



Strategic Planning & Environment

Overview & Scrutiny

Agenda

TUESDAY 13 JUNE 2023 AT 7.30 PM

Conference Room 2 - The Forum

The Councillors listed below are requested to attend the above meeting, on the day and at the time and place stated, to consider the business set out in this agenda.

Membership

Councillor Anderson
Councillor Birnie
Councillor Deacon (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Gale
Councillor Hobson (Chairman)
Councillor Hobson
Councillor Mitchell

Councillor Patterson
Councillor Pringle
Councillor Riddick
Councillor Santamaria
Councillor Timmis
Councillor Walker
Councillor C Wyatt-Lowe

For further information, please contact Corporate and Democratic Support or 01442 228209

AGENDA

1. MINUTES (Pages 3 - 15)

To agree the minutes of the previous meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

5. ACTION POINTS (Pages 16 - 20)

**6. CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE IN
RELATION TO CALL-IN**

7. **Q4 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES QUARTERLY REPORTS** (Pages 21 - 23)
8. **Q4 ENVIRONMENTAL & COMMUNITY PROTECTION QUARTERLY REPORTS**
(Pages 24 - 28)
9. **Q4 PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION QUARTERLY REPORTS**
(Pages 29 - 34)
10. **WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 35 - 39)

MINUTES

Dacorum Borough Council

Strategic Planning and Environment Wednesday 14th March

Councillors:

Neil Harden (Chair)
Jane Timmis
Garrick Stevens
Adrian England
Stewart Riddick
Rob Beauchamp
Rosie Sutton
Nigel Taylor
Anne Foster
Collette Wyatt-Lowe
Fiona Guest

Also in attendance: Julie Banks (Cllr)
Alan Anderson (Cllr)

Officers: (6)

Alex Robinson – Assistant Director Planning
James Doe – Strategic Director – Place
Trevor Pugh – Assistant Director – Neighbourhood Delivery
Keely Mitchell – Trainee Strategic Planning & Regeneration Officer
Diane Southam – Assistant Director Place, Communities and Enterprise Restructure.

The meeting began at 19:30

1 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from, Cllr Hearn, Cllr Wilkie and Cllr Rogers

Cllr Guest was a substitute for Cllr Rogers.

Cllr Taylor and Cllr England gave apologies for lateness.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

5 CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE IN RELATION TO A CALL-IN

None.

6 ACTION POINTS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Noted

7 Q3 PLANNING AND REGENERATION PERFORMANCE REPORT

ARobinson provided the update, noting that this is the first style of the report to consolidate a number of KPIs that were previously reported to the Committee. The new series of KPIs cover an amalgamated metric and planning applications determined within target, enforcement visits taken place against the target, affordable housing completions and retail property completions. There is no data for the quarter on housing or retail property completions. 80% of planning applications were determined within target, against a target of 70%, and 79% of enforcement priority sites were completed against a target of 100%.

Cllr Foster queried why there was no data for housing or retail property completions. ARobinson advised that the data for formal housing completions relies on NHBC submissions that are not always provided in time for the report. On affordable housing, ARobinson confirmed that they would check when the NHBC data is submitted and how this syncs with the report, noting that they are reliant on the NHBC reporting cycle.

Cllr Stevens referred to item 1.8 and the reference to the vacancy rate for council-owned commercial assets being 4.6%. Cllr Stevens asked if they could receive clarification on what this refers to. ARobinson suggested that this is based on a units basis.

Cllr Guest referred to page 19 of the report, paragraphs 1.4 and 1.5, and the reference to the number of planning applications determined within target exceeding the target. Cllr Guest congratulated officers for exceeding this target, particularly given that they are down on planning officers. Cllr Guest noted that the team is working through the backlog of enforcement site visits and asked how the live caseload is being reduced. PStanley noted that cases can be resolved due to the enforcement team finding that there has been no breach, that the breach is minor and it is not worth taking action, or a retrospective planning application has been submitted.

Cllr Guest asked if cases are dropping off due to being resolved. PStanley explained that a live case has to be open and all closed cases will no longer form part of the live caseload data.

Cllr Timmis noted her surprise that the target level of completed enforcement is as high as 79%, noting that another form of prioritisation has been brought in to bring total numbers down. Cllr Timmis stated that there are at least 10 outstanding cases in her ward and that she feels the service is failing. PStanley responded that the performance target in the report

solely relates to first site visits and how quickly the enforcement team are completing these. This will depend on the priority of the case, with priority 1 cases having to be visited within 1 working day, priority 2 cases within 10 working days and priority 3 cases within 15 working days. This is not a performance measure on how many live cases are reaching a resolution within a certain timeframe.

Cllr Timmis commented that a case that was opened in 2016 that has not been dealt with since would come under the 79%. PStanley stated that the 79% in the report reflects the number of cases visited for the first time in time and doesn't reflect the total caseload or speed of resolution.

The Chair asked if the 79% refers to new, live cases. PStanley stated that there could theoretically be a 2020 case that they have not visited before and if it was visited in this quarter then it would be part of the 21% not visited in time.

The Chair queried if there are KPIs regarding cases not visited. ARobinson confirmed that it would be highlighted as a missed case.

ARobinson commented on enforcement, noting that whilst the target doesn't always reflect the full lifecycle of an enforcement case, they also acknowledge the stress the service has been under. The data for June 2021 and September 2022 shows that the number of priority 1 site visits has gone from 60% to 90% in target, priority 2 has gone from 42% to over 60% and priority 3 site visits remain at 80%. The service is improving in this measure, though it is recognised that visiting a site doesn't mean the enforcement case is closed. ARobinson advised that there is an action plan to get the live caseloads reduced as much as possible.

Cllr Timmis referred to an example in her ward, noting a barn that was put up on green belt and outstanding natural beauty land. Planning permission was turned down and the barn was still put up. Planning enforcement visited and stated that they had 6 months to take the building down, but it still remains. Cllr Timmis acknowledged the challenges faced by planning enforcement given that officers are being attracted elsewhere, and she confirmed that she has written to the Chief Executive to state that the department requires better funding to deliver its service.

ARobinson advised that they could discuss individual cases offline to set out the steps being taken to resolve these. There is huge demand across the service with a limited pool of officers.

Cllr Wyatt-Lowe commented on the importance of getting statistics from other organisations and how this can impact DBC reporting.

Cllr Wyatt-Lowe noted item 4 in the report and achieving 80%, stating that this was a strong achievement given the challenges the team is currently facing.

JDoe noted that he will be meeting Cllr Timmis towards the end of the week and that he will be following up the issues in her ward.

Cllr Foster noted that the KPI is currently the only measure to illustrate how enforcement is performing and that there is no other measure. PStanley stated that the KPI is a combined priority 1-3, which were historically separated out, and only relates to first site visits. This has been the only corporate KPI for some time now, and it was noted that the public want to know both how quickly a site is visited and a resolution is found. The 400 Plan was therefore created to help reduce caseloads and allow for an annual proactive focus to look at cases from a specific year. PStanley advised that it is not always easy to measure resolution as enforcement can take many years in some cases so they would need to determine what is meant by resolution. ARobinson agreed, noting that the KPI currently only tells part of the story and that it is difficult to define what success looks like.

