



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

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	13 September 2022
Subject:	Service Level Performance Reporting against the Performance Framework 2022-2023 - Quarter 1

Summary:

This report sets out the performance of the Tier 2 Service Level Performance measures for 2022-2023 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

1.1 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 Q1 a total of 327 businesses were supported by the Council against a target of 372. However, the success in bidding for external funding for extra activity which will be introduced later in the year means that we are confident that we will meet the end-of-year target.

The Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub has supported 133 businesses in Q1. There has been an extension to our European funded programme until June 2023, which means that we can

continue to provide generalist and specialist advisory support, business development programmes and implementation grants to businesses. To date the 'Next Level' Scale Up programme has been very well received as have the Pub Diversification, Manufacturing Transformation and Supply Chain Support programmes. New programmes due to start in Q2 include Creative Catalyst and a small programme specifically for Creative / Digital / Tech Businesses. Results from these will be reflected as the year progresses – as such the Growth Hub continues to be on track to reach the full year target.

Through the Place and Investment Team services, via Inward Investment support, Team Lincolnshire, and the account management of foreign owned businesses, we have seen significant growth in relation to the number of investment opportunities resulting in a total of 185 businesses being supported during Q1. Team Lincolnshire and Business Lincolnshire flew the flag for the region at two Business Expos where procurement workshops were held to support businesses with their growth plans and give them tools and guidance on how to win new contracts. Team Lincolnshire also delivered an Industry Insight Tour of the Lincoln Medical School at the University of Lincoln, a Flagship event on Active Partnerships, supported LCC at the Lincolnshire Show and attendance at UKREiif (Real Estate Investment & Infrastructure Forum) in Leeds to attract new inward investors to the county.

The Economic Infrastructure Property Portfolio continues to support in the region of 150 small businesses are through business premise tenancies. Of these many take up support from Business Lincolnshire and in Q1 a further 9 businesses accessed supported to develop and grow.

Qualifications Achieved

Not reporting this Quarter.

External Funding Attracted

During Q1 £3,569,894 of external funding has been received, above the quarterly target of £3,494,410. External funding received in Q1 is broken down as follows:

- i. Funding of £42,315 was secured from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub. This has been received to expand the work carried out to provide advice to businesses. This is more than planned due to changes in spend profile, however the full year target is unchanged and future quarters will even out.
- ii. The European funds for the Growth Hubs Business Lincolnshire Sustainable Business Growth 2 programme has received £322,315 income for April to June 22. This is more than planned due to the extension funding as mentioned earlier.
- iii. Adult Education Budget Community and Family Learning fund of £510,155. This is the amount of Adult Education external funds that are programme for the Period 1st April to 31st July 2022.

- iv. Levelling Up Funds for the A16 improvement programme of £2,109,300 has been received in advance of the 22/23 drawdown.
- v. UK Community Renewal Funds of £585,809 have been received to support two successful Lincolnshire Programmes: HWLINCS Ltd (formerly Health Watch Lincolnshire) – a feasibility study into working practices and barriers for recruitment and retention in the care sector in Boston and the East of Lincolnshire and also to the Abbey Access Centre – Working and Connecting Communities programme delivered in Lincoln.

1.2 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 (LLFA) 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.

Three new formal investigations were started in quarter one of 2022-2023 under section 19 of the Act. A total of three properties were affected being two residential properties and one commercial property. This compares with eighteen investigations initiated in quarter four of the previous year.

The cost of a S.19 investigation varies depending on the complexity of the flooding involved therefore influencing officer and TSP time in carrying out the investigation and preparing the report. As a guide, approximate costs may vary between £3000 and £7000 per report with a reasonable average perhaps being around £5000. The exceptional weather events over 2019/20 generated unprecedented numbers of investigations (197) which put immense pressure on resources, and which created a large backlog of work. To put this into context the total number of S.19 investigations between 2012 (when we first started conducting investigations) to 2018 was 199. Whilst we are currently in a long period of dry weather this has allowed us to catch up with this backlog, however a period of summer storms or a change in weather patterns has the potential to reverse that very quickly as can be seen from the recent storm events in late August affecting certain areas of the County and in particular Market Rasen and Spalding. As a result of this single storm (as at 31/8/22) a further 47 confirmed s.19 investigations will be required to be undertaken comprising

c.147 properties and roads affected. This is a dynamic situation as investigations continue and it is anticipated that these numbers will rise as further information comes to light and details are confirmed.

In Lincolnshire we instigate a S.19 investigation each time internal flooding occurs to a property. There are a variety of thresholds applied by LLFAs for deciding when to conduct a section 19 investigation. Like ourselves some LLFAs will investigate, under the Section 19 procedure, every internally flooded property. However, commonly, a threshold of five flooded properties is applied whilst some authorities apply a threshold of ten. One authority applies a threshold of 20 flooded properties. Whilst it is usual these authorities that have a higher threshold investigate all reports of flooding, a full Section 19 procedure is applied only to the larger events.

It is also noted that if the source of flooding is clear, there is no need for a section 19 report, and that many LLFAs complete detailed post flood reports with investigation and recommendations but falling short of the full Section 19 procedure. Equally the process needs to be flexible and proportionate to the event. While the absence of a common threshold for triggering a Section 19 report might be seen as a matter for concern, it can also be argued that it is appropriate for authorities to have a discretion as to the circumstances in which “it considers it necessary or appropriate” to conduct an investigation: there would be limited benefits, for example, if the reason for the flooding is already clear, and if a remedy is under way. {Data on LLFA reporting taken from Jenkins Report (May 2020) – Report of a review of the arrangements for determining responsibility for surface water and drainage assets (publishing.service.gov.uk)}

The number of near miss information which has now been collated is detailed in the table below.

