

Sustainable Communities

	No. of indicators	On course to achieve target (or establish baseline)	Some progress, but data not available to determine whether the target will be achieved	Not on target / no activity reported
Corporate Plan (including LAA and HCS)	19 (19)	8 (2)	6 (11)	5 (6)
of which				
Local Area Agreement (LAA)	5 (5)	0 (0)	5 (5)	0 (0)
Herefordshire Community Strategy (HCS)	15 (15)	6 (0)	4 (10)	5 (5)
All reported indicators	29 (28)	12 (4)	7 (14)	10 (10)

Direction of Travel		
	July	September
Improving	3	5
No real change	3	0
Deteriorating	4	5
Total	10	10

Headlines

- There is an improving position with an additional eight indicators now judged green.
- An increase in the percentage of planning appeal decisions allowed against the council's decision to refuse planning applications means that latest performance is worse than last year and target. Although the statutory target is still being met, performance in the processing of planning applications has also fallen.
- A number of housing indicators remain red, reflecting the substantial increased demand being fuelled by the economic downturn.
- Latest street cleanliness results are positive.

Regeneration Director Commentary

'The overall performance is on track to meet the identified targets for 2008/2009 across a range of Local Area Agreement, Herefordshire Community Strategy and Herefordshire Council Corporate Plan indicators.

The introduction of the National Indicator Framework has meant that there are a number of indicators for which in year data is not presently available, as many rely on the new Place Survey; this is currently being carried out with the results being published by the Department for Communities and Local Government early in 2009. In the meantime, work is continuing to influence the outcome of the survey across the directorate. The change to the National Indicator set has meant that there is a greater reliance on services delivering agreed service plan actions, to enable the services to establish and agree baseline data.

The target for processing planning applications for major developments is getting increasingly difficult to meet due to the downturn in economic activity. Therefore, meeting the target of 60% will be a challenge.

In addition there are significant issues in respect of planning and building control income placing pressures on the budget. However, action is being taken within the directorate to address any shortfall.

Homelessness acceptances have fallen slightly in Quarter 2, although the demand for temporary housing accommodation still remains high, therefore placing pressure on the homelessness budgets. However, the performance indicator target is on track to be met as a scheme is being developed to use private sector leasing to assist with the reduction in the use of temporary housing accommodation.

In addition there are a number of performance indicators that whilst the council are responsible for reporting, the services are being delivered by partnership agencies. We continue to work in partnership with these agencies in order to influence and monitor the performance outturn.'

Environment and Culture Director commentary

'Within the themes of economic development and enterprise, safer and stronger communities and sustainable communities performance overall remains on track for all Local Area Agreement, Community Strategy and Corporate Plan indicators on which the Directorate leads or towards which it is making a significant contribution. There is a similar picture for other indicators, including those from the National Indicator set, with the exception of National Indicators 182 – 184; these are new indicators for which 2008-09 is the baseline year; initial action plans have not been delivered and there is a significant risk that data will not be available at year-end; a revised action plan is in place and efforts are being directed to ensuring that compliant data is available from 1st April 2009.

With the introduction of the National Indicator set there has been a significant increase in the proportion of performance indicators for which in-year data is not available, reflecting the number of perception indicators that rely on data from the new Place Survey and those where data is being provided annually by Government departments and agencies. For a number of other indicators 2008-09 is the year in which baseline data is being collected. All this has meant that a greater reliance is being placed this year on delivery of agreed actions.

Appendix 7

In the priority area of waste the proportion of waste recycled or composted continues to show an improvement. Compared with the same period last year (April to August) it has increased from 29.15% to 32.68% (the annual target is 32%).'