

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Council Plan 2017/19: Overview of Quarter 1

Date: 18th September 2017

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To inform the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the position against Improvement Actions and Performance indicators in the 2017/2019 Gedling Plan.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. As usual, comprehensive details about current performance against the Gedling Plan can be accessed through the following link on the Council's website:-

<http://www.gedling.gov.uk/aboutus/howwework/prioritiesplansperformance/howisgedlingdoing/>

Members are recommended to view this document which reviews actions, indicators and outcomes for Quarter 1.

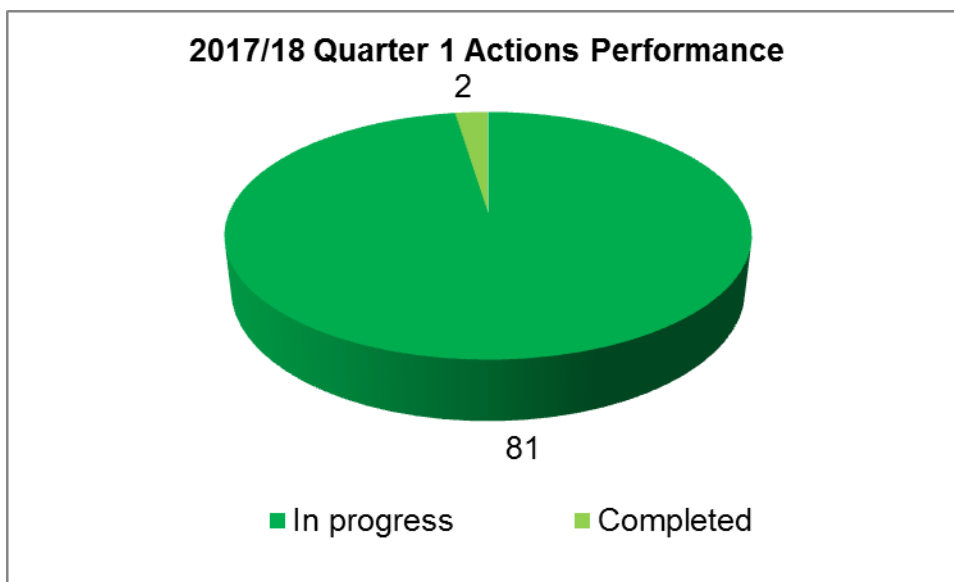
- 2.2. A full set of papers that appear on the website have been printed and these reports are available in the Members' Room. They contain explanations of variances from expected performance together with trend arrows for all the performance indicators within the Gedling Plan (note that an upward arrow indicates improved performance, irrespective of whether improvement is represented by a higher or lower value) and progress bars for all Gedling Plan actions showing progress made against project milestones.

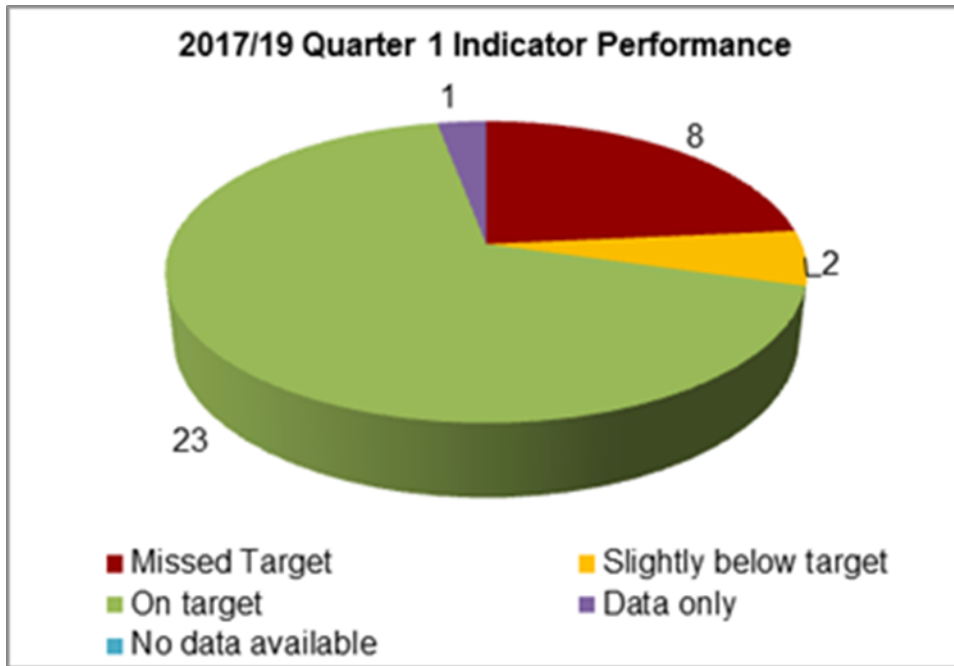
- 2.3. The assessment criteria used for actions and indicators is based on red, amber and green traffic light symbols. To be assessed as green performance indicators must be in line with their expected performance at this stage of the year, whilst actions must be on target against the “completed” or “in progress” milestones determined within Covalent.

3. PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

3.1 Current Performance

- 3.1.1 Overall performance at quarter 1 against the 2017/19 Gedling Plan actions and indicators shows the following:





Actions

- 3.1.2 Two of the 83 Gedling Plan actions are completed, with the remaining either in progress or assigned to an Officer. It must be noted that the data in this report refers to the first quarter of the financial year only and it is expected that actions identified for the year will be met.

Indicators

- 3.1.3 Overall indicator performance at the end of quarter 1 shows that out of a total of 34 indicators, 23 were on or above target, 2 were slightly below target and 8 indicators missed their target. One indicator is for tracking purposes only.

Examples of particularly positive performance during quarter 1 include:

- The proportion of households who considered themselves as homeless that the Council were able to help resolve their situation increased to 19.51%, significantly higher than the 13% target.
- 89% of One Stop shop customers seen within 15 minutes against a target of 83%.
- The proportion of minor planning applications processed within 8 weeks has improved from 89.19% achieved in quarter 4 2016/17 to 100%, above the 72% target.
- 100% of Major planning applications were processed within 13 weeks, higher than the 90% target.
- 9,111 people attended Bonington Theatre productions against a target of 6,750.
- 156 theatre events/shows took place at the Bonington Theatre against a

target of 125.

In relation to those performance indicators which missed their target, from a Senior Leadership Team perspective the following are of concern:

Housing

Housing growth (net homes delivered and number of affordable homes delivered) remains a challenge for the Council. Whilst several housing schemes are progressing the target for quarter 1 was not met. In keeping with the national picture, house building continues to be slow in Gedling. A review is currently taking place of all schemes that have received planning permission to identify if there is any way to encourage starts on site. The adoption of the emerging Local Planning Document will also release additional sites for development which will help to increase completions.

The availability of affordable housing has an impact on the Council's ability to keep time spent in temporary accommodation to a minimum and to find homes for those registered on the Council's housing register.

Sickness Absence

The data for June shows a marked improvement on the previous month (a single month level of nine days which is below the annual target of ten days) and the rolling 12-month average is reducing: however it still remains high. There remain a number of long-term absences that are "active" and which will continue to have an impact on overall levels of absence. Fundamental changes to our Absence Management policies are being explored. These are subject to initial consultation with the unions and it is expected that the proposals will be considered by JCSC and ACSC after the summer break.

Achievements

- 3.1.4 A separate report is produced highlighting key achievements delivered during quarter 1, focusing on areas where the Council has made a real difference to people's lives. This is attached as Appendix 1 and is available on the Council's website and in hard copy in the Members' Room. The following outcomes are identified for particular attention:

New Redhill 3G football pitches - Redhill Leisure Centre 3G artificial football pitch installation has been completed and handed over to the Council and Redhill Academy Trust. An official launch will be held later in the year. The pricing structure and the booking process have been developed with a small number of bookings in place for the summer season. Work has taken place to profile bookings with the partner clubs, Gedling Southbank FC and Arnold Town FC, for the winter bookings. A new Primary school Football B league has been set up to take place at Redhill 3G on Monday evenings after school. The league is designed for Year 4-6 boys who are not usually selected to

represent their school at football.

20 Sites Now Breastfeeding Friendly - The Breastfeeding Friendly Venue Accreditation Scheme now includes 20 sites across the Borough. These include local cafes, children's centres, GP surgeries, leisure centres and the Civic Centre. The latest venue to apply for status is the Gedling Country Park Visitor Centre café.

Refugee Befriending Project Development - The Community Investment Manager has worked with Nottingham City Council's Refugee Resettlement Programme to commission Hope Nottingham in delivering two Syrian Refugee Befriending volunteer engagement events and in commissioning 'Enable' to provide specialist training. The first event at the Kings Church in Arnold took place on Tuesday 13th June and the second in Carlton on Thursday 29th June. The Arnold event was attended by 40 people, all of whom signed up as volunteers, and a follow up meeting has taken place to establish a new voluntary committee to oversee the project. As a result a new Language Café commenced at The Beacon project in Killisick at the end of June, which was attended by all adult Syrian Refugees from Arnold and Carlton. The Carlton workshop group also had a follow up meeting and is establishing its role going forward.

Apprenticeship training accreditation - the Training team successfully applied for Gedling Borough Council to become an accredited apprenticeship training centre, one of the very few district authorities to do so. This allows us to deliver not only to our own employees but also to other employers. Our hope is that this accreditation will further raise the standards of training within the Council and also present opportunity to draw funding into the Council from the apprenticeship levy.

4.1. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- Consider, ask questions and identify any actions or indicators that require additional information; and
- Note the progress against Actions and Performance Indicators in the 2017/2019 Gedling Plan.

APPENDICIES

Appendix 1: Achievements and Activities