Cllr Foster commented on the retail property vacancy KPI and noted that data is not currently recorded by asset type. Cllr Foster asked if the intention is to record by asset type in future. ARobinson explained that the intention is to provide a granular picture of the vacancies, though there is currently limited information available, and further detail will be provided in future.

Cllr Stevens noted the comprehensive return in development management, and whilst there are extensive reports on this, he stated he was not sure whether simplistic returns would help. The Chair suggested that it's challenging to define a successful measure that members would want to see.

Cllr Wyatt-Lowe agreed with Cllr Stevens, noting that the reports that come in on development management include a high level of information, and that this illustrates the difficulties getting the resolutions that members want. Cllr Wyatt-Lowe recommended that the Committee receive a version of what the Planning Committee receives.

JDoe referred to the query on retail occupancy figures, stating that this is an area that requires further work, though also relates to item 11 on Hemel Town Centre and that they also need to look to other centers and villages over the coming months.

The report was noted.

8 Q3 ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION PERFORMANCE REPORT

TPugh provided the update, noting the number of high-risk food inspections is just under 60% as they continue to work through the backlog, though they are on target to fully recover this by Q2. The number of fixed penalty notices issued by district enforcement for the PSPO is 3,536.

Cllr Beauchamp noted that the report refers to a spatial planning environment and asked if the Committee is spatial or strategic. It was noted that the Committee is strategic.

Cllr Wyatt-Lowe referred to a public health panel meeting and noted a discussion regarding health prevention matters. A question regarding air pollution was raised and that the amount of particulates exposes residents to health problems, and Cllr Wyatt-Lowe asked if DBC is doing all it can to push Hertfordshire to address these issues.

Cllr Banks agreed with the comments, noting that their relationship with partners and stakeholders is critical to the work they are doing locally to improve air quality. DBC's main role is to monitor and contribute to meetings, and they are actively participating in a number of forums.

Cllr Wyatt-Lowe confirmed that she requested at the panel meeting a possible scrutiny on air quality and the need for more regular reporting to Public Health.

Cllr England noted that the report previously included a breakdown on the types of offences and the locations. The Chair suggested that TPugh look at previous updates to see the level of information provided on district enforcement.

Cllr England asked if there has been any balancing out regarding tackling litter across the borough and not just penalising smokers. TPugh confirmed that he would provide the member with this information and that the highest offence is the littering of cigarette butts, with Hemel Hempstead town centre seeing the most offences. The Chair noted that Hemel Hempstead town centre has the greatest footfall and therefore the greater intensity of enforcement, which can skew the figures.

Cllr England noted that Keep Britain Tidy states that cigarette litter accounts for 70-90% and if DBC is recording over 90% then this suggests they are not being as proportional as they should.

Cllr Wyatt-Lowe commented that, going through Hemel Hempstead town centre, the greatest accumulation of cigarette butts is around bins and asked if the bins are designed correctly.

Cllr Beauchamp suggested that the bin design isn't the issue and that people take a 'near enough' approach and throw cigarette butts towards the bin.

Cllr Guest referred to the 2,666 PSPOs that have been paid and 870 tickets were cancelled, some of which are due to being referred to prosecution. Cllr Guest noted that 327 were prosecuted through the single justice procedure and asked for clarification on what this is. The Chair advised that this is a way of ensuring that the individual doesn't have to go before the court and acts in a similar way as an on-the-spot fine. Cllr Guest asked if this refers to all cases referred to prosecution. The Chair suggested that if there is no challenge to the case then most will go through the single justice procedure.

The report was noted.

ACTION: TPugh to provide further reporting on district enforcement.

9 Q3 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Chair advised that there was no report. It was noted that neither officer had been made aware that the individual report should be produced, though the report has now been produced and will be circulated to members post-meeting.

On the 5 KPIs, the following was noted:

- Fly-tips collected within the timescale of 7 days is 91.7% against a target of 95%.
- Graffiti removal within 7 days is 91.9% against a target of 95%.
- 313 bins were missed per 100,000 bins collected.
- Recycling is 49%.
- 109kg of residual waste per household.

Cllr Timmis noted the charging of a fly-tipper in her ward and advised that she has received a report from a resident stating that there has been a major fly-tip in the middle of a lane. Cllr Timmis noted that she has also recently seen further fly-tipping and asked if they are seeing an increase in cases. TPugh noted that there is a relatively high number of fly-tips in Dacorum, though he was unsure if they could state that numbers are increasing. TPugh added that DBC does more enforcement around fly-tipping compared to any other council in Hertfordshire.

Cllr Timmis referred to the 313 missed bins and asked if this is due to crews changing. TPugh advised that the figure is for justified missed bins, noting that the figure of 320 for February breaks down to 112 grey bins, 106 blue, 12 green and 90 kerbside caddies.

Cllr Timmis commented on the green bins, noting that residents have stated that they have not received the leaflet and that bins were not collected. TPugh explained that they were let down by the leaflet distributors, though there were other methods of communication, and they are organising for more leaflets to be delivered as well as putting bin hangers onto bins.

Cllr Beauchamp commented on residual waste and asked if this refers to black bin waste or a combination of all bins. TPugh confirmed that this refers to black bin waste.

Cllr Foster asked how many residents registered for green bin collection after the first collection took place. TPugh confirmed that he could provide this figure, though there is currently around 14,000 subscriptions. TPugh added that they have reached their assumed number and are now above this.

The Chair queried the process to remove graffiti from private properties. TPugh stated that they notify the owner of the property and that they are asked to remove it or pay the council to do so.

Cllr Stevens provided an anecdotal report regarding a green bin out for collection without a sticker. Cllr Stevens stated that the owner knew the cost but was unsure of how to register and asked how they can encourage residents to phone up to register, noting that it is much easier to sign up online. TPugh advised that customer services have received a high level of calls, which has led to delays. There has been funding for an additional member of the team for the period, though two additional members may have been preferable.

Cllr Wyatt-Lowe commented on green bins and the intention to encourage people to compost more of their own rubbish at home. Cllr Wyatt-Lowe asked how much effort has been put into raising the profile of composting. TPugh advised that they continue to run

campaigns and offers around composters, though the message may be lost in the wider reaction to the charges.

Cllr Taylor asked how long it currently takes for a green bin collection to be registered. TPugh advised that it should be received within 10 days following payment. Cllr Taylor asked if people could pay online and the lorry could be notified on a one-off basis that the resident has paid. TPugh advised that this could be done, though they want to make it clear for collectors that bins should not be collected if they don't have a sticker. TPugh referred to the level of publicity regarding green bin collections and that the terms and conditions state that a sticker must be on the bin before it is collected.

Cllr Stevens challenged the view regarding composting at home, noting that the amount of space that people have to compost is decreasing. Cllr Stevens noted that he has tried composting and has now abandoned food composting as it attracted rats. It was suggested that if gardens are decreasing then a smaller composter would be required.

Cllr England reflected that the Council is disrespecting residents by introducing the green bin subscription too quickly, noting that they know they will upset residents by doing it this way.

The Chair queried the current registration figures for green bin subscriptions. TPugh confirmed that they have already gone beyond the anticipated registration figures. The Chair acknowledged the teething issues and suggested that the registration figures show that the scheme has been successful.

Cllr Timmis noted that registrations were challenged due to putting out the leaflet distribution to a private company as a result of Royal Mail being on strike. Cllr Timmis commented that the first collection is over winter, when there will be less waste, and that she was unsure if rolling out the scheme more slowly would have resolved the issues.

