

**Performance and Financial Monitoring - Quarterly monitoring
against targets in Corporate Plan Part II**

Quarter 2 progress – to 30th September 2008

Target Status 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

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH – 2008/09 TARGETS / MILESTONES

Target 1. Continue to improve the quality of the local environment by taking enforcement action to combat enviro-crime such as noise nuisance, littering, dog fouling and fly-tipping.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – The Environmental Health Division issued the following enviro-crime enforcement fixed penalty notices during quarter two (data available from quarter two of the previous year is shown in brackets by way of comparison. Please note that last year we didn't distinguish between smoking related litter and ordinary litter):-

	Issued	Paid	Out-standing
Fly Posting	0 (17)	n/a	n/a
Littering	8 *(14)	7	1
Smoking related litter	12 n/a	11	1
Failure to comply with litter control notice	1 (0)	0	1
Dog Fouling	19 (3)	13	6
Total	40	31	9

*includes smoking related litter

As with quarter one this year, the number of fixed penalty notices issued for fouling has increased significantly compared with last year. This is because the old Warden Service was not so focussed on this work as the new Environmental Enforcement Service.

Unlike during quarter one, the total number of fixed penalty notices issued for all littering offences (smoking related litter and general litter) has also now increased compared with the same period last year. We are now issuing a lot more notices for smoking related litter, and the number issued during quarter three is likely to be significantly higher than for quarter two. This is because we have been carrying out a lot more focussed plain clothes patrolling in areas such as the town centre and Ore Village.

The Environmental Enforcement Service has continued to try and educate the public in relation to fouling and littering, by:-

- Local TV, radio and newspaper coverage related to the launch of the new service in July.
- A one page article in the About magazine in September.
- Press releases about our fixed penalty notice work.
- Handing out "Say No to Dog Fouling" posters in hotspot areas.
- Handing out cigarette butt boxes & leaflets in smoking related litter hotspots.
- Erecting the new 3 in 1 no fouling, street drinking, & littering signage in hotspots.

It is suggested that the more robust and proactive work we are now doing in relation to enviro-crime enforcement, has contributed in part to the improved performance that is considered later in this report in the Waste and Recycling section in Target 7 relating to NI199, which is a measure of how clean our streets are.

The Environmental Protection Team continues to work closely with our Licensing Team and the Police, attending late night operational visits to town centre pubs. This has resulted in the formal seizure of disco equipment from a pub, and the same premises are also to be prosecuted for non-compliance with a Noise Abatement Notice. They have also recently written to all licensees in George Street urging them to review the way they manage their premises in relation to noise issues. If the licensees do not treat this matter seriously, there are likely to be more Noise Abatement Notices served, and/or applications made for premises licences to be formally reviewed on the grounds of public nuisance.

Working with the new Environmental Enforcement Team, the Environmental Protection Team has also prosecuted the recipient of a Litter Clearance Notice for non-compliance, as well as issuing them with a fixed penalty notice and carrying out the clearance works in default. A press release was issued following the prosecution. The threat of these Litter Clearance Notices particularly where the occupier of a residential premises has allowed a lot of rubbish to accumulate in their front garden or yard, has been very effective, especially in Castle Ward where this had been a long standing problem.

Target 2. Develop the role of the new Environmental Community Officers to focus on environmental enforcement and improvement and enhancement of the public realm. Also develop a new team of Community Officers, reporting to, and working with the Environmental Community Officers, providing a uniformed presence.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – as mentioned above in relation to target 1, the new Environmental Enforcement Team consisting of 4 Environmental Community Officers and 8 Community Officers has been very active in tackling low level enviro-crime such as littering and fouling.

The service was officially launched with much local media interest in July at an event in Warrior Square Gardens.

They are also working closely with partners such as the Police, our Waste Services Division, social landlords, and colleagues in Community Services on a range of issues, primarily environmental although also some crime and disorder.

Target 3. Continue to work with partners to improve standards within premises licensed by the Council with respect to the sale of alcohol and the provision of entertainment under the Licensing Act 2003.

QTR 2 – On Target

The Licensing Team have continued to work closely with other services and agencies resulting in more multi-agency late night operational visits. A good example being a joint operation with the Police and the Gambling Commission, when 3 clubs were visited on the basis of intelligence received about licensing issues

Target 4. Continue to ensure the safety of the community through food hygiene and health and safety at work inspection and enforcement programmes.

QTR 2 – Slippage Possible

Work plans were developed for our food safety and health and safety at work enforcement services, based upon statutory guidance issued by the Health and Safety Commission and the Food Standards Agency. Both include programmed inspections of the higher 'risk' premises based on the out turn data from previous years, as well as other interventions such as themed projects targeted at specific trades. This work is progressing well.

Target 5. Work with other environmental health services across Sussex to introduce a publicly accessible countywide "scores on the doors" food hygiene rating system and prepare for the public launch of the scheme in April 2009.

QTR 2 – Slippage Possible

Progress – Since this countywide project was initiated by the Sussex Chief Environmental Health Officers Group, the Government's Food Standards Agency (FSA) has started a national consultation exercise on the implementation of a national system. The group are awaiting the recommendations of the FSA before going ahead with the procurement of a system for the majority of Sussex authorities. This may lead to a delay but in the meantime the Sussex group will continue to collaborate on the work required to pave the way for a Sussex wide scheme, and our staff will act on their advice and recommendations so far as the preparatory works are concerned. This should ensure that we are ready to implement a scheme once the FSA publish their guidance. The FSA have yet to issue their recommendations

Target 6. Continue to prepare and refine contingency plans for high-risk activities and major civil incidents within the Borough, in conjunction with the other key emergency planning partners.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress - Risk Assessments have been reviewed and recommendations were made concerning crowd dynamics and evacuation protocols and management to the Event Planning Team for Seafood and Wine Festival, Hastings Bonfire celebrations, and Hastings Carnival.

The Coastal Oil Spill Plan has been exercised and updated to ensure that our partners are fully apprised of our responses under a Tier 1 Spill and our Resort Services management are fully prepared to respond. Major Oil Spill procedures have been exercised with all partner agencies and procurement management arrangements were found to need review by ESCC.

We participated in a survivor / evacuee decontamination exercise with East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service which clearly defined procedures for dealing with members of the public who may be contaminated.

Commenced planning for our participation in the "Let's do business Hastings 2008" event on the 13th November at the Hastings Centre. We will be attending to promote business continuity planning to local businesses.

UPDATE ON SHORTFALLS 2007/08

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.

