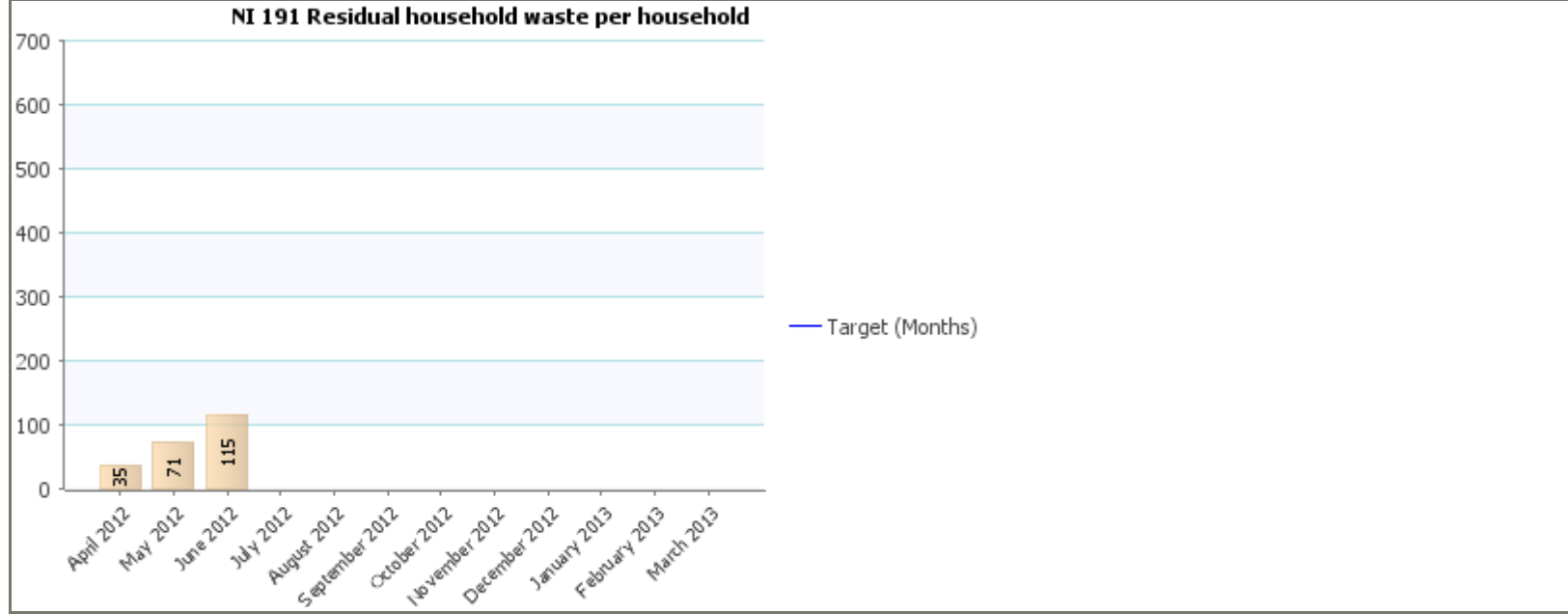
Parking Services																																	
PI code	Short Name	Status	Current Value	Current target	Short term trend	Notes	Recommendations made during last Scrutiny meeting on 26 th June 2012																										
EHPI6.8	Turnaround of Pre NTO PCN challenges (10 working days)		8 days	14 days		This PI remains within target	None																										
Trend Chart						Performance Gauge																											
<p>EHPI6.8 Turnaround of Pre NTO PCN challenges (10 working days)</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Turnaround Times Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Turnaround (days)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>April 2012</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 2012</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 2012</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July 2012</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>August 2012</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>September 2012</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>October 2012</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>November 2012</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>December 2012</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>January 2013</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>February 2013</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 2013</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						Month	Turnaround (days)	April 2012	19	May 2012	11	June 2012	8	July 2012	-	August 2012	-	September 2012	-	October 2012	-	November 2012	-	December 2012	-	January 2013	-	February 2013	-	March 2013	-	<p>June 2012 result</p>	
Month	Turnaround (days)																																
April 2012	19																																
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March 2013	-																																

Traffic Light Unknown
Description Place

Environment Services

PI code	Short Name	Status	Current Value	Current target	Short term trend	Notes	Recommendations made during last Scrutiny meeting on 26 th June 2012
NI 191	Residual household waste per household	?	115		↓	Although the amount of waste land filled in June was up on April & May due to a 5 week month it was pro rota at the same level.	None

