

Appendix A:

Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Qtr 1 Corporate Plan

This appendix provides an update on progress to the end of the first quarter against the targets in the Corporate Plan for Community Well Being, Environmental Services and the Regeneration & Planning Directorates.

The status of targets has been identified using the following key:

Achieved: Target has been delivered successfully

On target: Confident of delivery of the target as worded by the end of the year or earlier if indicated in the target wording.

On target with risks identified: Majority of item on target for delivery, delays possible with some items (to be detailed in text)

Slippage possible: There are concerns about ability to deliver within the year - consequences and remedial actions to be described

Will not meet target: Reasons, consequences and any actions needed to be described

**COMMUNITY WELL BEING DIRECTORATE
2007/08 TARGETS / MILESTONES
QTR1**

TARGET 8.1 - Work towards narrowing the gap between Hastings and the rest of East Sussex by contributing to the achievement of the annual Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets.

QTR 1 – On target with risks identified

Progress – In the first year of the East Sussex Local Area Agreement data has not been disaggregated to district level (with the exception of outcome 23 which focuses on Hastings – see next target). This should improve in the current year subject to availability of data from ESCC.

TARGET 8.2 Achieve the annual targets in Outcome 23 of the East Sussex Local Area Agreement (Hastings' mini LAA).

QTR 1 – Achieved/On Target (43.8%), On target with risks/Slippage Possible (18.8%), Will not meet target (3%) – 2006/07

Progress – The following table shows the annual performance across all the indicators for the 2006/07 period (figures for 07/08 should be available in Q2). There has been good progress overall in narrowing the gap for the worst performing neighbourhoods. Where a dip in the overall town performance has contributed to the narrowing of the gap the indicators are rated as amber. The unrated targets are those for which figures are not available because the target was changed in the LAA refresh or because 2006/07 is being used as the baseline measurement. The 07/08 figures should not show any unrated targets.

Overall rating measured by 32 indicators	Annual Performance
Green – on course to meet target	14 (43.8%)
Amber – target not on track – remedial action required	6 (18.8%)
Red – the target will not be met	3 (9.4%)
Unrated	9 (28%)

TARGET 8.4 - Improve decision-making and engagement with local communities through half-yearly reporting of the LAA outcomes to local Area Management Boards; and review the effectiveness of the Area Co-ordination approach by December 2007.

QTR 1 – On Target

Progress – Annual performance has been reported to Area Management Boards (AMBs) and action taken on various thematic areas that need improvement e.g. education conference in East Hastings (June 13), action on street drinking in South St Leonards, improvements to community safety via Multi Agency Tasking Teams and enforcing surveillance cameras in Central and agreeing an

improvement programme for open spaces and children's play areas in North St Leonards.

Two Area Coordination reviews have begun, undertaken by an independent Neighbourhood Renewal Advisor and the Overview & Scrutiny Review panel. Both will report in September with recommendations to improve and sustain Area Coordination within available resources.

TARGET 8.5 - Tackle hotspots for crime, anti-social behaviour and environmental degradation via regular Multi Agency Tasking Teams, measuring success through regular evaluations.

QTR 1 – On target

Progress – Multi Agency Tasking Teams (MATTs) in each area of the four areas of the town (North St. Leonards, South St. Leonards, Central and East Hastings) meet monthly. Membership includes lead officers from key service providers such as the Police, Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) team, Environmental Health (HBC), Housing Associations and Youth Development Service. Meetings are facilitated by Area Coordinators(HBC) and successes are reported to the Area Management Boards. The MATTs take referrals from residents, elected members and agencies using local data and knowledge to identify issues of concern that require a multi-agency approach to tackle them. There have been 63 referrals to the four MATTs since April 07.

TARGET 8.6 Carry out a fundamental review of the community sector grants programme by May 2007 and allocate grant monies against agreed priorities by October 2007.

QTR 1 – On target

Progress – Draft model for funding the voluntary and community sector in 2008/2009 and beyond has been developed. Closing date for comment by the sector is 31.07.07.

TARGET 8.7 Facilitate opportunities throughout the year for a range of communities of identity to engage with the Council and its partners to ensure their voices are heard effectively.

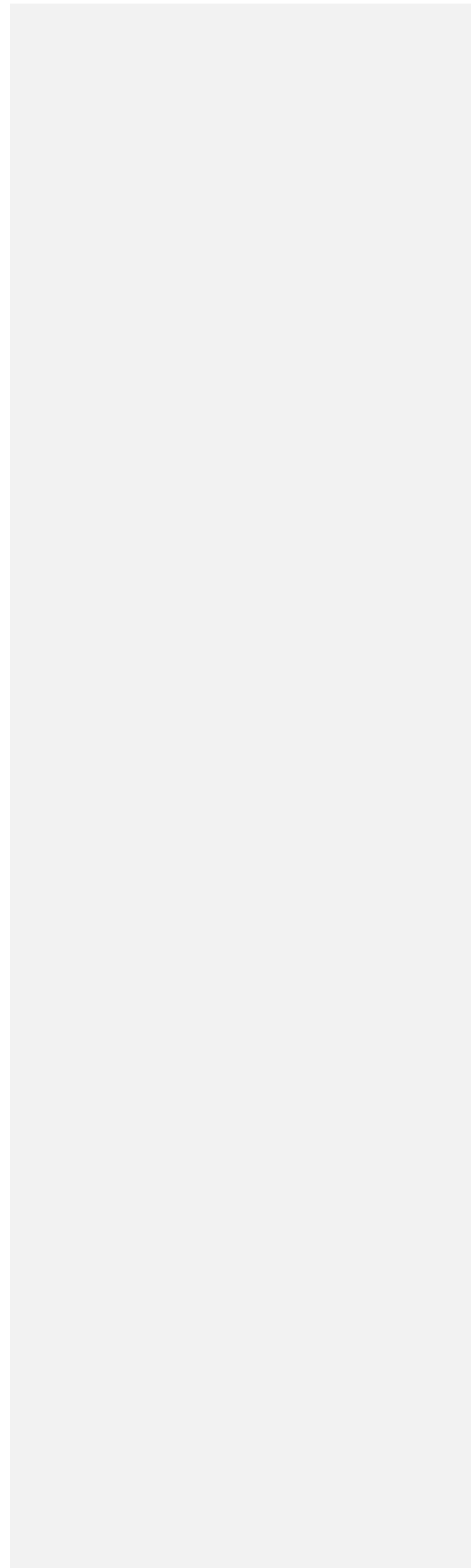
QTR 1 – On target

Progress – Council officers support the Young Persons Council, the Seniors Forum, the Hastings and Rother Disability Forum and the Hastings Intercultural Organisation and provide regular opportunities for members of these communities to engage with the Council and its partners.

TARGET 9.8 Lead on the Children and Young People's block of the East Sussex Local Area Agreement and provide appropriate support to the County's Children's' Trust Partnership.

QTR 1 – On target

Progress – Hastings Borough Council is represented on the Childrens' Services Planning Group (CSPG) for Hastings that commissions services within the Children's Trust and chairs the 11 to 19 year age reference group that identifies need and informs the CSPG.



HOUSING SERVICES – 2007/08 TARGETS / MILESTONES

TARGET 7.1 Implement the ‘Sussex Home Move’ Choice Based Lettings scheme by December 2007.

QTR 1 – On target

Progress – Implementation scheduled for 17th September 2007. Briefing events to take place 4th September (stakeholders) and 11th September (Councillors). Allocations Policy to be considered by Cabinet on 10th September 2007.

TARGET 7.2 Accredite a further 60 properties through Accredited Lettings Scheme.

QTR 1 – On target

Progress – Above target for Quarter 1 and likely that full target will be achieved if not exceeded by year -end.

TARGET 7.3 Complete a review and prepare a revised Homelessness Strategy for implementation from 2008.

