

## QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE DIGEST: APRIL TO JUNE 2012

### 1 Purpose

- 1.1 To report to Members of the Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee on the performance achieved against the targets in the corporate plan in the April to June 2012 quarter, that are under their remit.

### 2 Recommendations/for decision

- |   |
|---|
| <p>2.1 That the contents of the Quarterly Performance Digest, insofar as they apply to the work of the Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee, be noted (see Appendix 1).</p> <p>2.2 That Members identify any further information they require or action they wish to recommend to Cabinet as a result of the performance reported.</p> |
|---|

### 3 Background

- 3.1 The Council's new Corporate Plan was adopted in October 2011. This sets the direction for the administration up to the elections in May 2015.
- 3.2 The Corporate Plan for 2011-2015 is based on four themes, namely:-
- Improving our communications and interaction with our customers,
  - Protecting and improving the living experience of the Vale,
  - Delivering efficient and economic services, and
  - Growing the economy of the Vale.
- 3.3 Beneath these are a number of objectives and actions to be taken to achieve success against these four themes.
- 3.4 The monitoring report includes a quarterly progress report on the actions and targets within the new corporate plan. This is provided as a commentary based on the progress against the delivery plans provided by lead officers.

### 4 Corporate Plan Performance in the Quarter April - June 2012

- 4.1 The following actions did not achieve all their milestones for this quarter and are highlighted with a red triangle in the appendix. All other actions were on target.
- 4.1.1 **Meet targets for housing the homeless** - At quarter end 30th June 2012, we accepted 37 new cases as eligible for assistance, in priority need and unintentionally homeless. At 30th June 2012, there were 19 households in temporary accommodation (target was 15 households). We were over target because of temporary staffing shortages at the time of high demand.
- 4.1.2 **Encourage community ownership & involvement in local environment** – Unfortunately attendance at events was less than expected due to the bad weather. Events linked to the natural environment help us educate residents about the conservation priorities in their local area and how they can become involved in protecting and increasing populations and habitats. It is a good way of increasing awareness and understanding of wildlife, which is one of the key measures of success of community involvement in the local

environment requested by funders such as the Heritage Lottery Fund who fund our Barn Own Project. An example of a good community event was for the peregrine falcons nesting at County Hall where the biodiversity team and volunteers from the Wildlife Trust and the Bucks Bird Club set up telescopes in the market square to promote the project to the general public.

The number of days given by biodiversity volunteers exceeded the target for the first quarter, notably through the Barn Owl Project, the Bat Group and the Peregrine Project. For instance an increase in the number of volunteers from the Bat Group resulted from the Biodiversity Officers securing £50k project funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, whilst the Peregrine Project had the advantage of creating national positive publicity for AVDC.

- 4.1.3 **Public Realm and Urban Design Guides & implement standards -** Conservation Areas Highway Protocol completed and signed off by County Council Cabinet Member. Aylesbury Town Centre Public Realm Design Guide - Document complete and shortly to be published on AVDC website. Aylesbury Urban Design Guide - In preparation, but other priorities will result in an overrun beyond the end of July target date. Other Design guidance - in preparation.
- 4.1.4 **Review best options for community engagement** – Resident consultation has been undertaken (July 2012) identifying that only 3 in 10 respondents report knowing their District Councillor, and 2 in 5 know how they can provide help and support. Of those who don't, 7 in 10 would like to. Options to improve engagement via the Local Area Forums (LAF) will be considered following the completion of the Buckinghamshire County Council review of LAFs expected in October 2012. Consultation with Members is to be undertaken to identify current good practice and options for improving community engagement.

## **5 Resource implications**

- 5.1 Any resource implications arising as a result of any of the performance information reported in the digest will be fed through into the budget setting process.

## **6 Response to Council Priorities**

- 6.1 The regular analysis of performance information will help to ensure that the Council's Priorities are being delivered on time and on target.