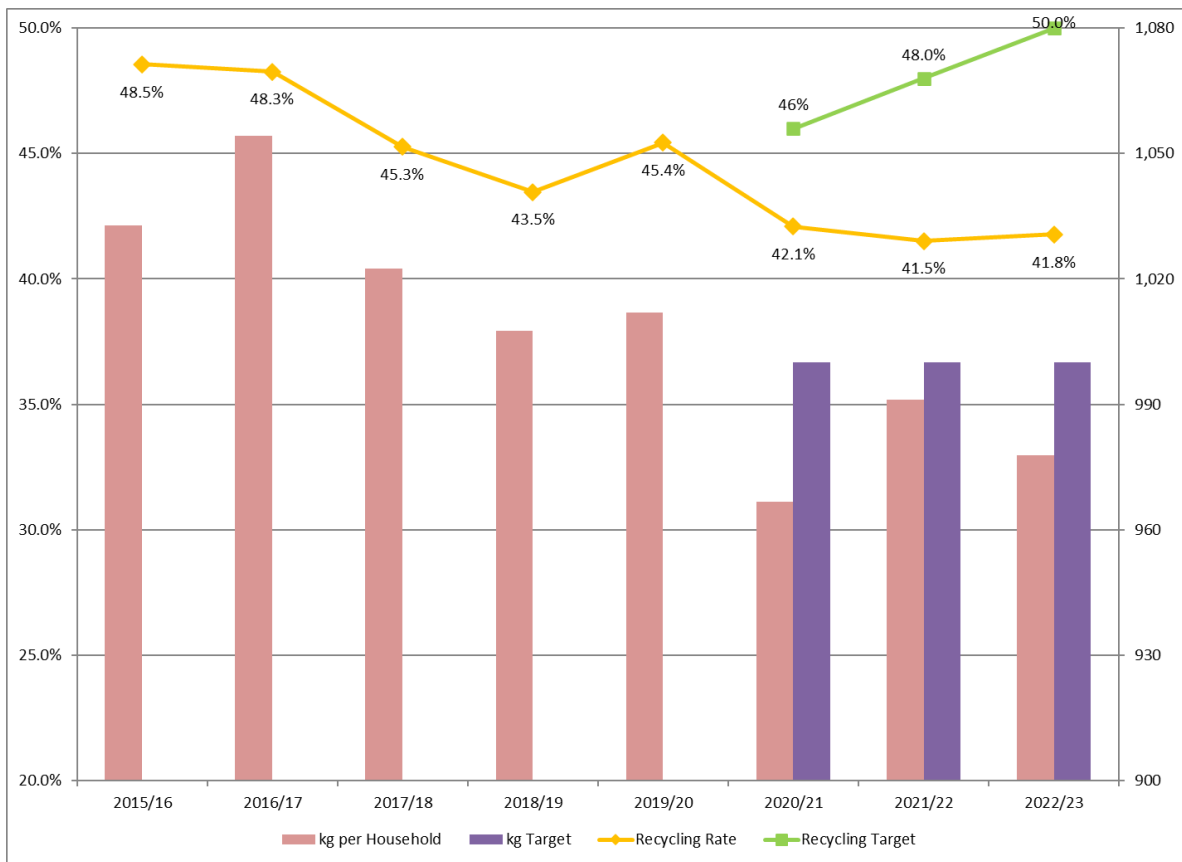
Near Miss	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total	Annual Average
Property	124	38	39	23	75	14	44	374	157	489	110	1487	135
Street	102	54	64	10	24	11	29	84	26	140	29	573	52
Total	226	92	103	33	99	25	73	458	183	629	139	2060	

Near misses may include flooding to gardens, outbuildings, or the road. As can be seen the numbers are significant and whilst it is a useful exercise to gather this data to build a picture to inform potential future mitigation works, taking the above information as context, to instigate a full s.19 investigation in each of these cases would be significantly beyond the current resource and funding mechanisms in place.

1.3 Waste Performance Measures

Whilst the charts on the attached datasheets show actual performance in Quarter 1 (Apr-Jun), those figures reflect that there’s always more green waste composted in Summer than in Winter. Thus, forecasting for 2022/23 as a whole (shown on the below chart and under “further details” in the datasheets) suggests that:

- Recycling at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) is likely to be below target, albeit better than in 2021/22 – We are continuing to work with our Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP) partners to improve this.
- Recycling rate (overall) has fallen considerably since pre-covid (see below chart) as the public are presenting less waste for recycling – The LWP are working to increase this rate through initiatives such as food waste recycling.
- Household waste collected (kg per household) has also fallen since pre-covid, and this is a good thing – We will continue to monitor this and, if it increases again, we'll seek to introduce waste minimisation initiatives.
- Household waste to landfill (%) remains low as we continue to divert the vast majority of our non-recyclable waste to our Energy from Waste facility.



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

- Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development, who can be contacted on 07920 750343 or samanthal.harrison@lincolnshire.gov.uk;
- Chris Miller, Head of Environment, who can be contacted on 07919 320273 or Chris.Miller@lincolnshire.gov.uk; and
- Mike Reed, Head of Waste who can be contacted on 07557 169890 or Mike.Reed@lincolnshire.gov.uk