

THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20 JUNE 2011

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY OUTCOME: HIGH QUALITY
ENVIRONMENT QUARTER 4 2010/11 PERFORMANCE MONITORING UPDATE
(EXCEPTIONS ONLY)

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (HIGH QUALITY ENVIRONMENT)

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RECENT REFERENCES:

[EN107](#) High Quality Environment Outcome: Quarter 3 Monitoring Update
(Exceptions only) – 8 February 2011

[EN105](#) High Quality Environment Outcome: Quarter 2 Monitoring Update
(Exceptions only) – 17 November 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This exception report reviews progress made against actions that contribute to the High Quality Environment Sustainable Strategy Outcome over the fourth quarter of the 2010/11 financial year which relates to the Portfolio for High Quality Environment.

This report has been drawn from the Council's performance management system on an exception basis. Any actions which are approaching their due date, not yet complete and passed their due date, not started or are overdue will be included in the report.

Updated report cards covering the key performance indicators that fall within the responsibility of the former Portfolio Holder for High Quality Environment are also provided as appendices to this report.

It should be noted that this report relates to the High Quality Environment Portfolio before the change in administration and portfolios following Council elections held on 5 May 2011.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee raises any issues arising from the performance information in this report and considers whether any items of significance need to be drawn to the attention of Cabinet.

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REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (HIGH QUALITY ENVIRONMENT)

Introduction

1.1 This exception report reviews progress made against actions that contribute to the High Quality Environment Sustainable Strategy Outcome over the fourth quarter of the 2010/11 financial year as set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy:-

High Quality Environment

- The District meets the challenge of climate change
- Biodiversity is thriving in the District.

1.1 The details included in Appendix 1 of the report have been drawn from the Council's performance management system on an exception basis. Any actions which are approaching their due date, not yet complete and passed their due date, not started or are overdue have been included in this report. Actions that have been completed are excluded from the report.

1.2 Further appendices include performance information shown as report cards covering key performance indicators that fall within the High Quality Environment outcome.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

2. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND CHANGE PLANS (RELEVANCE TO):

2.1 This report forms part of the quarterly performance and financial monitoring processes, designed to check progress being made against agreed targets.

3. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

3.1 As referred to within the appendices to the report.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

4.1 This report is for information purposes therefore the Council's risk management approach does not need to be included.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Working papers held by officers in the relevant teams.

APPENDICES:

- Appendix 1 Sustainable Community Strategy Outcome: High Quality Environment
Qtr 4 monitoring report
- Appendix 2 Environment Qtr 4 Report Card update
- Appendix 3 Access and Infrastructure (Car Parks) Qtr 4 Report Card update
- Appendix 4 Planning Management Qtr 4 Report Card update






Sustainable Community Strategy Outcome: High Quality Environment (Exceptions only)




SCS Outcome

- The District meets the challenge of climate change

Key to Status Icons

Action Status	
 Action Completed	 Overdue – Due date passed before action completed
 Action In Progress within due date	 Action Cancelled
 Check Progress – action approaching due date or associated milestone not yet complete and passed due date; Action Not Started	

Code & Title	Expected Outcome	Milestones	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Completed?	Status Icon	Action Progress	Action Due Date	Latest Status Update
Climate Change Ensure commitment to the achievement of the Council/WDSP target on carbon reduction across the District and provide leadership to obtain commitment from key organisations currently not involved in the partnership. Make resources available to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council which will in turn impact	(1) Emissions of greenhouse gases across the District are low; (2) the District supplies its share of renewable energy; the District is 'climate change ready', (3) ensuring we can maximise the opportunities and minimise the costs of climate change; and (4) all sectors of the community understand the climate change issue	Milestones included within each of the Climate Change projects.	Various	Ongoing		40 %	31 Dec 2012	The Climate Change Programme Board has agreed the revised climate change programme which will be used as a basis for future commissioned projects. The Transport Forum is reviewing its priorities to support the climate change programme. An Energy Manager has now been appointed to prepare and implement the City Council's energy management plan.

Code & Title	Expected Outcome	Milestones	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Completed?	Status Icon	Action Progress	Action Due Date	Latest Status Update
on the efforts for reduction in the wider community.	and are taking action.							The project to install solar PV project on the City Council's Housing stock has been delayed by legal issues concerning the procurement process, and the project is being reviewed in the light of further information and research.

Sustainable Community Strategy Outcome: High Quality Environment (Exceptions only)

SCS Outcome:

- Biodiversity is thriving in the District




Code & Title	Expected Outcome	Milestones	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Completed?	Status Icon	Action Progress	Action Due Date	Latest Status Update
ENV/LOS/003 Winchester Biodiversity Action Plan	Biodiversity is thriving in the District	Programme agreed with Natural Environment Forum	01 Apr 2010	No		0 %	31 Dec 2010	Not achieved in 2010/11 due to lack of resources. Taken forward into 2011/12 under High Quality Environment Theme 2 Change Plan.
		First draft approved by Natural Environment Forum	30 Jun 2010	No				
		Revised BAP adopted by the City Council	31 Dec 2010	No				




Sustainable Community Strategy Outcome: High Quality Environment (Exceptions only)








