

## **QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE DIGEST – JANUARY - MARCH 2013**

### **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 January to March 2013 quarter that are under their remit.

### **2 Recommendations/for decision**

- 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).
- 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.

### **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 January – March 2013**

- 4.1 Scrutiny have asked for the affordable housing figures to be included in the covering report, so these are detailed in the table below.

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Affordable Homes Delivered	124	137	70	37
Target	100	50	20	30

- 4.2 The following actions did not achieve their milestones for this quarter and are highlighted with a red triangle in the appendix. All other actions were on target.
- 4.1.1 **Reduce crime and the fear of crime** – Our target was to reduce serious acquisitive crime (SAC) by 5% and to reduce all crime by 2.5%. Unfortunately for SAC there has been a small increase of 2% on last years figures, however we have exceeded our target for all crime, achieving a 5% reduction. This is the 8th consecutive year that crime has reduced in the Vale. Our crime prevention campaigns in

relation to burglary have been very successful and burglary has reduced by almost 18% (77 incidents). Theft of cars has also reduced by almost 32% (43 incidents).

There has been an increase in theft from vehicles (144 incidents), partly related to metal theft; and an increase in personal robbery (9 incidents). In January 2013 we launched a robbery awareness raising film and have been taking this to school assemblies over the past three months, reaching over 12,000 young people.

## **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

Background Documents

Tamsin Ireland 01296 585004

Corporate Plan Monitoring Report January – March 2013

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



**Corporate Plan Scrutiny  
Monitoring Report**

**January - March 2013**

**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>	★	<p>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. The Paralympic Flame Celebration was extremely popular with 9000 people attending the event in the town centre.</p> <p>The refurbishment of Aqua Vale was completed with positive comments being received from users.</p> <p>A range of events and activities were organised by Leisure services over the year, including a Theatre in the Villages tour and sporting activities such as spice mix zumba and girls only swimming sessions.</p>
<b>CPA Work with individuals to prevent homelessness</b>	★	<p>At the end of March 2012 we prevented a further 110 applicants from becoming homeless for at least 6 months through the provision of personalised assistance which included our court desk, the prevention of illegal evictions and negotiations with landlords and lenders. At the end of March 2013 we prevented 99 applicants from becoming homeless which is a reduction of 11 applicants over the previous end of year. This reduction can be accounted for through normal fluctuations and may also relate to the economic downturn as more people become homeless with limited prevention alternatives possible.</p>
<b>CPA Meet targets for housing homeless</b>	★	<p>At quarter end 31st March 2012, we accepted 24 new cases as unintentionally homeless and in priority need, this increased to 28 new cases at the end of March 2013 which is an increase of 4 cases compared to the end of the previous year. This increase can be accounted for through normal fluctuation.</p> <p>At the end of March 2012 there were 17 households in temporary accommodation (TA), by the end of March 2013 there were 10 households in TA a reduction of 7 on the previous year, this reduction can be accounted for through normal fluctuation, and staff members assisting people staying in temporary accommodation to make expressions of interest in Bucks Home Choice to find permanent accommodation.</p>
<b>CPA Provide effective Bucks Home Choice service</b>	★	<p>Bucks Home Choice policy proposals redrafted in August 2012 with reports presented to Environment &amp; Living Scrutiny on the 20th November and 13th February 2013. Scrutiny wished to evaluate the feasibility of this Council to allowing local connection qualifications and housing allocations on an area sub-group basis. A 6 week public consultation began on 22 April till the beginning of June 2013. This will be followed by an evaluation of the consultation together with reports submitted to Cabinet and Council. After the closure of the Customer Service Centre in October 2012, we established a Housing Surgery at 66 High Street to deal with front line enquiries.</p>
<b>CPA Provide sufficient affordable housing to meet needs of our communities</b>	★	<p>Despite the challenging economic climate we have helped enable 368 affordable homes against our target of 200, representing an additional 84% above target in this financial year. This has included the completion of the Serpentine in Aylesbury, a rural exception scheme in Mursley and the final affordable units being completed on the Princess Mary Gate scheme in Wendover. We have also had the first 5 units delivered on the London Road Development in Buckingham.</p> <p>Over the coming year we expect to see more units completed on Berryfields, London Road in Buckingham and 20 new affordable homes in Bedgrove, Aylesbury.</p> <p>Developers continue to challenge the delivery of affordable housing on financial viability grounds. This highlights the importance of our Housing capital Programme which helps to ensure the supply of affordable homes for the increasing number of applicants on our Housing Register.</p>
<b>CPA Reduce crime and the fear of crime</b>	▲	<p>Our target was to reduce serious acquisitive crime (SAC) by 5% and to reduce all crime by 2.5%. Unfortunately for SAC there has been a small increase of 2% on last years figures, however we have exceeded our target for all crime, achieving a 5% reduction. This is the 8th consecutive year that crime has reduced in the Vale. Our crime prevention campaigns in relation to burglary have been very successful and burglary has reduced by almost 18% (77 incidents). Theft of cars has also reduced by almost 32% (43 incidents).</p> <p>There has been an increase in theft from vehicles (144 incidents), partly related to metal theft; and an increase in personal robbery (9 incidents). In January 2013 we launched a robbery awareness raising film and have been taking this to school assemblies over the past three months, reaching over 12,000 young people.</p>
		<p>This is the first year that we have set a specific reduction target for ASB and in March 2012 the police changed their recording system. We have exceeded our 2.5% reduction target. The actual number of recorded incidents for 2012/13 is 1924, a reduction of 35% on the number recorded in the period April - January 2011/2 (unfortunately Feb - March 2012 data is unavailable).</p>

