

Report of	Meeting	Date
Deputy Chief Executive	Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel	Thursday, 28 October 2021

Performance Focus - Planning and Development

Is this report confidential?	Yes/Partly/No
Is this decision key?	Yes/No
Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000	Significant impact on 2 or more council wards

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel with a performance update for the Planning and Development Directorate. This includes:
 - a) An overall directorate summary and budget position,
 - b) An overview of performance over 2021/22,
 - c) An update on the Corporate Strategy projects.

Recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel

2. That the information contained within this report is discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel to understand and monitor performance within the Planning and Development directorate.

Reasons for recommendations

3. To ensure the effective monitoring of performance with the Planning and Development Directorate and subsequent delivery of the Corporate Strategy and its strategic objectives.

Other options considered and rejected

4. No other options have been considered or rejected. This is because the report does not present any key items for decision

Corporate priorities

5. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: (please bold all those applicable):

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all	X	A strong local economy	X
Clean, safe and healthy communities	X	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	X

Background to the report

6. Each quarter a directorate level performance update is presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel for review. For quarter two, an update for Planning and Development has been prepared. This directorate was established in January 2021 as part of the wider implementation of the shared management structure with South Ribble Borough Council. The Directorate brings together functions previously housed in Commercial and Assets, Customer and Digital, and Early Intervention and Support including:

- Business Engagement
- Enforcement
- Planning
- Spatial Planning Services

7. This report presents an overview of the directorate's performance over 2021/22 as well as a breakdown of the financial position, corporate and service level indicator performance, and the progress of the Corporate Strategy projects.

Directorate overview

8. The directorate has been performing well over 2021/22, with 9 (64%) of the 14 performance indicators performing on or above target for quarter two. In terms of 26 business plan projects under the directorate, 16 (62%) are rated as Green, 8 (31%) are rated Amber, and 2 (7%) have not yet started. Additional information on the performance of business plan projects is reported in a further report to the panel, the 'Business Plan Progress Update 2021/22' report.

Financial position 2021/22

9. The below table outlines the General Fund Revenue Budget monitoring provisional outturn 2021/22 for the Planning and Development directorate:

Provisional Outturn 2021/22 – Planning and Development	£
Original Cash Budget	660,460
Agreed changes	106,360
Current cash budget	766,820
Provisional outturn	823,159




Variance	56,339
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Variance	7.3%
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10. The provisional outturn for Planning and Development shows an overspend of £56k for 2021/22 giving a 7.3% variance against the current cash budget. This overspend has been generated predominantly from building control income issues, with our ability to undertake building control services limited as a result of Covid-19 restrictions earlier in the year. Nevertheless, some of this can be claimed back through government funding, therefore, presenting no real risk to the directorate. This includes the government's Fees and Charges Scheme. In addition, the team is being built from the ground up to meet post pandemic service needs and increase capacity to deliver building control functions and support future ambitions.
11. The largest spend within this directorate is staffing, particularly within the Enforcement Service. This is necessitated by the duties and responsibilities of the services. Furthermore, the service has had to employ interim experienced consultants to ensure statutory duties are met, which has incurred additional expense. This is as a result of national staff shortages within the building control profession.

Performance indicators


12. A three-colour symbol rating system is used for performance indicators to indicate status as shown in the table below:



 Performance is better than target	 Worse than target but within threshold (5%)	 Worse than target, outside threshold (5%)
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13. A summary of key performance information for each service within the Planning and Development directorate over the year of 2021/22 is provided below:

Corporate Strategy indicators

14. The table below highlights the Key Corporate Strategy measures for the directorate. For quarter two 2021/22, there are four corporate indicators that can be reported:

Indicator	Polarity	Target	Performance (Q2 2021/22)	Symbol	Trend
CS CSH 08 – Number of long-term empty properties in the borough	Smaller is better	150	149		Worse than Q2 2020/21


CS SLE 01- Overall employment rate	Bigger is better	80%	74.4%		Better than Q2 2020/21
CS SLE 02 – Number of projected jobs created through Chorley Council support or intervention	Bigger is better	100	48		Worse than Q2 2020/21

15. The number of projected jobs created by the Council is performing below target for quarter two. Over the past eighteen months, businesses have been safeguarding jobs and creating fewer positions as a result of the pandemic and the associated economic landscape. This has resulted in there being fewer businesses that are looking to grow and expand. Additionally, the Business Engagement Service have been prioritising supporting businesses to survive and manage the effects of the pandemic. In quarter three, work by the team will be redirected towards business growth such as proactively advising on and administering growth relating grants, which have a direct impact on job creation in the borough. This includes the Chorley Big Grant, Chose Chorley Grant, and Shop Front Grant. The service will also work towards supporting businesses grow digitally through tailored webinars. Additionally, in order to better capture the impact of the Business Engagement Team, wider support and activities by the team that lead to job creation will also be considered for inclusion in the calculations for this indicator.