The position at 30 June 2008 as reported in Part III was that:

We were not able to review and update our strategy for the identification of potentially contaminated land sites due to an on-going vacancy to which we have been unable to recruit. Although there are no serious short-term consequences of not undertaking this work we are exploring alternative means to achieve it in 2008/09.

QTR 2 – On target

As reported at quarter one, a specialist contractor has been engaged to assist with this work. He has checked the existing contaminated land strategy with a view to ensuring it is still fit for purpose; and suggested minor amendments. He has also been working closely with colleagues in Development Control and Building Control to refine and improve liaison where contaminated land issues arise in relation to applications for planning approval and/or buildings regulations. He has also strengthened local liaison between Environmental Health and the Environment Agency.

The service needs to consider how to carry out this work in the future, whether in-house or continuing to use a specialist contractor.

Target 11.8. Further strengthen the Council's own Business Continuity Plans to ensure key services can be delivered in the event of an emergency.

The position at 30 June 2008 as reported in Part III was that:

Although we began this work to ensure key services can be delivered in the event of an emergency, we did not make as much progress as we had planned. Work to review and strengthen our plans is being overseen by a new Corporate Risk Management Group and will be progressed during 2008/09.

QTR 2 – On Target with risks identified

Basic Business Continuity Plans are in place but progress in refining these to effectively prioritise services has not been as good as expected. Staff concerned have been dealing with more urgent risk management issues, following the theft associated with the cash collection contractor. However, the Corporate Risk Management Group will be reviewing progress with the business continuity work at its forthcoming meeting to ensure that is given appropriate priority.

WASTE AND RECYCLING - 2008/09 TARGETS / MILESTONES

Target 1. Complete the implementation of phase 1 of the twin bin refuse and recycling collection scheme and progress plans for the implementation of phase 2.

QTR 2 – On Target

Phase 1 - the roll out of twin bins to 26000 properties is now completed.
Phase 2 – door stepping consultation with residents completed with a slight delay of two weeks. This led to a slight delay in delivery of the Twin Bins. However, delivery of bins and door stepping consultation phase was completed by the end of October 2008.
Phase 3, known as the “Waste and Recycling Project,” involves investigating alternative collection arrangements for the remaining weekly collection areas. This is also underway and preliminary findings evidence a preference for communal bins. Phase 3 will continue to consult residents in weekly collection areas on the options for change during Quarters 2 and 3.

Target 2. Continue to manage the waste collection and recycling contract with Veolia to ensure that it is delivered in accordance with the contract specification and budget.

QTR 2 – On Target

The Contractors performance is continuing to improve and is within the contract specification. Reporting and recording arrangements for missed bins are now in place there are currently achieving 27 per 100,000 missed bins per month against a target of 40 per 100, 0000 per month

Target 3. Identify more environmentally and financially sustainable alternative arrangements for processing recyclates and expand as far as possible the range of materials that residents can recycle.

QTR 2 – On Target / Possible Slippage

Negotiations are ongoing to further extend the range of materials that can be included in the co-mingled recyclate. Yellow Pages and aerosol cans have been added to the range of materials but the contractor cannot currently accept plastics of types 1, 2 and 3, other than plastic bottles. East Sussex authorities are investigating the possibility of a kitchen waste scheme on a county wide basis and are hoping to commission a feasibility study into this in the New Year.

Target 4. 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 2 – Possible Slippage

Due to the complexities and wide variations in operational practice of the various districts and boroughs, progression in this area has been very slow. However all Districts, Boroughs and East Sussex County Council have recognised the need to make progress on joint working initiatives and work is underway to identify common elements of services where joint working may be possible. In the longer term there remains a commitment to try to synchronise contract end dates for Hastings, Rother and Eastbourne Borough Councils.

Target 5. Introduce an alternative Garden Waste collection scheme and review participation and service delivery.

QTR 2 – On Target

New service introduced in March 2008 with over 2400 customers now signed up this year exceeding previous customer base. Tonnages have doubled compared to previous years. Investigations are underway in consultation with the County Council regarding possible alternative arrangements for those residents who are unable to accommodate a wheeled bin for this service.

Target 6. Develop and begin to implement improved recycling and refuse collection services to areas of the Borough not covered by the Twin Bin scheme.

QTR 2 – On Target

Investigations into alternative collection arrangements for weekly collection areas referred to in Target 1 includes alternative arrangements to improve recycling performance. If approved, the current timetable for implementing the new arrangements suggests implementation would be in September/October 2009. Consultation on the preferred option will begin in November and will continue until 5 January 2009.

Target 7. Continue to improve the standard of street cleansing and our performance under BVPI 199 as a result of increased containerisation of refuse and more efficient management of the street cleansing contract.

QTR 2 – On Target

Street cleansing performance during 2007/08 improved to 10% compared with 23% in the previous year. This quarter has seen continued improvement with our most recent survey by our independent verifiers giving a result of 1% our next survey is currently in progress and results will be reported at quarter 3(lower is better).

AMENITIES AND RESORT SERVICES - 2008/09 TARGETS / MILESTONES

Target 1. Implement the commitments in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy by achieving 'green flag' status for St. Leonards Gardens and a 4% annual increase in homes with access to an open space that meets the Council's Quality Standard (target 72% by 2009-10).

QTR 2 – Will not meet target (partial)

No change from last quarter. The Quality Standard target will be met. We have received feedback on St. Leonards Gardens' assessment for a green flag award. At the time of the submission, although the Park had a Management Plan, it did not yet have an accompanying action plan. This appears to be our main shortcoming in the assessment and is being addressed now. We will reapply in 2009.

Target 2. Revise and agree the sustainable business plan for Pebsham Countryside Park with East Sussex County Council and Rother District Council.

QTR 2 – On target

Officers have completed preparations for the new Pebsham Countryside Park Management Group, replacing the project group, which will be launched in November. A number of the recommendations of the business plan have been incorporated into the new constitution. Within the new management arrangements, technical panels have been established. The Conservation, Access and Recreation panel has started discussions with Dutch partners in preparation for an Interreg (European Union) bid for development of the first footpath circuit at the Park.

Target 3. Reorganise the Ranger team into a single, borough-wide service and begin to operate integrated enforcement activities with Environmental Health and Waste enforcement officers.