QTR 1 – On target

Progress – Review to start in Quarter 3 2007-08

TARGET 7.4 Develop ‘sanctuary type’ provision for those at risk of homelessness as a result of domestic violence.

QTR 1 – On target

Progress – Funding secured for delivering sanctuary within the Borough. A Sanctuary Scheme is a victim centred initiative, which aims to make it possible for victims of/ those under threat of Domestic Violence (DV) and hate crime to remain in their homes and feel safe. Sanctuary is a long-term provision rather than an emergency solution to problems. Delivery will be via the Secure Accommodation Scheme already successfully operating within the Borough. Work is progressing well on the development of the referral process and mechanisms to ensure that DV cases referred from various agencies are able to be properly assessed and where appropriate dealt with under the sanctuary provision.

TARGET 7.6 Undertake a refresh of the Council’s Housing Strategy action plan targets 2004-2009.

QTR 1 – On target

Progress – Work to being in Quarter 3 2007-08

TARGET 7.7 Review existing affordable housing policies in line with Local Development Framework timetable.

QTR 1 – On target

Progress – Draft LDF Core Strategy to be produced including affordable housing policy

TARGET 7.8 Deliver 70 affordable homes and return 30 empty dwellings to residential use.

**QTR 1 – On target – empty homes
- Below target – affordable homes**

Progress – Above target for quarter 1 on empty homes and likely that full target will be achieved if not exceeded by year end. No completions of affordable homes in Q1, although anticipate completion of 65 units at year-end which is slightly short of target.

TARGET 7.9 Following the findings of the Housing Stock Condition Survey in early 2007:

- **Establish a private sector improvement target to 2010 with annual milestones**
- **Implement revised private sector financial assistance and enforcement policies**
- **Publish a new Empty Homes Strategy covering the period 2007-2009**

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QTR 1 – Slippage possible (Establish a private sector improvement target to 2010 with annual milestones)

Progress – The stock condition survey has been jointly procured with both Rother and Eastbourne. This has slowed the procurement process, which means that the target date for completion is now scheduled for late 2007. The slight delay is more than compensated for by the benefits of a common specification covering the three Local Authorities. Considerable cost efficiencies are achieved with the cost to the Council significantly lower than the agreed budget and the added benefit of a free County wide stock condition survey report. This will greatly enhance the joint working being carried out across the County, such as the partnership bid for Regional Housing Board funding for private sector renewal and the work that is carried out for the Local Area Agreement.

QTR 1 – On target (Implement revised private sector financial assistance and enforcement policies)

Progress – Enforcement policy adopted and implemented. New financial assistance policy adopted and in the process of being fully implemented.

QTR 1 – On target (Publish a new Empty Homes Strategy covering the period 2007-2009)

Progress – The new strategy is currently being drafted and will be subject to a review by Overview and Scrutiny, Policy Project Group. It is envisaged, subject to the findings of the project group that the new strategy will be presented to Cabinet for consideration later in the financial year.

TARGET 7.10 Continue our focus on improving private sector housing in Central St Leonards through financial assistance and enforcement action to achieve the decent homes standard in respect of 30 properties

QTR 1 – On target

Progress – Above target for quarter 1 and likely that full target will be achieved if not exceeded by year-end.

TARGET 7.11 Move the Housing, Communities & Neighbourhoods Directorate to new office premises in 2007.

QTR 1 – Achieved

Progress – Office move took place in May 2007

TARGET 7.12 Housing Services to review and revise methodology for determining customer satisfaction levels, implementing revised customer satisfaction questionnaires and delivery model from April 2007.

QTR 1 – On target with risks identified

Progress – The new forms and procedures have been completed

Update on Shortfalls from 2006/07

1. Although we were aiming to extend the licensing of buildings converted into flats into Castle Ward, Central Government has delayed issuing the relevant regulations to local authorities that would enable the development of an additional licensing scheme to take place. These are now anticipated in October 2007.

QTR 1 – Will not meet target

Progress – Achievement of this target has been delayed by the late publication of the Regulations pertaining to buildings converted into flats. Confirmation has now been received that the Regulations will be implemented on the 1st October 2007. Consideration is now being given to the impact of the new regulations on a licensing scheme for Castle Ward.

2. Although we successfully reviewed and revised our Financial Assistance Policy, there has been a delay in adopting the new policy to enable proper consultation to be carried out. The revised policy is scheduled for adoption by Cabinet in June 2007.

QTR 1 – Achieved

Progress – Policy adopted by Cabinet.

LEISURE SERVICES – 2007/08 TARGETS / MILESTONES

TARGET 8.3 Work with partners to achieve the year 2 milestones for 'Healthier Communities and Older People' contained within the 3-year East Sussex Local Area Agreement.

QTR 1 – On target

Progress – Targets have been reviewed and base lines revised as a result of the Year 1 outcomes. The Active Hastings project and our Leisure Management contractor, Freedom Leisure make significant contributions towards achieving Outcome 7, Improved Health for East Sussex residents

TARGET 9.1 Monitor the leisure contract for the leisure centres, Summerfields, Falaise and Hillcrest to ensure that they continue to meet local demand.

QTR 1 – On target

Progress – Attendances continue to be above targets, being up 16.86% on the same period as last year (95623 compared to 81824). The largest increase was at Hillcrest (35.82%) and the smallest at Summerfields (14.04%). The BVPI satisfaction survey also reports increased satisfaction with the sport and leisure facilities at 64% compared with 56% in 2003/04.

TARGET 9.2 Provide opportunities for people of all ages to enjoy physical activities and adopt healthier lifestyles e.g. through the Active Hastings programme.

QTR 1 – On target

Progress – Active Hastings engaged with 812 new people between 1st April and 30th June. 238 of these participants had taken part in no physical activity in the past 12 months, and 342 of these were taking part in physical activity on less than 3 days per week. This takes the total number of participants to 3304 since the project began in May 06, with 2048 of these doing activity on less than 3 days per week. In order to meet targets, Active Hastings needs to engage with 425 inactive people each quarter. Although this quarter was lower than this, the project over the last year is ahead of target. The main focus over the last 3 months has been getting women aged 17+ active. The Ladies Gettin Active project has proved very popular, with 525 women involved in the Active Hastings project this quarter.

TARGET 9.3 Explore options for new leisure facilities and, if considered viable undertake a future use study for the White Rock area.

QTR 1 – On target

Progress – Consultants to be appointed to undertake viability study and if successful to continue with master-planning for the White Rock area

TARGET 9.6 Maintain opportunities for children to develop skills through play by providing a regular programme of activities.

QTR 1 – On target

Progress – Three Play Days and a programme of street events and activities have been organised for the summer holidays. The successful award of Big Lottery Funding (BLF) for increasing these activities and two new environmental play areas will impact on work from September. The BLF monies will enable additional Play Days and street activities from next year, for three years.

Update on Shortfalls From 2006/07:

1. Funding has been agreed to carry out a feasibility study to assess the potential of a new leisure development in the White Rock area. However, the Council did not formally adopt an action plan to improve indoor leisure facilities.

QTR 1 – On target for completion 2007-08

Progress – It is anticipated that 9.3 above will provide for new leisure facilities (or alternative proposals for refurbishment). Funding has been identified and allocated for contingency works to the existing facilities, should they prove necessary, to ensure the facilities can be maintained until these alternative proposals can be finalised and implemented.

2. We carried out a feasibility study to find a suitable location on the seafront for beach volleyball, however the study produced a proposal that was not financially viable for the Council to undertake. We are now working closely with Hastings Old Town Residents Association to bid for external funding for two sand courts and a replacement beach patrol building.

QTR 1 – Slippage possible

Progress – Hastings Old Town Residents Association are leading on the project to develop new sports facilities. They are researching funding options and grant availability.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE 2007/08 TARGETS / MILESTONES QTR1

Target 3.2 - Continue to improve the quality of the local environment and reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour, through the work of the Council's front line uniformed services and Environmental Protection and Waste Services Teams to enforce enviro-crime legislation as effectively as possible within the resources available.