Cllr England asked which company had distributed the leaflets and if it was the same company that had distributed the Local Plan draft several years ago. It was agreed that this could be looked into.

The report was noted.

ACTION: TPugh to provide further information on green bin collection registration.

ACTION: To look into whether leaflet distribution company have been used by DBC in the past.

10 PARADISE DESIGN CODE

ARobinson introduced the item, noting that the Committee has previously seen the draft and that it has been out to consultation, receiving 23 consultation responses. The report is now the final design code and the Committee is being asked to inform Cabinet of its views on the documents. ARobinson confirmed that, once adopted, the design code will provide a detailed set of design requirements for the Paradise employment site, which was allocated under the site allocations DPD for mixed-use development a number of years ago.

Cllr Guest asked how much weight the new design code will have in determining planning applications compared with the current SPD. A Robinson explained that there are a hierarchy of plans and the DPD document will sit alongside the core strategy with the SPD being a subsidiary document that provides more detail on the site. It will be a material consideration when determining a planning application and will get the requisite level of weight alongside other planning considerations.

Cllr Guest asked how the new design code compares to what currently exists. A Robinson advised that the existing documents won't change and will maintain their current weight, and the new document provides additional detail to the policies. The new document code doesn't have more weight, though provides additional detail and clarification by expanding on the existing policy.

Cllr Guest referred to page 31 of the report, paragraph 1.3, on the consultation running from 28th October 2022 for 4 weeks, closing on 28th November 2023, and asked if it should read 2022. It was confirmed that this was incorrect and could be updated.

Cllr England congratulated the officers on the work. This was supported by a number of other members.

Cllr Timmis asked if the design code only relates to the Paradise area and will not roll out to other parts of Dacorum. A Robinson confirmed that this is purely the defined area, as set out in the document. K Mitchell noted that it also sets out parameters regarding height.

Cllr Timmis commented that a number of trees are deciduous and that buildings will look more austere in winter months. K Mitchell confirmed that new codes have been included on tree planting and that the details of this will be detailed planning provisions.

Cllr Timmis commended the suggestion that apartments should have their own green space.

A comment was raised that there are other design codes for other areas across the borough. K Mitchell noted that they are one of the first to adopt a design code using the national guidance.

Cllr England asked if the design code doesn't imply anything for any other part of Hemel Hempstead. This was confirmed.

Cllr England queried the maximum size of a design code area. K Mitchell stated that there isn't a maximum size and all design codes must be based on analysis. K Mitchell noted that the design code applies to the site, though they have drawn objectives from the Hemel Garden Community Spatial Vision, and other design codes in the area will likely build on similar principles with similar objectives.

A Robinson noted that government are looking to move the planning system more into design codes to provide clarity, though it is challenging to have a checklist that complies given the level of subjectivity. A Robinson referred to the parameters set out as well as the level of discretion in assessment on a case-by-case basis.

ARobinson advised that the direction of the Local Plan is to see more design codes come forward with the strategic growth sites as it helps provide residents with a greater understanding of what will happen and it's also a good opportunity for residents to be involved in shaping developments as they come forward.

JDoe commented noted that the design code has been a useful exercise and has given officers a level of new skills that can now be rolled out to other design codes.

On the size of area, JDoe agreed that there is no predefined limit, and noted that one output from the Maylands study will be a design code for the whole of Maylands, which will be much larger than Paradise.

The Chair asked if the site will have restricted parking. K Mitchell confirmed that it would need to comply with the parking SPD. The Chair noted that standalone areas often have restricted parking, which doesn't deter people from having cars and instead impacts the areas outside of the restrictions. ARobinson advised that they are looking to not change any parking standards and the parking SPD will need to be complied with. The design code provides guidance on how to layout car parking within the development.

Cllr Stevens commented that, once adopted, it will become a master plan for the area. KMitchell advised that it will set the parameters for design, and rather than a master plan that states what does where, it acts as the middle stage between a design guide and master plan. ARobinson added that there is complexity with the Paradise site due to the multiple ownerships and they therefore can't provide a specific master plan, though they can provide guidelines on how it can comply.

ARobinson advised that anything that comes forward will still require planning permission, and if a developer wishes to deviate from the design code then the local authority has the ability to refuse applications.

Cllr England asked if councillors on Development Management would need an in-depth understanding of the design code. ARobinson stated that, once adopted, the design code will form part of supplementary guidance that is already in place and Committee members will need to be briefed on the design code. This will be offered as part of the normal cycle of planning training, though when applications come forward, officers will explain to members how the application does or doesn't comply with the design code. KMitchell noted that appendix B sets out the compliance checklist, which developers will need to fill out if they have scheme on the site.

The Committee agreed the recommendation that it informs Cabinet of its views.

It was noted that this would be ARobinson's last SPAE and members thanked him for his work. ARobinson thanked members for their support.

SWhelan presented the framework, first noting the work on Tring and Berkhamsted, advising that both now have a narrative set in place with engagements started with communities in autumn 2022. Tring has started a steering group that has met 3 times and DSoutham has met with Berkhamsted to look at next steps. SWhelan noted the connecting of communities across the borough with all 3 areas highlighting that working together and connecting the communities will benefit them all.

SWhelan apologised for the town vision document not being included on the agenda and acknowledged that members would need further time to go through this. This is a draft document and is not intended to go to Cabinet until summer, and SWhelan suggested that this item come back to SPAE in June or via a separate briefing in the coming weeks.

SWhelan advised that the town centre vision is aimed at land owners and investors and that there will be opportunities to rephrase this to consider other audiences. The partnership approach is critical and is highlighted early on in the vision as it is a huge strength that investors can invest in a place where there is civic pride and a strong network of businesses. The three main themes of the vision are on businesses, connections and wellbeing, and these follow through into the wider strategy. There is a focus on the pedestrian connections and curating the public spaces, and there are 8 aims around the vision that are deliverable through partnership by focusing on investment and regeneration opportunities. The drivers for change include a lack of sustainable transport, oversupply of retail, lack of culture and leisure facilities, a decrease in employment and reduced footfall.

SWhelan noted the analysis for both sections of the town centre to consider main cycling routes, retail spaces and which areas can be diversified. The history of Hemel Hempstead is also included within the vision to help increase the civic pride and ownership within the community, and being 75 years old, some areas will require renewal and investment. 5 priorities for Hemel Town Centre have been laid out as (1) making Bank Court the heart of the town centre, (2) improve east-west connections, (3) reimagine Waterhouse Street, (4) reconnect the Old Town and New Town, and (5) the Hemel Imaginarium project to focus on meanwhile usage. Zones for opportunities have also been identified for when funding comes in and will have a partnership approach.

On the next steps, SWhelan explained that they are working with the third and private sector to think imaginatively about funding opportunities and resources. The work in progress items around quotes will be completed and the document will be taken to UKREiiF before coming back to SPAE in June, before going to Cabinet in July to ratify the document. Work will also commence with the Hemel Place Board on action plans.

The Chair asked if the Council should be promoting themselves as Hemel or Hemel Hempstead. SWhelan confirmed that they had looked into this and that the resulting conclusion was Hemel Hempstead to external audiences and Hemel for internal audiences. JDoe agreed that it's an important distinction.