QTR 2 – On target

Rangers are now operating interchangeably across major sites. They participate in enforcement activities and now have the same powers as Environmental Community Officers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices. They have been particularly active in enforcing Dog Control Orders in Alexandra Park and Hastings Country Park, where we have targeted activities in response to complaints. 19 Fixed Penalty Notices for Dogs Off Leads were issued in the quarter. There has also been a significant level of unauthorised Traveller encampments throughout the summer where Rangers are heavily involved in welfare checks, negotiations and site maintenance.

Target 4. Develop and agree a comprehensive Beach Management Plan.

QTR 2 – On target

We expect to deliver the framework for the proposed Beach Management plan as part of the Seafront Strategy Overview & Scrutiny Review report and action plan in December.

Target 5. Complete the repairs and refurbishment and reopen the East Hill Lift; expand income-producing ancillary services at East and West Hill Lifts.

QTR 2 – Will not meet target

Principal consultants have been appointed and are undertaking tender specification. There has also needed to be close liaison with the Health & Safety Executive to satisfy the notices they have served as well as the new Cableway regulations. Tenders will be sought for principal contractor in November and it is anticipated that work will start on site in February 2009 for around 20 weeks.

Target 6. Establish a Council working group to agree the initial action plan to monitor compliance with the new European standards for bathing water from 2010 and to consider acceptable mitigation where the standards will not be met by the 2015 deadline. Maintain a working partnership with the Environment Agency, water authorities and coastal neighbours.

QTR 2 – On target

We have agreed that Hastings & St Leonards will participate in an Environment Agency / DEFRA pilot project from 2009. The project will assess levels of pollution and predict when weather or other events are likely to give rise to pollution incidents, give advance warning to bathers and provide general information as the EU directive requires. By this action, we are insuring our access to the latest guidance and procedural advice.

Target 7. Deliver the capital project for the restoration and development of farm facilities at Hastings Country Park on schedule and within budget. Work with partners to bring forward sustainable proposals for the longer-term management of the Park and Farm.

QTR 2 – On Target

Tenders were obtained within budget. Contractors appointed and on site. Work expected to be complete by Christmas 2008. Works include refurbishment of a building to accommodate Rangers who will vacate Warren Cottage allowing sale. Rangers expected to move early next year. We are awaiting proposals for use of green spaces around town by Hastings Sussex Coast College for a new Countryside Management programme from September 2009. Discussions are underway with Sussex Heritage Trust for external funding of a partnership approach to management of local nature reserves.

Target 8. Implement the Biodiversity Strategy and action plan for 2008/09.

QTR 2 – On target

Progress – All 2008/09 actions will be delivered as expected.

Target 9. Begin to implement the improvement plan from the Best Value Review of Public Realm Maintenance.

QTR 2 – Slippage possible

With our surveying team now at full strength, we are proceeding with the creation of a planned maintenance regime, to inform the 09/10 Repairs and Renewals budget, and consolidation of assets in the contract management system. Although progress has been slower than we would have liked, it was recognised in the Management Response to the Best Value Review that delays were inevitable when additional project resources were not forthcoming due to budget constraints.

UPDATE ON SHORTFALLS 2007/08

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.

Reported in Part III: We were not able to progress Phase 1 as planned because uncertainties arose about the extent and timing of funding for the closely related Phase II Castle improvement works. A separate Repair and Refurbishment programme for the East and West Hill Cliff Railways has been prepared and will be proposed to Cabinet in June 2008.

QTR 2 – Will not meet target

Unchanged from last quarter

PARKING AND HIGHWAYS - 2008/09 TARGETS / MILESTONES

Target 1. Following the County review of Highways, retain and refine the Hastings Highways Management Agreement and the related Codes of Practice.

QTR 2 – Slippage Possible

Progress – The release of the revised Agreement and Code of Practice had been delayed by the management restructure at East Sussex County Council. The new management structure is now in place and the Team Manager – Highways Contract, Agencies & Asset Management have been appointed. It is hoped that the revised documents will now be made available in the New Year for consideration by the Borough Council.

Target 2. Work with partners 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 2 – On Target

Progress – The Bus Quality Partners (ESCC, HBC and Stagecoach) meet regularly and every two months, a further meeting is to be held between the partners and stakeholders, in order to discuss and address areas of concern. The number of bus journeys continues to rise; the concessionary bus fares have been warmly received and the evidence of a decrease in the number of vehicles parking in the town would indicate that people are leaving their vehicles at home and taking the bus. To assist the bus company improve the punctuality of the bus services, the parking enforcement team continue to patrol the bus corridors, issuing penalty charges to any vehicle parked in a bus stop or on yellow lines, impeding the progress of the buses. This quarter, 7% of all on street Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) were issued in the main bus corridors. This performance was less than our own target figure of 8% but given the general downturn in PCNs issued, this performance is acceptable. The bus operator has confirmed their satisfaction with our continued efforts to assist.

Target 3. Minimise congestion and improve road safety by providing an efficient and effective parking enforcement regime.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – The enforcement team have patrolled all areas in accordance with the agreed frequency of patrolling patterns. Both, the increased compliance level by motorists and the introduction of a higher level Penalty Charge Notice as recommended by the Traffic Management Act 2004, have played a key role in the reduction of Penalty Charge Notices.

Target 4. Continue to maintain car parks in the Borough to provide clean, safe and secure facilities for customers.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – Car parks have been maintained to a high standard in accordance with our charter for car parks. Twelve of our car parks are accredited with the British Parking Association's Safer Car Parks Award. Crime within the car parks remains well below target. In Quarter 1, the total recorded crimes were five and in Quarter 2, four recorded crimes.

Target 5. Continue to work in partnership with the Police to deal with uninsured, unlicensed and abandoned vehicles and anti-social driving.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – The close liaison between the Police and HBC continues but the move towards increasing our involvement with the identification of uninsured vehicles is currently on hold due to Police resource issues. The support PCSO accompanying our Enforcement Officer currently is not empowered to deal with uninsured vehicles, therefore our efforts are confined to the detection of untaxed and abandoned vehicles. After 6 years of continuous enforcement, the reality is that there are less nuisance vehicles on our roads. The table below shows performance in Qtr 2 and highlights the shift towards the current state of compliance over the past 6 years

Qtr 2	Clamped or Impounded					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Untaxed	299	152	184	141	66	43
Abandoned	208	124	123	64	31	14

During the first full year, 76% of the vehicles impounded were destroyed. That figure reduced to 59% at the end of last year. The team have dealt with 7079 nuisance vehicles since commencing this work on behalf of the Borough.

