

**Sustainable Community Plan 2006-2011
Performance update: Jan – Sept 2008**

Item 5

Background

The Sustainable Community Plan 2006-2011 sets the vision for the borough 'Enhancing the quality of life for all.' The Borough Council and its partners are collectively working, on behalf of the Local Strategic Partnership, towards meeting the targets set within the plan in order to meet this vision.

This report provides an update on actions for the last nine months (Jan – March 2008).

To date, performance has been reported on a six monthly basis since adoption of the plan in December 2006. However these reporting timescales worked to the calendar year and do not align with those of the new Kent Agreement Two (KA2). We have requested updates on actions for the last nine months (Jan – Mar 2008, Apr – Jun 2008 and Jul – Sept 2008), to ensure we align reporting with KA2 in the future.

The last performance update reported the progress made within the first twelve months of the plan period (January to December 2007). Eighty percent of actions were either on target, or had made some progress, which is exceptional performance for the first year of the plan.

This report provides a review of progress made since January 2008, highlighting those actions that are on schedule, making some progress or need further focus. Particular emphasis is placed on performance at March 2008 and September 2008.

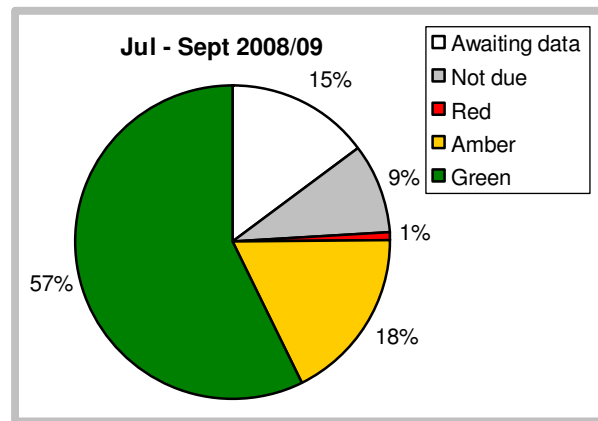
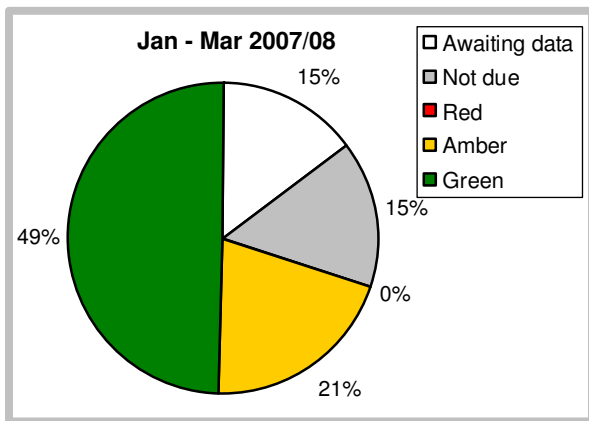
We are still awaiting updates on 15% of the action plan, which could obviously still alter performance levels slightly. Therefore a copy of the full report will be made available on the 'Tunbridge Wells Together' website for your reference once this data has been submitted.

Monitoring the Sustainable Community Plan

There are 152 actions within the action plan and the performance of these actions has once again been measured using the RAG (Red, Amber and Green) grading method. There were a number of actions, which could only be measured on an annual basis or were currently awaiting information, which has altered the final level of performance for this period.

Performance update

Nearly two years after adoption, 75% of actions within the action plan are on target or making some progress. This is a 5% decline from that recorded in December 2007, however we are still waiting for updates on a number of actions, so level of performance is likely to change. We are awaiting information on 15% of the plan, which relates to 22 individual actions. Twelve actions sit within theme 9: Learning for all. Updates on all these actions, are expected shortly.



Only one action is underperforming (1%). Detail on this action is provided below:

Theme	Action
3. Leisure	3.1 Improve play provision in the parishes through play grants to Town and Parish Councils
	There has been no activity/schemes approved for funding since December 2007.

Themes that are performing well and have made substantial improvement since December 2007 are:

- Maintaining a thriving local economy
- Enabling people to take part in and enjoy leisure activities
- Encouraging social inclusion by supporting independence

A summary of the progress made within each theme is detailed below:

Safeguarding our environment

This theme covers three priority areas, 'protecting and enhancing the natural environment,' 'conserving and improving the built environment' and 'reducing the local contribution to climate change.' Approximately 76% of this theme is currently on target or making some progress and has seen a 6% improvement between end of financial year, March 2007/08 and end of second quarter, 2008/09.

Maintaining a thriving economy

This theme aims to 'encourage the continued development of a wide range of enterprises,' 'enhance the attractiveness of towns and other centres in the borough' and 'support the sustainable economic development of the rural areas.' This theme has continued to make good progress since December 2007. At the end of September 2008, 71% of actions were on target and a further 19% were making some progress.