JDoe commented on the challenges facing all town centres and noted that this requires a fresh approach to setting their aspirations for Hemel Town Centre. JDoe explained that this is an overarching vision where further levels of detail can be added and he reminded members that they are looking to promote Hemel Hempstead as an investment location as

they are reliant on attracting ambitious investment into the area. Contacts made at UKREiiF last year were very promising and this year they are able to take the document with them.

DSoutham acknowledged the work that SWhelan has put into the document and noted that it is a document that developers and investors will want to see. DSoutham advised that they are not just looking at new inward investors but also existing landowners and encouraging them to stay in the area. DBC doesn't own much land in the town centre and the focus needs to be on promoting what they do have.

The Chair noted the agenda item was Hemel Town Centre Framework. SWhelan confirmed that the title of the document is the Hemel Town Centre Vision.

Cllr Beauchamp congratulated SWhelan and JDoe on their work on the vision and commended the thought process that went into create the document. The town is transitioning from being a retail centre into an experience centre and this is the model that most towns are following. Cllr Beauchamp noted the Japanese company that have taken over Hamilton House with the aim to create a community within the unit and Hemel Town Centre. Cllr Beauchamp commented on the town's potential and that it was positive to see DBC ahead of the game.

Cllr Timmis congratulated the team on their hard work and asked what relation the document bears to the new Local Plan in terms of numbers of houses, etc., noting that they are yet to be consulted on the new Local Plan. SWhelan advised that this is a different way of working and is separate to the Local Plan and planning process that allow the place strategies to be broader than what would be seen in the Local Plan or design code. The place approach for an area may focus on community groups or regeneration opportunities and is much broader than a planning piece, and the vision won't have the same level of detail, such as how many homes there will be or how many schools or parking spaces are required. The vision has helped to define what the Local Plan can look at in the town centre, though the vision is owned by the place of that town centre.

Cllr Timmis suggested that investors and developers may be pressurising for the maximum amount that they can get out of it, which may not work alongside the general plan of how the place should work. SWhelan acknowledged this and explained that the vision sets out to engage with landowners and investors to demonstrate that it is a town centre to invest in. JDoe added that the vision is not a planning supplementary document nor a design code or master plan, and it will influence the Council's thinking on what goes into the Local Plan, though this will come back to members after the elections when work has progressed further. JDoe advised that the recommendation for the document is that it's visionary, ambitious as well as open to suggestions, and any regeneration will be safeguarded by the planning process.

Cllr England commended the document and asked to discuss the green connection into the town further. Cllr England suggested that the east-west visibility of opening up Waterhouse Street doesn't happen with the apertures available at the moment and that he would like to see Primark taken down. On the east-west connection, SWhelan stated that the urban analysis appendix sets out the new town architect and design pieces that are the best quality, noting that the front of Primark is wonderful, though the location of it with the narrow

route either side is a challenge, as is the location of Bank Court. SWhelan commented that the challenge is a benefit around Bank Court as it provides a sense of enclosure and they will need freeholders to consider the frontages. SWhelan referred to St. Christopher's Place in St. Albans and in London that is very narrow with festoon lighting. SWhelan suggested that the east-west connections aren't that narrow and could be temporarily dressed with installations to make the area as attractive as possible.

Cllr England suggested that taking this approach would act as a hint to freeholders. SWhelan stated that this should help inspire freeholders and leaseholders to consider other opportunities.

On cycling, SWhelan noted that the vision doesn't have the level of detail on where cycle routes should be though does follow the town centre master plan from 7-8 years ago that did include key cycle routes. SWhelan noted that the route goes parallel to the Marlowes to keep the Marlowes parade cycle-free, and explained that a separate cycle and walking implementation plan is also being formulated, which will be key to identifying where cycle routes should be. Feasibility work is also being done around bike hire schemes.

The Chair commented on the plans around Bank Court and asked if Barclays have been informed that they want to place a restaurant on the site. SWhelan advised that the plans need to be taken out to freeholders so they can understand their current appetite and when leases are up for renewal. SWhelan noted that the team is very small at present, though they are identifying early priorities.

Cllr England suggested that Bank Court be renamed Riverbank Court. SWhelan commented on the importance of history and being authentic to a place's history.

Cllr England noted the murals and sculptures around Hemel and suggested that people should be taken on a tour of these sites. SWhelan advised that one of the first actions they will take this year is using the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to have a meanwhile uses strategy, which will involve a number of partners outside of the Council, and ideas such as a heritage trail have already come out strongly.

Cllr England commented on having a locality budget and being able to use some to move the lamppost that was put in front of one of the murals.

The Chair referred to the artist's impression feature of Hemel, stating that it looks too busy. The Chair also commented on the consultation feedback and suggested that the word clouds don't work, noting that it currently puts 'eat children' together and it also mentions Watford within the cloud. SWhelan stated that the appendix requires the most work and that it has been updated since it was included in the appendix. SWhelan confirmed that they are using AI technology to group the analysis together in a better way and confirmed that it would undergo further work.

The Chair commended the work and enthusiasm from the team around putting Hemel Hempstead on the map and being able to take the vision to UKREiIF.

The Committee noted the report.

12 WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair noted the work programme.

Cllr Timmis noted that A Robinson should be removed from the work programme.

Cllr Timmis asked if water companies could be invited to attend given the plans on reducing water usage and possible hosepipe bans.

LFowell confirmed that there are a number of items to be planned on the previous work programme and noted that the June work programme will be for the next term so is populated only with standing reports. LFowell confirmed that the Hemel Town Centre Vision will be added to the plan.

The Chair asked if they could have a 'to be added' column on the work programme for the next term. LFowell explained that any suggestions could be sent to the Chair and that they would be added as items for consideration.

Cllr Timmis noted that Luton Airport are about to put in for a large expansion and suggested that this should be discussed at SPAE.

The Chair asked that any suggestions be emailed to him with LFowell copied in.

13. Any other business

JDoe commented on ARobinson leaving and reassured members that they are out to advert on his substantive post along with other leadership posts within the Council with a closing date of 3rd April and interviews scheduled for May. An interim AD for planning will start on 20th March and JDoe confirmed that he would circulate details to members as well as liaising with LFowell and the team on putting contact details into the member news.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting.