SCS Outcome: High Quality Environment

Code & Title	Expected Outcome	Milestones	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Completed?	Status Icon	Action Progress	Action Due Date	Latest Status Update
AIN/AIN/002 Sewerage Treatment	Maintenance requirements reduced	Adoption test case	30 Sep 2010	No		33 %	31 Mar 2012	Work for adoption test case ongoing. Work for Couch Green about to start.
		Itchen View STW replacement	31 Mar 2011	Yes				
		Crouch Green STW replacement	16 Jun 2011	No				
AIN/AIN/012 Speed Management	Agreed scheme and programming	Scheme agreed	31 Mar 2011	No		40 %	30 Nov 2011	Pilot scheme agreed for formal advertisement in June 2011.
CUL/013 Tackling Climate Change through Cultural Programmes	Local people respond to positive models of low carbon living and make changes to their own lifestyles.	Co-ordinate and promote the Big Green Summer programme of activities to raise awareness of climate change	29 Oct 2010	Yes		42 %	31 Aug 2011	There was a 30% rise in tourism businesses signed up to the Green Leaf Tourism Scheme this year due to the ad-hoc tele-selling efforts of the Tourism Marketing and Development Officer. Big Green Summer programme of co-ordinated events launched with WinACC to promote positive responses to climate
		Introduce new cycling programme to increase non-car-use	29 Oct 2010	No				
		Inform previous advertisers that Green leaf Tourism Scheme now updated to Winch Partnership for Carbon Reduction and incentivise early sign up using Featured	28 Feb 2011	No				

Code & Title	Expected Outcome	Milestones	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Completed?	Status Icon	Action Progress	Action Due Date	Latest Status Update
		product on website as reward						change.
		New marketing strategy increases visibility and impact of sustainable tourism message	28 Feb 2011	No				
		Recruitment for new scheme Commissioned	30 Jun 2011	No				
		Merge Green Leaf Tourism Scheme and WinAcc's Business facing certification into a single umbrella scheme: Winchester Partnership for Carbon Reduction Scheme	20 Aug 2011	Yes				
ENV/EP/002 Review and update the WCC Contaminated Land Strategy in line with Community Plan Objectives. This strategy will combine with the Part IIA strategy	Adoption of Corporate Contaminated Land Strategy to minimise the health impacts of potentially contaminated sites.	Set up a Corporate steering group and complete the first meeting to determine Contaminated Land Strategy Objectives.	02 May 2011	No		0 %	31 Mar 2012	This has been held up circumstantially by a key member of staff being on maternity leave and with whom we need to refer regards the prioritisation model. Once these issues are determined we can make progress in updating the Contaminated Land Strategy.
		Publish the new Contaminated Land Strategy.	31 Mar 2012	No				

Code & Title	Expected Outcome	Milestones	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Completed?	Status Icon	Action Progress	Action Due Date	Latest Status Update
ENV/ET/003 Project Integra Partner Implementation Plan	Delivery of the actions detailed in the Plan	Detailed milestones included in the Plan				80 %	31 Mar 2011	Successfully re tendered the waste and recycling contract in partnership with EHDC achieving significant efficiency savings maintaining service provision, Increase in kerbside contamination rates as high levels of monitoring and communications could not be sustained during the re tendering process.
ENV/LOS/002 Play Areas - Five year plan 2009- 2014						0 %	31 Mar 2011	Report to Town Forum and Cabinet in February 2011 advised reduced balance of Open Space Fund and provided a revised programme
ENV/LOS/007 TPO Review	1st phase TPO Review completed	Programme for first phase of review established	30 Apr 2010	No		0 %	31 Dec 2010	Cannot complete with existing resources. ISG considered resources for tree management and reported to cabinet in March 2011. Cabinet requested that a detailed report to be brought forward as part of budget process in September 2011.

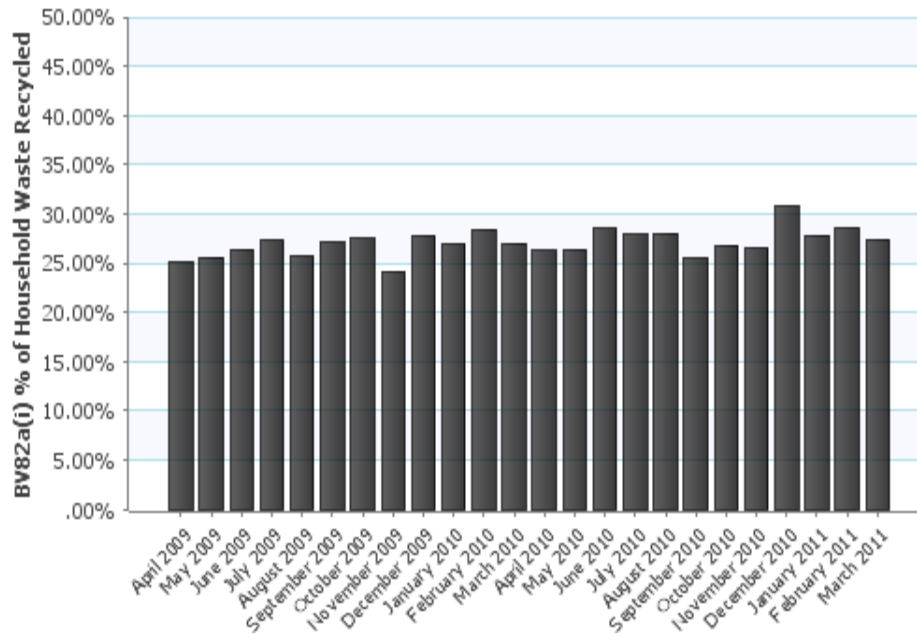
Code & Title	Expected Outcome	Milestones	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Completed?	Status Icon	Action Progress	Action Due Date	Latest Status Update
ENV/LOS/008 Landscape & Tree Strategy	Landscape & Tree Strategy completed and adopted by Council	Draft Strategy reviewed	31 May 2010	No		0 %	31 Mar 2011	No resources available to take forward. ISG recommended the production of a WCC Tree Policy as a business priority for 2011/12.
		New Strategy prepared	30 Sep 2010	No				
		New draft presented to Council	28 Feb 2011	No				
		Strategy adopted by the Council	31 Mar 2011	No				
ENV/LOS/009 Audit of Grounds Contract GIS	Grounds GIS inventory accurately reflects land under management and specification					85 %	31 Dec 2010	Audit completed as programmed. Further work to update GIS will be undertaken during mobilisation.
PDC/DEV/011 Produce Planning Charter	Improved customer service					0 %	31 Mar 2011	Planning Management is going through the Customer Excellence programme and the Charter will be reviewed as part of this work.
PDC/DEV/017 Reinstatement of PD rights in Whiteley	Reinstatement of PD rights in Whiteley, thereby allowing residents to alter and extend their homes without having to apply to the Council in every case, or to conclude why this course of action would be inappropriate.					0 %	31 Mar 2011	In light of Localism agenda and impending legislation which will empower local communities this action will need to be reviewed.