Target 6. Respond positively to the Economic Impact Assessment of the proposed Controlled Parking Zone in Central St Leonards, and consult, if appropriate on future proposals for parking controls.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – The cabinet recommendations to introduce new and revised Traffic Regulation Orders has been advertised. The result of the statutory consultation will be reported to the Traffic Management Committee on 27th November 2008 and then to the Cabinet on 5th January 2009.

Target 7. Implement the parking enforcement provisions of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and consider the introduction of additional enforcement powers under the Act.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – The main provisions of the Traffic Management Act 2004 have been implemented successfully. The additional enforcement powers in relation to double parking and dropped kerb contraventions have not been taken up to any great degree nationally. The reason for this is due to the observations and requirements of the Chief Parking Adjudicator, who has expressed the view that the legislation as written is fundamentally flawed and without the correct legislation, Local Authorities would not be in a position to enforce any of the restrictions if placed. Like most other Authorities, we are awaiting changes to legislation by Government, before advancing either of the new contraventions.

Target 8. Work with partners to look into the feasibility of a walking and cycling link between the Millennium Community sites and new College sites in the Ore Valley and Station Plaza.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – The architects for the college scheme have been corresponding with the planning department and an outline planning application is imminent. It is expected that this will be received by the planning department by the end

of October. With the County Council and other partners we were successful in bidding to the Connect 2 Programme for funding to complete the Hastings – Bexhill coastal cycle track and this is being built into ESCC Capital Programme for 2011/2012. Discussions are continuing with the Department of Transport and Hastings Urban Bikes regarding the town centre cycle route.

UPDATE ON SHORTFALLS 2007/08

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

Reported in Part III: We decided that a strategy to mitigate the impact of future town centre regeneration projects on parking provision needed to form an integral part of the County Council's Local Area Transport Plan. This will aim to manage parking provision/demand with initiatives to reduce car dependency, encourage use of public transport, cycling etc. Further progress in 2008/09 will feed into the Local Development Framework consultation in May 2008.

QTR 2 – Slippage possible

Progress – East Sussex County Council is in liaison with officers from the Borough have started drafting the County Council's Local Area Transport Plan. It is expected that the consultation document to be published in early 2009.

REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – 2008/09 TARGETS / MILESTONES

Target 1. Continue to work with the police and other key partners to reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime in the Borough by coordinating the work of the Safer Hastings Partnership.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – The latest year on year comparison figures for the key crime reduction targets areas of Domestic Burglary, Vehicle Crime, Serious Acquisitive Crime, and Assault with Injury show that the reductions are on track to exceed our year one targets of the new 3-year Community Safety Plan. The year to date comparisons with last year are as follows:

Domestic Burglary = 4.3 per 1000 households	-	down 0.8
Vehicle Crime = 5.4 per 1000 population	-	down 2.7
Serious Acquisitive Crime = 8.1 per 1000 population	-	down 3.1
Assault with injury = 4.0 per 1000 population	-	down 2.2

Hastings Borough Council continue to play a leading role in crime reduction activity by running Multi Agency Tasking Teams (MATTs) and progressing the resulting action plans in each of the four Area Coordination areas. Lead officers are also continuing to play an important role on the Sussex Police led, town wide, monthly Joint Action Group (JAG) meetings. A decision to match fund the continuance of 24 hour local CCTV monitoring has also been much valued by Sussex Police and other crime and disorder partners.

Target 2. Prepare and implement a new three year Community Safety Plan of our crime reduction projects, targets, community priorities and community safety initiatives.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – The new three year 2008-2011 Community Safety Plan was completed in the last quarter. A summary document was produced in A5 format and circulated to households in Hastings and St Leonards via the local free paper. This was to comply with national requirements. There had been some delay in finalising the plan because it took some time for the new Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets to be agreed with Government Office of the South East (GOSE) and it was important that these were reflected in the plan. Initial preparatory work is now underway to facilitate the annual Community Safety Plan refresh process. This includes updating the Strategic Assessment. More detail on this will be given in the next quarter's progress report.

Target 3. Work in partnership with the College and other vocational training providers to enable progression routes into vocational training and skills opportunities for young people not in education, employment or training.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress –

- Tressell undertook bespoke Food Safety training for 45 not in employment education or training (NEETS) funded by the Foodlocal Hastings project.
- Entry to Employment (e2e) programme awarded new contract from 1st August 2008. As at end of quarter 2 e2e has engaged a total of 69 young people, and has a current positive progression rate of 65%, with the vast majority going into local further education (FE) colleges. FE remains the preferred

destination of e2e students and relationships with local colleges continue to develop. E2e programme currently has the highest number of students on programme since it began in 2003.

- Direct work with local schools began in September with 2 groups of 14-16 year olds from Filsham Valley School attending Tressell Learning Centre one day per week. Key stage 4 (KS4) 14-16 project started at the beginning of October but still waiting for first referrals to this programme. Negotiations with Sussex Downs College for the European Social Fund (ESF) 14-19 project are still progressing although there is still no start date for this work to begin.

Target 4. Continue to support the cultural sector in its contribution to the regeneration of Hastings through continued funding of an Arts and Cultural Development Officer.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress -

- Coastal Currents Festival was held (via Steering Group facilitation and contract management) and attracted several hundred visitors to Hastings. The programme was varied and involved many local creative practitioners, with over 100 different exhibitions/ open studios/ performances/ shows over three weeks. £5K additional funding from the Arts Council was secured.
- Financial support and officer input into the development of the October Wavelength conference to promote Hastings and Bexhill as developing centres of cultural excellence.
- Independent evaluation of Coastal Currents Festival and Seafood and Wine Festival commissioned and being undertaken.
- A cultural programme and vision developed with partners as part of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) Sea Change bid for Destination State.

Target 5. Continue to support the development of key employment sectors including construction, food and retail, tourism, arts and culture.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress –

- Third Seafood & Wine Festival held very successfully this quarter and exceeded targets. This event picked up first prize in the “A Flavour of the South East” category at Tourism South East’s Tourism Excellence Awards. There were 58 stallholders, the majority of which were small businesses from the Borough, an estimated 50,000 people visited the festival, and accommodation was nearly full during this off-season weekend. Support and training for local Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) was also provided in conjunction with the event via the Foodlocal project. The festival has been shortlisted for a Tourism South East Tourism Excellence award.
- Expression of Interest for European Fisheries Funding submitted, funding application to be developed with the Fishermen’s Protection Society in Q3 and submitted in Q4.
- Bespoke and accredited cookery training course for 7 people developed and facilitated by Foodlocal project, targeted at long term unemployed.
- 22 people undertook accredited Food Safety training at Fellowship of St Nicholas, funded by Foodlocal Hastings.
- Further construction training has taken place for ex-offenders- three have progressed into work from this training.
- The Construction partnership continues to meet to discuss issues relevant to employers

- Business Surgeries were run in partnership with Business Link with limited success. A follow up is being discussed, particularly in light of the current economic climate, to decide the best way of giving this kind of support to Businesses. This discussion will involve the key business support agencies operating in Hastings.
- Economic development and community service officers were heavily involved in drafting a cultural development plan as part of the Destination Stade bid for a Sea Change grant.