Trend Chart **Performance Gauge**

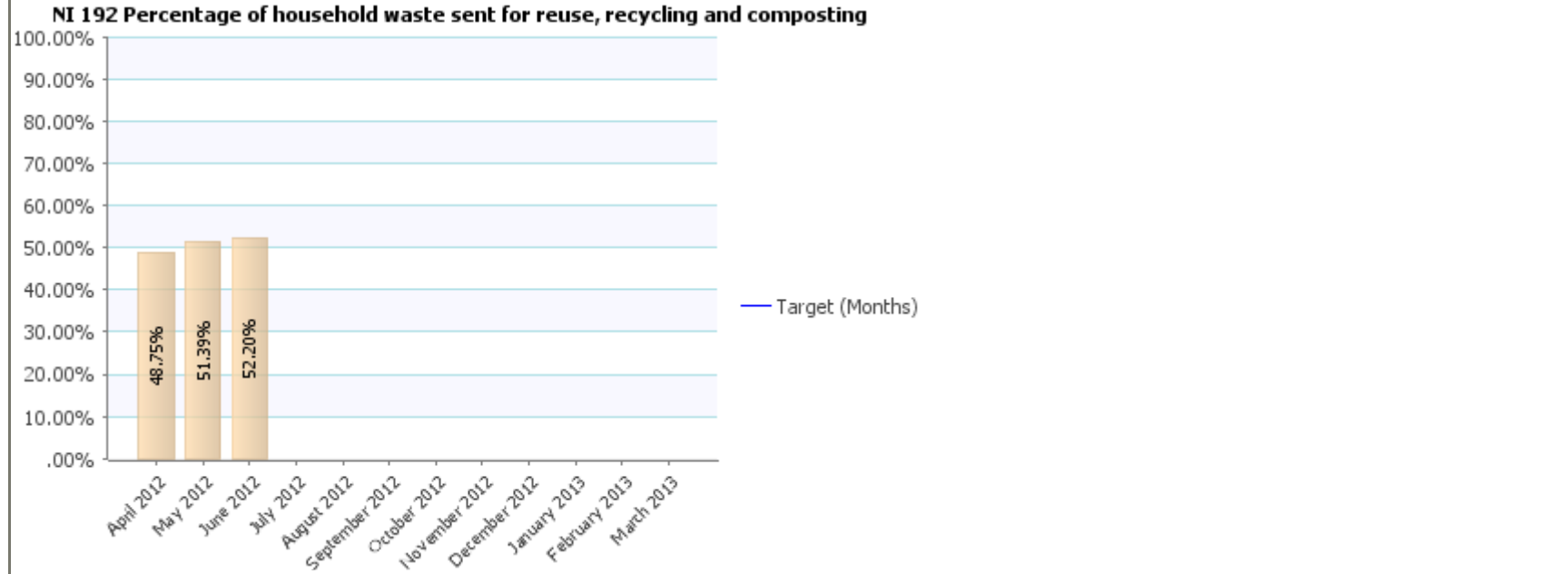


N/A

Environment Services

PI code	Short Name	Status	Current Value	Current target	Short term trend	Notes	Recommendations made during last Scrutiny meeting on 26 th June 2012
NI 192	Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	?			↑	Performance has improved against May, with organic waste boosting recycling tonnages.	None

Trend Chart **Performance Gauge**



N/A

PI Status		Long Term Trends		Short Term Trends	
	Alert		Improving		Improving
	Warning		No Change		No Change
	OK		Getting Worse		Getting Worse
	Unknown				
	Data Only				

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 11 SEPTEMBER 2012

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

WARD(S) AFFECTED: *none*

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To review and determine Environment Scrutiny Committee's future work programme

<u>RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION:</u>	
(A)	the work programme shown in this report be agreed

1.0 Background

1.1 Items previously required, identified or suggested for the Environment Scrutiny work programme are set out in **Essential Reference Paper B**.

2.0 Report

2.1 An article explaining the role of scrutiny and inviting suggestions from residents was published in the spring 2012 'council tax' edition of LINK magazine. No new topics for scrutiny have been received from the public to date.