QTR 1 – On target with risks identified

Staff shortages due to a combination of long term sickness absence and the need to recruit replacement staff due to 3 resignations, has reduced our ability to combat enviro-crime as effectively as would otherwise be the case. However, 2 of the vacant posts have been filled & replacement officers commenced in July, and the long-term sickness absence situation has also improved significantly. Despite the problems experienced with staffing, the South East Neighbourhood Training & Resource Centre recently presented the Warden Service with 2 awards. They achieved a gold award for outstanding achievement, and a silver award for partnership working.

A total of 32 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) were served in Q1

Target 3.3 Review and update the strategy for the identification of potentially contaminated land sites. Ensure through the development control process that the future use of Brownfield sites is maximised.

QTR 1 – Slippage possible

The Environmental Protection Team has a long-term vacancy for a Technical Officer. This post previously specialised in contaminated land and until the post is filled with a suitably qualified and experienced officer a review of the strategy will be difficult. The Environmental protection manager is attempting to deal with the routine contaminated land work arising from the planning process, such as commenting on the suitability of developer's remediation proposals. However, this is proving difficult without a specialist in the team, and delays are occurring. The Head of Environmental Health has suggested that the Sussex Chief Environmental Health Officers Liaison Group should consider trying to establish a joint service to provide technical support for all Sussex authorities on contaminated land

Target 3.4 Ensure continued implementation of the Air Quality Action Plan relating to the Bexhill Road Air Quality Management Area.

QTR 1 – On target with risks identified

As with contaminated land, our air quality work has been restricted to some extent due to staff shortages because this is also a highly technical area of work. Again, it is necessary to engage specialist contractors from time to time to help review and interpret air quality data obtained from our local air quality monitoring stations. The Environmental Protection Manager continues to liaise with other agencies such as the East Sussex County Council as they are largely responsible for delivering the work specified in the Air Quality Action Plan.

Target 3.5 Implement the smoke-free enclosed public places legislation, effective from 1st July 2007, which entails publicising and promoting the new laws, followed by an intensive programme of high profile compliance checks and enforcement action where necessary.

QTR 1 – On target

The Council worked closely with the Hastings and Rother Primary Care Trust and Rother District Council in the build up to the new regime to promote smoking cessation services, as well as providing local businesses with information and support on going Smokefree. At the end of June we employed 3 Smokefree Compliance Officers on 6-month short-term contracts. They and some of our existing staff in Food & Safety & Licensing have carried out a large number of compliance checks at high profile premises throughout the borough. It is too early to say how successful this work has been in helping to implement Smokefree in Hastings.

Target 3.6 Identify what we need to do to respond to the new Government agenda regarding regulatory impact on businesses, particularly the forthcoming report of the Rogers Review to be published by the Cabinet Office, which will identify about 5 national priorities for environmental health services.

QTR 1 – On target

The "Local Better Regulation Office" which is actually a national agency, has only recently been established and will develop over the coming months. They are expected to start to issue statutory guidance to regulators on specific service areas.

The Rogers Review was published in March 2007. It identified 4 national priorities for environmental health regulation, and suggested various potential local priorities for local authorities depending on the nature of the area, such as for predominantly urban authorities like Hastings. An analysis of our environmental health priorities has shown that they are already well aligned with those suggested by the Rogers Review.

Target 3.7 Prepare to re-align our inspection priorities to accommodate work previously undertaken by the Health and Safety Executive's under the 'Joint Authorisation' initiative.

QTR 1 – on target with risks identified

Under this Health and Safety Executive initiative it is possible that the Council's health and safety enforcement service may experience increased demands. It is not anticipated that further resources will be made available hence the possible need to review our local priorities. We are participating in an innovative project to help prepare for this new style of working, whereby most of the Sussex environmental health departments have contributed to a 12 month secondment of an experienced Health and Safety Executive Officer to work with all of the participating Sussex authorities.

Target 4.7 Review the current arrangements and funding for delivering improvements to the local environment, quality of life and reducing crime, fear of crime and anti social behavior and begin to develop longer term proposals for re-aligning service delivery and ensuring sustainability.

QTR 1 – on target with risks identified

Much of the work associated with this target will be undertaken as part of the Council's forthcoming corporate plan and budget planning process. A key issue will be securing funding for the Council's Warden Service as the existing Neighbourhood Renewal funding stream comes to an end. It remains to be seen whether the Government will announce a replacement for this funding.

Target 4.8 Undertake 2 incident exercises to test our preparedness for major incidents.

QTR 1 – on target

Both exercises are planned for the autumn

Target 4.9 Conduct a risk review to identify high-risk activities and premises in the town and begin to prepare contingency plans.

QTR 1 – on target with risks identified

The review is ongoing but the work associated with it is greater than was originally envisaged.

WASTE AND RECYCLING - 2007/08 TARGETS / MILESTONES

Target 5.1 Introduce a twin bin refuse and recycling collection scheme and identify more environmentally and financially sustainable alternative arrangements for processing recyclates.

QTR 1 – on target with risks identified

Project on target and potentially within budget for implementation in October. Experienced various issues with residents with regard to implementation e.g. storage issues and these are being processed. Procurement process for the wheelie bins is completed and relevant contractors appointed.

Disposal arrangements require final consultation with ESCC. Areas of concern with regard to the specification for recyclates accepted by ESCC and the processing of recyclates need to be resolved to ensure long-term sustainability of the scheme.

Target 5.3 Explore and report on the recommendations of the County Council's Best Value Review of Joint Waste Services and identify steps required to synchronise contract end dates to allow options for a joint tendered service to be considered.

QTR 1 – Slippage Possible

This work will be carried out in partnership with other Boroughs and Districts and the County Council through the East Sussex LGA Waste Group and the Waste Forum Steering Group. Initial enquiries have identified the chronology of contract end dates and opportunities for synchronisation which need to be explored further. Work should start by these groups later in the year.

AMENITIES AND RESORT SERVICES - 2007/08 TARGETS / MILESTONES

Target 10.1 Implement the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and achieve quality standards for our parks and open spaces.

QTR 1 – On Target

The redevelopment of St. Leonards Gardens is on schedule for completion in September 2007. The development of a management plan and friends group is proceeding and will pave the way for achieving a third green flag award (after Alexandra Park and Hastings Country Park) for the borough. This is a Parks & Open Spaces Strategy target.

Linton Gardens (Central) has been identified as the next key site for improvement this year to meet the Community Strategy target for quality open space within 300 metres of every household.

In the latest Best Value General Satisfaction Survey, the public rated our parks and open spaces at the top of the list of local assets. Our rating improved even further from a good result 3 years ago.

Target 10.2 Develop a vision and sustainable business plan for Pebsham Countryside Park with East Sussex County Council and Rother District Council.

QTR 1 –On target with risks identified

A development strategy and business plan for the proposed park were produced by the park steering group earlier this year. The documents will go to Cabinet in September where members will be asked to reaffirm their support for the park development. Further development is heavily dependent upon successful bids for external funding and this will be the main focus for the steering group. East Sussex County Council is leading on preparation of a bid for European Interreg funding. There are ongoing discussions around inclusion of certain parcels of HBC-owned land, particularly Upper Wilting Farm, within the footprint of the Countryside Park

Target 10.3 Explore the new European standards for bathing water quality in partnership with the Environment Agency and Water Authorities

QTR 1 – On target

We are working closely with partners through the Coastal Users Group to assess the requirements of the new standard. A national DEFRA group will determine standards for public information and signage.

Target 10.4 Deliver a programme of works to improve access to Hastings Castle and the West Hill lift. Phase 1 will commence in 2007/08 and will see improvements to West Hill Lift. The Castle improvements will form Phase II, and is subject to a successful bid for external funding.

