



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

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	12 July 2022
Subject:	Service Level Performance Reporting against the Performance Framework 2021/2022 - Quarter 4

Summary:

This report sets out the performance of the Tier 2 Service Level Performance measures for 2021/22 Quarter 4 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 Q4 a further 457 businesses were supported bringing the total for the year to 1982, exceeding the yearly target of 1737.

2021/22 saw the successful delivery of vital COVID recovery work by the Growth Hub, including an extensive Grant scheme funded by Lincolnshire County Council. Overall, the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub has provided an essential service which has supported

1696 business who have been managing the effects of the pandemic in terms of supply chain, financial and staff recruitment and retention challenges.

Support included payment of 9 Invest for the Future grants and Digital Voucher applications and 11 European Regional Development Fund Grant payments for business development and diversification. There was an increase in uptake of the Growth hub's specialist support including 155 businesses accessing high growth business support, Business Resilience and Peer Network programmes.

There has been a significant amount of inward investment meetings during Q4 with 80 businesses supported and the Team Lincolnshire virtual coffee club meetings continued to provide support to businesses with an average attendance of 16 businesses.

In the region of 150 small businesses are supported through tenancies within the Economic Infrastructure Property Portfolio. Of these many take up support from Business Lincolnshire and in Q4 a further 8 businesses were directly supported to develop and grow directly through Portfolio. This has led to a total of 27 businesses supported during 2021-22.

Qualifications Achieved

454 qualifications were achieved in Q4 bringing the total for the 2021/22 to 1,724, exceeding the target of 1,400. Demand for qualifications to work in the construction sector was a contributing factor to this and was higher than originally estimated, with several providers delivered more construction provision than originally expected.

With the onset of the Covid pandemic, the vast majority of the learning programme switched from being classroom based to online/distance learning. With the subsequent relaxation of national restrictions, this trend steadily reversed during 2021/22 with the result that only 28% of qualifications achieved in Q4 were delivered through online/distance learning, compared to 43% at the end of Q2. Overall, 65% of all qualifications achieved in 2021/22 were attributed to teaching that took place in classroom settings.

Excluding courses that were delivered online, 49% of qualifications achieved in 2021/22 were delivered at venues located in Lincoln, 15% in Gainsborough, 9% in Skegness/Mablethorpe, and 7% in Boston, highlighting that provision is aimed at learners living in areas of highest deprivation. By ensuring provision is continually aimed at targeted learners, 63% of all qualifications achieved were by male learners, with 33% by learners with no, or low levels of previous qualification attainment.

Throughout 2021/22, the service continued to maintain a focus on supporting employability, the range of qualifications achieved at the end of the year includes 112 GCSEs, or Functional Skills in English or Maths, as well as a further 10 ESOL qualifications. In terms of supporting Lincolnshire's priority employment sectors, 487 qualifications related to the construction sector, with a further 408 to the wider care sector and 241 to the hospitality sector.

External Funding Attracted

During Q4 an additional £1,682,631 of external funding has been received, bringing the total for the year £20,863,130 just falling slightly short of the target of £21,000,000. We were successful in attracting £353,925 from the European funding continuation project Growing Enterprise (3). The targets for this measure were based on applications still in appraisal at the start of the 2021-22 year. Since then, there have been fluctuations in the European funding grant awards during the appraisal process and due to the impacts of covid, a number of applicants withdrew their grant request due to the economic climate.

Additional funding of £228,000 was secured from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub which has been received to expand the work we do to provide advice to businesses. The European funding Business Lincolnshire Sustainable Business Growth 2 funds for 2021/22 was also forecast to spend £998,027, however there were less face to face programmes which resulted in a claim of £890,706. This activity and subsequent funded income will now take place during the year 2022-23.

Flooding Performance Measures

This measure is calculated on the basis of the number of formal investigations undertaken by the County Council under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

Lincolnshire County Council has interpreted a flooding incident to be 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 there is a significant impact on the community e.g., schools or commercial property. It should be noted that whilst the figures provided are accurate at the time of reporting, these may subsequently change either up or down as active and emerging investigations progress and the causation and impacts of the flooding are fully understood.

There were 3 S.19 Investigations started in Q4 affecting 2 residential and 8 commercial properties. This compares with 21 investigations affecting 18 properties and 6 roads being significantly affected in Q4 of 2020/21.

Waste Performance Measures

The recycling rate at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) has decreased in quarter 4 to 70.04% compared to 71.87% in quarter 3 as we receive less green waste in winter for composting. It is lower than last year for a number of reasons, including the legacy of emergency contract arrangements put in place during the pandemic and haulage issues resulting in full containers. We are seeking to resolve these issues by increasing the number of local disposal outlets and having increased haulage capacity.

The overall recycling rate in quarter 4 is 41.5% which is a fall from the previous quarter of 43.7%. This is also due to us receiving less green waste in the winter for composting. The

recycling rate for the year continues to be lower than pre-covid levels as we appear to be in a 'new normal' with the public presenting less waste for recycling and more non-recyclables.

The amount of waste material collected at the kerbside is 991kg/HH for the full year which is below the target of 1000kg/HH. This represents a good achievement as waste reduction is the highest priority on the waste hierarchy.

2. Conclusion

Members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee are invited to review and comment on the performance information for Quarter 4 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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