Contact Officer                      Tamsin Ireland 01296 585004  
Background Documents            Corporate Plan Monitoring Report April - June 2012

Making  
**Aylesbury Vale**  
the best possible  
place to live,  
work and visit



**Corporate Plan Scrutiny  
Monitoring Report**

**April - June 2012**

**Our Plan  
2011-2015**

**Corporate Plan 2011-15 Actions Environment & Living Scrutiny**

**Protect & improve the living experience in the Vale**

	Alert	Performance Comment
<b>CPA Improve participation in sports and cultural activities across the Vale</b>	★	An increase upon the target was achieved, despite the poor weather affecting some of the activities. Excellent attendances were recorded at our key events including the Roald Dahl Festival and Play in the Park which between them attracted over 5,500 visitors.
<b>CPA Work with individuals to prevent homelessness</b>	★	At quarter end 30th June 2012, we prevented a further 63 applicants from becoming homeless for at least 6 months through the provision of personalised advice and assistance.
<b>CPA Meet targets for housing homeless</b>	▲	At quarter end 30th June 2012, we accepted 37 new cases as eligible for assistance, in priority need and unentionially homeless. At 30th June 2012, there were 19 households in temporary accommodation (target was 15 households). We were over target because of temporary staffing shortages at the time of high demand.
<b>CPA Provide effective Bucks Home Choice service</b>	★	We are providing an effective and responsive service under BHC. During the quarter ending 30th June 2012, we made 247 successful nominations to VAHT and other Housing Association partners. 97.6% of all applicant bids for accommodation were made online. We received 850 new applications this quarter, of which 667 (79%) were made online.
<b>CPA Provide sufficient affordable housing to meet needs of our communities</b>	★	We have exceeded our first quarterly target for the delivery of affordable homes. This has been achieved through close partnership working with our development partners and continued negotiation with developers. The use of our Housing Capital programme has also been essential to assist the delivery of schemes, and this is becoming more and more important as developers challenge AVDC over financial viability. We have also relied on the good relationships that we have with other internal departments such as legal, finance and planning to ensure that the schemes progress as smoothly as possible.
<b>CPA Reduce crime and the fear of crime</b>	★	Target is for Serious Acquisitive Crime reduction of 5% - current performance shows a reduction of 5.3%. Target is for reduction of All Crime of 2.55% - current performance shows a reduction of 11.4%  We have completed the public consultation exercise to inform the partnership plan, which has been approved by the Community Safety Partnership. The summer crime prevention campaign has been launched.
<b>CPA Tackle anti-social Behaviour</b>	★	ASB 2.5% reduction target - current performance: Community 212 (reduction of 58% 291 incidents.) Environmental 64 (reduction of 26% 23 incidents) Personal 186 (reduction of 68% 403 incidents)  The baseline for ASB was set from the data gathered in 2010/11, and a target to reduce ASB by 2.5% based on that figure has been set. We are exceeding this target at present but this may be due to inaccuracies in recording at the beginning of 2010/11, when the police changed their recoding system.  Three hot spot areas have been identified which are Bedgrove, Buckingham and Elmhurst. The Community Safety and Leisure teams are working together to address the issues in those areas.
<b>CPA Deliver Council's Carbon Management Plan</b>	★	The Carbon Dioxide Reduction Target of 22% which was set at the launch of the Local Authority Carbon Management Plan at Aston Hall, Civic Centre on 1 July 2008 and publically launched at The Barn, Chilton on 25 March 2009 has been met one year ahead of plan.
<b>CPA Deliver programme of Conservation Area Reviews</b>	★	All Conservation Area reviews on track in accordance with the Project Plan.
<b>CPA Reduce number of Listed Buildings at Risk</b>	★	Four buildings removed from the Buildings at Risk Register so far this year.
<b>CPA Public Realm and Urban Design Guides &amp; implement standards</b>	▲	Conservation Areas Highway Protocol completed and signed off by County Council Cabinet Member. Aylesbury Town Centre Public Realm Design Guide - Document complete and shortly to be published on AVDC website. Aylesbury Urban Design Guide - In preparation, but other priorities will result in an overrun beyond the end of July target date. Other Design guidance - in preparation.
<b>CPA Oppose High Speed 2</b>	★	This is ongoing work. We have instigated Judicial Review proceedings which are now unlikely to be heard at Court until towards the end of the year. An update report will be considered by Cabinet in August 2012.
<b>CPA Adopt Vale of Aylesbury Plan by March 2014</b>	★	In May, Cabinet considered a report on narrowing down the jobs and homes numbers and apportionment, but have indicated they wish to revisit that decision. This will happen in August 2012 and as a consequence the Forums scheduled for June/July were postponed. Cabinet will also consider a changed approach to preparing the Vale of Aylesbury Plan to bring forward the strategy elements earlier following the publication of the