2.2 The Executive member for economic development and lead officers have asked if the committee would accept a new report onto the agenda for 13 November 2012. Following the council's decision in 2011 regarding the potential use of vehicle removal and the use of mobile cameras as part of parking enforcement, this new report will seek the views and support of members regarding the guidelines for such use in support of 'safety and the efficient movement of traffic' within East Herts.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers: none

Contact Member: Cllr Daniel Abbott – Chairman Environment Scrutiny Committee
daniel.abbott@eastherts.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Jeff Hughes – Head of Democratic and Legal Support Services
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Report Author: Marian Langley – Scrutiny Officer
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ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS

<p>Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives (delete as appropriate):</p>	<p>People This priority focuses on enhancing the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.</p> <p>Place This priority focuses on the standard of the built environment and our neighbourhoods and ensuring our towns and villages are safe and clean.</p> <p>Prosperity This priority focuses on safeguarding and enhancing our unique mix of rural and urban communities, promoting sustainable, economic and social opportunities.</p> <p>Effective use of the scrutiny process contributes to the Council's ability to meet one or more of its corporate objectives:</p>
<p>Consultation:</p>	<p>Potential topics for scrutiny are always invited from members of the public, the Executive and all Members.</p>
<p>Legal:</p>	<p>According to the Council's constitution, the scrutiny committees are responsible for the setting of their own work programme in consultation with the Executive and in doing so they shall take into account wishes of members on that committee who are not members of the largest political group on the Council.</p>
<p>Financial:</p>	<p>Any additional meetings and every task and finish group has resource needs linked to officer support activity and time for officers from the services to make the required input.</p>
<p>Human Resource:</p>	<p>none</p>
<p>Risk Management:</p>	<p>Matters which may benefit from scrutiny may be overlooked. The selection of inappropriate topics for review would risk inefficient use of resources. Where this involved partners, it could risk damaging the reputation of the council and relations with partners.</p>

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Environment Scrutiny Committee work programme (provisional) 2012/13

meeting	date	topic	Contact officer/lead	Next Exec
THIS	CIVIC YEAR			
3 in 2012/13	13 Nov 2012 Report deadline 31 Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Parking Enforcement Guidelines – vehicle removals and mobile camera enforcement (NEW) • FINAL T&F report on review of Grounds' Maintenance contract (parks, open spaces and highways) • Parks/Open Spaces strategy – 2012 onwards • Follow up results from Project Surge (increasing dry recycling capture) • Service Plans monitoring Apr 2012 – Sept 2012 (Environment only) • Healthcheck through to Sept 2012 • Work Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive member and lead officer • T&F Chairman and Head of Service • Head of Service • Head of Service • Lead Officer – Corporate Planning • Lead Officer - Performance • Scrutiny Officer 	4 Dec 2012 8 Jan 2013 5 Feb 2013
Budget scrutiny process	During Dec 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013/14 Proposed Service Options 		
JOINT SCRUTINY	15 Jan 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013/14 Budget items 		
JOINT SCRUTINY	12 Feb 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013/14 Service Plans • 2012/13 Estimates and 2013/14 Future targets 		
4 in 2012/13	26 Feb 2013 Report deadline 13 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Crime (TBC)** • tbc • Healthcheck through to Jan 2013 • Work Programme 2013/14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • X • X • Lead Officer - Performance • Scrutiny Officer 	5 March 2013 4 June 2013

****TBC: Env Crimes T&F** was deferred as central government announced further changes to anti-social behaviour legislation which would impact on graffiti, dog fouling, fly tipping etc. Need to wait until outcome clearer.

**Scrutiny work programme
Essential Reference Paper B**

meeting	date	topic	Contact officer/lead	Next Exec
NEXT	CIVIC YEAR			
1 in 2013/14	11 June 2013 Report deadline 29 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Reporting – Contract Performance 2012/13 - to include any further progress on Env Quality action plan • Climate Change – report on progress against action plan with data on savings from 2012/13 year. • Healthcheck through to March 2013 (which includes relevant 2012/13 Out turns and Targets) • Service Plan monitoring – Oct 2012 to March 2013 • Work Programme 2013/14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Service • Lead Officer and Head of Service • Lead Officer - Performance • Lead Officer – Corporate Planning • Scrutiny Officer 	2 July 2013 6 August 2013 3 Sept 2013

The four principles of good public scrutiny:

- *provides ‘critical friend’ challenge to executive policy-makers and decision-makers*
- *enables the voice and concerns of the public and its communities*
- *is carried out by ‘independent-minded governors’ who lead and own the scrutiny role*
- *drives improvement in public services*

Currently within East Herts Council, the criteria for selecting issues:

For the Scrutiny Committee to select an issue to review, it must meet all of the following criteria:

- Of local, and preferably current, concern
- Linked to the council’s corporate objectives
- Capable of being influenced by this committee
- Of manageable scope – focused rather than too wide ranging
- Of sufficient scope to warrant a scrutiny review – not something that can be easily fixed by meeting with the service provider
- Not being scrutinised elsewhere (eg another Scrutiny Committee)

At the last scrutiny evaluation there was a feeling, in the light of the current economic climate and limited resources, that there should also be some consideration given to

- areas where significant costs might be incurred or could be saved
- minimising the level of risk associated with the topic/issue
- the length of time since the topic was last reviewed.

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