

Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	14 September 2021
Subject:	Service Level Performance Reporting against the Performance Framework 2021-2022 - Quarter 1

Summary:

This report sets out the performance of the Tier 2 Service Level Performance measures for 2021/22 Quarter 1 for Economy, Flooding and Waste which are within the remit of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee.

Actions Required:

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider and comment on the details of the performance contained in the report and recommend any changes or actions to the relevant Executive Councillor.

1. Background

Economy Performance Measures

The targets measure the number of businesses supported, the number of adults gaining qualifications and the amount of external funding attracted to Lincolnshire. Progress has been very good to date. The Growth department has been very innovative and resourceful and changed the mode of delivery to a virtual model very quickly; this alongside the government grants has greatly supported our learners and business community.

Businesses Supported

During Quarter 1, Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) ran a Covid-19 business support programme which provided businesses with much needed finance to tackle the challenges and opportunities that were presented by the pandemic. These programmes were a business recovery fund, a rural business fund, a digital voucher scheme, and an investment fund. Overall the Council expects to have helped around 800 businesses with these programmes, and specific outputs will be reported in this report at the time that businesses have received all of the finance from the Council (in some programmes the

businesses will receive their funding in two tranches). It is expected that the Council's Covid-19 business support programmes will have been fully completed by the end of Quarter 3 2021/2022.

The Council's Covid-19 business support programmes are additional to the core business support work which is provided by the Council under the brand of Business Growth Hub. During Quarter 1 the Council continued to deliver Business Growth Hub services ranging from 121 advice to peer networks in specific business sectors and technical advice on subjects like innovation and exporting.

Between the Business Growth Hub and the Council's Covid-19 business grant scheme, we have assisted 693 businesses against a target of 434 this quarter.

Qualifications Achieved

Not reported in Quarter 1.

Historical performance data shows that few qualifications are actually recorded as being achieved between April and June, with the bulk being recorded at the end of the academic year. As such reporting will start from Quarter 2.

External Funding Attracted

During Quarter 1, £2,835,084 of external funding has been received. This includes 11 European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) projects – three within the Food Processing Theme (£434,349), six from the Business Development Theme (£738,502) and two from the Tourism Infrastructure Theme (£327,282) – which provided £1,500,133 of funds.

LCC has secured £6,367,839 from the Getting Britain Building Fund for the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone (FEZ). This will support further site infrastructure and the construction of a new "Hub" building providing managed workspace for SME's in the agri-tech sector. To date in Quarter 1, £1,334,591 has been spent and the remainder will be spent over the year.

The target of £5,119,820 has not been met. This is due to government delays in processing contracts and assessing funding bids. In particular £1,930,027 of funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub expected in Quarter 1 will now be received in Quarter 2.

Furthermore during Quarter 1, Community Renewal Funding (CRF) bids of £9m and Levelling Up Fund (LUF) bids worth £20m have been submitted. There have been assessment delays and we are now due to hear the outcome in September although we are advised that both schemes have been heavily oversubscribed. We have made the case and been approved to invite 19 eligible businesses to submit Expressions of Interest for

up to £1.1m of additional LEADER funding for rural Lincolnshire. Final outcomes will not be known until December 2021.

Flooding Performance Measures

The measure focusses on an aspect of the operational role of LCC as the Lead Local Flood Authority, specifically the duty to investigate incidents of flooding from all sources, and subsequently to publish the results of those investigations. Over time, the number of investigations provides an indication of the relative impact of severe weather events across the county, as will be seen from the graph showing flooding incidents investigated since 2015/16 to the present. The impact of the severe weather events in the latter part of 2019 can be observed clearly.

As outlined in the performance report, under section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010), the County Council is required to investigate any incidents of flooding which, in its opinion, are significant. Locally, 'significant' flooding is defined as any in which one or more domestic properties are flooded internally, the strategic highway network is significantly affected, there is significant impact on farmland or on a community, for example schools, commercial properties or important community amenities and services.

In addition, the Council also now keeps a record of flooding reports which may not necessarily reach this formal threshold in order to maintain an understanding of locations where there may be repeated, but small-scale issues, while also developing a broader contextual awareness of more significant flooding incidents. This helps to plan in the longer term for other aspects of the Council's role as Lead Local Flood Authority, including the annual capital programme and the current year's trial of property level resilience measures, as well as the on-going monitoring of the Joint Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

Waste Performance Measures

The targets measure the recycling performance across Lincolnshire. Recyclable materials are collected either by the districts from households or by LCC when residents visit the recycling centres. Our performance has followed the national trend as regards the effects of Covid -19 lockdowns. More waste and recycling has been collected from households and less from the recycling centres as residents spend more time at home. Less waste has been presented at the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and the lower recycling rate may be reflected by the fact that there are fewer opportunities for recycling at households with more material finding its way into the residual (black) bin.

The overall recycling rate is still below the target and this follows the national trend for reduction in recycling. The targets are long standing and it is unclear how much the reduction is due to the pandemic. Historically it is the target most affected by the weather's influence on garden waste tonnages, but that measure is relatively minor compared to the overall rate and does not explain the overall picture with lockdowns being the biggest factor.

2. Conclusion

Members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee are invited to review and comment on the performance information for Quarter 1 and highlight any recommendations or further actions for consideration.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not applicable.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Economy Performance Measures
Appendix B	Flooding Performance Measures
Appendix C	Waste Performance Measures

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by: -

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