

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

PERFORMANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE

27 AUGUST 2008

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE REPORT 2008/09

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to advise Members on the Council's Performance during quarter 1 of 2008/09 in respect of National Indicators, LAA Priority Indicators and Local Indicators.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That Members note the performance outcome for Quarter 1 of 2008/09 as detailed at appendix 1.
- 2.2. That Members determine whether they wish to further review or scrutinise the performance of the Council and/or its Local Strategic Partners in respect of the data provided for Quarter 1.
- 2.3. That in the event of Members wishing to further review or scrutinise as per recommendation 2.2 above, that the relevant indicators are identified in order that Council Officers and/or Local Strategic Partners are notified and their attendance requested at the next meeting on 8th October 2008.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Local Government White Paper *Strong and Prosperous Communities* (Oct 2006) set out the commitment to reduce the burden on local authorities by deregulating and simplifying best value requirements. The commitments of the White Paper were incorporated in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 3.2. In October 2007, as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review, the Government announced a new single set of 198 national indicators for local authorities and Local Strategic Partnerships November 2007, which were intended to replace the former Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI's).
- 3.3. In November 2007 the Government launched a consultation exercise on the new indicator set, which completed on 21st December 2007 and as a result, a new National Indicator Set of 198 was established.
- 3.4. The National Indicator Set is one key component in the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) which comes into force on 1st April 2009. CAA is the new local performance framework which replaces the former Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA). The National Indicator Set will be used as a key evidence source for both the Area Assessment and Organisational Assessment which together comprise the CAA.

- 3.5 The Area Assessment looks at how well local public services are delivering better results for local people in local priorities such as health and community safety. The Organisational Assessment will cover how well the Council manages its finances and delivers value for money, how it governs and commissions services, how it manages resources and finally how it manages performance.
- 3.6 The final consultation on the format of CAA was published by the Audit Commission on 8th August 2008 and responses are due by 20th October 2008. The Audit Commission will finalise these arrangements in early 2009, and the new framework will be effective from 1st April 2009. It is anticipated that the first round of CAA reports will be published for all areas by November 2009.
- 3.7 The Audit Commission have published guidance and full definitions for many of the National Indicators, however, there are some Indicators for which no such information is available and as a result, it has not been possible to manage the performance and report on the return.
- 3.8 There are 198 National Indicators, some of which are Indicators which the Council is required to collect at the District level. In addition, there are LAA targets (16 of which are education based). Therefore whilst an Indicator may not be the direct responsibility of the District, if it is an LAA priority, there will be a County Wide target which as a District we will be required to contribute towards. In some cases, although there is a Staffordshire wide target, it has not been disaggregated further into Districts and as such it is not possible to ascertain whether Cannock Chase as a District is meeting its proportion of the overall County target. In other cases, although there is a Staffordshire wide target, the evidence base may not require any specific action within Cannock Chase District and as such there will not be a specific target for the District to achieve.

4. Summary of Appendix 1

- 4.1 It is important to emphasise that the approach of CAA is 'area based' and the inspections will be based on the area as a whole, rather than individual inspections of the various public sector organisations within the District (as was the case during the CPA regime). Appendix 1 details the District's performance against various groups of performance indicators. :
- a) National Indicators which are collected at the District (some of which are also LAA priorities)
 - b) LAA priority National Indicators (including mandatory education indicators) (some of these are also District Indicators).
 - c) Local Indicators which the Directors require their Heads of Service and Service Managers to monitor and manage.
- 4.2 This is the first report on performance since the new National Indicator set was introduced on 1 April 2008. In addition since 1 April 2008, the LAA refresh has been carried out and only recently concluded. As a result there has been a great deal of ambiguity and uncertainty nationally and also at County and District level which has continued throughout Quarter 1 of 2008-09. Many issues of clarity and targets remain unresolved as at midway through Quarter 2 and therefore some performance information is unavailable for the reasons stated in 4.3.

Despite these issues, Members have been provided with details of the performance indicators (both national ones collected at District level and LAA priority indicators), in order that a comprehensive overview of the new Performance Framework can be achieved.

4.3 Comments have been provided by the Council's Lead Officer for particular indicators where:

- there has no disaggregation of the County wide target
- there is no clarification of the formula to calculate the performance
- there is no national guidance on the background of the indicator
- the collection and calculation of the data is such that it cannot be provided until year end.

Section 1

Details of Matters to be Considered

To note the Performance outturn for Quarter 1 of 2008/09 against National Indicators, LAA priorities and also local business indicators.

Section 2

Contribution to CHASE

The National Indicators, LAA priority indicators and local indicators contribute individually to the CHASE Objectives. Appendix 1 illustrates how all of these indicators are aligned to the various elements of the CHASE objectives.

Section 3

Section 17 (Crime Prevention) Implications

There are no identified implications in respect of Section 17 arising from this report.

Section 4

Human Rights Act Implications

There are no identified implications in respect of the Human Rights Act 1998 arising from this report.

Section 5

Data Protection Act Implications

There are no identified implications in respect of the Data Protection Act.

Section 6

Risk Management Implications

There are no risk management implications.

Section 7

Legal Implications

The National Indicator Set (NIS) will be the only set of indicators that central government will use to monitor and performance manage local authorities. The NIS will replace all other existing sets such as BVPIs and the Performance Assessment Framework indicators as from 1 April 2008. The NIS is the only indicators on which central government will be able to set targets for local authorities.

The Council has a legal duty and responsibility to collect all applicable indicators, which includes actively contributing to relevant area wide indicators.

To ensure that the Council discharges its obligations concerning the NIS, it should follow the guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Section 8

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

Section 9

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

Section 10

Conclusions

That Members note the performance outturn for Quarter 1 of 2008/09 and determine whether they wish to further review or scrutinise the performance of the Council and/or its Local Strategic Partners in respect of the data provided and if so, confirm which indicators will be the subject of additional review/scrutiny in order that officers and partners can be invited to attend the next meeting of this Committee on 8th October 2008.

Section 11

List of Background Papers

None

Appendices to the Report

Appendix 1 Performance Outturn for Quarter 1 2008/09