

STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 11
18th March 2010	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Operations

Report Author – Adrian Chapman

Contact Details – 863887

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT 2009/10 – QUARTER 3

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 31st December 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 CORPORATE PLAN, 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 remained broadly similar to performance in quarter 2, as shown below.

Creating Strong & Supportive Communities (SSC)			
June 09	Sept 09	Dec 09	
Amber	Amber	Amber	Making Peterborough Safer (SSC01)
Amber	Amber	Amber	Building Community Cohesion (SSC02)
Amber	Amber	Amber	Empowering Local Communities (SSC03)
Amber	Amber	Amber	Building Pride in Peterborough (SSC04)

Of particular note:

- The amber status of all outcomes reflects the fact that a significant number of national indicators are measured via the biennial Place Survey, which will be issued later in 2010
- **Making Peterborough Safer:** Serious acquisitive crime has significantly improved with performance now ahead of 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. The amber status for Making Peterborough Safer reflects the fact that other aspects of the community safety agenda require continued focus, including road safety
- **Building Community Cohesion:** Overall good progress on this outcome has continued especially during the festive period as activities bringing people from different backgrounds together increased. An English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Action Plan for Peterborough has been prepared by the ESOL Delivery Group and will be used as a framework for further meetings of the Group
- **Empowering Local Communities:** The full neighbourhood management team is now in post and are recording a significant number of early examples of joined up working through a neighbourhoods approach. Additionally, there have now been two full rounds of Neighbourhood Council meetings (14 meetings in total) with varying degrees of public attendance and participation. As part of the neighbourhood's model, we have embarked upon a comprehensive community action planning process which will lead to the development of a prioritised and evidenced plan for activity in each of our communities. The Solutions Centre focussing on empowerment and engagement has completed its first two stages and has identified a series of innovative solutions which will be further debated in January 2010

- ***Building Pride in Peterborough:*** Three innovative initiatives are about to go live to help enhance the current position of the Building Pride in Peterborough outcome:
 - (i) in October 2009 a broad agreement was reached between the Council, the Royal Society for the Arts and the Arts Council to find innovative ways of developing citizenship in neighbourhood areas. This work will deliver action research projects in 2010
 - (ii) whilst work to redevelop Cathedral Square continues the Peterborough Soil project looks to highlight the importance of Green Space and environmental issues by recycling images of Peterborough into soil to contribute to a new open space in St Johns Square
 - (iii) throughout the winter of 2009/10 the Art Gallery will have an Artist in residence who will take portrait photographs of Peterborians (an unlimited number with a target of around 2000). Software will then morph all of these images into a single Face of Peterborough which will itself be turned into a painting

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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