QTR 1 – On target with risks identified

Architects have been appointed to provide detailed costed options for the alterations required for Phase 1 of the scheme, West Hill Cliff Railway. However, uncertainties have now arisen about the extent and timing of funding for the Phase II Castle improvements, which may mean that delivery of the West Hill access works, is also put back.

Target 10.5 Implement the Biodiversity Strategy and related action plan for 2007/08.

QTR 1 – On target

The Action Plan was adopted in October 2006 and subject to a 3 year review. We are progressing with implementing key targets and establishing a monitoring framework for the Plan. There are 42 targets across 5 broad themes:

1. Political leadership, democratic accountability, statutory responsibility, professional competence and financial management
2. Collection and use of biodiversity data
3. Planning policy and development control
4. Enabling partnerships, community participation, involvement and education, and
5. Managing local authority land.

Early targets have been met, including publishing the strategy and action plan, mapping all designated wildlife sites, identifying areas of ancient woodland, contributing to the creation of the new biodiversity performance indicator from central government, feasibility work on the creation of a new interpretive centre at the Country Park, participation in the Pebsham countryside park development, development of management plans for all local nature reserves including the declaration of Hastings Country Park and Fairlight Place as local nature reserves.

Target 10.6 As part of the County Traveller and Gypsy Strategy, work with our East Sussex local authority partners to provide sites for Travellers and Gypsies.

QTR 1 – Slippage possible

In accordance with the recent Cabinet decision, we are looking at opportunities to consider transit or emergency stopping possibilities with partner authorities. East Sussex County Council has indicated a

willingness to open bilateral discussions with us on site possibilities.
We will pursue this.

Target 10.7 Continue to maintain and manage the cemetery and crematorium.

QTR 1 – On target

Work has begun on the planning and costing phase for the installation of new cremators, scheduled in the capital programme for 2009/2010. This project is in response to EU requirements for mercury abatement which must be met before 2012.

Target 16.3 Implement the improvement plan from the Best Value Review looking at maintenance of Council-owned assets. (Virginia Gilbert)

QTR 1 – On target

The Best Value Review is underway. A final report and improvement plan will go to the Scrutiny Committee in December. The officer group is meeting regularly to support the Best Value Review.

The terms of the move of minor works and other maintenance responsibilities and staff from Estates to Resorts & Amenities have been agreed and will be implemented in Quarter 2, concentrating most areas of public and operational maintenance in one department.

PARKING AND HIGHWAYS - 2007/08 TARGETS / MILESTONES

Target 6.1 Following the County review of Highways, retain and refine the Hastings Highways Management Agreement and the related Codes of Practice.

QTR 1 – Target status - On target

All the recommendations for the final report were formally approved at the ESCC cabinet meeting in June 2007. There were unanimous agreement on the value of retaining the agreement from both ESCC and HBC prospective. Now progressing action plan.

Target 6.2 Work with partners to review and begin to implement the Quality Bus Partnership Action Plan to further improve the punctuality of bus services and increase the number of bus passenger journeys made.

QTR 1 – Target status – On target

The QBP Action Plan 2007-10 is awaiting final input from Stagecoach and then it will be presented to HBC Cabinet on September 10th and then ESCC Lead Member on 15th October when it will then be launched publicly.

Target 6.3 Prepare for the introduction of the national concessionary fares scheme in 2008.

QTR 1 – Target status – On target

The Concessionary Bus Travel (CBT) Act was passed by government on 19th July 2007. The Act provides that everyone aged 60 and over in England, and disabled people in England, will get free off peak travel on all local buses anywhere in England from April 2008. The existing statutory entitlement allows these groups to travel for free, but only on buses within their local authority area.

MCL Transport Consultants, who administer the current scheme on behalf of all Sussex local authorities, will be working with HBC to introduce new concessionary passes, conforming to a national standard, prior to April 1st 2008.

Target 6.4 Commission an Economic Impact Assessment and Consult further on future proposals for parking controls in Central St Leonards.

QTR 1 – Target status – On target with risk identified

A consultant brief has been produced and this has been consulted with all stakeholders within St Leonards. A final consultant brief which includes amendments suggested by all stakeholders within St

Leonards has been prepared. An advert for the expression of interest for the study has resulted in good response from companies. Tenders have been invited from selected consultant.

Target 6.5 Contribute our experience and best practice approach to parking enforcement into the County Council's longer-term strategy for de-criminalised parking across the county.

QTR 1 – Target status – On target a - continuous process
Sharing our experience in performance management of staff and recovery rate with the County on regular quarterly meetings.

Target 6.6 Investigate potential to extend our successful abandoned car removal activities to uninsured vehicles in partnership with the police.

QTR 1 – Target status – On target
Uninsured vehicles will be dealt with under Police contract with their removal contractor. Meanwhile a successful bid to Safer Hastings Partnership has resulted in the purchase of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) unit. This will aid the team and will result in speed in the detection and number of cases dealt by the team. The ANPR unit will be operational in August 2007.

Target 6.7 Evaluate the impact of the Station Plaza and Priory Quarter developments on medium term parking provision.

QTR 1 – Target status – On target

Dialogue with Priory Meadow and Network Rail resulted in reduced parking charges and longer term parking in Priory Meadow for rail commuters to offset the loss of parking at Station Plaza. Continued liaison with Sea Space and East Sussex County Council on the subsequent impact of future developments such as Lacuna Place and the Priory Quarter, including the provision of alternative parking prior to the loss of the multi storey car park.

Local Performance Plan 2006-07: Shortfalls Update

1. Although East Sussex County Council is primarily responsible for local transport, we have for the last 6 years supported the evening bus transport service. We have decided not to subsidise this bus service after 31st March 2007. In relation to finding improvements for cyclists, we have consulted with stakeholders on proposals to trial cycling in the Town Centre. The trial is due to start in early Autumn 2007.

QTR 1 – Target status – Slippage possible

The Safety audit has now completed. The next step is to request the Government Office of South East for permission to install non standard signs designed for our town centre. Time scale needed to obtain non standard sign approval from Government of South East, manufacture and erection of signs and making of the Traffic Regulations Order will result in delays in the implementation of the Order. The revised timetable is early spring 2008.

2. Although we have worked in partnership with East Sussex County Council to prepare a draft Local Area Transport Strategy for Hastings and St. Leonards, East Sussex County Council have delayed carrying out the consultation until June/July 2007. The consultation will initially involve key organisations and groups on a strategic level. During late Summer/ Autumn, the consultation will then engage with local communities to develop a local action plan for Hastings and St. Leonards.

QTR 1 – Target status - slippage possible

Progress – East Sussex County Council has further delayed the progress of the draft Local Transport Plan consultation which was originally due to start in November 2006 and then in June/July 2007 . We are awaiting further information from ESCC on the likely start date for the consultation process, which will be over a twelve week period

3. Although we had planned to introduce a Controlled Parking Zone in the centre of St. Leonards, following detailed consultation with local businesses and residents we have decided to commission a detailed Economic Impact Assessment to assess the true impact of these proposals on the overall regeneration of the area. This study will be completed by late autumn.

QTR 1 – Target status – on target with risk identified
See 6.4 above

4. Additional funding has been obtained from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and from the Safer Hastings Partnership to extend CCTV monitoring to 24 hours, 7 days per week for a period of one year. It is anticipated that this will begin in mid July following recruitment and training of additional staff. The effectiveness of this extended coverage in reducing crime and the fear of crime, particularly in the town centres will be evaluated during that period before considering future funding options.

Qtr 1 – On Target

Funding secured April 2007, additional staff recruited and employed 24hour monitoring commenced 23rd July 2007. Early indications are that the new team has already contributed in the detection and reporting of crime.

REGENERATION & PLANNING 2007/08 TARGETS / MILESTONES QTR1

Target 1.7 Work with regional and local partners on the delivery of a 5-year Economic Development and Inclusion Strategy for the wider Hastings Urban Area.