Code & Title	Expected Outcome	Milestones	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Completed?	Status Icon	Action Progress	Action Due Date	Latest Status Update
PDC/DEV/019 Barton Farm	Determine application new and deal with the appeal case in an efficient and timely manner					80 %	31 Mar 2011	Public Inquiry completed in February 2011. Inspector's report submitted to the SOS. SOS's decision expected by 18/8/11.

ENVIRONMENT Q4 2010/11 REPORT CARD

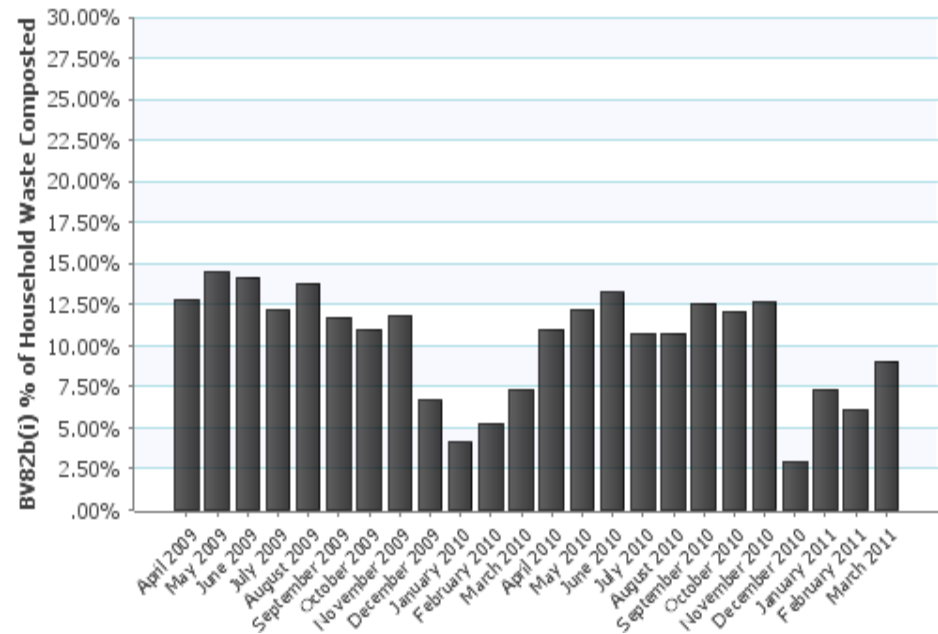
Links to Community Strategy – The provision of an alternate bin collection system is a key contributor to the High Quality Environment element of the Corporate Strategy by reducing the volume of waste produced locally and increase levels of recycling

Percentage of Waste sent for Recycling (BVPI 82ai)



Comment: Performance is similar to previous years. Further improvement is unlikely to arise due to the overall effect of reduced packaging and economic uncertainty.

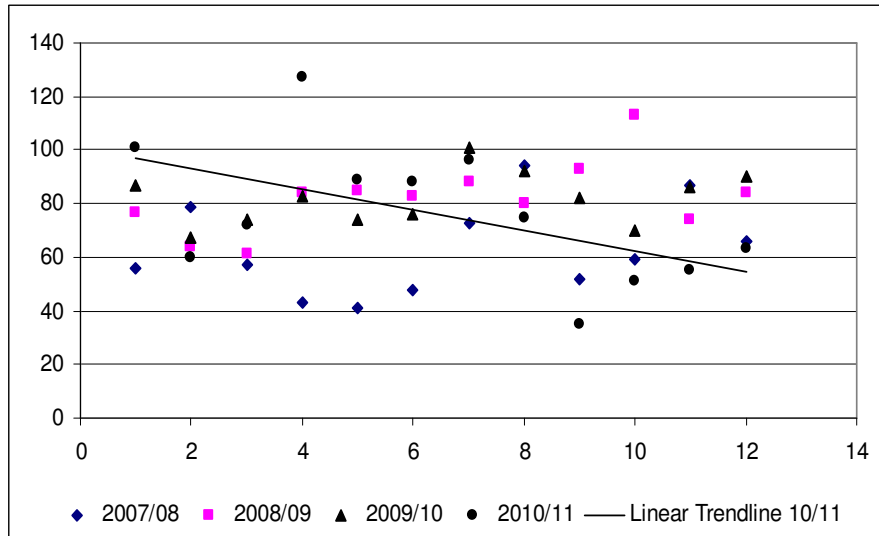
Percentage of Waste sent for Composting (BVPI 82bi)



Comment: - levels subject to seasonal variation and will rise through the summer months.