Strategic Planning & Environment OSC Action Points - Jan

Date of meeting	Action point	Responsible officer	Date action completed	Response
12 October 2022	HPeacock and MParr to check if prediction of 30,000 cars by 2030 includes development of local plan	H Peacock	30/12/22	LF sent to committee 01/12/22
12 October 2022	To circulate the outstanding debt figure.	A Robinson	31/10/22	LF sent to committee 31/10/22
8 Nov 2022	H Peacock to report back complaints figures. (complaints policy)	H peacock	14/11/22	LF sent to committee 01/12/22
8 Nov 2022	Richard Le Brun's team to contact Ashridge about dumping of green waste and invasive species	R Lebrun		Ongoing
6 Dec 2022	Further update on digitalisation to be included as part of the quarterly report.	A Robinson		To be completed on next report cycle
10 Jan 2023	ARobinson to provide Committee with threshold for which developments biodiversity net gains applies to	A Robinson	21/01/2023	In January 2022, Defra undertook a consultation on Biodiversity Net Gain Regulations and Implementation that sought views on the following: 'Proposals We are proposing to make the following exemptions using our regulation-making powers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. developments impacting habitat areas below a 'de minimis' (minimal) threshold 2. householder applications 3. change of use applications

				<p>We are also considering whether to make exemptions for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. creation of biodiversity gain sites 5. self-build and custom housebuilding <p>And we are proposing to not apply the following exemptions, some of which were discussed in the previous net gain consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. brownfield sites which meet set criteria 7. temporary permissions 8. developments for which permitted development rights are not applicable due to their location in conservation areas or national park'. <p>The results of this consultation have not yet been released and a decision is still to be issued by Government on the thresholds and exemptions. This is expected to be included within secondary legislation.</p>
10 Jan 2023	A Robinson to check timelines for 10% uplift delivery	A Robinson	25/01/2023	There is no guidance on this within the information currently released by Government.
10 Jan 2023	A Robinson to look into policy CS14 and creation of 10,000 jobs alongside claim from Hemel Garden Communities of 10,000 jobs.	A Robinson	25/01/2023	<p>Information on the number of jobs created since the adoption of the Core Strategy (2013) is recorded annually in the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR).</p> <p>The 2020/21 AMR showed the net change in jobs from 2006-2020 to be in excess of 10,000 set out in CS14. This demonstrates that policy CS14 has been achieved and that the claim from Hemel Garden Communities of 10,000 jobs would be in addition.</p> <p>The following job numbers are extracted from the 2020/21 AMR: This shows a net increase in jobs since 2006, however there are some concerns over the accuracy of figures</p>

				<p>5.1 Core Strategy Policy CS14 proposes a net increase of 10,000 jobs in Dacorum over the plan period (2006-2031). This is an increase of approximately 15%. The jobs growth target was recommended by the Dacorum Employment Land Update 2011. This report forecast significant growth during the plan period of office jobs (+7,300) and non-B[1] jobs (+5,900), but a decline in industry and warehousing jobs (-3,400).</p> <p>5.2 Employee jobs^[2] in the Borough fell during the 2008-2009 recession, but have recovered strongly since 2010 and are now well above pre-recession levels. Job numbers increased significantly by 26,000 between 2018 and 2019 (Table 5.1) and remained high in 2020. The overall increase since 2006 is 37,200 jobs. It means the Core Strategy's 2006-2031 jobs growth target has already been achieved. This is a very good performance given the length and depth of the recent recession. One reason for the strong jobs growth is the Council's proactive approach towards promoting economic development.</p> <p>Table 5.1: Employee jobs 2006-2020</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>2006</th> <th>2011</th> <th>2016</th> <th>2017</th> <th>2018</th> <th>20</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>58,800</td> <td>57,200</td> <td>68,000</td> <td>68,000</td> <td>69,000</td> <td>95</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: NOMIS Office for National Statistics (ONS). 2006 figures from the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI).</p> <p>5.3 The job growth figures should be treated with caution, although it is the best available for this purpose. As explained in Appendix A to the South West Hertfordshire Economic Study</p>	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	20	58,800	57,200	68,000	68,000	69,000	95
2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	20											
58,800	57,200	68,000	68,000	69,000	95											

^[1] Non-B jobs are jobs not within Use Classes B1 (business use), B2 (general industry) and B8 (storage and distribution).

^[2] The number of employee jobs is defined as 'the number of jobs held by employees and excludes the self-employed, Government supported trainees and HM Forces

				Update (2018), there are often inaccuracies in the data. In reality, it is most unlikely that job growth in Dacorum between 2018 and 2019 was anything like as high as indicated by Table 5.1. 5.4 Services continue to dominate employee jobs by sector in the local economy (Table 5.2). However, the very high jobs figure for administration and support services (33,000) is almost certainly a substantial over-estimate, given that the 2018 figure for this sector was only 8,000 jobs. Other large sectors in Dacorum are retail; professional, scientific and technical; information and communication; education, health and social work; transport and storage; and information and communication. The role of knowledge-based industries is becoming more important in Dacorum, as it is nationally.
10 Jan 2023	ARobinson to request an update on the Dacorum Economic Recovery Plan.	A Robinson	25/01/2023	Sent via email 25/01/2023
1 Feb 2023	ARobinson to look into wording of refused applications KPI.	ARobinson		The reason for the increase in refusals during this period is because a number of unacceptable applications were refused by some Officers who were winding up legacy cases before departing.
14 March	How are retail premise vacancy rates calculated?	A Robinson	15/03/23	These are calculated on a unit basis
14 March	Availability of enforcement report	A Robinson	15/03/23	Suggest this is circulated to members of SPAE when it goes to DMC
14 March	Which company was used to distribute the 'green bin' publication info – was it the same firm that distributed the local plan brochure	K Soley	15/03/23	The National Leaflet Company (TNLC) were commissioned to undertake a leaflet drop at the beginning of 2023, and were provided with 55,000 leaflets for distribution. TNLC is the parent company which delivered the Local Plan document in 2019/20, however, they use different local and regional operatives dependent on the nature of the job. Distribution reports are provided following completion. It is



				important to note that leafleting is one component of an extensive marketing and communications campaign, which has exceeded the agreed corporate objectives of the campaign. Leafleting has now been superseded by the issue of bin hangers which are placed on any unsubscribed bins by the refuse crews directly. A detailed campaign review and analysis will be produced in due course when the campaign has run its full course
14 March	When is data available to allow info of affordable homes completions to be known?			The Strategic Planning team have a service level agreement with the County Council for them to monitor and survey all our housing sites in the borough with planning permission in each financial year. They normally undertake the survey work from the end of March in each year and the data is then updated, checked and finally made available by May/June.



Spatial Planning and Environment

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report for:	Spatial Planning and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Title of report:	Q4 Environmental Services Update
Date:	2 nd June 2023
Report on behalf of:	Councillor Robin Bromham , Portfolio Holder for Regulatory and Community
Part:	I
If Part II, reason:	N/A
Appendices:	
Background papers:	
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	

<p>Report Author / Responsible Officer</p> <p>Robert Williams</p> <p>Interim Head of Service - Environmental Services</p> <p> </p> <p>Robert.williams@dacorum.gov.uk / 01442 228027 (ext. 2027)</p>
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Corporate Priorities	<p>A clean, safe and enjoyable environment</p> <p>Ensuring efficient, effective and modern service delivery</p> <p>Climate and ecological emergency</p>
Wards affected	All
Purpose of the report:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To provide Members with the performance report for quarter 4 in relation to Environmental Services
Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> For information only.
Period for post policy/project review:	

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents the performance outturn for Environmental Services during the fourth quarter (January to March) of the financial year 2022-23.
- 1.2 The performance report has a total of five reported indicators following the new improved reporting exercise undertaken by the Performance Team.
- 1.3 Of the revised KPIs two reflect a National Indicators; NI 191 for the kilograms of residual waste (non-recycled) produced by each household every year, and NI 192 for the percentage of household waste recycled and the other three are local indicators.

WR02 Household Recycling Rate

- 1.4 This figure expresses the amount of materials collected for recycling and composting as a percentage of the total household waste stream. This figure mirrors the National Indicator NI 192. Over the months of the fourth quarter the figure was 49.00%. The household recycling rate is affected by the seasonal variations in the amount of green garden waste collected. The garden waste collection service does not operate for two months of this quarter owing to the majority of plants being in their winter season.