16. The overall employment rate is also performing below target for quarter two. The rate has been decreasing over the past two years and is in line with national and regional trends. A number of support measures are being undertaken with those who have lost their employment. This includes Job Matching in partnership with Job Centre Plus and provisional support for the Kickstart scheme, a government backed employment scheme linked to the COVID-19 economic situation. The Business Engagement Team are also undertaking a number of ongoing activities as part of its COVID-19 business recovery plan, including training and support webinars for sectors in distress and financial health checks for business impacted by COVID-19. This will help to retain existing jobs.

Local indicators: Business Engagement Service

17. The below table outlines the indicator performance for the Business Engagement Service:

Indicator	Polarity	Target	Performance (Q2 2021/22)	Symbol	Trend
DB 01 - Client satisfaction with the service received from Chorley Council	Bigger is better	85%	93.94%		Better than Q2 2020/21


DB 02 - Number of Business Engagements by the Business Development / Investment and Skills Service	Bigger is better	675	1640	★	Better than Q2 2020/21
DB 03 - Number of existing Enterprises receiving support for 12 hours - European Regional Development Fund	Bigger is better	10	0	▲	Worse than Q2 2020/21
DB 04 - Number of new Enterprises supported for 12 hours - European Regional Development Fund	Bigger is better	5	0	▲	Worse than Q2 2020/21
DB 05 - Number of businesses referred/supported by the Council	Bigger is better	480	1116	★	Better than Q2 2020/21
DB 06 - Number of businesses attending Council business/networking and engagement events	Bigger is better	540	183	▲	Worse than Q2 2020/21

18. The indicators monitoring both existing and new enterprises supported for 12 hours (European Regional Development Fund) by the Business Engagement Service are performing below target for quarter two. This is because businesses have been focusing on survival support rather than expansion. To reflect this, the Service has been concentrating resources on pandemic related advice and grants. In quarter three, new and existing clients will be engaged with in collaboration with other support organisations to recommence business growth activities. Training sessions have been scheduled and are being delivered, whilst networking events and presentations are being conducted.
19. The number of businesses attending business events has been significantly impacted by the cancellation of face-to-face events and workshops. This has caused the indicator to perform below target as the traditional methods of hosting events have been impeded, with face-to-faced events anticipated to return in 2022. In the meantime, additional online events and workshops have been developed planned and scheduled. This includes on

subjects such as digital marketing, creating content across social media platforms, and analytics tools to quantify digital performance.

Local indicators: Enforcement Service



20. The table below outlines the performance for the one indicator for Enforcement that was due for reporting in quarter two:


Indicator	Polarity	Target	Performance (Q2 2021/22)	Symbol	Trend
ENF 01 – Percentage building control applications decided within 5 weeks of validation	Bigger is better	100%	100%		Same as Q2 2020/21

21. This indicator has performed above target four out of the six months for 2021. In 2020, it performed consistently at 100%.

Local indicators: Planning Service

22. The below table outlines performance against a number of local indicators relating to the Planning Service:


Indicator	Polarity	Target	Performance (Q2 2021/22)	Symbol	Trend
PL 01 – Percentage of minor planning applications decided within 8 weeks or agreed time extension	Bigger is better	85%	100%		New measure for 2021/22
PL 02 – Percentage of major planning applications decided within 13 (16 for EIA) weeks or agreed time extension	Bigger is better	80%	100%		New measure for 2021/22

PL 04 - Percentage of planning appeals allowed	Smaller is better	25%	17%		New measure for 2021/22
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23. Performance in the Planning Service is good, with all three reportable indicators in the period performing above target. It should also be noted that Planning has seen a significant increase in the amount of work due to larger volumes of planning applications and complex cases and Inquiries.

Local indicators: Spatial Planning Service

24. The below table outlines performance against the local indicator relating to the Spatial Planning Service:

Indicator	Polarity	Target	Performance (Q2 2021/22)	Symbol	Trend
SP 01 - Number of Trees Planted	Bigger is better	23,375	29,008		New Indicator for 2021/22

25. The performance indicator within the Spatial Planning Service that is due for reporting this quarter is performing 24% above target and shows the number of trees planted by the Council in quarter two 2021. This indicator was created to monitor the Council's performance against its environmental ambitions, which includes planting a tree for every resident by 2025. This is currently on track for delivery.

Climate change and air quality

26. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Council's Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

Equality and diversity

27. This material presented and discussed in this report has no direct implications on equality or diversity.

Risk

28. There are service level risk registers contained within the GRACE risk management system recording risk for the directorate. These are regularly monitored through Directorate Management Team, where risks are discussed, reviewed, and updated according to service needs and the current risk context.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

29. As detailed within the financial position section the service is showing a slight overspend. However, it is expected some of this deficit will be recovered through the government's Fees and Charges Scheme with the return to be submitted in October 2021. The remainder is being managed within the overall Council budget.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

30. This report has been reviewed by the Monitoring Officer, who leaves no comment.

Background documents

31. There are no background papers to this report.

Appendices

32. There are no appendices attached to this report.

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