

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

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	30 November 2021
Subject:	Service Level Performance Reporting against the Performance Framework 2021-2022 - Quarter 2

Summary:

This report sets out the performance of the Tier 2 Service Level Performance measures for 2021/22 Quarter 2 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 Q2 433 Businesses were supported bringing the total for the year to date to 1126, above the target of 869. This is a direct result of the Lincolnshire County Council's Covid 19 business support programme which provided businesses with vital financial support to tackle the challenges and opportunities that were presented by the pandemic. These programmes included a digital voucher scheme and 3 investment funds. Overall, the Council expects to have helped around 800 businesses with these and other programmes, and

specific outputs will be reported in this report at the time that businesses have received all of the finance from the Council. It is expected that the Council's Covid 19 business support programmes will have been fully completed by the end of Q3 2021/2022.

The Council's Covid 19 business support programmes are additional to the core business support work which is provided by the Council through the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub. A Project Change Request has been submitted to repurpose funds from our European Regional Development Fund Project which, if approved, will enable further grants to be available to businesses. During Q2 the Council continued to provide support to businesses through the Growth Hub advisory team and via the Team Lincolnshire virtual coffee club meetings. In addition, 4 businesses were supported to develop and grow directly through the LCC Property Portfolio.

Qualifications Achieved

The number of qualifications achieved by adults in Q2 was 973 - higher than the original target for Q2 of 140. The figure is as a direct result of several factors relating to Covid 19 including the adoption of new delivery methods, by both Lincolnshire County Council and contracted providers. In addition, several new longer courses were delivered that had multiple qualifications attached to them, including many that are part of construction skills training courses.

The introduction of more online/distance learning in 2020 continued to grow throughout the remainder of the 2020/2021 academic year with the result that 43% of qualifications achieved in Q2 were delivered through that route. Of the qualifications delivered in classroom settings, 40% were delivered in Lincoln, 23% were delivered in Gainsborough, 15% in Grantham and 13% in Skegness/Mablethorpe.

Provision continues to be aimed at targeted learners resulting in 56% of qualifications being achieved by male learners and 36% by learners with no, or low levels of previous qualification attainment.

With a continued focus on supporting employability, the range of qualifications achieved included 83 GCSE's or Functional Skills in English or Maths as well as a further 10 ESOL qualifications. In support of Lincolnshire's priority employment sectors, 259 qualifications related to the wider care sectors, 186 to construction, 159 to hospitality and 122 to accountancy and business administration.

External Funding Attracted

During Q2 £15,230,915 of external funding has been received, against a target of £12,563,213. This includes £1,739,000 through 3 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) continuation projects now funded to deliver until June 2023: Collaboration 4 Growth £533,000, Gain Enterprise Growth 2 £502,000 and Grants 4 Growth with an additional £704,000 ERDF.

The final tranche, £12,900,000 of the £25.8 million from the Get Britain Building Fund has now been received. The Programme will deliver 6 projects over the coming year:

- Lincoln Science and Innovation Park (Phase 2)
- Greater Lincolnshire Cycle Programme
- Killingholme Pumping Station
- Centre for Innovation in Rural Health
- Holbeach Food enterprise Zone (Phase 2)
- Greater Lincolnshire Skills Capital Programme

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) funding of £115,750 has been received to support the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub activity. The Business Lincolnshire Sustainable Business Growth ERDF programmes has submitted 2 claims to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for Q1 and Q2 21-22 totalling £476,165.00.

There have been further national delays of the announcement of Community Renewal Funding (CRF) and Levelling Up Funding streams, so we are yet to hear about the LCC bids of £9m for CRF and £20m for the Levelling Up Fund.

Flooding Performance Measures

The measure reported relates to one the County Council's functions as Lead Local Flood Authority under the Flood and Water management Act (2010). It is calculated on the basis of the number of formal investigations undertaken by the County Council under section 19 of the Act. Under this legislation each Lead Local Flood Authority is responsible for determining the threshold which triggers a formal investigation.

Lincolnshire County Council has set this threshold as any incident in which one or more domestic properties are flooded internally, the strategic highway network is significantly affected, or where there is significant impact on farmland or there is a significant impact on a community, for example impacts on schools, commercial property or access to important local services.

In addition, the Council also maintains a record of 'near misses' – those incidents that are reported which do not necessarily meet the formal investigation threshold, but which could indicate a potential future issue, or identify a localised issue that can be rectified in the course of service delivery.

Thirteen new formal investigations were started in quarter two, under section 19 of the Act. A total of sixteen properties were affected, mainly as a result of a period of wet weather at the end of July. This compares with three investigations affecting four properties in quarter one of this year (April to June), and fifteen investigations in quarter two of the last year.

Waste Performance Measures

There have been recent changes at Household Waste Recycling Centres which may be affecting all three waste measures and it will take time to establish the long-term trends.

The recycling rate at HWRCs is 71% which is lower than the target of 75%. The booking system was cancelled at the beginning of September and residents may have been stockpiling certain non-recyclable material in anticipation of the change. The busy nature of sites after 1 September may also have a consequence that site staff are not able to recycle as effectively. As mitigation we are planning to have more information circulated to the public on what can be recycled at HWRCs with the benefits highlighted.

The overall recycling rate for all streams is around 44% which is similar to the last quarter and still below the target of 48%. This may be as a consequence of less material being presented at HWRCs which have a higher recycling rate. We are aiming to understand this issue better by carrying out more sampling of material and are also working closer with Mid UK identify areas of improvement for kerbside collected recyclate.

The total material collected is 546kg per household and continues to be slightly lower than the target of 560kg per household. This may still be as a consequence of the pandemic and long-term trends will take time to establish if society returns to normality.

The service continually updates Senior Managers of all Districts on the recycling rates, and we will be updating the District Council members at the November meeting of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership. We are always looking at ways of improving the recycling rates and this is primarily being done through greater engagement with the public. We are also carrying out more sampling of material to establish if there are any particular trends that we can focus on resolving.

2. Conclusion

Members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee are invited to review and comment on the performance information for Quarter 2 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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