Target 6. Support the achievement of key targets in the Community Strategy and Economic Development and Inclusion Strategy through the effective commissioning and management of Area Based Grants.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress –

- Hastings Area Based Advisory Grant Group (HABGAG) has continued to meet and has advised the Cabinet on priorities, outcomes and targets for the utilisation of Area Based Grant (ABG). These were agreed 8 September 2008.
- Hastings & Bexhill Economic Alliance has agreed to oversee the monitoring of HABGAG interventions
- The management of the ABG programme is being strengthened with the recruitment of a Research and Evaluation Officer to ensure decisions are made on the basis of up to date statistical evidence.
- Procedures for the commissioning process, including the application and appraisal documents and guidance, are being finalised with the intention to publish and invite expressions of interest by the end of October.

Target 7. Foster the building of a more cohesive town through the adoption and implementation of a revised Community Cohesion Action Plan.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – Community Cohesion Framework and Action Plan is now being widely consulted upon under the branding Many Voices, One Hastings. The consultation is due to end on 14 December 2008.

Target 8. Strengthen community engagement by working with partners to embed Area Coordination across the town.

QTR 2 – On target with risks identified

Progress – The Council's approach to Area Coordination is currently under review following publication in July 2008 of the Government's White Paper "Communities in Control –real people, real power". This gives local authorities (LAs) further guidance on engaging with local communities and strengthening local accountability. A new time-line is currently under discussion to allow for full elected member participation in the shaping of a new approach. The achievement of successful area coordination will be dependent on the establishment of effective structures and engagement of partners. The forthcoming Member workshop on community empowerment is an important step in the process of determining the future direction for community engagement across the town.

Target 9. Support the Third Sector through the implementation of the Community Partnerships commissioning process.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – Commissions were published in August and Expressions of Interest submitted by potential delivery organisations. Following an appraisal of the Expressions of Interest, short-listed qualifying organisations were invited to develop full delivery proposals. These must be submitted by 5 November 2008 and will undergo a full appraisal so that a list of recommendations can be discussed by Cabinet in early January 2008.

PLANNING SERVICES - 2008/09 TARGETS / MILESTONES

Target 1. Determine planning and related applications in order to meet or surpass the Government's targets.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress - The target for "Minor" planning applications (65% determined in 8 weeks) was exceeded (76.67%) as was the target for "Other" applications (85% determined in 8 weeks) at 85.36%. However the target for "Major" applications (60% determined in 13 weeks) was not met with 44.4% determined in the period during the first two quarters. The Major target would have been met if two more had been determined in the time period. Two decisions were issued with Section 106 Legal Agreements attached which took longer than the target period to complete.

The sickness of two key Development Control staff for a significant period have made it difficult to maintain performance in quarter 2. It is expected that the targets for the year as a whole will be achieved based on a full compliment of staff.

Target 2. 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 and then work with the Task Force to implement those which receive consent.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress - Phase 1 (Lacuna Place) of Priory Quarter is now complete and is being marketed for retail use on the ground floor and offices above. Phase 2 (Priory Square) is well underway. Demolition of buildings in Priory Street has been completed and permission granted for a revised scheme for the new square.

The Task Force are preparing a Business Plan for the Ore Valley Millennium Site to support a funding bid by English Partnerships to the Government. Work has been underway to review the route of the spine road through the phase 2 area to achieve an optimum form of development.

A planning application was been submitted for an innovation exchange (conference centre and restaurant) at Queensway and consent for this was granted in October.

Target 3. Work with the Task Force, Learning and Skills Council and other partners to ensure the development of Sussex Coastal College Hastings on Station Plaza.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress - Work is well underway and the College is on programme. Permission has been given for an electricity substation to serve the development.

Target 4. 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 and press for the announcement of a preferred route by the Highway Agency for the Baldslow Link.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – A second round of public consultation on the Hastings to Bexhill Link Road was completed in August 2008. The planning application is due to be considered by the County Council's Planning Committee at its meeting in December. If it is resolved to be approved it will go to the Secretary of State and a public inquiry is likely to be held during 2009. Both the Link Road and the Baldslow Link have been included in the Secretary of State's changes to the South East Plan for delivery between 2006 and 2011.

Target 5. Progress the Hastings Local Development Framework, ensuring an integrated approach with the development of the Hastings & St Leonards Sustainable Community Strategy, by:

- **consulting on the Core Strategy Preferred Options**
- **preparing the submission version of the Preferred Options**
- **commencing work on the Site Allocations Development Plan Document and the Hastings Town Centre Area Action Plan**
- **assist in progressing the Local Area Transport Plan**

QTR 2 – On Target

Consultation on Core Strategy Preferred Approaches undertaken May - July 2008. Analysis of responses underway September 2008.

Submission Version of Core Strategy and supporting Infrastructure Plan (new requirement) to be prepared Oct 2008 - Jan 2009.

The Core Strategy timetable for submission to the Government has been rescheduled to November 2009 rather than May 2009. This change has been necessary to comply with new regulations requiring a pre-submission consultation period, to include a new requirement for a detailed infrastructure plan, completion of studies to provide an adequate evidence base (eg Renewable Energy Study) and the volume of representations received. Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment to be published Dec 2008 - this will underpin the housing allocations in the Site Allocations Development Plan Document.

Local Area Transport Strategy - assessment of traffic implications of strategic development options undertaken and work ongoing with Rother District Council (RDC), East Sussex County Council (ESCC) and the Highways Agency to identify demand management and mitigation options.

Input to revision of Sustainable Community Strategy by identifying where spatial planning (the Local Development Framework (LDF) has impacts on or can help deliver the key targets.

Target 6. Through our zero tolerance approach to neglected and derelict buildings and land, target at least 35 neglected and derelict buildings or areas of land, prioritising those in the Central St. Leonards Renewal Area and in Pelham Crescent and Arcade.

