

Summary of Quarter 3 2021/22 Overview and Scrutiny performance discussions

1. Framework

- 1.1 Quarter 3 2021/22 performance was discussed at the following Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) meetings.

Children and Young People O&S: 03 March 2022

Health and Adult Social Care O&S: 10 March 2022

Regeneration, Culture and Environment O&S: 22 March 2022

2. Items referred to Business Support O&S

No items were referred to Business Support O&S by the chairs of the other O&S Committees.

3. O&S Performance Discussions

- 3.1 This section provides a summary of the discussions at the Children and Young People O&S Committee, the Health and Adult Social Care O&S Committee and the Regeneration, Culture and Environment O&S Committee.

3.1.1 Children and Young People O&S Committee discussion summary.

Discussion:

The report which summarised the Council's performance against delivery of its priorities was introduced and Members raised several questions and comments which included:

A concern regarding the mechanics behind the changes in targets was highlighted in particular regarding Ilacs 7. The comments made were noted by the Director of People who stated that there was nuance associated with that target.

- **Risk** – it was asked when the risk for the 10-year High Needs Block Deficit Strategy downgrade occurred. The officer said the risk report was updated in January 2022 when the risk was downgraded as part of the high needs review and intervention that would be put in place. The full details would be shared as part of the full SEND Strategy report that would be presented at the next meeting of the Committee
- **Attendance in schools** – concern was raised that 1 in 4 secondary school pupils in Medway was persistently absent. Officers clarified that persistence absence was absence below 90%, the data presented had not been updated since the last quarter and was data for terms 1-4 of 2020/2021 during the height of the pandemic. Medway had a higher percentage of absence related to COVID compared to National average. A fuller report would be provided once after term 4's data release were made available. Internal monitoring of attendance occurred through data provided by

schools by choice and the data showed that Medway's current attendance was below National Average.

- **Breast Feeding Target** – targets were affected by the pandemic and NHS staff; and it was asked what further information in respect of peer support work could be provided as the trends appeared to be worsening. The officer said the indicator was red for Quarter 3 largely due to the impact of COVID across staffing across all NHS organisations. Quarter 4 could also remain red but should reduce back to green by Quarter 5. There were other measures and a summary of those figures would be provided to the Committee as a briefing. It was difficult to determine the driver behind the impact as this was still being explored to identify if there were a cohort of children with lower rates of breastfeeding which would highlight the reasons behind the impact.
- **Healthy Weight Summit** – it was asked how the healthy eating and cooking programmes could be extended across the community. The officer said a range of courses took place at different locations and he would come back to Members about capacity to run other courses in other places.
- **Cyber Security** - this remained an area of great concern and should remain a priority. It was asked that a training session be organised to which officers agreed.

Decision:

The Committee noted the report.

3.1.2 Health and Adult Social Care O&S Committee discussion summary.

Discussion:

Members considered a report on Council Plan performance in Quarter 3 of 2021/22 and also the Quarter 3 review of strategic risks.

A comment was made about the success achieved by the Directorate in the face of a very difficult financial position. Officers acknowledged that the available resources played a big part in being able to achieve the targets in the Council Plan and performance had improved in Quarter 3. The 2022/23 budget included an increase of £5.5m for adult social care.

Decision:

The Committee noted the Quarter 3 2021/22 performance against the measures used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities.

3.1.3 Regeneration, Culture and Environment O&S Committee discussion summary.

Discussion:

The Committee received a report setting out performance for Quarter 3 against the Council's two priorities Place and Growth insofar as they fell within the remit of this Committee, along with a review of the Council's Risk Register.

The following issues were discussed:

- **Achievement of housing delivery targets and Local Plan dates** – It was questioned whether the status of the housing completions target should be green as the report stated that there had been 1,082 completions in 2020/21 against a target of 1,586. It was also asked whether a reference in the report to the Local Plan 2021 to 2037 should now be 2022 to 2038. In response, the Corporate Performance Lead said that the housing target figures would be checked and that date references to the Local Plan would be changed in the future.
- **Strategic risks** – In relation to delivering regeneration, climate change and the Housing Infrastructure Fund having a red status in the Strategic Risk Register, a Member said that there needed to be a clearer focus on the reasons and that this information needed to be provided in a more prominent way.
- **Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF)** – A progress update on the HIF was requested including a breakdown of the risks. The Assistant Director, Regeneration said that the Council had been granted an extension for the HIF work until March 2025 to give extra time to redesign and undertake further public engagement. This was seen as positive as it would help ensure that what was delivered would be sustainable.
- **Overspending on HIF** – Noting that the Council would be required to fund 1% of any overspend on the HIF and that other funding sources may be sought after this, a Member asked whether that meant that the Council would be responsible for identifying funding or whether the Government would provide support and whether there were any precedents. The Assistant Director said that funding could come from a number of areas, such as Government funding, or S106 developer contributions, but that the aim was to stay within the existing £170million budget.
- **Potential Development on greenspaces** – A Member strongly expressed her concern that the report stated that the Housing Revenue Account was looking at a green space as having the potential for the development of nine housing units.

Decision

The Committee considered the Q3 2021/22 performance against the measures used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities and:

- a) Requested that the green status of the net additional homes provided target (NI154) be checked as the report stated that there had been 1,082 completions in 2020/21 against a target of 1,586.
- b) Requested that strategic risks be given greater prominence in future performance monitoring reports.
- c) Requested that an update on the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) be provided to the Committee.

- d) Requested that the Assistant Director, Regeneration provide an update to Councillors Etheridge, Browne and Curry in relation to concerns raised about the potential development of greenfield sites.