## Protect & improve the living experience in the Vale

	Alert	Performance Comment
<b>CPA Tackle anti-social Behaviour</b>	★	ASB has been reduced through a variety of methods including: provision of diversionary activities for young people; increased police patrols where complaints have occurred; enforcement methods such as Yellow and Red cards, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs). Reducing ASB across the district relies on close partnership working with a variety of agencies including the police and housing providers.
<b>CPA Deliver Council's Carbon Management Plan</b>	★	Target for Carbon Management Plan is 22% by April 2013. This was achieved in April 2012 with 22.03% achieved. Data is not yet available for the year to April 2013 but should be available by June 2013.
<b>CPA Deliver programme of Conservation Area Reviews</b>	★	The Conservation Area Reviews are on track and in accordance with the Corporate Plan Actions and the Conservation Areas review programme.
<b>CPA Reduce number of Listed Buildings at Risk</b>	★	During the past 12 months the number of Buildings at Risk has been reduced in accordance with the Corporate Plan Actions.
<b>CPA Public Realm and Urban Design Guides &amp; implement standards</b>	★	The completed Aylesbury Town Centre Public Realm Guide is available on the Councils website. Urban Design guidance will now be delivered as part of a more comprehensive range of design guides to be published periodically.
<b>CPA Oppose High Speed 2</b>	★	No specific actions this quarter. Although the Judicial Review decision did not go in our favour an appeal has been lodged (acting jointly with a number of other Authorities). Joint work continues through 51m group of local authorities. Technical consultations from HS2 responded to.
<b>CPA Adopt Vale of Aylesbury Plan by March 2014</b>	★	In August Cabinet agreed a changed approach to bringing forward the vale of Aylesbury Plan as well as the underlying level and distribution of growth it should be based on. The Strategy Document was agreed by Council on 17 October. Following the eventual revocation of the South East Plan the pre-submission publicity can now commence on 8th May 2013.
<b>CPA Encourage higher environmental standards in new development</b>	★	Work with a team of officers to establish current activity was completed in June, leading to a Members, Seminar, led by Environment Scrutiny Committee on sustainable construction. The publishing of the NPPF and the new Planning Policy regime since the Delivery Plan was agreed means that matters are having to be approached in a different manner. This changed approach for producing the Vale of Aylesbury Plan was agreed by Cabinet in August and the strategy aspects of it have now been agreed by Council. Development Management policies, including policies for environmental standards, will now come at a later date.
<b>CPA Actively manage and protect AVDC land</b>	★	<p>During this quarter two Green flag award applications for Bedgrove Park and Vale Park have been submitted. The process included consultations with contractors and different teams in AVDC.</p> <p>Vale Countryside Volunteers linked up with AVDC tree officers and carried out some tree management in Bedgrove Wood Aylesbury, Holloway Spinney and Heartlands park both in Buckingham. These tasks amounted to 30 days worth of work. Over 300 trees were also planted at Heartlands in Buckingham with the help of two prisoners from Springhill open Prison on Community Service.</p> <p>The synthetic pitch at Swan Pool has been replaced with a more modern carpet that is suitable for both football and hockey and line markings have also been improved for 5-aside matches.</p> <p>The team have secured £50,000 WREN funding for the redevelopment of one of the play areas in Buckingham. New fencing and drainage has been installed at the Railway Walk near Bath Lane in Buckingham. The works involved renewing a rotten sleeper walk and replacing a drain along the Walk that feeds into the drainage system in Bath Lane.</p> <p>Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas can now be viewed on the AVDC website. This new service allows the general public to check whether a property is subject to any tree constraints before carrying out any tree work.</p>
<b>CPA Encourage community ownership &amp; involvement in local environment</b>	★	<p>The Peregrine Falcon Project has continued to grow in popularity. The webcam on the platform at County Hall and website went live in February and the birds laid 2 eggs in March. The website has had over 7000 hits showing live footage of the birds so far with people from all over the world watching including from Japan, Russia, France and USA.</p> <p>Vale Countryside Volunteers planted over 1,000 trees in Cuddington in a joint project led by the AVDC Biodiversity Team and supported by The Environment Agency and Woodland Trust. An area of land prone to flooding has been planted to create a wet woodland. This habitat has huge conservation value and also assists in flood defence measures.</p>
<b>CPA Tackle littering and graffiti</b>	★	<p>There were no reports of graffiti on AVDC land during this quarter, although a number of fly tips were reported. The team are achieving their target that over 90% of fly tips reported are removed within 48 hours.</p> <p>The Community Spaces team are working on a new campaign aimed at dog owners, to tackle the growing amount of</p>