WR01 Reports of missed bins per 100,000 collected

- 1.5 This is a local measure of service performance for Waste Operations based on reports of bins not emptied on their allocated collection day. The figure for Q4 was averaging 85. This figure is to be confirmed based on updated reporting.

WR03 Kilograms per household of residual waste collected

- 1.6 This is a measure of the amount of non-recycled household waste collected by weight. For the three months of the fourth quarter the average per household was 105 kg. The final figure is a cumulative total of the whole year. The provisional figure for this is 421 kg.

CSG02 Percentage of Fly tips collected within the set timescale of 7 days

- 1.7 The Clean, Safe and Green (CSG) service carry out the fly tip removal operation. For the fourth quarter 95.38 % of fly tips were cleared within the 7 days target, which is above the 95% target.

CSG05 Graffiti Removal – Percentage removed from Dacorum Structures within 7 days

- 1.8 The CSG carry out this work. During fourth quarter 92.59% of reported graffiti was removed, just under the target of 95%.

1.9 Depot Transformation Project

The Waste Operations team have undergone a review as part of the Depot Transformation Program. Proposals were made to improve the logistics pattern used for collection vehicles, and in addition staff terms and conditions. The proposals underwent a full consultation with all staff involved and as a result of final negotiations a series of improvements have been agreed: -

- All the existing collection rounds have gone through to a route optimisation exercise to look at how to deploy the vehicles and crew in the most logical and efficient way.
- New collection rounds have been developed to allow the same service level to be delivered with fewer vehicles and crew, thereby creating environmental and economic savings.
- The service level and frequency of collections will remain the same.
- Through the consultation process the views of the staff were taken into consideration, and a revised iteration of the new routes was prepared. This will result in circa 10,000 properties having their collection day changed, far fewer than the initial proposal.

- The new routes are due to be implemented in late July.
- The views of the staff regarding terms and conditions has been taken into account and certain changes made to enhance staff morale, which in turn will assist with recruitment and retention.

1.10 Garden Waste Subscription Service

The new subscription service began on the 27th February, during the fourth quarter.

The actual total number of households signed up to the scheme as of the 2nd June is 31,652. This is 63.3% of households who previously received a free collection.

2 Options and alternatives considered

No options to consider, for information only.

3 Consultation

N/A

4 Financial and value for money implications:

N/A

5 Legal Implications

N/A

6 Risk implications:

N/A

7 Equalities, Community Impact and Human Rights:

There are no Human Rights Implications arising from this report.

8 Sustainability implications (including climate change, health and wellbeing, community safety)

N/A

9 Council infrastructure (including Health and Safety, HR/OD, assets and other resources)

N/A

10 Conclusions:

Report to be noted by the Committee.



Spatial Planning and Environment

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report for:	Spatial Planning and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Title of report:	Q4 Environmental and Community Protection Update
Date:	13 th June 2023
Report on behalf of:	Councillor Robin Bromham, Portfolio Holder for Regulatory and Community
Part:	I
If Part II, reason:	N/A
Appendices:	
Background papers:	
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	

Report Author / Responsible Officer

Emma Walker

Head of Regulatory Services, Environmental and Community Protection



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Corporate Priorities	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A clean, safe and enjoyable environment Building strong and vibrant communities Ensuring economic growth and prosperity Providing good quality affordable homes, in particular for those most in need Ensuring efficient, effective and modern service delivery Climate and ecological emergency

Wards affected	All
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Purpose of the report:	1. To provide members with the performance report for quarter 4 in relation to Regulatory Services.
Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s):	1. For information only.
Period for post policy/project review:	

1 Introduction/Background:

1.1 For the purpose of this report, ‘Environmental and Community Protection’ includes the following services:

- Environmental Health Team (Covid 19 Outbreak Control, Food Safety, Health and Safety Enforcement, Statutory Nuisances, Contaminated Land, Drainage, Private Water Supplies, Infectious Diseases, Air Quality Management, High Hedges). Team Manager- Sarah Stefano, team of 7 FTE’s and 3 temps (1 Vacancy).
- Operations Team (Public Health, Pest Control, Animal Welfare, Dog Warden Services, Environmental Enforcement and management of District Enforcement Littering and PSPO Enforcement Contract). Team Manager, Dawn Rhoden and Team of 5.5FTE and 2 Temps.
- Corporate Health, Safety and Resilience Team (Internal Health and Safety Advice, Technical Support, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity). Team Manager, Russell Ham and Team of 3.4 FTE and one vacancy.

2 Environmental and Community Protection – Q4 Performance Indicators

2.1 ECP09, Number of High risk food hygiene inspections carried achieved within the quarter was 80%. The Food Safety Recovery Plan has been running to target and is due to see the remaining small back log of low risk premises resolved by Q2 23/24.

3 Environmental Health Team - Sarah Stefano

- 3.1 During Q4 the Team were continuing to follow the Food Recovery Plan. The Team continue to receive a steady flow of new Food Business Registrations and participated in the register your business publicity campaign. Contractors are continuing to inspect new businesses funded from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund as part of the recovery plan following Covid-19 Pandemic.
- 3.2 Air Quality Steering Group was held in March 2023. Our Scientific Officer David Carr continues represent us on the Defra Advisory Group on the development of Best Available Techniques (BAT) with respect to Air Quality to enable influence at a national level as well as being the Chair of the Herts and Beds Air Quality Group. The Annual Air Quality Status Report for 2023 (which details the figures from 2022) has been drafted and is being internally reviewed before submission DFERRA for approval.
- 3.3 The Team continuing to support the Local Resilience Forum Working Groups for Covid-19 also attend District Outbreak Planning Meetings and Winter Planning Groups.

- 3.4 Locations for the 3 Particulate Matter Monitoring Devices were agreed with Hertfordshire County Council to be Swing Gate School, Bennetts End Road and Lawn Lane. These will be installed in the new financial year. DBC will have access to the data from these locations once they are up and running. The capital bid to purchase a new Real Time Analyser was successful and location in Apsley Air Quality Monitoring Area has been agreed. The Annual Status Report 2022 was reviewed and accepted by DEFRA.
- 3.5 A food premises agreed to Voluntary Surrender 30KG of ready to eat meat products that were stored out of adequate temperature control in Hemel Hempstead Town Centre. Officers worked with Food Business Operators to ensure public safety and that this meat did not enter the food chain. No formal enforcement action was necessary to secure public safety at that time.

4 Corporate Health and Safety Team

- 4.1 Corporate Health Safety and Resilience Board was held in March 2023. Corporate Health Safety and Resilience Policies were reviewed with minor changes, they were agreed by the committee and sent to Senior Leadership Team for ratification. Policies included,
- Corporate Emergency Plan
- 4.2 Funding from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund was secured to plan for potential future pandemics. Resilience training for Corporate Leadership Team has been arranged for Q4 from the Emergency Planning College. This has been completed with very positive feedback received from the leadership Team. Health and Safety Training has also been arranged for Team Managers and above to better support managers in the event of new and emerging risks including pandemic Flu or further waves of Covid. This has been partially completed with metrics still standing at 85%.
- 4.3 Natasha Beresford (Assistant Director – Housing Operations and Safe Communities) on behalf of the Corporate Management Team attended Multi-Agency Exercise Operation Lemur run by Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Services with the Local Resilience Forum to test our plans in the event of a National Power outage.