QTR 1 – On target with risks identified

Progress - The Draft Economic Development and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy has been received by the Steering Group however it is felt that an implementation plan cannot be formulated until such time as the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review, sub-Regional Partnerships Review, Sub-National Review of Economic Development are known along with the SEEDA Coastal Strategy. All of these reviews / policy developments will have an impact on the ability to deliver on the EDI Strategy.

Target 1.8 Work with SEEDA and other regional partners on the provision of proposals for devolved economic development structures in the South East, including Hastings and Bexhill. A future system should ensure the most effective and coordinated use of regeneration funds in the area.

QTR 1 – On target

Progress - South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) proposals for sub-regional partnership structures now published, and SEEDA devolved place-based investment will be routed through Local Area Agreements and Multi Area Agreements. SEEDA has decided that further discussions with sub-regional partners are necessary before finalising the structures through which SEEDA will engage with partners in Sussex.

Target 1.9 Continue to develop opportunities for local people to gain skills and employment in the construction industry and to advance the objectives of the Council's Construction Charter.

QTR 1 – On target

Progress – This project is doing well and is being supported both from within HBC and externally. A total of 15 companies have signed up to the Charter and 14 attended the last Construction Partnership meeting. Four employment spaces are being provided by Carillion, and one summer work placement by Nuttall Hynes. The successful Pathway to Construction event organised in Priory Meadow, involved 25 different stalls and attracted an estimated 800 people interested in construction employment/skills opportunities. Hastings Skillsmatch – an online employee recruitment programme – is due to be launched in September. Skills to Build (S2B), run by Hastings Trust, has suffered some setbacks but building work is now almost completed and recruitment for the apprentices and trainers is beginning, with an anticipated operational start date in the 2nd quarter.

Target 1.10 Work with the College and other partners to ensure the development of a vocational curriculum based on local employment needs and opportunities.

QTR 1 – On target

Progress - Initial scoping paper now complete, outlining milestones. Working with 14-19 Partnership and East Sussex County Council (ESCC) being carried out, led by the 14-19 Partnership Board. Once the mapping exercise is complete, gaps in provision will be identified and a plan will be drawn up to address them as well as ensuring that employer expectations are more closely met.

Target 1.11 With partners, deliver programmes that broaden opportunities for those Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEETs) and hard-to-help young people and adults through work experience and basic skills training.

QTR 1 –On Target

Progress - The Food Enterprise Development Officer is negotiating with The Netherfield Centre for Sustainable Food & Farming/Community Fruit & Veg Project/ Fellowship of St Nicholas/ Tressell Training to facilitate potential new training courses. *Tressell Training achieved Entry to Employment (e2e) progression rates above national & regional average. Prevention & Intervention projects also on target, including adult provision. Partnership arrangements with college(s) continue to strengthen. Labour Market Solutions project is supporting 50% more adults than original programme target, providing them with basic skills training, individual support and work experience. 10 have found paid work since the beginning of the project. Given the vulnerability and multiple needs of the target group this is a substantial achievement. To date, 118 individuals have benefited from training and work placements*

Target 1.12 Successfully implement the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) funded FOOD project, to include a successful second annual Seafood and Wine Festival.

QTR 1 –On target

Progress - Date set for Central St Leonards & Gensing world food business networking event in Q3. Seafood and Wine Festival to be held in Q2, for which the planning and marketing is well underway.

One to one advice/support and signposting given to 11 food enterprises/entrepreneurs this Quarter. Food Local Steering Group Terms of Reference completed, Group members contacted and a date set for first steering group meeting in Q2.

Target 1.13 Continue to support the East Sussex Local Area Agreement through service delivery and monitoring of year 2 activities directed at achieving economic development and inclusion targets.

QTR 1 –On target

Progress - In relation to Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) targets the Q1 report has been completed and submitted to East Sussex County Council (ESCC) in advance of the August 2nd deadline. LEGI programme delivery is on target with only one of the remaining outstanding projects awaiting approval by the Economic Alliance. Challenges are being faced in translating and presenting meaningful comparisons of statistics that have different reporting deadlines.

Q1 LAA monitoring information completed and submitted to ESCC well in advance of deadline. Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimant rates show a small improvement across priority wards. Note: There were over 100 redundancies at Rycroft Foods this quarter.

Target 1.14 Appoint an external funding officer to develop effective bids in line with the Council's priorities and those of the Hastings and Bexhill Economic Alliance.

QTR 1 – Achieved

Progress - External Funding Officer has been recruited and commenced employment on 30th July 2007.

Target 4.1 To work closely with the East Sussex County Council's Community Safety Team to deliver the crime reduction targets in the Local Area Agreement and the Safer Hastings Strategy.

QTR 1 – On target.

Progress - The Council continues to work closely with the ESCC Community Safety Team to develop partnership interventions to achieve the crime reduction targets in the Local Area Agreement (LAA). The main conduit for this is through HBC and ESCC representation on the Safer Hastings Partnership (SHP). Local priorities are also highlighted in the emerging ESCC Community Safety Plan.

Target 4.2 Undertake preparation work to evaluate and review the Safer Hastings Strategy 2005-08 and thereafter produce an annual 3-year rolling plan based on the priorities identified in the 'Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment'.

QTR 1 – On target

Progress - Much of the work on this target will take place in the second half of the planning year. The Government has recently published the new National Crime Strategy for 2008-2011 '*Cutting Crime – A New partnership for 2008-2011*' this will set the overall direction and be considered alongside, the 'Partnership Strategic Intelligence

Assessment' published in October 2007 The annual fear of crime survey will be carried out in August 2007.

Target 4.3 To work towards achieving relevant Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) and Local Area Agreement(LAA) targets by coordinating the delivery of local community safety projects and interventions. See BVPI section of Annual Report for specific targets regarding community safety.

QTR 1 – Slippage probable

Progress - Good progress has been made towards achieving the BVPI target to reduce Public Place Violent Crime (PPVC) at weekends. The Domestic Violence targets are broadly on track.

Large reductions in the acquisitive crime types (encompassing theft, burglary, motor vehicle crime, fraud and counterfeiting) within the LAA target to reduce British Crime Survey crime are well ahead of target. The changes in violent crime criteria is jeopardising efforts to achieve the originally plan 23.5% in total crime as outlined in 4.6 below.

Antisocial behaviour targets are being met.

Target 4.4 Work closely with the County Council Children's Services team to deliver the Respect Action Plan initiatives on Intensive Family Support in Hastings.

QTR 1 – On Target

Progress - The Hastings Crime Reduction Initiative (CRI) project has been commissioned to deliver the 'Governments Respect Task Force' funded 'Intensive Family Support' programme in Hastings. The manager and two caseworkers are now in place and they are now fully engaged with five families in the town. It is anticipated that their full caseload of ten families will be achieved during the current quarter. The complementary post of 'Senior Parenting Practitioner' is now in place and plans are well advanced to introduce a linked parenting training programmes in Filsham Valley, Grove and Hillcrest Senior Schools.

Target 4.5 Review the impact of the extended liquor licensing hours on public place violent crime, the fear of crime and noise nuisance.

QTR 1 – On Target

Progress - The Sussex Police Licensing Unit and Hastings Borough Council Licensing team are monitoring the impact of the extended liquor licensing hours as a matter of routine. Regular statistical information is gathering in support of this. Sussex Police are refining the shift patterns of police officers in October 2007 to take account of this change in their service demand profile.

Hastings has seen reductions in violent crime during the period under review. Figures for noise nuisance have not been fully assessed. The local 'fear of crime' survey will be launched in August 2007.

A range of control measures are in place including :-

- Extending HBC CCTV monitoring to 24hr coverage (Neighbourhood Renewal funded)
- Taxi marshalling extended to 4am on Saturday & Sunday mornings
- Deployment of Sussex Police Licensing Team
- Multi agency visits to licensed premises at key times

Target 4.6 Work with partners to achieve the year 2 milestones for 'Safer Stronger Communities' contained within the 3-year East Sussex Local Area Agreement.