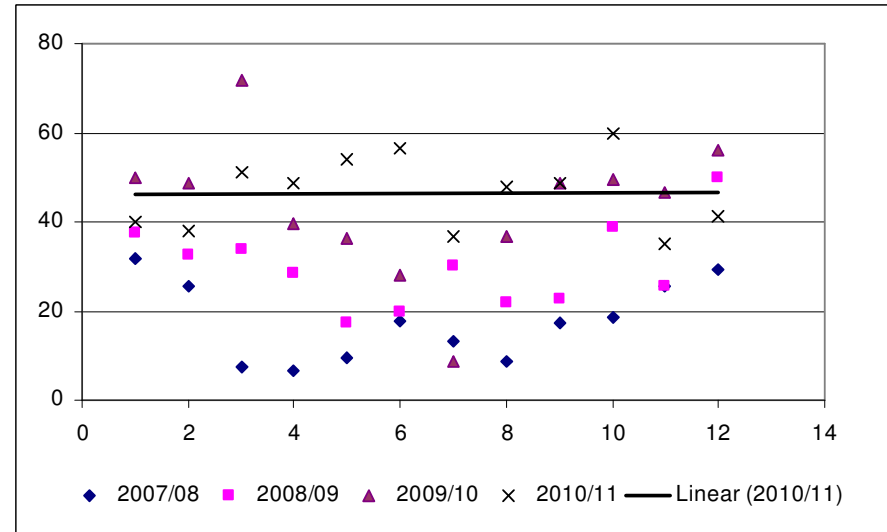
ENVIRONMENT Q4 2010/11 REPORT CARD

Instances of Fly-tipping



Comment: Levels appear to have peaked in July 2011, and have continued to fall to within normal expectations.

Number of Bin Collections missed per 100,000 collections

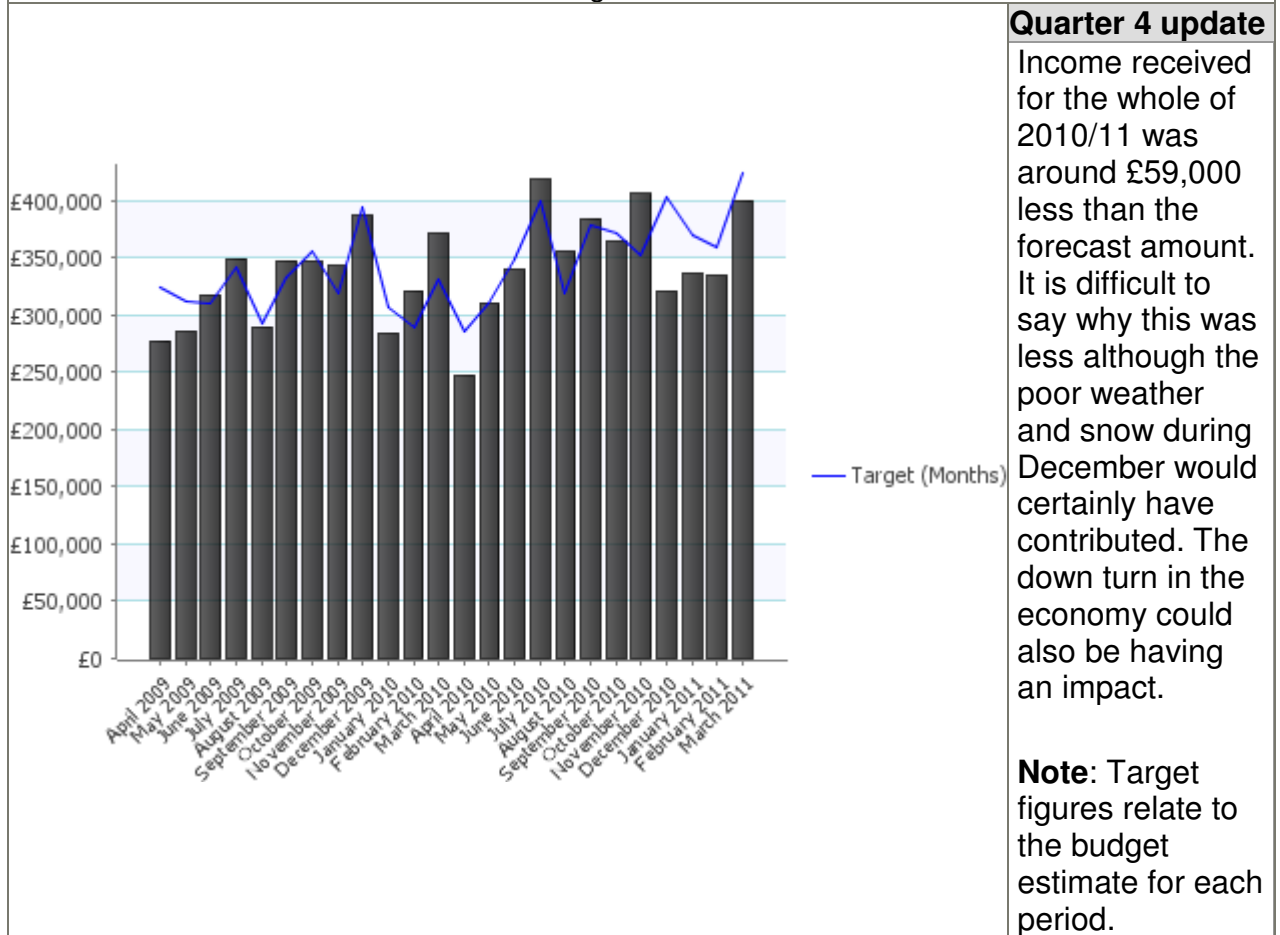


Comment: Low levels of missed bins in line with normal performance and expectation.

ACCESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE Q4 REPORT CARD

Links to the Community Strategy: The Council aims to provide a high quality environment for its citizens and visitors by improving access to town and villages and by improving air quality in Winchester Town.

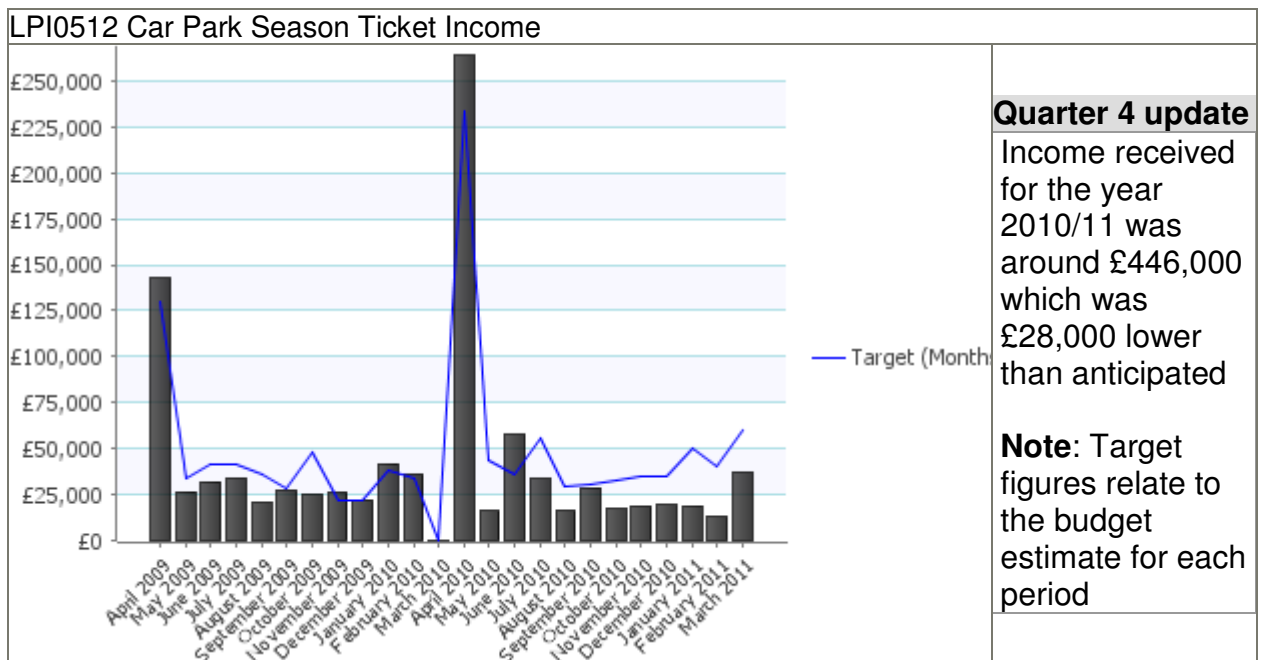
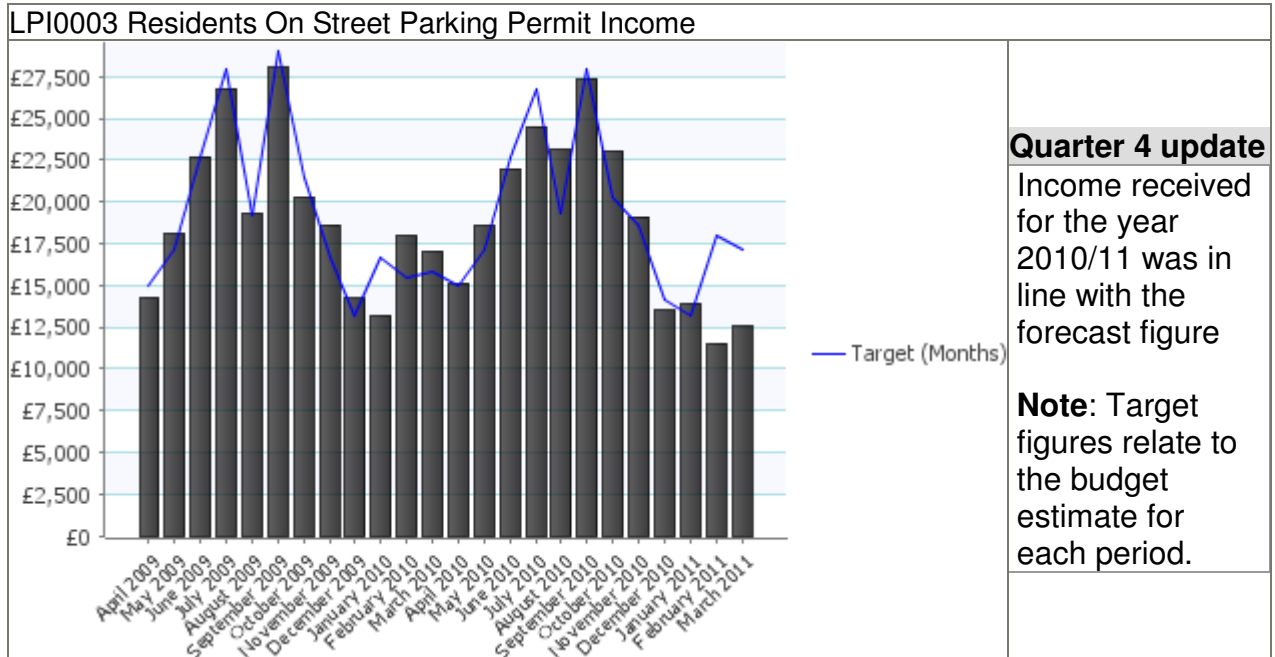
LPI0510 Off Street and On Street Car Parking Income

**Quarter 4 update**

Income received for the whole of 2010/11 was around £59,000 less than the forecast amount. It is difficult to say why this was less although the poor weather and snow during December would certainly have contributed. The down turn in the economy could also be having an impact.