QTR 2 – On Target

14 properties were improved in this quarter making 23 in the first two quarters. Works are currently underway on a further 13 properties.

Target 7. Implement 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.

QTR 2 – On Target

£85,000 had been offered in grant during 2008/9 by the end of Q2 on two properties in Kings Road. Progress has been achieved on a further five properties leading up to future grant offers.

**Target 8. Implement the management plan for Marine Court by pursuing the:
Completion of the restoration of the main canopy
Replacement of windows at Hanover House
Removal of unauthorised external installations**

QTR 2 – On Target

Canopy works have been completed, and under-canopy lighting is awaiting connection to public power supply.

Hanover House windows are the subject of a current section 215 Notice requiring the replacement of the entire window set (for compliance by January 2009).

Enforcement action has been initiated to reroute telecommunications cabling inside and outside the building. A Listed Building application is expected in October.

Target 9. Take forward the master planning proposals for West Marina providing a firm planning basis for the development and securing developer interest in the site.

QTR 2 – On Target with risks identified

Progress – Work has concentrated this quarter on identifying a site for the relocation of the Territorial Army (TA) Centre in Cinque Ports Way, which is the key to the redevelopment of this part of the site. A re-appraisal of the financial viability of the project is also being undertaken with the assistance of English Partnerships to take account of the downturn in the property market. This represents a significant risk to the early achievement of the project

PROJECTS - 2008/09 TARGETS / MILESTONES

Target 1. Work with owners and residents at Pelham Crescent and Pelham Arcade to deliver phase 1 and prepare for phase 2 of the façade restoration project.

QTR 2 - On Target

Progress - Painting to the rendered façade of 6 properties in the Crescent has been completed and grant payment made. There is a notable visual improvement.

Applications have been received and progress is being made on 6 of the Crescent properties including No 7 which will now be dealt with by the Estates Department as part of St Mary in the Castle. Final warning leading to possible planning enforcement action has been issued to 4 properties.

Target 2. Work with East Sussex County Council to develop and deliver pavement widening and pedestrian safety improvements in the Pelham area.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress - The traffic order has been advertised. Any unresolved objections will be reported to the Traffic Management Committee in November 2008.

The construction of the pavement widening scheme, with a puffin crossing opposite St Mary in the Castle, by ESCC is still anticipated for early 2009 start and for completion before the start of the next tourist season.

Target 3. Work with East Sussex County Council to deliver phases 1, 2 and 3 of the Kings Road Corridor Public Realm improvement project in Central St. Leonards.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – Phase 1 works at the junction of London Road and the A259 including the pavement improvements up to Norman Road were successfully completed in May-08.

The Kings Road steps artwork was installed in Jun-08 and was officially opened on 16-Jul-08 by Cllr Charlesworth. The Public Art and Education project is currently taking place in 3 St Leonards schools (Christchurch, Filsham Valley and The Grove) running from Sept-08 to Dec-08 and involving our lead artist, a local photographer, Judges Postcards, the Burton St Leonards Society and a number of local businesses; it is proving extremely popular.

Phase 2 footway improvement works between London Rd and Pevensey Road were completed in September 2008, with trees due to be planted in November 2008.

Phase 3 Kings Road Improvement works will start onsite in early 2009. The necessary traffic orders were advertised in September 2008 and we are awaiting outcomes of the statutory objection period. Works to Kings Road itself have been planned to follow-on from the Warrior Square echelon parking improvements due to start in November 2008 and be completed by Christmas.

Target 4. Support staff moves to alternative office premises and specifically the relocation of the Revenues & Benefits service from Wellington Square to newly designed publicly accessible facilities at Aquila House.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress –

Town Hall - The Fraud move to Town Hall is complete and a new committee room is now operational on the ground floor of the Town Hall, this includes an audio/visual link from the Council Chamber for larger public meetings and provision of DDA access in particular.

Work will start early November on improvements to the Personnel office space and the creation of a dedicated training room on the 2nd floor of the Town Hall. The scope of the work does not require Listed Building Consent and the training room should be in use from 5th January enabling the IT training room in Aquila House to be vacated.

Aquila House - Landlords consent for Aquila House works has been given and construction work is well underway on the upper and lower ground floor areas with expected works completion of 1st December. Revenue and Benefits are anticipating that their new front-of-house counter facilities will be operational from 5th January 2009.

Staff transfers from Century to Aquila House are dependant on a number of other issues primarily driven by the availability of a lease for further office space at either Aquila or Cavendish House. The Parking Shop will move into the lower ground floor when the rest of the parking team also move from Century House.

Bulverhythe Depot – The Waste team have now relocated to the depot and remediation work to the site is now underway.

Corporate Archive - The new temporary archive facility at Summerfields is now fully racked out to provide additional managed document storage space in addition to the existing facility at Century House.

Target 5. Successfully manage capital projects within the Council's Capital Programme to meet client departments' needs and deliver within agreed time and budget.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – Work is now underway to further strengthen our project management systems by a move to a Prince2 based methodology supported by an officer training programme. Risk management systems now upgraded following adoption of GRACE risk system across the capital programme.

UPDATE ON SHORTFALLS FROM 2007/08

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

QTR 2 – On target with risks identified

The contractor is now on site attending to defects identified by the supervising engineer. Replacement of damaged paving and introduction of bollards has been completed in Gardner Way but the ESCC contractor has been delayed in completion of the lay-by because of delayed material delivery.

DESTINATION MANAGEMENT - 2008/09 TARGETS / MILESTONES

Target 1. Maintain effective internal and external communication via newsletters, email bulletins, press releases and web development.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress - The weekly '@bit' e-newsletter continues to develop, and is now the accepted standard means of communicating with staff.

During this period, 30 out of 34 news releases issued by us were taken by the Hastings Observer, some 86%.

The death of Mohammed al-Majed, the language school student attacked on the seafront in August and who subsequently died made national and, indeed, international news. His tragic death brought the media spotlight back onto Hastings in a very negative way, reviving the kind of sensationalist reporting we have not seen for ten years. A lot of work went into countering this negative media coverage, and reassuring the language schools and, of course, the wider community.

The Marketing and IT teams continue to work closely on web development, expanding and updating web content; a new accommodation facility was added this period. There were 384 169 visits to our websites in Q2 2008/09, compared to 334 060 visits in Q2 2007/08. Combined Q1 and Q2 figures are 841 469, which means we should easily exceed our annual target for website visits this year of 1,350,000

Target 2. Maximise income from commercial activities such as selling advertising space in 'About' magazine and marketing the Town Hall and Hastings Museum and Art Gallery as venues for weddings and civil partnership ceremonies.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – 5 pages of advertising were sold in our summer 'About,' and we continue to take bookings for weddings in the Town Hall and Museum. Only one wedding took place in the Town Hall this quarter, but six future bookings have been made.

