

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT
(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panels)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panels for Social Well-Being, Economic Well-Being and Environmental Well-Being have considered the 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, which are reflected in the following paragraphs.

Social Well-Being

- 2.2 The Social Well-Being Panel's attention has been drawn to the "number of admissions/participants in activities provided or promoted by the Council" at its Leisure Centres, which has not achieved the second quarter target. This is attributable to delays in the opening of the 3G football pitches at St Ives Outdoor Centre and St Neots Leisure Centre. Members have questioned the process by which targets have been set as the target figure took into account the receipt of external funding, which subsequently has not been awarded to the Council. Members have therefore suggested that, in order that underlying trends can be monitored, changes in admissions/participants attributable to these developments should be reported separately. Additionally, it has been suggested that future performance reports should include a breakdown of users visiting each of the Leisure Centres to enable more effective scrutiny to take place. Members have also reiterated previous concerns that given significant levels of capital investment have been made at each of the Leisure Centres, the financial effect of such investments should be reported. The Panel has been advised that this report will be made available to Members in early 2011.
- 2.3 Members have noted adverse trends against the target for the key measure relating to the "number of households living in temporary accommodation". The figure of 90 households in temporary accommodation represents an increase of 10 and 35 households when compared to the previous quarter and last year's comparable figures respectively. The figure can be attributed to the recession but should be viewed in the context of the number of households prevented from becoming homeless.
- 2.4 Members have queried the target for the key measure relating to the "number of new affordable homes built by March 2011" and in so doing, it was reported that the target may well be reconsidered as part of the review of the Corporate Plan currently being undertaken.

- 2.5 In respect of the various targets relating to health, Members have questioned whether dialogue is being held with the County Council and health service providers on prevention re-enablement. This will ensure that a consistent and more effective approach to the achievement of targets is adopted across the County.

Environmental Well-Being

- 2.6 The Environmental Well-Being Panel's attention has been drawn to the key measure relating to the "number of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures carried out as a result of HDC schemes and promotions", Members have been advised that the "amber" indicator is not of concern as it is attributable to the installation of the measures to five homes not having been completed during the reporting period.
- 2.7 Having sought clarification of the level of interest reported amongst potential occupiers of the St. Ives Enterprise Centre, Members have been informed that enquiries have been received from 13 companies to date, of which 4 have visited the premises and 2 have made follow-up appointments.
- 2.8 In response to a query regarding the likely timescale for the release of the St Neots East Urban Extension Masterplan and the associated new Town Centre Plan, the Panel has been advised that the St Neots East Urban Design Framework is due to be published imminently and this will then inform the preparation of related outline planning applications. Preparation work has commenced on the St Neots Town Centre Plan, it is anticipated that this will be considered by the Cabinet in spring 2011.
- 2.9 Concern has been expressed by Members at the risks associated with cuts in LPSA funding, and in particular its implications for the development of the Ramsey Enterprise Centre. Having sought clarification from the Sustainable Economic Development Manager over whether it will proceed the Panel has been advised that the cut will undoubtedly impact on the project as it represented the public sector contribution to the partnership. Other ways of financing the project with the private sector are being investigated and possible funding grants are being explored. The need for an enterprise centre is still current and the Sustainable Economic Development Manager is hopeful that the project can still go ahead, even if it is a reduced size facility.

Economic Well-Being

- 2.10 The Economic Well-Being Panel's comments will be included in a revised report which will be circulated to Cabinet Members on Monday, 13th December 2010.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panels have reviewed the performance levels that the Council has achieved in the period to 30th September 2010. The Cabinet is invited to consider the Panels' comments 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 29th November 2010.

Minutes and Reports of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) and Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) on 7th December 2010 and Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) on 9th December 2010.

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