



## **SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 5 NOVEMBER 2014**

### **LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2014**

#### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

##### **Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to present the draft Annual Performance Report for 2014. The views of the Scrutiny Commission are sought on the Annual Report, prior to submission to the Cabinet on 19 November and full County Council on 3 December 2014.

##### **Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

2. The Annual Performance Report forms part of the County Council's Policy Framework. The information outlined in the year end performance report will help the County Council and its partners to improve services so they are of a high quality and give value for money by providing performance data on which it can make more informed decisions.

##### **Background**

3. It is best practice in performance management to undertake a review of overall progress on key performance areas at the end of the year and to benchmark performance against comparable authorities. It is good practice to produce a good quality annual performance report and ensure that it is scrutinised, transparent and made publicly available.
4. The Annual Performance Report (Appendix 1) covers the performance of the County Council over the last 12 months or so. It draws largely on 2013/14 comparative data though older data is included where more up to date information is not available. In some cases the data is more recent, such as the summer 2014 school examination results.
5. The Report is in two parts – the first part is narrative describing delivery, progress with implementing agreed plans and strategies and achievements over the last 12 months. It largely focuses on performance against the priorities of the County Council as set out in the new Strategic Plan and other main service strategies.
6. The second part contains hard comparative performance data showing current service and theme performance. Comparative data is sourced from

a range of acknowledged data sources including the Local Government Association LG Inform national data system, Public Health and Adults Social Care Outcomes Frameworks data, OFSTED and Department for Education data sets and Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) data. There is some comparative data still to be published - notably some attainment and children's social care data.

7. The report is presented as a draft document, and will continue to be improved to incorporate points made by the Scrutiny Commission and Cabinet (19 November) as well as the availability of any final national comparative data, prior to finalisation at full County Council on 3 December. The final Annual Report will be properly formatted and published online via the County Council (<http://www.leics.gov.uk>) website.
8. Overall analysis of the narrative shows strong examples of delivery across the theme areas. There are good plans and governance in place supporting delivery and improvement. Overall provisional analysis of the available comparative performance data shows that Leicestershire is the top performing county in the region and continues to be amongst the highest performing counties nationally. There has been improvement on a significant number of priority indicators and a good number are in the top quartile for performance.
9. Leicestershire has a range of areas of top quartile performance including Council efficiency; the approach to equality and diversity; highway maintenance and condition; minimal numbers of young people not in education employment or training (NEETs); feelings of safety among users of our adult social care services; many aspects of public health, many aspects of children and young people's health; timeliness and number of adoptions; and support for vulnerable families with complex needs. Other areas of strong relative performance include waste management and recycling; sport and physical activity; aspects of educational attainment; youth justice; and community cohesion.
10. Particular areas of improved performance over the past year include the following:
  - **Leadership and Transformation:** resident perceptions regarding the value for money provided by the County Council; the Council's Stonewall Workplace Equality Index ranking; and the number of volunteer enquiries and conversions.
  - **Enabling Economic Growth:** the unemployment rate, which fell from 2% to 1.2% over the year to June 2014 and other economy indicators; skill levels; tourist visitor numbers and contribution to the local economy; new housing delivery; and the proportion of the population with access to high speed broadband.
  - **Better Care - Health and Social Care Integration:** many aspects of public health are top quartile and/or improved including health

inequalities, mortality rates for cardio-vascular disease, cancer and respiratory disease, non-opiate drug treatment, and sports participation; the number of care home providers exceeding the “standard quality” of service outlined in the Quality Assessment Framework also increased.

- **Supporting Children and Families:** children’s participation in sport and physical activity; children in care waiting less than 20 months for adoption; aspects of educational attainment including early years attainment and progress between key stages 1 and 2; teenage pregnancy and Children’s Centres OFSTED inspection ratings.
- **Safer Communities and a Better Environment/Place:** the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system almost halved compared to the previous year; all indicators linked to minimising antisocial behaviour have shown improvements; and numbers killed and seriously injured on Leicestershire’s roads continue to fall. Good progress has also been on improving the Authority’s environmental performance.

11. A small number of areas require a continued delivery focus, though these are already covered within existing organisational improvement plans -

- **Leadership and Transformation:** working days lost to sickness absence following previous good performance has slipped back to the English local authority average. Analysis is underway to identify trends, patterns of absence and possible causes, while sickness absence management processes are being reinforced. In addition, continuing the pace of change in relation to organisational transformation, digital delivery and website enhancements is a priority.
- **Better Care - Health and Social Care Integration:** continuing the pace of work around securing outcome improvements from greater health and social care integration and the Better Care Fund including mitigating pressures on the acute sector and preventative adult social care services. Continuing efforts to minimise negative public health trends such as those relating to obesity and child tooth decay, and ensure mental health services are high performing.
- **Supporting Children and Families:** bringing through the improved educational attainment of children in care at Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 and continuing improvements in educational performance in collaboration with the Leicestershire Educational Excellence Partnership.
- **Safer Communities and a Better Environment/Place:** total crime, domestic burglary and vehicle crime increased slightly from last year, albeit from a low base following a number of years of reducing crime levels.

**Resource Implications**

12. The report has no direct resource implications. The Strategic Plan delivery and areas for improvement are aligned with the existing Medium Term Financial Strategy.

**Timetable for Decisions**

13. The Cabinet will be updated with the views of the Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 19 November. The Annual Report is scheduled for consideration by the County Council at its meeting on 3 December.

**Background Papers**

Leicestershire County Council Strategic Plan 2014-18

**Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure**

None

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**Appendices**

Appendix 1- Draft Leicestershire County Council Annual Performance Report 2014 (incorporating the narrative Report and Performance Data Dashboards).

**Relevant Impact Assessments:****Equal Opportunities Implications**

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

**Crime and Disorder Implications**

15. The Performance Report highlights progress against key community safety priorities and targets.

Environmental Impact

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

Partnership Working and associated issues

17. The Performance Report considers progress in relation to the key priorities of key County partnerships.

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