

## REPORT OF THE CABINET

### A. LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND LEICESTERSHIRE TOGETHER ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2012

#### Introduction

1. This report presents the Annual Performance Report for the County Council and Leicestershire Together Partnership for 2012.

#### 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 Annual Performance Report 2012 is set out in Appendix 1 to this report. It looks back on the performance of the County Council and the Leicestershire Together Partnership during 2011/12. The information outlined in the report will help the County Council and its partners to improve services so they are of high quality and give value for money by providing them with performance data on which they can make more informed decisions.
4. The Annual Report largely focuses on performance against the priority outcomes of the County Council and its partners within the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and other main service strategies - it is essentially backward looking but aims to highlight performance progress, successes and any relevant outstanding issues moving forwards.
5. In previous years the Annual Report has drawn on comparative performance data provided by PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC). However, PWC have currently suspended their benchmarking activity in the light of changes to the national performance framework. It is anticipated that comparative information for a range of indicators and benchmarking analysis will in future be provided by the Local Government Association (LGA), *LG Inform*, national data system. However, this is not available for 2011/12 reporting. Instead, comparative data has been drawn from a range of alternative national sources.
6. Overall the Annual Report shows continued good progress by the County Council and partners in delivering on local outcome priorities. The report highlights examples of delivery across the range of area priorities including waste, highways and road safety, many aspects of children and young people's services such as NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training), teenage pregnancy, early years and improving looked after children provision, safer communities, smoking cessation and sports activity, delayed hospital discharges, Big Society projects and volunteering, and delivery of efficiency savings and service transformation.

7. The report highlights a small number of areas that data suggests require a continued delivery focus. These include housing and economic delivery, carbon emissions reduction, skills and worklessness, families with complex needs, outcomes from personalised social care, health inequalities and aspects of educational excellence. Current service planning and commissioning activity is underway to ensure priority outcome improvements are delivered.
8. The finalised version of the Annual Report, when agreed by the County Council, will be professionally formatted and published online via the County Council (<http://www.leics.gov.uk>) and Leicestershire Together (<http://www.leicestershiretogether.org>) websites. Discussions are underway with the Corporate Communications Unit on producing a shorter and more user friendly public version.

### **Relevant Impact Assessments:**

#### Equal Opportunities Implications

9. The Annual Performance Report incorporates progress of the County Council against key equalities commitments and indicators.

#### Crime and Disorder Implications

10. The Performance Report highlights progress against key community safety priorities and targets. This year has seen good delivery on crime reduction.

#### Environmental Impact

11. The Performance Report includes progress against a number of environmental priority areas and reports progress against the Environment Strategy.

#### Partnership Working and associated issues

12. The Performance Report considers progress in relation to the Leicestershire Together Partnership's key priorities.

#### Consideration by Cabinet and Scrutiny

13. This matter was considered by the Budget and Performance Monitoring Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 whose comments are attached as Appendix 2 to this report. The Panel put forward the following particular comments for consideration by the Cabinet:-
  - i) It was questioned whether the current target for the number of children taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge remained realistic. Numbers had not reached the level of the previous year, in part, due to the reduction in library opening hours and the number of staff hours available to support the Challenge. In the light of this and further

changes expected to library services, it was suggested that further work would be needed on the best measures to, in future, report the impact of the new library service model and what targets would be needed.

- ii) With regard to the Stepping Stones Project (page 15 of the report) it was noted that the report mentioned that this had 'continued to flourish'. In view of this, some members of the Panel suggested that the Cabinet might wish to review its decision to cut funding for this project.
14. The Cabinet considered this matter at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 when the report was noted and the Chief Executive was authorised to make any necessary amendments to the draft Annual Performance Report prior to its submission to the County Council for final approval.

**(Motion to be moved:-**

**That the Leicestershire County Council and Leicestershire Together Annual Performance Report 2012, as referred to in Section A of the report of the Cabinet, be approved.)**