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

	Alert	Performance Comment
		dog muck being left in parks and open spaces across Aylesbury Vale. The campaign will run over the summer months when the problem is most significant.

### Growing the local economy

	Alert	Performance Comment
<b>CPA Build sufficient housing to meet needs of our economy</b>	★	In August Cabinet agreed a changed approach to bringing forward the vale of Aylesbury Plan as well as the underlying level and distribution of growth it should be based on. The Strategy Document was agreed by Council on 17 October. Following the eventual revocation of the South East Plan the pre-submission publicity can now commence on 8th May 2013.
<b>CPA Identify the infrastructure required to support new development and wider Vale needs</b>	★	In August Cabinet agreed a changed approach to bringing forward the vale of Aylesbury Plan as well as the underlying level and distribution of growth it should be based on. The Strategy Document was agreed by Council on 17 October. Following the eventual revocation of the South East Plan the pre-submission publicity can now commence on 8th May 2013  More detailed infrastructure schedules and a delivery plan being worked up to support the Community Infrastructure Levy submission. Emerging draft was reported to the Environment & Living Scrutiny Committee on 12 December 2012.
<b>CPA Use Community Infrastructure Levy &amp; lobby for other funding to meet the costs of infrastructure</b>	★	In August Cabinet agreed a changed approach to bringing forward the vale of Aylesbury Plan as well as the underlying level and distribution of growth it should be based on. The Strategy Document was agreed by Council on 17 October. Following the eventual revocation of the South East Plan the pre-submission publicity can now commence on 8th May 2013  More detailed infrastructure schedules and a delivery plan being worked up to support the Community Infrastructure Levy submission. Emerging draft was reported to the Environment & Living Scrutiny Committee on 12 December 2012. Further detailed technical work to develop CIL charging schedules now commissioned.

### Improving Communication and Interactions with our Customers

	Alert	Performance Comment
<b>CPA Review best options for community engagement</b>	★	Resident consultation was carried out this year and identified that only 3 in 10 respondents know their local councillor, and 2 in 5 know how they can help. An article was published in our residents magazine in November 2012 to promote the role of councillors and provide their contact details. Members have been provided with the results of the survey, training opportunities and opportunities to engage with residents via Members Information items and direct contact regarding local events and activities.  Feedback from the parishes meeting in January 2013 and the BCC review of LAFs in 2012 suggests positive engagement by AVDC.
<b>CPA Involve parishes &amp; communities in the Vale of Aylesbury Plan</b>	★	No specific actions were scheduled for this quarter but our general support for Parishes continues. We continue to produce regular newsletters on the vale of Aylesbury Plan aimed primarily at a Parish audience