

**Sustainable Communities**

Table 1 shows performance against target. For comparison, December's figures are in brackets. End-of-year outturn is not yet available for all indicators which is why **Amber** judgements still remain. Table 2 shows performance compared to the same period in the previous year.

Table 1

	No. of indicators	On course to achieve target (or establish baseline)	Some progress, but data / lack of data or analysis suggests that the target may not be achieved, but should be capable of achievement if remedial action is taken	Not achieved / not expected to be achieved / no activity reported
Corporate Plan (including LAA and HCS)	<b>18</b> (19)	<b>16</b> (16)	<b>2</b> (3)	<b>0</b> (0)
of which				
Local Area Agreement (LAA)	<b>5</b> (5)	<b>4</b> (3)	<b>1</b> (2)	<b>0</b> (0)
Herefordshire Community Strategy (HCS)	<b>14</b> (15)	<b>13</b> (13)	<b>1</b> (2)	<b>0</b> (0)
All reported indicators	<b>28</b> (29)	<b>23</b> (21)	<b>2</b> (4)	<b>3</b> (4)

Table 2

Direction of Travel		
	December	March
Improving	6	<b>8</b>
No real change	0	<b>0</b>
Deteriorating	4	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	10	<b>11</b>

## Headlines

- Positive Direction of Travel.
- Good performance in the areas of waste; street cleanliness (most aspects); affordable housing; and, households in temporary accommodation.
- Changes since December 2008:

### Green from Red

- BVPI 213 'the number of households who considered themselves as homeless, who approached the Local Housing Authority's housing advice service(s), and for whom housing advice casework intervention resolved their situation (per 1,000 households)'

### Green from Amber

- NI 197 'improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites'
- BVPI 64 'the number of non-Local Authority-owned vacant dwellings returned to occupation or demolished during the financial year as a direct result of action by the Local Authority'

## Regeneration Director Commentary

*'The Regeneration Directorate has met the majority of targets for 2008/2009 across a range of Local Area Agreement, Herefordshire Community Strategy and Herefordshire Council Corporate Plan indicators for which the Directorate has the lead. It has been a particularly challenging year as the economic downturn has had an impact across all service areas. In particular challenges have been felt in the Housing service where there have been increasing pressures on homelessness; in the local economy where there has been significant impacts on local businesses and in the planning service where there has been a significant reduction in planning applications and therefore in the income generated to support the service. The directorate has led on the development of an action plan to respond to the broader impacts of the downturn.*

*During the year the Directorate continued to work to influence the outcome of the Place Survey, the final results of which are still awaiting publication by the Department of Communities and Local Government. Despite this we have been able to establish baselines and set a number of targets for the forthcoming years that will enable us to measure the improving performance of the Directorate against a number of key performance indicators. This change to the National Indicator set has meant that greater reliance is placed in-year on monitoring services delivering agreed service plan actions and, this year, on establishing baseline data.*

*The number of planning applications received during the year has significantly reduced. Applications received have been determined in a timely manner and the targets for 2008/09 have been achieved. There are 3 planning indicators that have provisional or no outturn data currently as there is an annual survey that is being completed in May 2009 that will provide the final outturns on these National Indicators. Within the Planning & Transportation Service the National Indicator 197 has reached target by improving the active management of local biodiversity sites through the preparation of management plans, which are currently being audited.*

*It continues to be a challenge to maintain and improve the outturn for the performance of the homeless and housing advice service. However, plans are in place to ensure that the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for families with children is minimised; with one family in this type of accommodation at the end of March. In addition the team can confirm that the hostel accommodation is no longer in use. The homeless prevention outturn for the year 2008/09 has come in above target, due to the proactive work that is continuing to prevent households from becoming homeless. The Housing service is on track to meet the Department of Communities and Local Government target to reduce the number of households in Temporary Accommodation by 2010 by 50%. This translates to a target of 109 in 2008/09 which has been met; there were 98 homeless households in Temporary Accommodation at the end of March 2009. This will continue to be a challenge for the forthcoming year as the target for 2009/10 is to reduce this number further to 82 homeless households.*

*The target in 2008/09 for the number of affordable homes delivered (NI 156) has been reached despite the economic slowdown, this is due to the Housing Needs and Development team monitoring the delivery over the 12 month period and working in partnership with key housing providers across the county. In addition the team have been able to facilitate the return to occupation of a number of vacant dwellings and have exceeded their target.*

*Tackling Fuel Poverty is a National Indicator (NI187) that Private Sector Housing has established a baseline for; following the reporting of the West Midlands energy consultant HESTIA and the use of the software provided by DEFRA. The team will be working on a number of initiatives over the forthcoming year to ensure that the target can be achieved for 2009/10.*

*As part of the policy and delivery of the Herefordshire Partnership which covers Stronger Communities a co-ordinated approach in addressing community and voluntary sector indicators will be created. Some of this is already evidenced as a number of targets have been established for these indicators. The Economic and Community service provides grants and project development advice to support the development of local plans, together with supporting actions being identified. In addition the Rural Access Partnership has set a local indicator on access to services, and is focussing on the services that were found to be difficult to access and which the Partnership could influence; for example local shops, advice provision, cultural facilities and public transport facilities.'*

### **Environment and Culture Director commentary**

*'Within the themes of economic development and enterprise, safer and stronger communities and sustainable communities outturn data for 2008-09 is now available for most performance indicators. Where baselines have been required for new National Indicators these have been, or are in the process of being, set.*

*In the priority area of waste, although the final month's figures are awaited, all three waste targets are expected to be achieved or exceeded, reflecting a consistent trend throughout the year.'*