### Protect & improve the living experience in the Vale

	Alert	Performance Comment
		National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and its transitional arrangements. This will mean the strategy elements being adopted earlier than previously envisaged, but will need other elements of the overall plan coming later.
<b>CPA Encourage higher environmental standards in new development</b>	★	Only one action fell within this quarter. This relates to initial scoping with Members of the Development Management policies that will be in the Vale of Aylesbury Plan (VAP). This was done at a Members' Forum however since then the publishing of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and its transition arrangements means we have to change the approach we are taking to the preparation of VAP and this will inevitably change the milestones involved. This will be considered by Cabinet in August 2012.
<b>CPA Actively manage and protect AVDC land</b>	★	The target for this work has been exceeded in this quarter thanks to the work of biodiversity volunteers which has included habitat improvements at Buckingham Sandpit and Aylesbury Riverside Walk carried out by Vale Countryside Volunteers.
<b>CPA Encourage community ownership &amp; involvement in local environment</b>	▲	<p>Unfortunately attendance at events was less than expected due to the bad weather. Events linked to the natural environment help us educate residents about the conservation priorities in their local area and how they can become involved in protecting and increasing populations and habitats. It is a good way of increasing awareness and understanding of wildlife, which is one of the key measures of success of community involvement in the local environment requested by funders such as the Heritage Lottery Fund who fund our Barn Own Project. An example of a good community event was for the peregrine falcons nesting at County Hall where the biodiversity team and volunteers from the Wildlife Trust and the Bucks Bird Club set up telescopes in the market square to promote the project to the general public.</p> <p>The number of days given by biodiversity volunteers exceeded the target for the first quarter, notably through the Barn Owl Project, the Bat Group and the Peregrine Project. For instance an increase in the number of volunteers from the Bat Group resulted from the Biodiversity Officers securing £50k project funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, whilst the Peregrine Project had the advantage of creating national positive publicity for AVDC.</p>
<b>CPA Tackle littering and graffiti</b>	★	The target has been achieved this quarter. There is also a considerable amount of work on-going to review the current contractual arrangements for street cleansing which is being carried out in order to seek improvements through the new contract.



### Growing the local economy

	Alert	Performance Comment
<b>CPA Build sufficient housing to meet needs of our economy</b>	★	This is delivered through the Vale of Aylesbury Plan - see the "Adopt the Vale of Aylesbury Plan by March 2014" action above.
<b>CPA Identify the infrastructure required to support new development and wider Vale needs</b>	★	Detailed Infrastructure Planning cannot progress much further until the magnitude and broad apportionment of growth across the Vale is resolved. In May, Cabinet considered a report on narrowing down the jobs and homes numbers and apportionment, but have indicated they wish to revisit that decision. This will happen in August and as a consequence the Forums scheduled for June/July were postponed. Cabinet will also consider a changed approach to preparing the Vale of Aylesbury Plan to bring forward the strategy elements earlier following the publication of the NPPF and its transitional arrangements. This will mean the strategy elements being adopted earlier than previously envisaged, but will need other elements of the overall plan coming later.
<b>CPA Use Community Infrastructure Levy &amp; lobby for other funding to meet the costs of infrastructure</b>	★	Further work on CIL has to be integrated with the preparation of the Vale of Aylesbury Plan and Infrastructure Planning. In May, Cabinet considered a report on narrowing down the jobs and homes numbers and apportionment, but have indicated they wish to revisit that decision. This will happen in August and as a consequence the Forums scheduled for June/July were postponed. Cabinet will also consider a changed approach to preparing the Vale of Aylesbury Plan to bring forward the strategy elements earlier following the publication of the NPPF and its transitional arrangements. This will mean the strategy elements being adopted earlier than previously envisaged, but will need other elements of the overall plan coming later. This is likely to mean we can bring forward CIL sooner than was originally envisaged.

### Improving Communication and Interactions with our Customers

	Alert	Performance Comment
		Resident consultation has been undertaken (July 2012) identifying that only 3 in 10 respondents report knowing their District Councillor, and 2 in 5 know how they can provide help and support. Of those who don't,

## Improving Communication and Interactions with our Customers

	Alert	Performance Comment
<b>CPA Review best options for community engagement</b>		7 in 10 would like to. Options to improve engagement via the Local Area Forums (LAF) will be considered following the completion of the Buckinghamshire County Council review of LAFs expected in October 2012. Consultation with Members is to be undertaken to identify current good practice and options for improving community engagement.
<b>CPA Involve parishes &amp; communities in the Vale of Aylesbury Plan</b>		Parishes and Communities have been involved through: general consultation on the Plan, specific consultation with parishes and communities through Stakeholder Forums helping them shape the Plan as it develops, through dedicated neighbourhood planning briefings and via regular newsletters as well as numerous individual meetings with parishes and community groups.