

## Agenda Item:

**Report to:** Services Overview and Scrutiny

**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> September 2007

**Report from:** Policy & Performance Unit

**Title of report:** **QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE**

**Purpose of report:** To advise of Performance up to the end of Quarter 1

**Recommendations:**

- That staff in the Community Well Being, Environmental Services and Regeneration & Planning Directorates be thanked for their hard work
- That the Committee ensure that action is being taken to improve any poor performance

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report details quarter 1 performance by exception of Corporate Plan actions, financial performance, Best Value and Local Performance Indicators within Community Well Being, Environmental Services and Regeneration & Planning Directorates. Lead Members and Directors are happy to answer questions relating to the report.

1.2 PIs have been reported by exception showing those:

- that have exceeded targets,
- that are below target
- 'Hothouse' PIs - PIs which are one or more of the following:
  - significantly below target;
  - has been below target for sometime
  - Is at risk of poor performance;
  - is not meeting national standards;
  - something that we need to keep a close eye on

**Appendix A** shows first quarter progress of every Corporate Plan action relating to this committee.

**Appendix B** sets out details of PIs by exception – those that are exceeding target, are below target or are ‘hothouse’ PIs (PIs that need additional focus to improve)

## **2.0 Financial Performance**

2.1 It is early in the financial year and significant variations against agreed budgets would not normally be expected at this stage. A short commentary regarding revenue and capital expenditure follows.

2.2 Revenue Expenditure

2.3 Service expenditure is generally in line with expectations. Two areas of concern have been identified –

- Homelessness net expenditure is greater than anticipated. Action is being taken to mitigate the position, but an overspend at the year end cannot be ruled out. Further information will be made available as part of the second quarter monitoring report later in the year.
- Recycling operations continue to generate unplanned expenditure primarily as a result of the fragility of the MRF equipment. Considerable officer time is being focused onto the resolution of these issues. Whilst at this time expenditure is containable within the overall waste budgets, the difficulties are such that year end net expenditure above the budget provision cannot be ruled out.

2.4 Net Interest Receipts for the first quarter are down on budget expectations. However, revised arrangements for the Council’s investment funds are now in place which should recover the position for the year.

2.5 Three supplementary estimates have been approved out of the £175,000 contingency provision. £60,000 approved regarding the additional costs of the tendering for a new electricity supply contract, £21,476 for the temporary cover for Benefit Fraud investigation during recruitment and sickness absence and £5,000 to help establish the link with Hastings Sierra Leone. Therefore £88,524 remains from the general contingency provision. In addition there is £100,000 contingency for R & R items of which £25,000 has been approved for professional fees in connection with a structural survey to the Pier.

2.6 The budget includes a provision for Turnover Savings of £125,000. At this stage it seems likely that this will be achieved in the year.

## **2.7 Capital Expenditure**

2.8 Capital spend is considerably below that anticipated in the early part of this financial year. Indications are that the outturn position will be substantially below budget expectations. Further work to review this in

more detail is ongoing and will be addressed in the second quarter monitoring report later in the year.

2.9 Probable areas of slippage identified to date include:-

a) DC02 Priory Meadow Shopping Centre Extension – there are delays in negotiations between the head lessee and tenants that will inevitably lead to delays in this scheme, and hence our share of the costs - £550,000.

b) ES04-2 Office Accommodation – Replace Wellington Square – delays in negotiating a lease of alternative premises will probably lead to slippage of £50,000 this year.

c) CL18 St.Leonards Gardens / West Lodge – delays in finalising the Heritage Lottery grant bid will result in an estimated £200,000 slippage from the current year.

d) LC18 West Hill Lift Cliff Railway – once tenders have been received an assessment of possible slippage will take place.

e) ES13 Public Conveniences – DDA Works – some expenditure may slip into next year as part of the works are likely to start in quarters 3 & 4.

f) ES14 Alternative Parking Provision – this is linked to the work being progressed at the Stade.

g) RP04 Pelham Crescent Restoration – it is likely that some slippage will occur here.

h) RP06 Seafront Strategy – it is possible that some of the schemes will have slippage as works in the third and fourth quarters slip.

2.10 The Capital Programme budget assumes slippage of £1million in the year. It is highly likely that this will be exceeded.

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