

**PERFORMANCE MONITORING**  
**(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panels)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panels for Social Well-Being, Environmental Well-Being and Economic Well-Being meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009 respectively considered a report by the Head of People, Performance and Partnerships on the Council's performance against its priority objectives. This report sets out the Panels' views on the performance levels achieved.

**2. COMMENTS**

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panels have endorsed the comments of the Corporate Plan Working Group (**Appendix A**). Members' attention has been drawn to the 8 priority objectives which have been allocated between the three new Overview and Scrutiny Panels in accordance with their respective remits.

**Social Well-Being**

- 2.2 The Panel has discussed trends in demand for housing services in the District. The number of households living in temporary accommodation is close to achieving the target, with 61 households living in temporary accommodation. At the same time there has been a significant increase in the number of households that have been prevented from becoming homeless. Comment has been made on the fact that economic conditions have required a level of performance considerably above the target for this indicator and that, in these circumstances, the use of temporary accommodation is preferable to homelessness. Furthermore, Members have noted that there is a national target to reduce to 45 the number of households living in temporary accommodation by April 2010, which should be achievable by the Council.
- 2.3 The Panel has questioned the performance data reported under the key measure relating to the percentage of affordable housing (commitments) on qualifying sites. The variation in performance compared with the target has been attributed to the decline in the demand for private housing, which has promoted the construction of affordable housing.

**Environmental Well-Being**

- 2.5 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) has questioned whether targets are sufficiently stretching, as all targets

presented had been met or exceeded. The Panel has also asked for early sight of the targets set for 2009/10.

### **Economic Well-Being**

- 2.6 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) has the Panel has noted that income from hospitality at leisure centres continues to decline as bar trade suffers. The Corporate Plan Working Group has suggested that as Huntingdon Leisure Centre has seen an increase of 15% in this area, similar techniques to those used at Huntingdon should be implemented at the other leisure centres.
- 2.7 The percentage of bids which have successfully attracted external funding has significantly exceeded the target of 60%, yet the target for producing an External Funding Strategy has only been partially met owing to redeployment of officer resources to work on a major funding bid. Although Members have discussed amending the target on obtaining external funding, in order effectively to monitor performance in this respect, it is considered to be preferable to retain the original target.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 The Cabinet is invited to consider the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels as part of its deliberations on the report by the Head of People, Performance and Partnerships.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Corporate Plan Working Group Notes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

Minutes and Reports of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009, Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

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**CORPORATE PLAN WORKING GROUP**

**NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2009**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Corporate Plan Working Group met on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2009 when Councillors J D Ablewhite, S J Criswell, P M D Godfrey, D Harty, G S E Thorpe and R J West were present.

1.2 D Buckridge, A Roberts and Mrs J Walker were in attendance.

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Working Group were reminded that the Council had adopted 37 corporate objectives, 8 of which had been considered to be a priority for the immediate future. The 8 priority objectives had been split between the Overview and Scrutiny Panels (Social Well-being, Environmental Well-being and Economic Well-being) accordingly.

**3. WORKING GROUP COMMENTS**

**Social Well-Being**

3.1 Members discussed the trend in demand for housing services in the District and the implications this had for a number of the Council's objectives. The number of households living in temporary accommodation was close to achieving the target, with 61 households living in temporary accommodation. The Working Group were informed that there was a nationally set target to reduce this figure to 45 by April 2010. At the same time there had been a significant increase in the number of households that had been prevented from becoming homeless. Comment was made on the fact that economic conditions had required a level of performance considerably above the target for this indicator and that, in these circumstances, the use of temporary accommodation was preferable to homelessness.

**Environmental Well-Being**

3.2 The Working Group drew attention to the difference between the target for the number of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> saved through installation of energy efficiency measures and renewables in domestic properties (cumulative quarterly measure) which was 50, and the actual stood at 381 tonnes. It was agreed that this discrepancy would be investigated further at the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny (Environmental Wellbeing) Panel.

- 3.3 Members suggested that the target for the percentage of council employees travelling alone to work by car should have been reduced from 65% as it did not represent an improvement in performance compared with the previous year.

### **Economic Well-Being**

- 3.4 The Working Group noted that income from hospitality at leisure centres continued to decline as the bar trade continued to suffer. However, Huntingdon Leisure Centre had seen an increase of 15%. Members suggested that similar techniques to those used at Huntingdon should be implemented at the other leisure centres.
- 3.5 Members were encouraged to note that the percentage of bids which had successfully attracted external funding had significantly exceeded the target of 60%. However, Members felt that the level of resources dedicated to obtaining external funding needed to be monitored. The ability to secure funding was deemed to be essential.

## **4. THE WORKING GROUP'S WORK PROGRAMME**

- 4.1 The Working Group is to pursue its investigations into the budget associated with each of the Council's objectives. On receipt of this information Members will then consider whether to instigate a programme of discussions with Heads of Service on how their service areas contribute to the achievement of the Council's objectives.
- 4.2 In addition to data on the Council's priorities, the Working Group has requested that they receive information on any of the Community and Council aims where targets were not being achieved.

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