QTR 1 – Slippage possible

Progress - A very ambitious 3-year reduction target of reducing 'British Crime Survey' crime types by 23.5% is proving very challenging. We have achieved a 15.3% reduction against a target of 19.1% by the end of the first quarter of the 2007/8 corporate planning year.

Common assault remains the area preventing us from achieving this target. This remains largely due to changes in Home Office counting rules resulting in verbal abuse not resulting in physical contact now counting as common assault. Other matters like breaches of Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) also inflate the figures. The Home Office are currently redefining what should be categorised as a violent crime.

Target 9.4 Support and promote public arts initiatives such as Coastal Currents and encourage opportunities for growth in the cultural sector.

QTR 1 – On target

Progress – Hastings Borough Council's contribution of £20,000 towards the 2007 Coastal Currents event played a significant role in attracting a £64,000 Arts Council grant. This year's event will run from August 31st – September 23rd.

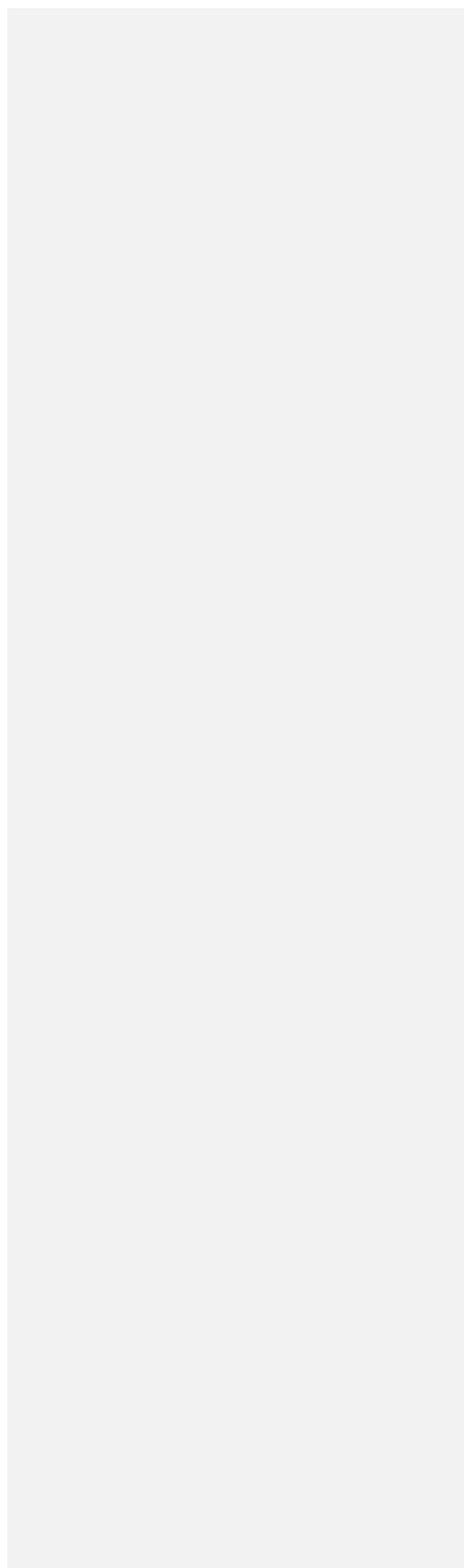
Contribution of £5,000 secured from the East Sussex Arts Partnership towards the St Leonard's Public Art Bid.

Target 9.5 Work with partners to create a revised cultural vision for Hastings and Bexhill.

QTR 1 – On target

Progress - Sussex Arts Marketing have recently completed a review of the area's cultural sector, and the results of this work will be reported to

the Cultural Sector Group in August. The outcome of this and complementary research carried out for Sea Space by the University of Brighton will help determine priorities for future support for the development of the area's cultural sector industries.



PLANNING SERVICES - 2007/08 TARGETS / MILESTONES

Target 1.1 Work closely with Task Force partners to bring forward detailed proposals for consideration by the Planning Committee for Priory Quarter in the Town Centre, at Ore Valley and Queensway.

QTR 1 –On Target

Progress - The Council is working closely with Sea Space to bring forward the proposals. Outline planning consent has been given for Priory Quarter and Ore Valley subject to the completion of Section 106 Legal Agreements for each application. (Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 allows a local planning authority to enter into a legally-binding agreement or planning obligation with a land developer). Both Agreements are nearing completion. Revised proposals for Queensway South are awaited from Sea Space as well as proposals for Queensway North.

Target 1.2 Work with the Task Force, Learning and Skills Council and other partners to ensure the development of Station Plaza.

QTR 1 –On Target

Progress - The Council are working closely with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and Hastings College to progress the proposal. A planning consent with Section 106 Legal Agreement has been issued and conditions are in the process of being agreed to allow a start on site later this year. The Learning and Skills Council Capital bid has been approved.

Target 1.5 Build on the already successful lobbying and Hastings' status as a Regional Hub to secure improvements to the road and rail transport links, specifically to support the bid for the Hastings/ Bexhill link road.

QTR 1 –On Target

Progress - We are awaiting a report from the Inspector (a Government appointed person employed in the Planning Inspectorate) and that is anticipated to confirm the status of Hastings as a Regional Hub. The issue of Regional Hubs was the subject of discussion at the Examination in Public (EIP - a type of public inquiry lead by the appointed inspectors).

A letter of support for the Hastings/Bexhill Link Road has been submitted by the Council to the County Council in respect of the planning application. The County Council are the relevant planning authority to determine the proposal.

Target 2.2 Progress the Local Development Framework for Hastings by ensuring we produce Core Strategy preferred options and undertake consultation.

QTR 1 – On target with risks identified

Progress - The Preferred Options are now likely to be considered by Cabinet in January 2008 (the original timetable was Nov 07). Re-scheduling has been necessary in order to resolve infrastructure issues with the Highways Agency in respect of a road traffic impact study, additional information is needed for Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to satisfy the Environment Agency and the production of an in-house Housing Land Availability Assessment. Changes to the evidence required by Government agencies for the LDF have resulted in the additional work. However this does keep the Council's Core Strategy production in tandem with that of Rother District Council who we are making every effort to work closely with. The risks relate to the additional workload required to be carried out and the dependency on other organisations in delivering an acceptable outcome within our timetable.

Target 2.3 Through our zero tolerance approach to neglected and derelict buildings and land target at least 30 neglected and derelict buildings or areas of land, prioritising those in the Central St. Leonards Renewal Area and in Pelham Crescent and Arcade.