5 Operations Team

- 5.1 27 Stray dogs were collected by the authority in Q4. 10 were returned to owners and 17 were rehomed. 43 Dangerous Dogs complaints were received and investigated as well as 107 Animal Welfare concerns.
- 5.2 7 Community Protection Warnings were served, and 3 Microchipping of Dogs Notices.
- 5.3 We continue to see an uptick in Filthy and Verminous complex cases, a further 13 in Q4. Officer's work with multiple agency partners to ensure that risk to Public Health is removed, preference as always is working with residents however enforcement action is taken where necessary to secure public health. These cases are particularly time consuming and difficult to resolve.
- 5.4 We are very proud that Ben Stevens and the Environmental Enforcement team were shortlisted for a Keep Britain Tidy, Excellence in Enforcement Award. The team missed out on the top award and were pipped to the post by a much larger London Borough of Greenwich. As members will be aware this team is now the most proactive Enforcement Team in Hertfordshire has recently introduced a new way of enforcing littering making a modest income for the team to reinvest in enforcement activities and has been recognised as one of the best Teams this year by Keep Britain Tidy a national organisation. This has really supported the Councils objectives and the place based strategies. The Team members are Ben Stevens, Paul Coates, Chris Briancon, Julie Fear (Temp) and Abdullah Khalil (Temp) and Team is led by Team Manager Dawn Rhoden.
- 5.5 Dumitru Dragomir, of Botley Road, Hemel Hempstead, pleaded guilty at St Albans Magistrates' and was ordered to pay a fine of £200 and costs of £552.84 for Fly-tipping offences. The Court heard on

Wednesday 1 March 2023 that in August 2022, an Environmental Enforcement Officer inspected a fly-tipping report of a box and sacks dumped in a passing place along Holtsmere End Lane, Hemel Hempstead. Within the waste, correspondence was found including Dragomir's address. We issued him with a £312 Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for failing to demonstrate householder duty of care responsibilities when disposing of domestic waste. The FPN was not paid so we then sought prosecution for the offence.

- 5.6 JXI Construction Ltd of New Bedford Road, Luton, pleaded guilty to the unauthorised deposit of controlled waste on Coles Lane, Flamstead. The court heard how on Sunday 14 August 2022, a person driving a sign-written Mercedes Sprinter van was caught on our covert cameras dumping a large pile of assorted waste containing cardboard, wood and black bags on the rural lane. As part of the investigation, the company was traced but despite several attempts the company director failed to fully engage with officers, including failure to respond to a legal notice requesting details of the driver and the vehicle involved. This forced us to seek prosecution for the offence. The company was fined £3,700, and ordered to pay costs of £2,561 and victim surcharges of £1,480.
- 5.7 Harris Dadd, of Woodwhite Way, Hemel Hempstead pleaded guilty to the unauthorised deposit of controlled waste. On 27 June 2022, an officer attended a report of a fly-tip in Windmill Road, Markyate. The officer found a large amount of mixed building waste, and during the inspection managed to trace this to a residential property in Hemel Hempstead. Further investigation at the address identified that Dadd had been employed to work there and had removed an amount of waste from this address. Dadd initially denied the offence when interviewed by our Environmental Enforcement team. He was fined £930, and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £373 and costs of £900.
- 5.8 Dacorum Borough Council has once again achieved gold standard in the annual RSPCA Paw Prints awards. Both the Regulatory Services Animal Welfare service and the Housing teams have been recognised for good practice, exceeding basic and statutory service requirements with the aim of achieving higher animal welfare standards.
- 5.9 District Enforcement on behalf of Dacorum Borough Council started its running a series of Good Citizen Prize Draws throughout 2023. The Prize draw scheme started late last year and we were delighted to confirm that the first 2 winners had been drawn. The Good Citizen Prize Draw entry is free and by way of District Enforcement enviro-crime officers handing out entry cards when witnessing good behaviours demonstrated by members of the public in relation to all our PSPO designated areas or the correct disposal of litter. Lucky winners will receive a retail gift voucher to the value of £80.
- 5.10 District Enforcement Officers took part in the Great British Spring Clean on 25th March in Silk Mill Way to support positive behaviours with regard to littering.
- 5.11 District Enforcement have served 637 Fixed Penalty Notices on those that chose to litter or breach the Councils Public Space Protections Orders in Q4.
- 5.12 35 prosecutions were brought by the council for littering or public space protection order offences. 100% of these cases were successful in court 33 were taken through the single justice procedure and 2 cases were referred to St Albans Magistrates Court following initial 'not-guilty' pleas. Mr Peter Keen was found guilty of littering offenses on the 30th March 2023, due to limited means was ordered to pay a £25 fine, £25 court costs and £35 victim surcharge to be paid in increments of £5 a week. Mr Shawn Elliot pleaded guilty in court and was awarded a conditional discharge (This means that, if the offender commits another crime, they can be sentenced for the first offence and the new one) this will be for 6 months plus a £22 victim surcharge.

7 Options and alternatives considered

No options to consider, for information only.

8 Consultation

N/A

9 Financial and value for money implications:

N/A

10 Legal Implications

N/A

11 Risk implications:

N/A

12 Equalities, Community Impact and Human Rights:

There are no Human Rights Implications arising from this report.

13 Sustainability implications (including climate change, health and wellbeing, community safety)

N/A

14 Council infrastructure (including Health and Safety, HR/OD, assets and other resources)

N/A

15 Conclusions:

Report to be noted by the Committee.



Strategic Planning and Environment

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report for:	Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Title of report:	Planning, Development and Regeneration Quarter 4 Performance Report 2022-23
Date:	13 June 2023
Report on behalf of:	Cllr Sheron Wilkie, Portfolio Holder for Place
Part:	I
If Part II, reason:	N/A
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Performance Report
Background papers:	
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	None

Report Author / Responsible Officer

Simon Rowberry – Assistant Director for Planning (Interim)



Simon.Rowberry@dacorum.gov.uk / 01442 228250 (ext. 2250)

Corporate Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A clean, safe and enjoyable environment - Building strong and vibrant communities - Ensuring economic growth and prosperity - Providing good quality affordable homes, in particular for those most in need - Ensuring efficient, effective and modern service delivery - Climate and ecological emergency
Wards affected	All

Purpose of the report:	1. To set out the performance outturn for the service for Quarter 4 of 2022-23.
Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s):	1. That the report is noted.
Period for post policy/project review:	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents the performance outturn for the Planning, Development and Regeneration service for the fourth quarter (January - March) of the business year 2022-23. The full performance report is at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The performance report at Appendix 1 shows a total of 5 indicators. Of the revised Key Performance Indicators, two are departmental performance measures and three are measures that reflect local construction activity. Of the two departmental performance measures, one is green and one is red.

Planning Applications Determined Within Target

- 1.3 The percentage of all planning applications determined within target (DMP01) sits at 87%, against a target of 70%. This is a further improvement in performance over Q3, when the outturn figure was 80% within target. This represents sustained good performance from the team, particularly given the ongoing restrictions relating to the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC and the number of vacancies within the Development Management team.