Target 3. Work with partners to maximise the potential of the visitor economy by developing and implementing a marketing plan for Hastings & 1066 Country, with a particular focus on e-marketing.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – Our own accommodation booking service is now live and taking bookings, after many, many months of work by Marketing and IT colleagues.

The summer peak turned out to be one of the wettest ever, although business did not suffer as expected. Indeed, visitor accommodation business was broadly in line with expectations, and some covered attractions actually had an extremely good summer!

The Seafood & Wine Festival at the end of the period, in September, again far exceeded expectations, attracting an estimated crowd of around 50 000. This was organised by Economic Development colleagues, of course, although all marketing was done by this team. Our partnership arrangements with the Southeastern train operating company meant that the event was

advertised at key railway stations at no fee to us. Fortunately the weather was extremely good for that and, again, visitor accommodation was virtually sold out over the weekend.

Target 4. Support the staging of the Coastal Currents festival 2008.

QTR 2 – Achieved

Progress – Coastal Currents took place during September.

The Marketing team is represented on the Coastal Currents Steering Group, and its Marketing Sub-group, and we both give advice to those, and provide practical graphic design support to Coastal Currents too.

Target 5. Maximise the potential of 'off season' tourism by managing and promoting, with partners where appropriate, a comprehensive events programme.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – As noted above, the department was responsible for marketing the Seafood & Wine Festival in September.

Work progressed throughout the period on organising and marketing Hastings Week (including supporting the Bonfire event) in October.

Target 6. Build upon the success of the refurbished Museum by developing a programme to maximise visitor volume, and value, at the Museum.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – Visitor figures for this period were excellent, with 11 077 visitors recorded at Hastings Museum & Art Gallery, compared to 11 353 in Q2 2007/08, when the Museum reopened. 5543 visits to the Old Town Hall Museum were recorded, against 6131 in Q2 2007/8. A series of exhibitions ranging from Bedouin Jewellery to European Baskets has been programmed at the main museum for the next six months, an exhibition of interiors photographs runs at the Old Town Hall until January, a comprehensive series of education events has been organized until March, and “Discover... Family Activity” days will continue in the New Year, themes to be arranged. Weekly “Play and Learn” sessions also continue.

Target 7. Continue to provide tourists and residents with to a fully accessible range of services through the Hastings Information Centre, websites, telephone and information kiosks and the Meteorological Station.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – During this quarter, 119 328 visits to the Information Centres were recorded, a fraction up on the Q2 2007/8 figure of 119 104.

As noted above, there were 841,469 visits to our websites in Q2 2008/09, compared to 694,166 visits in Q2 2007/08. This means we should easily exceed our annual target for website visits this year of 1 350 000.

All meteorological readings were made and submitted on time; we are making progress on getting our readings used by the national media again. We have agreement in principle for the 'meteogroup' to use our figures, and the detail is now being finalised.

Target 8. In the light of the Jerwood Gallery proposal, review the Old Town Tourist Information Services and ensure that suitable information provision is made in the Old Town.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – This is being considered as part of the 'Destination Stade' work. Currently it is planned that work on site will begin in early 2010, and the Old Town TIC will therefore close at the end of the Summer 2009 season.

Target 9. Inaugurate the Stade Education project by:

- **appointing staff to the project**
- **developing and implementing a three-year heritage based education programme targeted at schoolchildren, university students and community/lifelong learning**
- **expanding the interpretive opportunities for visitors to the Stade**

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – an appointment has now been made to the Stade Education Officer's post. The postholder has given the required three months notice, and is due to start work in mid-December.

Target 10. Develop an Interreg IV bid, and a Heritage Lottery Fund bid, for the improved accessibility of Hastings Castle.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – An 'English partners' meeting was held at Rochester in September, building upon the very successful inaugural meeting was held in Caen in June. The next joint meeting is planned for Saturday 18th October, involving all key partners from both sides of the Channel.

If the bid is successful, Hastings Borough Council is likely to be the lead authority for the whole programme ('the Norman World'), fully funded by Interreg. English partners include Norwich, Colchester, Medway (Rochester), and English Heritage.

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING DIRECTORATE

HOUSING SERVICES – 2008/09 TARGETS / MILESTONES

Target 1. Begin the development of over 700 new homes in Hastings under the Millennium Communities Programme, with start on site achieved on the first residential units at Ore Valley and Station Plaza in 2008/09.

QTR 2 – Some slippage possible.

Progress - Progress – Residential units at Station Plaza are scheduled to start on site in January 2009. However, under current housing market conditions, development of residential units at Ore Valley will not start on site this year. Discussions are ongoing with potential development partners and funding agencies regarding a revised timeframe.

Target 2. Accredit a further 100 properties through Accredited Lettings Scheme.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – 40 properties accredited in Quarter two (quarterly target = 25). 56 properties Accredited to date.

Target 3. Complete a review and prepare a revised Homelessness Strategy for adoption in July 2008.

QTR 2 – Target Achieved

Progress – Homelessness review completed and the Homelessness Strategy 2008-13 was adopted at Cabinet on 7th July 08.

Target 4. Undertake a review of the Council's Housing Strategy, in preparation for the adoption of a revised strategy in 2009/10.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – Steering group formed (first meeting 3rd Oct 08) to take forward work of the review and formulation of new Housing Strategy 2009-13.

Target 5. Review existing affordable housing policies in line with Local Development Framework timetable.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – Consultation on the Core Strategy Preferred Approaches was carried out between May and July 2008. Consultation responses are currently being analysed and will be used to inform the submission version of the Core Strategy. The Local Development Scheme (Timetable for the Local Development Framework) will be revised in due course and published in April 2009.

Target 6. Deliver a further 70 affordable homes.

QTR 2 – Slippage possible

Progress – 18 affordable homes delivered in quarter two (18 affordable homes YTD), and expect to deliver a total of 33 by year end in line with the revised LAA target. Although the Community Strategy target of 70 homes per annum will not be met in 2008/9, it is envisaged that the 2008/9 shortfall will be met in full during 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Target 7. Return a further 40 empty dwellings to residential use.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – 9 empty dwellings returned to residential use quarter two (23 properties returned to use year to date). Due to the economic downturn, it is likely that there will be an increase in the overall level of empty properties left empty for more than 6 months, due to difficulties in selling properties.

