

B. COUNTY COUNCIL FINAL END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2008/09

Introduction

1. This report presents the contents of the Annual Performance Report for 2008/09 covering the final Comprehensive Performance Assessment position, Medium Term Corporate Strategy and partnership Local Area Agreement 1 (LAA1) performance and LAA2 progress, along with relevant new National Performance Indicators.

Background

2. The County Council's Annual Performance Report is referred to in the Constitution as being part of the Council's policy framework and, as such, requires the approval of the full Council.
3. A copy of the Council's Annual Performance Report 2008/09 is set out in a separate document which accompanies this Council booklet. The information outlined in the year end performance report will help the County Council and its partners to improve services so they are high quality and value for money by providing them with performance data on which they can make more informed decisions.
4. The Performance Report looks back on 2008/09 during which time there has been a major change in the arrangements for reporting on local authority and local area performance. Significant changes have included the introduction of the new National Indicator (NIS) Set of performance measures, containing a range of new cross-cutting and often cross-agency measures, and the introduction of a new Local Area Agreement and targets, some of which were refreshed in February 2009.
5. The year has also seen the abolition of the old council service based Best Value Performance Indicators, with Councils expected to determine for themselves what other indicators to collect and report on locally. As a result the County Council has reviewed some of its local indicators and is introducing a range of new measures such as on environmental performance reporting.
6. The changes also mean that for this year it is often not possible to report year on year progress against previous figures. In addition, for a number of indicators, no targets have yet been set as performance is still being benchmarked. The new and more complex indicator set also means that for this first year it is taking longer to collate the comparative performance information from other counties. This means that only limited comparator information is contained in the report.

Separate comparative information will be made available to members as soon as this is available.

7. The new National Indicator Set also covers the performance of a variety of agencies and different time periods. The Council is co-ordinating this locally on behalf of Leicestershire Together and publishing details on a quarterly basis on the TEN Performance System on the Leicestershire Together website. The information can be viewed at <http://tenweb.leics.gov.uk/tenweb.dll?model%3D%7B05B1DA38-5814-4843-84E9-E1007B726A9D%7D%26type%3DOBJPAGE>. The national Data Interchange Hub also publishes national data containing comparative performance for Leicestershire and other areas. The Performance Report therefore contains a selection of the key indicators related to Council priority areas and services.
8. In addition to the end of year NI and LAA performance summary, details have been included on the Council's CPA (Comprehensive Performance Assessment) performance (considered by Cabinet and Scrutiny Commission in March/April 2009). The final report will be professionally formatted prior to publication.
9. A "dashboard" approach to presenting performance information for the Annual Report was adopted for the first time for 2006/2007 and has been used for subsequent reporting. It is not possible this year to include all previous elements due to lack of previous year data, targets and other authority comparators.

Arrangements to Secure Data Quality

10. Year end performance data and management commentary have been subject to a documented validation and signoff process. The management comments have been considered and signed off by the County Council's Departmental Management Teams for onward reporting, as outlined in the Council's data quality strategy. For these indicators a high degree of reliance can be placed upon the results.
11. There remain some corporate measures which are currently estimated and awaiting confirmation or are not yet available; these indicators are identified within the commentary. Data quality arrangements for the LAA mirror the corporate BVPI approach.

Consideration by Cabinet and Scrutiny

12. This matter was considered by the Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 1 September 2009. The Commission decided to note the report and to invite PricewaterhouseCoopers to present their findings on comparative and benchmarking data to a future meeting of the Budget and Performance Monitoring Panel.

13. The Cabinet considered this matter at its meeting on 8 September 2009 and its recommendation is contained in the motion which appears below.

(Motion to be moved:

That the County Council's Final End of Year Performance Report for 2008/09, as referred to in Section B of the report of the Cabinet, be approved.)

8 September 2009

D R PARSONS CBE
Leader of the Council

Background Papers

Section A – Report of the Director of Community Services to the meeting of the Cabinet on 28 July 2009 on Leicestershire Minerals and Leicestershire and Leicester Waste Development Frameworks.

Section B – Report of the Chief Executive to the meeting of the Cabinet on 8 September 2009 on County Council Final End of Year Performance Report for 2008/09.