QTR 1 – On Target

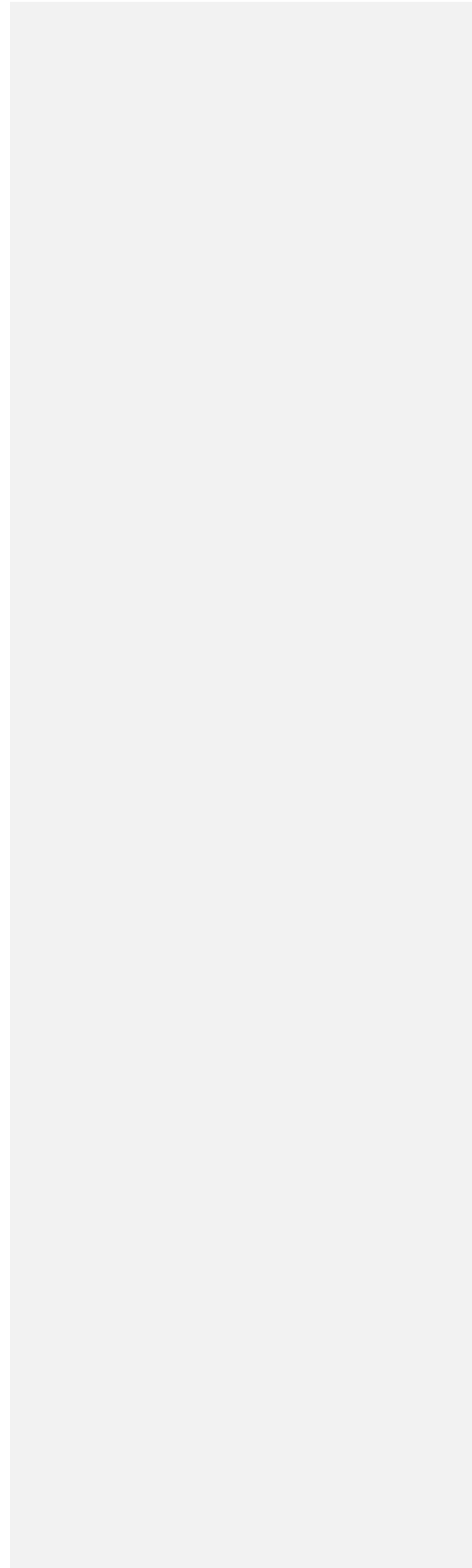
Progress - Although no properties improved in the first quarter there are a significant number in the pipeline. (Year-end target is 30) The properties are at various stages of the process towards improvement including those with work underway to comply, notices served requiring compliance during 2007 and properties, which are the subject of possible prosecutions during 2007. Those, which are the subject of prosecution, have failed to meet the required timetable set out for improvement. Work has been underway to progress Pelham Crescent and Arcade improvements and Section 215 powers will be used at the appropriate time as necessary.

The recent departure of an enforcement officer from the enforcement team could hamper progress. The recruitment of a replacement has not been successful first time around so a second attempt is being made. A temporary agency option is being sought.

Target 2.4 Commence the second phase of grants for the conservation and repair of buildings that form part of our historic townscape in the Central St. Leonards Renewal Area and commit at least £200,000 of conservation and repair grant funding to properties within the area.

QTR 1 –On-target

Progress - Offers of grant are now being progressed and it is anticipated that projects will come forward to meet the target.



PROJECTS - 2007/08 TARGETS / MILESTONES

Target 1.3 Complete public realm improvements works at Marina and Silchester Road by Autumn 2007.

QTR 1 – On target with risks identified

Progress - Works on site June 2007. Replacement of paving at Western colonnades at Marina has uncovered poorly maintained cellar vaults beneath footway resulting in a partial collapse causing work to stop. Programme of works has now been rescheduled across both areas and substantive completion is now expected at end August 07 with minimal programme slippage.

Target 1.4 Develop full designs for the Kings Road Corridor initiative and deliver two early projects by March 2008.

QTR 1 – On target with risks identified

Progress - HBC & ESCC have been working closely together to develop full designs following the decision to adopt the preferred design proposals.

The programme has been re-phased with Kings Road now in Phase 3 to allow the project to be informed by the Parking Economic Impact Assessment report, due February 2008.

Phase 1a London Road South & Phase 1b Kings Road Steps planned for completion by March 08. This will be followed on directly by Phase 2 London Road North with work planned for completion by June 08. Neither phase 1 nor 2 will have an impact on on-street parking provision.

Target 1.6 Implement the Seafront Strategy jointly commissioned with the Hastings and Bexhill Task Force to:

- **Begin to undertake external refurbishment works to Pelham Crescent and Arcade**

QTR 1 –Slippage possible

Progress - Contracting engineers engaged to inspect properties and produce a costed schedule of works now completed; indicative costs in excess of available budget. Will tender costs in Q2 & bring forward Cabinet paper with recommended actions and costs.

- **Complete refurbishment works of the Marina area upper promenade and provide new toilet facilities**

QTR 1 –On target

Progress - Refurbishment works & provision of new toilet facilities progressing well and on-target for substantive completion in August 07.

- **Subject to the agreement of the Foreshore Trust and other stakeholders, work with partners to take forward proposals for a replacement Tourist Information Centre on the Stade and improved pedestrian and vehicular access.**

QTR 1 –Slippage Possible

Progress - Is subject to Charities Commission ruling on Foreshore Trust proposals and the outcome of continuing negotiation between the Foreshore Trust and the Council.

- **Implement the management plan for Marine Court.**

QTR 1 –On target

Progress - The restoration of the Canopy is expected to be undertaken from August and take up to about 12 weeks. Section 215 Notices were served on the owners in respect of the Canopy. (A Section 215 notice allows Council's to take action to require land and buildings to be cleaned up when its condition adversely affects the amenity of the area).

- **Bring forward a Masterplan for West Marina and seek to implement its proposals if adopted.**

QTR 1 – Slippage Possible

Progress - A masterplan has been produced for the Council by Tibbalds and Cabinet gave support to the general level of development and mix of uses proposed. The matter has been referred back to Cabinet by Council for further consideration. Work has been underway to take forward the proposals with discussions with other landowners (Aldi and Ministry of Defence) and English Partnerships.

Target 11.9 Ensure all Capital Programmes and associated projects use best practice project management techniques and agreed methodology. Project reporting structures and design reviews to be agreed by Project Review Board and responsible programme manager.

QTR 1 – On target

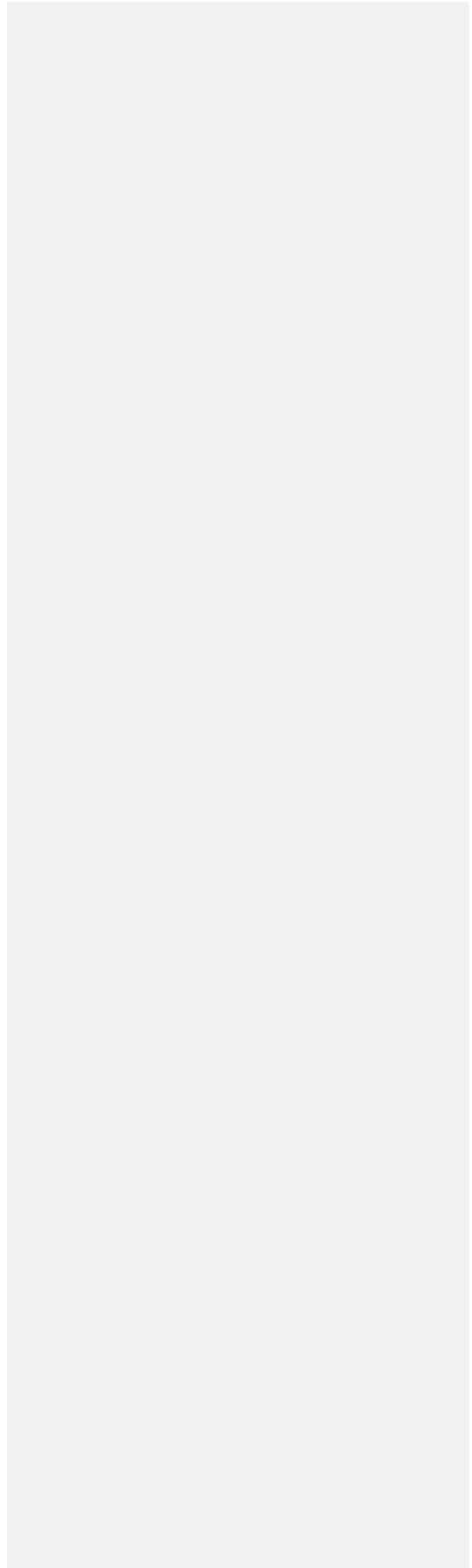
Progress - Project Review Board membership now updated to reflect changes following recent senior management restructure with each directorate represented by a Head of Service. Updated standardised reporting formats for all capital programmes have now been implemented.

Target 16.4 Move further staff to Aquila House, thereby vacating 36-41 Wellington Square and offices in Portland Place.

QTR 1 –On target

Progress - Working group set up & design brief agreed for Upper & Lower ground floors at Aquila House to house displaced staff & provide Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant front-of-house presence

for Revenues & Benefits. Architects engaged and cost plan being produced; work to be tendered in Q2.