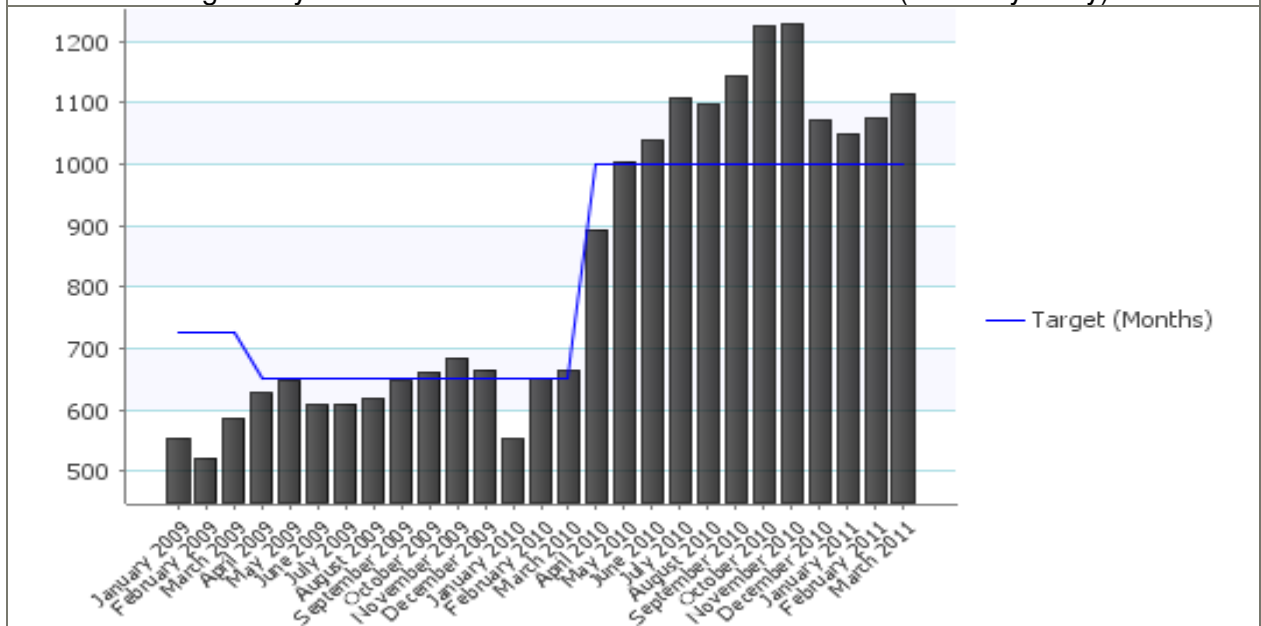
Note: Target figures relate to the budget estimate for each period.

ACCESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE Q4 REPORT CARD



ACCESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE Q4 REPORT CARD

LPI0002 Average Daily Tickets Sold - Cars Parked in Park and Ride (weekdays only)



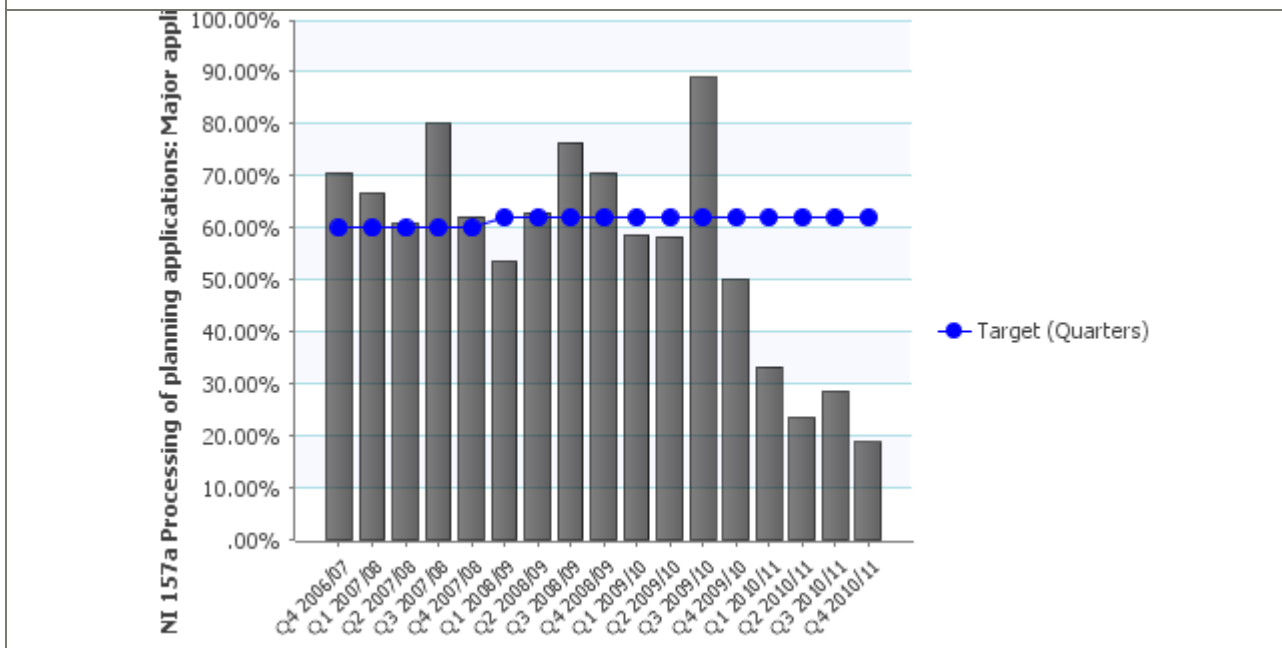
Since the new linked park and ride services began on 19th April 2010 average daily ticket sales have increased from around 600 to 910 during November last year. Over the Christmas period this increased to over 1200 as the services proved popular with visitors to the Town and Cathedral activities. In addition to this figure a further 308 season tickets have been sold and the usage of these is additional to the numbers shown on the graph above. There are also further 150 - 200 additional users who are currently parking in a HCC car park at Bar End.

