

STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 7
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Report of the Executive Director of Operations

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LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT 2009/10 – QUARTER 2

1. PURPOSE

This report is presented to the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee to update Members on performance of relevant outcomes contained in the Local Area Agreement, and to allow Members the opportunity to scrutinise and challenge performance where necessary. This performance update relates to the period ending 30th September 2009.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to comment upon performance, to provide challenge where necessary and to suggest ideas and initiatives to support improvements in performance.

3. LINKS TO SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

This report contains information relating to performance against the Strong and Supportive Communities strand of the Local Area Agreement.

4. BACKGROUND

Peterborough's Local Area Agreement contains four priorities: Creating Strong and Supportive Communities; Creating the UK's Environment Capital; Creating Opportunities, Tackling Inequalities; Substantial and Truly Sustainable Growth. Each of these priorities has four specific outcomes, beneath which sit a diverse range of actions and interventions to deliver lasting positive change for Peterborough.

This report focuses on performance in the Strong and Supportive Communities priority, which is measured via four specific outcomes:

- Making Peterborough Safer
- Building Community Cohesion
- Empowering Local Communities
- Building Pride in Peterborough

5. KEY ISSUES

Overall performance across the Strong and Supportive Communities priority has improved significantly between July and September 2009. Most notably:

- Serious acquisitive crime (NI16) has significantly improved with performance now at 2.13% behind target. It is anticipated that, by November, performance will be on target. There are a range of contributory factors that have led to this continued

improvement including the impact of working in partnership to tackle the most prolific offenders, and the sustained improvement in performance relating to vehicle crime. However, burglary remains a key area of focus

- Secondary arson remains an issue and significant work is underway, with the support of Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service and Cambridgeshire Constabulary, to remedy this. Further details about the specific proposals relating to this will be available at the Scrutiny meeting
- The indicator measuring the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (NI47) has also improved, with performance reported as 'amber' by the end of September
- The percentage of people who feel they belong to their neighbourhood (NI2) has improved and is now reporting an 'amber' status compared to a 'red' status at the end of July 2009

Additionally, many of the indicators in this priority are perception-based and measured via the Place Survey. We are currently part way through a new Solutions Centre programme which is reviewing our approach to consultation, engagement and empowerment across the Partnership with a view to delivering this activity much more effectively and in a more joined-up manner. The agreed solutions from this process are likely to include a far greater emphasis on engagement and empowerment activity, and therefore will have a significant impact on perceptions of key public services. The rapidly developing neighbourhood management model along with the new Neighbourhood Councils will also start to have a positive impact on perceptions.

6. IMPLICATIONS

Failure to achieve positive outcomes in the Local Area Agreement may lead to disempowered communities, higher dissatisfaction levels, and unsustainable crime and community cohesion issues. The Local Area Agreement enables a partnership-wide approach to tackle some of our most significant priorities leading to truly creative ways of working to benefit our citizens.

7. CONSULTATION

Local Area Agreement performance is discussed widely amongst Greater Peterborough Partnership members.

8. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The key outcome following presentation of this report is that the Committee will have a clearer understanding of performance against key national indicators, will feel better equipped to scrutinise and challenge that performance, and will be able to offer new solutions to help improve performance wherever necessary.

9. NEXT STEPS

Any comments and ideas will be forwarded to the relevant Outcome Lead Officer for action. Further performance reports will be presented to the Committee on a regular basis.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Local Area Agreement 2008-11.

11. APPENDICES

None.

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