Enabling people to take part in and enjoy leisure activities

The priorities set within this theme are 'focusing on providing activities and facilities for children and young people,' 'encouraging people of all ages and abilities to participate' and 'providing appropriate places for people to pursue their leisure interests.' Performance at March 2008 was similar to that recorded in December

2007. However since March, this theme has seen a further 8% increase in the proportion of actions on target whilst a further 23% making some progress. Therefore this theme has seen a substantial improvement in performance.

Increasing community safety and reducing the fear of crime

This theme has one main aim: reducing crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. Although at the annual review, all actions were performing on target, performance has been affected since March 2008. This is due to concerns relating to the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse (action 1.4). Data is also not yet available on another action (1.6 Targeted work with young people at risk of offending) to enable the full performance of this theme to be assessed.

Transport – getting around the borough

The priorities set to meet this theme are ‘reducing traffic congestion and pollution by increasing responsible travel options and enhancing accessibility,’ ‘pursuing improvements to key transport routes and public transport’ and ‘improving travel safety for all.’ 35% of actions are on target and a further 30% of actions are making some progress. A number of actions within this theme are not due to commence until further within the strategy period. However, work has now begun on a number of these actions, in particular on those programmes due to start in 2008/09.

Meeting the need for housing

Work within this theme aims to ‘provide affordable homes,’ support independence for all vulnerable people,’ ‘prevent homelessness,’ ‘improve the quality of existing homes and housing related services,’ an ‘promote safe, sustainable communities through housing related initiatives.’ This theme has maintained a similar level of performance to that recorded in December 2007. Two actions could not be monitored in March 2008, which altered performance levels slightly, but since then, this theme has maintained progress. Approximately 65% of actions are on target and a further 20% have made some progress.

Promoting health and improving well-being

Priorities set within this theme are to ‘promote healthy lifestyles,’ ‘improve access to health services’ and ‘improve hospital cleanliness and performance.’ This theme has also recorded a similar level of performance to that noted at the annual review. At September 2008, 62% of actions were on target and a further 19% making some progress. This is slightly lower than performance in the first year of the plan, but we are still awaiting information on three actions in this theme. It is also interesting to note that two actions that were only making some progress are now on target.

Encouraging social inclusion by supporting independence

To meet this overall aim, we seek to ‘encourage volunteering and empowering local communities to participate in decision-making and delivery of service,’ ‘promote the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of young people’ and ‘engage with and meet the diverse needs of our hard to reach groups.’ This theme is still making good progress and has seen a further improvement in the number of actions operating on target (14% improvement since December 2007). At September 2008, 79% of actions were on target with a further 14% making some progress.

Learning for all

This theme seeks to prioritise 'improving literacy, numeracy, behaviour and school attendance,' 'increase the number of students leaving schools and colleges that have skills, academic and vocational qualifications' and 'further develop the wider role of schools and colleges with their community.' Over 50% of this theme is still to be reported and there are also a number of actions, which cannot be reported at this stage within the year as performance is monitored via annual assessments or census data. However updates are expected shortly.

Achievements

There have been a number of achievements between January and September 2008, of which some are listed below:

- The Quality Bus Partnership was signed on 14 May 2008 and will run for a five year period.
- 161 Warm Front cases completed in the first two quarters of 2008/09, and five promotional events have been held to promote affordable warmth.
- At June 2008, 65% of primary schools and 67% of secondary schools have set approved travel plans (also 100% of Special Educational Need school).
- 547 businesses received enterprise growth support from Business Link Kent, of which 31 local existing businesses attended the Business Link Kent town Hall Business advice clinics in just one quarter (Apr - Jun 2008).
- Successfully completed the Kent and Medway's Museum's Inside Out project, working with 20 young people from the Rusthall/Speldhurst area who gained skills, enthusiasm and knowledge. This project also provided best value for money of all the projects in Kent.
- Programme of inclusive healthy walks now taking place, some starting from Community centres in our deprived neighbourhoods: Sherwood and Showfields.
- 19 schools in the Tunbridge Wells cluster have now achieved Healthy schools status and Cranbrook & Paddock cluster, a further 13 have achieved this status.
- Total of 57 volunteer tasks have already been completed through the Kent High Weald Project since April 2008.
- 91% of residents in Tunbridge Wells say they felt safe.
- £1.8million of 'Leader' support has been secured by the West Kent Partnership and is being made available to rural communities across the area. The West Kent Leader Programme has an over arching principle - to promote sustainable business growth within the land based and rural economies in the area.

Next Steps

Since the adoption of the Sustainable Community Plan in 2006, a range of new drivers have emerged, including changes in some partner organisations, the duty to co-operate (working jointly with key stakeholders), the development of the Kent Agreement Two (2008-2011), as well as the establishment of the Local Strategic Partnership and the recent visioning exercise.

Therefore in response to this changing context, it is proposed that the Sustainable Community Plan 2006-2011, in particular the action plan, be refreshed. This will

ensure that priorities set meet with our joint vision, meet community needs, but also align with new partnership arrangements and countywide priorities.

Recommendations:

- 1). That TWT note the progress made between January and September 2008, within the second year of the Sustainable Community Plan.

- 2). That TWT agrees a refresh of the Sustainable Community Plan in 2009.