A full report assessing the services was reported to Cabinet at its meeting in March 2011.

PLANNING MANAGEMENT REPORT CARD – Q4

Links to the Community Strategy: The Council aims to operate efficiently and effectively, offering value for money to local taxpayers. By processing planning applications within target timescales set by the CLG the Council is able to maintain an efficient planning service that offers value for money.

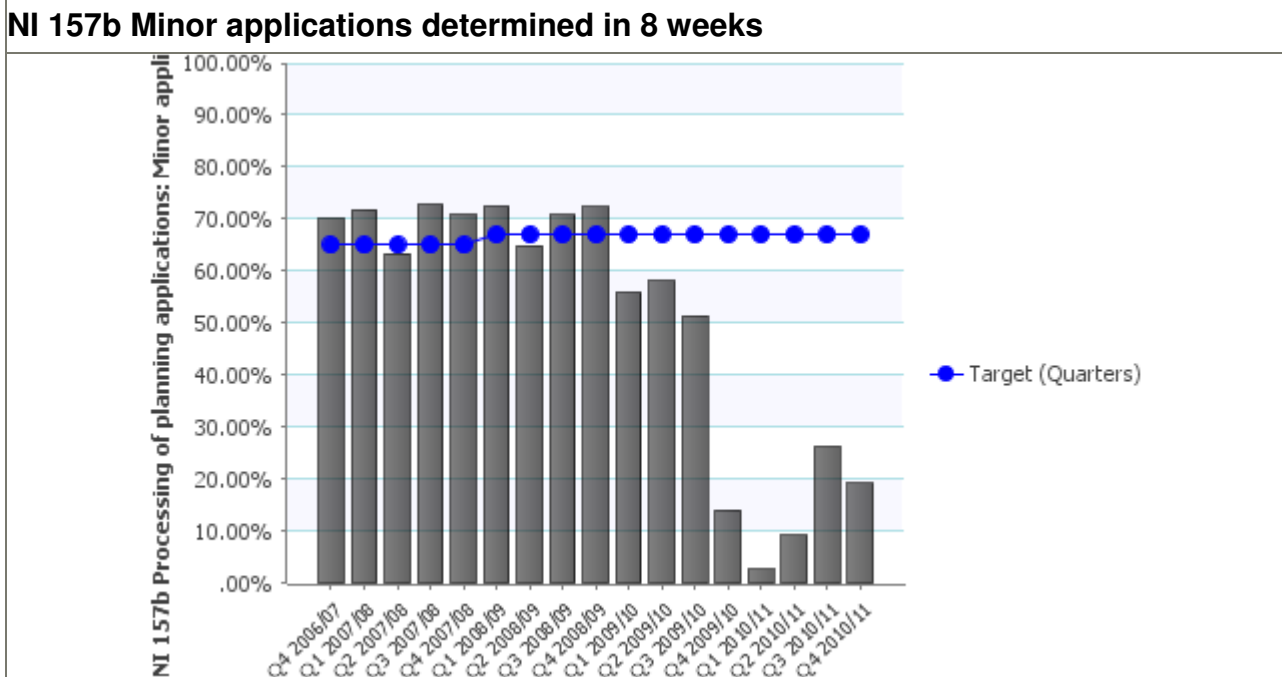
NI 157a Major applications determined in 13 weeks



Quarter 4 2010/11 Update

The percentage of major applications determined within the CLG target of 13 weeks in Quarter 4 was 20%, which was slightly lower than the last quarter, and is well below the Business Plan target of 62%. Whilst last year’s serious problems associated with application validation have been addressed, and substantial improvements made to the council’s processes and procedures, workloads remain high both in terms of application numbers (see table below) and size/complexity. The Council has recently dealt with a number of very major applications and appeals (2000 houses at Barton Farm, Motocross at Three Maids Hill, Sainsbury’s in Bishops Waltham, Holiday accommodation at Black Wood, 2500 houses at Waterlooville MDA). This has significantly affected performance. However, the Head of Planning Management is preparing a Planning Performance Improvement Plan to try to tackle this issue which is aimed at making the best possible use of existing level of resources within the team.

