

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT
Statement to Scrutiny Commission by the Planning, Environment
and Conservation Portfolio Report
Portfolio Holder
2012/13

Key Achievements

- Prepared framework for Masterplanning of the Market Harborough Strategic Development Area
- Set up project group and community partnership group
- Consulted on Options for the Strategic Development Area and decided on a preferred option to take forward into detailed masterplanning.
- Reviewed the adopted Core Strategy in light of the newly published National Planning Policy Framework
- Appointed to new role of Neighbourhood and Greenspace Officer to help respond to implications of the Localism Act
- Consulted on the first set of parish councils to become “neighbourhood areas” and prepare Neighbourhood Plans
- Helped lead the Leicestershire Choice Based Lettings officer group to review the joint Allocations policy.
- Completion of a viability study undertaken jointly with Leicestershire Districts to help evidence the case to set a Community Infrastructure Levy.
- Home Improvement Agency contract – Following a joint procurement process with the County Council, Papworth Trust were awarded the contract for the Countywide Home Improvement Agency and will take over the service previously provided by Mears Home Improvement Agency from November 2012. This will include the delivery of the Council’s private sector housing renewal programme including the provision of disabled facilities grants, loans and equity release scheme.
- HDC recycling rate continues to be one of the highest rates in England, for the last six months we have continued to achieve the 60% recycling rate each month.
- A new wheeled bin policy has been implemented for the authority; this now clarifies what will be collected and how residents need to present wheeled bins.
- Educational work with children has been completed to encourage them to recycle and to then pass on this message to parents.
- Grounds maintenance capital projects recently completed include the refurbishment of the Welland Park Tennis Courts and new flood lighting which has been installed.
- Prepared Draft Development Management Supplementary Planning Document approved by planning committee, August 2012.
- Completed five public inquiries for housing proposals for Scratoff/ Thurnby/ Bushby.
- Planning approval granted for major schemes including housing Northampton Road, Market Harborough, mixed retail/office Adam & Eve Street, Market Harborough, HGV depot, Magna Park, housing and cemetery, Lutterworth.
- Planning decision on major proposals including refusal to house at Crowfoot Way, Broughton Astley and 120m wind turbine, Carlton Curlieu.

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Key Challenges

- The potential rise in people in housing need following implementation of the welfare reform regulations in April 2013.
- Managing the decision taken on the option for the Strategic Development Area with the desire of Lubenham Parish Council to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan
- Agreement on the scope of a review of strategic planning policy and the scope of future planning allocations
- The V-TECH element of the service plan is still a working project, the reporting element is not available but tracking on refuse vehicles is operational. On the recycling vehicles the Road Angel system gives real time tracking. FCC are developing a new in house system which will be fitted to all operational vehicles shortly.
- Potential relaxation of planning control over domestic extensions – Government consultation expected.
- 'Planning guarantee. Government consultation expected including circumstances where decision making may be removed from 'under performing' planning authorities.

Key Areas of Work in Progress

- Reviewing the Core Strategy to bring into line with the NPPF and progressing site specific allocations
- Preparation and consultation on a detailed masterplan for the Market Harborough Strategic Development Area
- Review of the Councils Allocation policy for social housing as part of a Leicestershire wide approach
- Working on Tenancy Strategy to provide guidance to social landlords on the terms of local tenancies as required by the Localism Act.
- Completion of evidence base to set a Community Infrastructure Levy.
- Empty property work – During the year officers have been working with the Council Tax team to try and bring long term empty properties back into use. Questionnaires were sent out to 221 properties and officers received a response from 66 owners of empty properties. From discussions with the owners it was possible to advise Council Tax that 48 properties could potentially be removed from the empty property list. Tax are In addition officers have given advice to 16 home owners on what they would need to do to rent their properties out as opposed to leaving them empty. Work will continue throughout the year to reduce the number of long term empties in the district.

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- Disabled Facilities Grants Service Standards – Following the introduction of service standards for the delivery of the disabled facilities grant programme it is now possible to monitor how long it take for a disabled resident to receive the adaptations they need to enable them to remain in their own home. In 2011-12 the average number of working days for a grant to be completed was 194 days and this has been reduced to 125 working days for the first half of 2012-13. In addition during this year the budget for disabled adaptations has been increased by an additional £120,000 as a result of the Primary Care Trust putting in funding across the County. The total budget for 2012-13 is almost £400,000.
- Implementation of the “Three Bin Collection System” is the main activity at present. This includes the procurement of wheeled bins and inserts, the storage, deliveries from suppliers and distribution of these containers to all households in the district. Designing postcards, new service leaflets and calendars for the service. Procurement of the new wheeled bins and inserts along with the implementation work that has been needed to implement the new recycling system
- Currently planning the drop off days for the old recycling containers.
- Further educational activities are planned with schools over the next six months again to highlight the new service changes and pass on the message to younger members of the community
- Inspections on Grounds Maintenance areas and Street Cleansing are also being completed.
- Contentious major residential planning applications in Broughton Astley & Fleckney locality.

Key Performance Indicators - end September 2012

NI 156 Number of households living in temporary accommodation at the end of the 2nd quarter - 4 – (3 in Q1)

LPI 109 Housing Advice Service: preventing homelessness (% of casework undertaken by HHS that directly assists in prevention of homelessness) Total cases where service assists to prevent homelessness second quarter - 36 out of 173 (this is total caseload – not all of these are threatened with homelessness) (20.8%) (improvement - first quarter was 9%)

LPI 110 Repeat Homelessness Acceptances - 0%

LPI 605 Number of private sector homes occupied by vulnerable people made decent 3 (target 5)

NI 191 – Residual household waste per household on target.

NI 192 - % of household waste sent for re-use. Recycling and composting on target again this year for a 60% rate, obviously November onwards the new scheme will hopefully have a positive impact on the tonnages we collect and recycle as we will be collecting plastics and Tetra Pak.

NI 193 - % of municipal waste land filled This is consistently reducing due to the high recycling rate and the fact we now use the Mechanical Biological Facility (MBT) for 80% of the waste in the black bins. This produces a higher recycling rate for the district.

Planning

Category	Target %	Actual
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NI157i Major	60	66.7
NI157ii minor	65	68.9
NI157 iii other	80	80.1
Appeals	<30	28.6
satisfaction	>80	94.6