Target 8. Establish a private sector improvement target to 2010 with annual milestones.

QTR 2 – Target Achieved

Progress – target in place agreed as Part 3 of the Corporate Plan: 'Improve 200 properties within the most deprived wards to reflect the decent homes standard'. This will be included in the refresh of the community strategy target 17. 152 properties improved in quarter two, 278 properties improved so far this year.

Target 9. 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 40 properties.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – 16 private sector dwellings improved in quarter two (28 properties year to date).

Target 10. Improve access to the private housing sector for people in housing need, through the Council's LetStart service.

QTR 2 – On Target

Progress – LetStart Officer appointed in September 08. Work has now begun to identify potential landlords and tenants interested in joining the scheme. Letstart service to go live in November 2008.

UPDATE ON SHORTFALLS 2007/08

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**

Reported in Part III: We did adopt and implement revised policies for private sector finance assistance and private sector housing enforcement.

However we experienced the following shortfalls:

a) Although we had hoped to revise our private sector improvement targets, the joint procurement process delayed this work for the Housing Stock Condition Survey. The final report detailing the housing stock condition, upon which the revised targets will be based, will be available in May 2008.

b) Our plan to publish a new Empty Homes Strategy was postponed, partly due to Government delays in announcing capital funding, but also because it was felt the Strategy would benefit from the input of an Overview and Scrutiny Review. A draft strategy has been prepared and the funding confirmed. The strategy is being revisited in the light of the current housing market conditions. The revised document will be published following public consultation in early 2009.

QTR 2 Update:

- **Establish a private sector improvement target to 2010 with annual milestones – On Target**
Progress - New target in place agreed as Part 3 of the Corporate Plan. This will be considered as part of the refresh of the community strategy (target 17).
- **Implement revised private sector financial assistance and enforcement policies - Achieved in 07/08**
- **Publish a new Empty Homes Strategy covering the period 2007-2009 – On Target**
Progress - In light of the recent changes in the housing market the draft empty homes strategy is being refreshed, to ensure that it meets current needs. It is expected that the strategy will be ready for consideration by Cabinet in quarter 4.

LEISURE SERVICES – 2008/09 TARGETS / MILESTONES

Target 1. Monitor the leisure contract for the leisure centres, Summerfields, Falaise and Hillcrest to ensure that they continue to meet community requirements by monitoring usage and customer satisfaction.

QTR 2 – On target

Progress – Attendances for the quarter are up at Summerfields, Falaise and Hillcrest on Quarter 2 of 2007/08; (by 5.6%, 3.9% and 30.7% respectively). Attendance overall is up on Quarter 2 of 2007/8 by 6.1% (to 94,550). Attendance overall for Q1 & Q2 is up by 5.4% from the same time last year (to 191,190).

Target 2. Provide opportunities for people of all ages to enjoy physical activities and adopt healthier lifestyles e.g. through Active Hastings, increase physical activity levels in 2% of the population of Hastings and St Leonards each year. (Equates to 1700 new participants each year and a total of 5100 new participants over the course of the 3 year project.)

QTR 2 – on target

Progress – Active Hastings engaged and registered 704 new people between 1st July and 30th September 2008. 222 of these participants had taken part in no physical activity in the past 12 months, and 575 of these were taking part in physical activity on less than the recommended 3 days per week. This takes the total number of participants to 7326 since the project began in May 06, with 1982 having done no physical activity in the last 12 months. 3507 were doing activity on less than 3 days per week. Research is being undertaken with participants to monitor the on going levels of activity

Target 3. Continue to explore the options for new leisure facilities, and as part of the development of a sports facilities strategy (to be adopted in Autumn 2008) identify proposals for replacing or refurbishing of Summerfields Leisure Centre and Falaise Fitness Centre, thereby ensuring quality leisure and recreation facilities remain available for the community.

Qtr 2- On Target

Progress - The study was expanded to include Rother, and as such Sport England, the County Council and Freedom Leisure have agreed to contribute to the costs The consultants are finalising their draft document following detailed comments from local authority partners. Once the draft is agreed arrangements will be made for consultation with key stakeholders, education establishments and the sports clubs. We will then, in Q4 consider options for leisure centre development based on the final version of the strategy and any external funding opportunities available.

Target 4. Maintain and improve opportunities for children to develop skills through play by enhancing the regular programme of activities (with two additional Alexandra Park Play Days, Play on the Beach event, and street activities programme) and run a scheme to encourage excluded families to participate. Develop new play space with the support of the lottery funded "Make Way for Play" portfolio; work with partners to develop proposals for a

natural play area at Wishing Tree and begin the planning process for another play area in the east of the Borough.

Qtr 2 - On targets with risks identified

Progress – The outreach 'Street Play' project continued to deliver 4 weekly neighbourhood sessions. In the period April – Sept, there have been a total of 663 visits, with 117 children formally registered onto the project.

The team also co-ordinated a series of large scale community play events in partnership with the local Play Forum. The events included 5 summer 'Play Days' and 'Play on the Beach'.

Planning application has been submitted for the construction of the Wishing Tree Natural Play area. Consultation also took place during this period.

Progress remains on target, although lease negotiations have yet to be resolved, and may delay construction. A management agreement to establish a partnership approach to the day to day management of the site is also being developed to reduce overall costs Consultation and local involvement regarding Bembrook natural play area will initiate in Q3.

Target 5. Develop new arrangements for the White Rock Theatre in preparation for the end of the contract with Live Nation, as managers of the facility by seeking expressions of interest from theatre operators, and subsequently inviting tenders during the summer.

QTR 2 – On target

Progress – Although no acceptable standard bids were received we have identified HQ Theatres as preferred operator as a result of their variant bid. Final details are being negotiated and reported to Cabinet in October. Final details are being negotiated and contracts prepared for commencement on 1 February 2009.

UPDATE ON SHORTFALLS 2007/08

A number of shortfalls against targets for 2007/08 were identified in Part III of the Corporate Plan, updates against these are either addressed within 2008/09 targets above or are reported separately below:

Target 9.3.

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

The position @ 30th June 2008 as reported in Part III was that:

We launched a six-month feasibility study into the potential for new multi-sport leisure facilities at White Rock. We will investigate opportunities for external funding as the next stage of this process.

QTR 2– On target with risks identified

Progress - See target 3 above. We expect to consult on the Sports Facilities Strategy during the next quarter and this will inform discussions about future leisure centre provision.