Enforcement Site Visits

- 1.4 The percentage of all planning enforcement priority site visits (PE04) remains at 79%, the same as last quarter, against a target of 100%. There are a number of reasons why performance remains at this level. We remain short of 1 Enforcement Officer, although a new starter is due to commence on 12th June, which will take us back to a full complement. In addition, we are seeking approval for a temporary resource to assist in addressing the current level of workload.
- 1.5 Triaging of new cases is being undertaken and the focus is being placed on the instances which are considered to be harmful, until capacity within the team has been built back up. In this quarter, the team served 6 Enforcement Notices, 1 Breach of Condition Notice and 1 Temporary Stop Notice. They have also had to defend 6 appeals against Enforcement Notices in this quarter. For comparison, there were only 3 Enforcement Notice appeals throughout the whole of the previous year, 2021-2022.

Affordable Housing

- 1.6 For indicator DO1 – the number of affordable housing starts in the period – there is no data on this for this period at present as we are reliant on external parties. This will be reported at the earliest opportunity.
- 1.7 For indicator DO2 – the number of affordable housing completions in the period – there is no data on this for this period as we are reliant on external parties. This will be reported at the earliest opportunity.

Retail Properties

- 1.8 For indicator CPE01 – the number of retail properties (vacancy rate) for the period – there is no data on this for the period as we are reliant on external parties. This will be reported at the earliest opportunity.

2. Options and alternatives considered

- 2.1 Not applicable.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 James Doe – Strategic Director (Place)
- 3.2 Philip Stanley - Interim Head of Development Management
- 3.3 Ronan Leydon – Team Manager, Strategic Planning

4. Financial and value for money implications:

Financial

- 4.1 None arising from decisions on this report though the financial indicators for Planning fees report an under recovery of income against target levels.

Value for Money

- 4.2 None arising from this report.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 None arising from this report.

6. Risk implications:

- 6.1 None arising from this report. Risks addressed through service level risk register.

7. Equalities, Community Impact and Human Rights:

- 7.1 Community Impact Assessment - Not applicable for this report.
- 7.2 Human Rights – There are no Human Rights Implications arising from this report.

8. Sustainability implications (including climate change, health and wellbeing, community safety)

- 8.1 None arising from this report.

9. Council infrastructure (including Health and Safety, HR/OD, assets and other resources)

- 9.1 None arising from this report.

10. Conclusions:

10.1 Not applicable

11. Appendix 1 - Performance Report (attached separately)

Performance Scorecard SP&E OSC- Development Management & Planning

Measure Code ↑	Measure	Date	Actual	Target	DoT	Performance Trend
DMP01 (Q)	Percentage of all planning applications determined within target (Q)	Mar 2023	87%	70%	↓ ✓	
<p>A very good performance, which will largely be a result of the determination of householder planning applications in time, though a very high % of minor applications were determined in time last month and all majors were determined in time this quarter.</p>						
PE04	Percentage of all Planning Enforcement priority site visits completed within target	Mar 2023	80%	100%	↓ ✓	
<p>Whilst below target the performance for Q4 represents a slight increase over both achieved last quarter and that achieved last year. The pressures on the Enforcement team remain high with high caseloads and vacancies in the team. There are particular pressures to resolve existing cases, which makes it harder to deal with all new cases coming in.</p>						

Performance Scorecard SP&E OSC - Place, Communities & Enterprise

Measure Code ↑	Measure	Date	Actual	Target	DoT	Performance Trend
CPE01	Retail properties – vacancy rate	Mar 2023				

Data for borough wide retail units is not available for this update. The current vacancy rate for council owned commercial assets is 4.6%. Data is not currently recorded by asset type but it is likely that the vacancy rate for council owned retail assets is lower than this as the majority are held in neighbourhood centres where the vacancy rate is very low.

**SPAEC OSC
Work Programme 2023/2024**

Meeting Date	Report Deadline	Items	Contact Details	Background information
13 June 2023	2 June 2023	Action Points (from previous meeting)		
		Q4 Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report	Claire Dempsey – Financial Planning & Analysis Team Leader Claire.dempsey@dacorum.gov.uk	
		Q4 Environmental Services Quarterly Reports	Robert Williams – Head of Environmental Services Robert.williams@dacorum.gov.uk	
		Q4 Environmental & Community Protection Quarterly reports	Emma Walker – Head of Environmental and Regulatory Services Emma.walker@dacorum.gov.uk	
		Q4 Planning, Development and Regeneration Quarterly reports	Simon Rowberry – Interim Assistant Director Strategic Planning and Regeneration Simon.rowberry@dacorum.gov.uk	
6 July 2023	28 June 2023	Action Points (from previous meeting)		
		Hemel Town Centre Vision	Sara Whelan Sara.whelan@dacorum.gov.uk	
		Annual Planning Enforcement Report	Simon Rowberry – Interim Assistant Director Strategic Planning and Regeneration Simon.rowberry@dacorum.gov.uk	

			gov.uk	
6 Sept 2023	24 Aug 2023	Action Points (from previous meeting)		
		Q1 Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report	Claire Dempsey – Financial Planning & Analysis Team Leader Claire.dempsey@dacorum.gov.uk	
		Q1 Environmental Services Quarterly Reports	Robert Williams – Head of Environmental Services Robert.williams@dacorum.gov.uk	
		Q1 Environmental & Community Protection Quarterly reports	Emma Walker – Head of Environmental and Regulatory Services Emma.walker@dacorum.gov.uk	
		Q1 Planning, Development and Regeneration Quarterly reports	Simon Rowberry – Interim Assistant Director Strategic Planning and Regeneration Simon.rowberry@dacorum.gov.uk	
4 Oct 23	25 Sept 23	Action Points (from previous meeting)		

1 Nov 23	23 Oct 23	Action Points (from previous meeting)		
		Q2 Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report	Claire Dempsey – Financial Planning & Analysis Team Leader Claire.dempsey@dacorum.gov.uk	
		Q2 Environmental Services Quarterly Reports	Robert Williams – Head of Environmental Services Robert.williams@dacorum.gov.uk	
		Q2 Environmental & Community Protection Quarterly reports	Emma Walker – Head of Environmental and Regulatory Services Emma.walker@dacorum.gov.uk	
		Q2 Planning, Development and Regeneration Quarterly reports	Simon Rowberry – Interim Assistant Director Strategic Planning and Regeneration Simon.rowberry@dacorum.gov.uk	
6 Dec 2023	27 Nov 2023	Action Points (from previous meeting)		
		Joint Budget <i>Ideally no further items to be added</i>		
10 Jan	28 Dec			

2024	2024			
		Action Points (from previous meeting)		
7 Feb 2024	29 Jan 2024	Action Points (from previous meeting)		
		Joint Budget <i>Ideally no further items to be added</i>		
6 March 2024	28 Feb 2024	Action Points (from previous meeting)		
		Q3 Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report	Claire Dempsey – Financial Planning & Analysis Team Leader Claire.dempsey@dacorum.gov.uk	
		Q3 Environmental Services Quarterly Reports	Robert Williams – Head of Environmental Services Robert.williams@dacorum.gov.uk	
		Q3 Environmental & Community	Emma Walker – Head of	

	Protection Quarterly reports	Environmental and Regulatory Services Emma.walker@dacorum.gov.uk	
	Q3 Planning, Development and Regeneration Quarterly reports	Simon Rowberry – Interim Assistant Director Strategic Planning and Regeneration Simon.rowberry@dacorum.gov.uk	