

CHESHIRE EAST

CORPORATE SCRUTINY MEETING

Date of meeting: 1 September 2009
Report of: Head of Policy and Performance
Title: Performance Report

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to provide Corporate Scrutiny Committee members with an overview of performance for Cheshire East. It provides a report of out-turn measures for 2008-09 reconfigured to Cheshire East from County Council and District Councils' performance. It will help highlight issues inherited from predecessor authorities and also identify strengths to build on.

Attached as appendices are:

- A spreadsheet of 2008-09 performance against the National Indicator Set
- A summary of the Place Survey carried out to support the national indicators and to provide benchmark 'place' information

2.0 Decision required

Note the overview of performance detailed in appendix 1

Note the findings of the Place Survey and the proposal to carry out further analysis

4.0 Financial implications

A paper on the financial position for the first quarter went to Cabinet on 11 August. For mid-year it is proposed that an integrated performance and finance report will be submitted.

5.0 Legal implications

Cheshire East Council has a duty to formally submit performance data returns at timely intervals against national indicators.

7.0 National Indicators

The Government introduced a set of new national indicators for collection from 2008/09, replacing the previous Best Value indicators. Performance against each of these indicators is being used to benchmark and monitor performance nationally, particularly in relation to the new Comprehensive Area Assessment agenda.

These indicators are intended to encourage closer partnership working with other local partners - including PCTs and the Police - and therefore strengthen opportunities to

deliver joined-up outcomes and work more flexibly to tackle local issues, with improved focus on driving Local Area Agreement priorities.

Approximately half of the new national indicators are based on existing data sources, meaning the process of target setting and establishment of baseline data has been achievable for many indicators. However, for the remaining 'new' indicators, 2008/09 has served as the baseline year.

As in previous years, there are indicators where accurate outturn data is delayed by the mechanisms of external analysis (e.g. accurate waste tonnages), and indicators based on annual snapshot data which sits outside the traditional year-end timescales. Collection of a small number of the national indicators was deferred by CLG until 2009/10.

Within Cheshire in 2008/09, the majority of the national indicator set was pertinent for collection solely by the former Cheshire County Council (as the majority of indicators were applicable to single tier and county councils), but work has been undertaken to disaggregate 2008/09 data wherever possible to provide Cheshire East outturn results. Equally, for data applicable to and collected by former district councils in 2008/09, outturn results have been aggregated wherever possible to provide a Cheshire East baseline.

Appendix 1 shows baseline data for 2007/08, where it has been possible to make a calculation, and out-turns for 2008-09. A few gaps remain but most data have been successfully collected.

8 Comprehensive Area Assessment

The new Comprehensive Assessment regime, replacing Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) became operational in April 2009. It is an area-based process focused on outcomes delivered by the council and its partners. The Audit Commission has produced a framework for the delivery of CAA and is applying this framework to develop an initial analysis of how the council and partners understand and address local communities and their needs. The outcome of this is an 'emerging thoughts' document of their first assessment.

The new system will give areas a scored assessment and will also highlight red flag and green flag areas. The former are areas of concern, the latter areas of exemplary performance. As part of emerging thoughts the Audit Commission have identified some 'red tags'. These are future possible red flags for the final assessment. They include:

- Understanding our diverse communities
- Health inequalities, in particular teenage pregnancy
- Dealing with recession
- Affordable housing
- Understanding an ageing population

For 2009/10 as a new authority there will not be a scored assessment. However the Commission have made few other concessions to the issues associated with local government review. They have received our initial responses and additional response is being drafted. A first draft of the assessment will be completed during August, beginning with the areas where there are no highlighted performance issues.

The Council needs to ensure that it deals with issues raised through red tagging, while acknowledging that there may be one or more red flags in the final assessment. Our aim must be to deal with these issues and ensure that the council can show how it plans to improve these areas.

9 Place Survey

A first comparative analysis of the Place Survey is attached as appendix 2. This provides some important messages for the council. It is proposed that the analysis be followed by further detailed investigation and reporting to support planning by services and in local areas.

10 Future performance reporting

It is the aim of Policy and Performance to keep Members and officers fully briefed about ongoing performance and about issues that may need attention. We also intend the relationship between finance and performance to be a clear and explicit one with quarterly reporting linking achievements and resource use. For the first quarter of 2009-10 there have been difficulties (linked to the nature of many of the new measures) in collecting national indicator data. However a full mid-year report will be produced for November Cabinet and for Corporate Scrutiny Committee. A wider programme for Scrutiny engagement with performance management is also being drawn up which will ensure a strong overview of the council's delivery.

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