DESTINATION MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING - 2007/08 TARGETS / MILESTONES

Target 12.1 Continue to provide tourists and residents with access to a range of services through the Hastings Information Centres, websites, telephone and information kiosks and introduce the new 'Living in Hastings' website.

QTR 1 - On Target

Progress - The Information Centres continue to be extremely busy, with the Q1 target of 80000 being easily exceeded, some 90263 visitors being recorded. This is only just short of Q1 2006/7's figure of 92839, when we had some 13000 bus pass renewals and 5000 tickets sold for 'Status Quo.' To record over 90000 'normal' visitors is quite an achievement.

Websites visitors also continue to grow. In this quarter, 3 486 980 pages were served to 301 854 unique visitors, compared to 2 352 904 pages served to 284 598 visitors in Q1 2006/7. So the number of visitors increased by 6%, the pages they visited increased by some 48%.

Work is progressing on the framework of the 'Living in Hastings' website; five companies have been short listed for its Content Management System, and an Initial Requirements Document has been drawn up.

Target 12.2 Expand customer relationship management software to enable customers to make service requests and give feedback on our services. Automate the movement of service requests between Council departments and monitor the timeliness of our responses.

QTR 1 – On target

Progress - Work has continued on release 3 of the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. This will incorporate a customer complaints module, and user requested enhancements to the core call logging application.

A Scrutiny Review is also currently underway to look at all current public/HBC contact (face to face, telephone, letter, email, website) and assess its appropriateness/effectiveness. This is due to be completed in March 2008 and will make recommendations for improvement if/where current procedures are found to be lacking.

Target 12.3 Maintain effective internal and external communication via newsletters, email bulletins, press releases and web development.

QTR 1 - On target

Progress - Communications continues to be one of the most important aspects of the work of the department. The weekly '@bit' to all staff is now well-established, as are the 'HBC News Updates' after Full Council, Cabinet and Planning meetings. News releases continue to be issued regularly, with 53 issued in this quarter, of which 47 (89%) were taken by the Hastings Observer. An internal reorganisation just completed will divert more resources to web development and e-marketing.

We have had some very positive 'Pier' coverage in this quarter, and a lot of work has been done in conjunction with the Twin Bin team preparing for alternate weekly collections, and the round changes in early July.

Target 12.4 Maximise income from commercial activities such as selling advertising space in About Magazine and marketing the Town Hall as a new venue for weddings and civil partnership ceremonies.

QTR 1 - On target

Progress - Seven pages of advertising were carried in the Spring 'About,' exactly on target. Six weddings have now been booked, and numerous enquiries received. The first Town Hall wedding took place on Saturday 28th July (obviously outside Q1); extremely positive feedback has been received from that.

Target 12.5 Work with partners to maximise tourism by implementing the Destination Management Strategy.

QTR 1 - On target

Progress - With the Destination Management Strategy now adopted by Hastings Borough Council and 1066 Country Marketing's Executive Board, detailed work has now started on the development of a Marketing Plan, and other action points identified by the strategy. The 2008 Holiday Guide will also reflect comments made during the development of the strategy.

Target 12.6 Continue to market Hastings as part of 1066 Country, introduce the new 1066 Country Website and develop marketing campaigns for major annual events.

QTR 1 - On target

Progress - Hastings Borough Council continues to undertake work on behalf of 1066 Country Marketing, and administer the 1066 Country Marketing Executive Board. As noted above, we are now implementing the Destination Management Strategy for the area.

The new website, www.visit1066country.com, went live at the beginning of May, and has been well received by the trade and public.

Work is already well underway on marketing Coastal Currents, the Seafood & Wine Festival in September, and Hastings Week in October.

Target 9.7 Reopen Hastings Museum and Art Gallery after major refurbishment and encourage visitors to this and the Old Town Museum. (Victoria Williams)

QTR 1 - On target

Progress - In fact this was achieved, very successfully, in July, obviously outside the period under review. Full details will be reported in next period's review. Work is continuing now to market both museums (and, indeed, the other museums too, as part of our general marketing of attractions in the area).

Target 10.4 Deliver a programme of works to improve access to Hastings Castle and the West Hill lift. Phase 1 will commence in 2007/08 and will see improvements to West Hill Lift. The Castle improvements will form Phase II, and is subject to a successful bid for external funding. (This is a split target with Resort Services and Destination Management. Nick Sangster and Kevin Boorman).

QTR 1 - Slippage possible

Progress - Limited progress has been made to date, and a funding gap remains. Improvements to the 'shop' and staff facilities at the Castle are however a priority.

Architects are looking at ways of improving access at the West Hill Lift, works are scheduled to commence in January 2008.

Local Performance Plan 2005 –06 and 2006-07: Shortfalls Update

Update on Shortfalls from 2005/06

REGENERATION

- 1. Additional funding has been obtained from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and from the Safer Hastings Partnership to extend CCTV monitoring to 24 hours, 7 days per week for a period of one year. It is anticipated that this will begin in mid July following recruitment and training of additional staff. The effectiveness of this extended coverage in reducing crime and the fear of crime, particularly in the town centres will be evaluated during that period before considering future funding options.**

QTR 1 – Target status: Now on target

Progress – The Hastings Borough Council CCTV control room is now operating a 24 hour -7 day week service. Additional staff have been recruited and are now in place. Funding for the extension of operating hours has come from Neighbourhood Renewal Funding as planned.

DESTINATION MANAGEMENT & MARKETING

- 1. Although we have scanned over 2,500 local photographs, which make up a third of the museum's collection, they will not be available on the internet until 2007/07 due to problems with software.**

QTR 1 - Slippage possible

Work is progressing, but some software issues remain. It is hoped to demonstrate a prototype version of the system at the Museum Association AGM in December and, provided there are no more software issues, launch the Internet facility by the end of the financial year.

Update on Shortfalls from 2006/07

REGENERATION

- 1. The South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA) is currently reviewing the Regional Enterprise Gateway programme. Together with Sussex Enterprise we are hoping to get approval for the Hastings Gateway, which would support new businesses locally, by the end of May 2007.**

QTR 1 – Not on target

This project is led by Sussex Enterprise, and the outcome of SEEDA's review of the regional Gateway programme is still unclear. However, in order to ensure business support services to the Hastings area, the Economic Alliance has authorised funding for a local Business Advisor independent of the outcome of the gateway review.

- 2. During 2006/07 we worked with partners to achieve the year 1 milestones for Stronger and Safer Communities contained within the 3 year East Sussex Local Area Agreement. Although we have continued to play a strong role in driving down crime, reducing crime by 11.2%, as changes in the way crime figures are recorded have affected our ability to meet the target of reducing crime by 17.6% by March 2007. (6.4% gap) Common assault remains the main area of concern. Although a whole raft of interventions have been implemented to combat this, changes in Home Office counting rules, which have resulted in 'verbal abuse not resulting in physical contact', now also counting as common assault have increased the number of crimes recorded. Other factors like breaches of antisocial behaviour orders, and fixed penalty notices for disorder now count as recordable violent crime and are adding to this effect.**

QTR 1 – Target status : 2006/7 target not met

The gap between actual performance and that projected to meet the three year target has narrowed to 3.8%. (We have achieved a 15.3% reduction against a target of 19.1% by the end of the first quarter of the 2007/8 corporate planning year). Common Assault remains the main area inhibiting target achievement and whilst there have been recent reductions in this type of offence this may have come too late to achieve the full 23.5% total 3-year crime reduction target at the end of this planning year.

PLANNING SERVICES

- 1. Although we have commenced negotiating grant offers for the conservation and repair of buildings that form part of our historic townscape, we have not issued any grants yet as there was a delay in the grant offer from the Heritage Lottery Fund.**

QTR 1 –On target

Offers of grant are now being progressed and it is anticipated that projects will come forward to meet the target.