PLANNING MANAGEMENT REPORT CARD – Q4

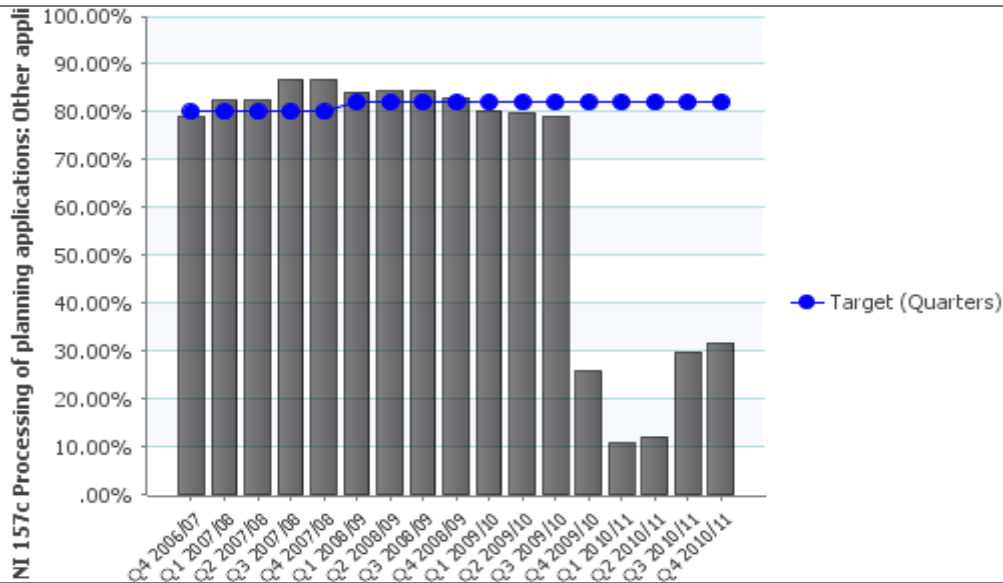


Quarter 4 2010/11 Update

The percentage of minor applications determined within the CLG target of 8 weeks in Quarter 4 was 20% which is below the Business Plan target of 67% and slightly lower than the previous quarter. Whilst last year’s serious problems associated with application validation have been addressed, and substantial improvements made to the council’s processes and procedures, workloads remain high both in terms of application numbers (see table below) and size/complexity. The Council has recently dealt with a number of very major applications and appeals (2000 houses at Barton Farm, Motocross at Three Maids Hill, Sainsbury’s in Bishops Waltham, Holiday accommodation at Black Wood, 2500 houses at Waterlooville MDA). This has significantly affected performance. However, the Head of Planning Management is preparing a Planning Performance Improvement Plan to try to tackle this issue which is aimed at making the best possible use of existing level of resources within the team.

PLANNING MANAGEMENT REPORT CARD – Q4

NI 157c Planning Applications: 'Other' applications



Quarter 4 2010/11 Update

The percentage of minor applications determined within the CLG target of 8 weeks in Quarter 4 was just over 30% which is about the same level as the previous quarter but well below the Business Plan target of 82%. Whilst last year’s serious problems associated with application validation have been addressed, and substantial improvements made to the council’s processes and procedures, workloads remain high both in terms of application numbers (see table below) and size/complexity. The Council has recently dealt with a number of very major applications and appeals (2000 houses at Barton Farm, Motocross at Three Maids Hill, Sainsbury’s in Bishops Waltham, Holiday accommodation at Black Wood, 2500 houses at Waterlooville MDA). This has significantly affected performance. However, the Head of Planning Management is preparing a Planning Performance Improvement Plan to try to tackle this issue which is aimed at making the best possible use of existing level of resources within the team.

PLANNING MANAGEMENT REPORT CARD – Q4**Planning Applications Received by Calendar Year 2007-11**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Jan	236	236	175	187	193
Feb	276	282	205	264	228
Mar	300	234	221	277	255
Apr	260	258	189	218	
May	269	220	218	204	
Jun	272	224	225	244	
Jul	253	268	252	291	
Aug	251	199	202	235	
Sep	266	224	207	255	
Oct	293	220	237	211	
Nov	274	217	240	258	
Dec	217	200	208	210	
TOTAL	3,167	2,782	2,579	2,854	676

The figure for 2010 shows an 11% increase on 2009 which equates to 275 applications and the total also exceeds 2008 by 72. This demonstrates that workload is increasing, despite the wider economic picture, and the Planning Management team is busy (see tables above for more details). The figures for the last quarter show a slight decrease compared to 2010 but applications numbers for 2011 are expected to be similar to last year.

In addition the Council has also agreed a scheme of delegation with the South Downs National Park Authority for the provision of development management services which commenced in April 2011. This has involved considerable work for Planning Management and adds another layer of complexity to the planning process in the District which officers have to deal with.

Planning Enforcement

Links to the Community Strategy: The Council aims to provide a high quality environment for its residents by ensuring that the historic environment is preserved and enhanced and that the local distinctiveness is protected and the public realm is well designed, built and maintained. The Enforcement team ensures that planning permissions and conditions are complied with as well as taking a proactive role in dealing with unauthorised development.

The table below gives details of the number of open enforcement cases at the end of each month, along side the number open and closed during the month.

PLANNING MANAGEMENT REPORT CARD – Q4

Month	Cases Opened	Cases Closed	Total cases outstanding
July	37	28	351
August	28	36	343
September	36	44	335
October	26	31	330
November	25	21	334
December	9	22	321
January 2011	24	36	309
February	33	33	309
March	35	35	309

The number of new enforcement cases opened during the last quarter rose significantly compared to the previous quarter (92 compared to 60). Nevertheless, the Enforcement Team managed to resolve 104 cases. The number of outstanding cases by March 2011 was 309 which is significantly below the Business Plan target of 350.

The following table shows the number of notices that were issued by the Enforcement team during each month for the six month period up to the end of March 2011.

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STATUS	Oct 10	Nov 10	Dec 10	Jan 11	Feb 11	Mar 11
ENF Notices served	5	3	0	0	0	1
BOC Notices served	0	1	0	0	0	1
STOP Notices served	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMP STOP Notices served	0	0	0	0	0	1

Note: BOC – Breach of Condition