

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 8 SEPTEMBER 2015

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY HEALTHCHECK – APRIL 2015 TO JUNE 2015

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 2015 to June 2015.
- Overall 9 out of the 15 Environment Scrutiny committee's basket of performance indicators are either on target or exceeding their targets as at June 2015/Quarter 1 for 2015. One indicator did not have any performance data available to analyse and five performance indicators are trend only.

<u>RECOMMENDATION FOR ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY:</u>	
That the Executive be advised that Environment Scrutiny Committee has considered:	
(A)	the reported performance for the period April 2015 to June 2015.
(B)	and supports the approval of the report.

1.0 Background

1.1 The council uses performance indicators and targets to help monitor progress against key objectives, understand how it is impacting upon the lives of residents and help inform decisions about directing resources to areas of need. East Herts Council's performance management framework was reviewed by Members in 2013 to make it more streamlined and more closely aligned with the objectives and priorities set out in the Corporate Plan. In 2015/16 there were 73 performance indicators, of which 15 were monitored by Environment Scrutiny Committee.

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.
- The indicators where data is collected monthly, with performance for June 2015 presented in detail (the most up to date available) with previous months summarised in a trend chart.
- The indicators where data is collected quarterly, with performance for Quarter 1 presented in detail (the most up to date available) with previous quarters summarised in a trend chart.

1.3 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.

1.4 **Essential Reference Paper 'B'** Shows the full set of performance indicators that are reported on a monthly or quarterly 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. **Essential Reference Paper 'C'** Provides guidance notes and definitions for the performance indicators relating to Environment Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 Performance analysis

2.1 SHORT TERM TREND ANALYSIS

Table one shows movement in performance when compared to the last reporting period for the measures where there is a RAG status. Three indicators are showing an improvement. Two indicators have no short term trend to analyse as there is no performance data in the previous period and four indicators show a decline in performance. One indicator did not have any performance data to analyse (**EHPI 2.1e – Planning Enforcement: Service of formal notices**) as no notices were served in June 2015.

Table One:

Performance Indicator Short Name	Performance Status (RAG)	Movement since last reported
EHPI 2.1d – Planning Enforcement: Initial Site Inspections	Green	Improved
EHPI 2.2 – Waste: missed collections per 100,000 collections of household	Green	Improved
EHPI 7.2 – Turnaround of PCN Challenges and Representations	Green	Improved
EHPI 157a – Processing of planning applications: Major applications	Green	N/A due to no major planning application decisions being released in previous month
EHPI 7.3 - Percentage of appeals to the traffic penalty tribunal against the number of PCNs issued	Green	N/A - New indicator therefore no previous quarter data to analyse trend
EHPI 157b – Processing of planning applications: Minor applications	Green	Declined
EHPI 157c – Processing of planning applications: Other applications	Green	Declined
EHPI 2.4 – Fly-tips: removal.	Green	Declined
EHPI 2.23 - Planning decisions delegated to officers	Green	Declined
EHPI 2.1e – Planning Enforcement: Service of formal Notices	N/A due to no notices served in June 2015	N/A due to no notices served in previous month

2.2 TREND ONLY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Table two shows movement in performance when compared to the last reporting period for the measures where no targets have been set, e.g. only trend data is analysed. There are two indicators that have decreased and these measures relate to household waste. Currently only February 2015 data is presented as March 2015 data was not available at the time of writing this report as data is always one month in arrears.

Table Two:

Indicator (Trend only)
There has been a slight increase in EHPI 192 (Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting) since April
Fewer planning appeals were allowed in June compared to May for EHPI 204 (Planning appeals allowed)
There has been an increase in EHPI 2.6 (Percentage of residual waste (refuse) sent for disposal) since the last quarter of 14/15
There has been an increase in EHPI 2.5 (Total waste collected by the district (kg per household)) since last quarter.
EHPI 191 (Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting.) This is a cumulative indicator therefore long term trend is not applicable.

2.3 Long term trend analysis (current value compared to the average performance for the last 12 months or last 4 quarters)

Service and Indicator	Commentary
Planning and Building Control	
EHPI 157b – Processing of planning applications: Minor applications.	Although this indicator is showing a declining long term trend performance is still performing on target for June 2015 and is only off the long term average by 0.5%.

EHPI 157c – Processing of planning applications: Other	Although this indicator is showing a declining long term trend performance is still performing on target for June 2015 and is only off the long term average by 2%.
EHPI 2.5 – Total waste collected by the district (kg per household) EHPI 2.6 – Percentage of residual waste (refuse) sent for disposal	This is a rolling quarter from March - May as data is reported one month in arrears and is showing a declining short and long term trend. Performance is higher than expected this period due to a number of factors. Firstly, this period covers the month of April when it is normal to receive a larger volume of waste due to the Easter holiday period. Secondly, May was a five week month, usually June is the five week month so this has added to the increased amount collected. Lastly, the property base used to calculate the performance has not been updated by Defra. Therefore this quarter does not take account of any new properties that have been built since 1 April 2015. The service will be investigating the impact these factors have had on this quarter.
EHPI 192 – Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	This indicator is reported one month in arrears and is showing a decrease in long term trend. Contamination of bins continues to be problematic. New bin hanger is due to be delivered during August 2015 to encourage less contamination and more recycling.

2.4 POTENTIAL ISSUES IN FUTURE

Further analysis shows that the following measures are at risk of moving to a 'Red' or 'Amber' status in the future if performance continues to decline based on their current long term trend. They are:

- EHPI 157b – Processing of planning applications: Minor applications.

- EHPI 157c – Processing of planning applications: Other
- EHPI 2.23
- EHPI 2.6 – Percentage of residual waste (refuse) sent for disposal.

Please refer to **Essential Reference Paper 'B'** for the full performance indicator analysis.

3 **CONCLUSION**

3.1 In conclusion Members are asked to:

- Note the performance indicator analysis for the period April 2015 to June/Quarter 1 for 2015 in **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**.
- Advise the Executive of any further recommendations.

4.0 Implications/Consultation

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

Background Papers:

- 2014/15 Estimates and Future Targets Report – Executive 3 March 2015.

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