

REPORT OF THE CABINET

A LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2014

Introduction

1. This report presents the Annual Performance Report for the County Council for 2014.

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 is set out in Appendix 1 to this report. It covers the performance of the County Council over the last 12 months and draws largely on 2013/14 comparative data.
4. The Report is in two parts – the first part is narrative describing progress on delivery of plans and strategies over the last 12 months. It largely focuses on performance against the priorities in the County Council's Strategic Plan and other main service strategies.
5. 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 Adult Social Care Outcomes Frameworks, OfSTED and Department for Education data sets and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). There is some comparative data still to be published - notably children's social care data.
6. The final Annual Report will be properly formatted and published online via the County Council (<http://www.leics.gov.uk>) website.
7. 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 East Midlands and continues to be amongst the highest performing counties nationally - with provisional data suggesting that Leicestershire is the second best performing county overall taking into account both performance and expenditure across the wide range of service areas. There has been improvement on a significant number of performance indicators (around 90) and a good number are in the top quartile for performance.

8. 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 its adult social care services, many aspects of public health, many aspects of children and young people's health, timeliness and number of adoptions, and early 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.
9. 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 the 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:** delivery of 100% of the target to turn around 810 troubled 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 the numbers killed and seriously injured on Leicestershire's roads continue to fall. Good progress has also been made on improving the Authority's environmental performance.

10. A small number of areas require a continued delivery focus, though these are already covered within existing organisational improvement plans:-
- **Leadership and Transformation:** the number of 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. Continuing the pace of change in relation to organisational transformation, digital delivery, and website enhancements is also a priority.
 - **Better Care - Health and Social Care Integration:** continuing the pace of work to secure 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 falling crime levels.

Consideration by Cabinet and Scrutiny

11. The Annual Performance Report was considered by the Scrutiny Commission on 5 November. The Commission commended the report to the Cabinet, subject to consideration of the comments set out below:-
- the need for the Employment Committee to ensure that the reasons behind increased staff sickness absence are understood and actions are being taken to support staff under particular service pressures or stress;
 - the need for clearer understanding of the strategy being pursued by the Leicestershire Educational Excellence Partnership and supporting work that will be carried out to ensure further improvement in educational attainment, in light of the previous 'Good to Great' Strategy;

- noting the importance of work on Health and Social Care Integration to improve the performance of the overall health and social care system and tackle pressures in both adult social care and the acute sector;
- the need to include in future Annual Reports a greater explanation of the details that lay behind the percentages in the performance data dashboards. It was noted that, where numbers were low, slight variations could lead to large percentage changes and significant changes in the comparative performance position; and
- requesting the Lead Member for Safer Communities to raise the issue of increased crime, domestic burglary and vehicle crime with the Police and Crime Commissioner through the Police and Crime Panel to ensure that appropriate responses are in place.

12. The Cabinet considered this matter at its meeting on 19 November, 2014 when the draft Annual Performance Report was approved for submission to the County Council subject to the Chief Executive was authorised to make any necessary amendments.

(Motion to be moved:-

That the Leicestershire County Council Annual Performance Report 2014, as referred to in Section A of the report of the Cabinet, be approved.)