

REPORT TO INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 6 OCTOBER 2016

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES QUARTER 1 (APRIL – JUNE 2016) PERFORMANCE EXCEPTION REPORT AND SERVICE PLAN UPDATE.

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Acknowledge the good performance achieved April to June 2016 (Quarter 1) identified in Appendix 1;**
- 1.2 Consider those measures where performance is below expectations April to June 2016 as identified in Appendix 2;**
- 1.3 Note the publication of the complete April to June 2016 Performance Report on Ward Pages and on the Council's website;**
- 1.4 Note the progress made with the actions set out in the IS Service Plan 2016-2019 in Appendix 3; and**
- 1.5 Advise the Director to continue to report, by exception, to Committee quarterly on performance measures against service objectives and six monthly on progress in delivering all aspects of the service plan.**

2 Purpose of Report

To advise the Committee on the performance of Infrastructure Services (IS) during Quarter 1 (April - June) 2016 as assessed using the performance indicators set out in the IS Service Plan 2016 – 2019 and to provide an update on progress with actions in the Service Plan.

3. Background

- 3.1 The IS service plan 2016- 2019 was approved by the Infrastructure Services Committee at its meeting on 12 May 2016 (Item 6, Page 1790). At that time the Committee agreed to receive reports setting out performance against key measures every quarter and reports setting out progress against actions/projects in the service plan every six months.**
- 3.2 Performance against key measures was last reported to the Committee on the 16th June 2016 (Quarter 4 January - March 2016).**

4. Discussion

- 4.1 The performance measures given in the service plan are high level measures which link to the service and council strategic priorities. They are supported by lower level management indicators given in Business Plans and Action Plans.**

4.2 This year, following the restructuring of Council Services the IS Service Plan includes performance measures for Housing. These measures are reported to the Social Work and Housing Committee and are not included in this report and supporting Bulletin. For information the Housing indicators for Quarter 1 2016-2017 were reported to the Social Work and Housing Committee on the 1st September 2016 (Item 6).

4.3 The Bulletin covers 24 quarterly measures. One measure was a new one so there is no trend data available. Performance achieved during Quarter 1 (April – June 2016) can be summarised as follows:-

	Long Term		Short Term	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Improving Performance	18	78.3%	12	52.2%
No Change	1	4.3%	2	8.7%
Deteriorating Performance	4	17.4%	9	39.1%

Performance On or Above Target (these show green)	15	75%
Performance Below Target (these show red)	5	25%
No Target	4	

4.4 The table shows that 78.3% of the measures improved in the long term compared to 17.4% that deteriorated. 52.2% of the measures improved in the short term compared to 39.1% that deteriorated. 75% of the measures that had targets achieved or exceeded the target this quarter.

4.5 7 measures show good performance this quarter (i.e. are significantly above target). These are shown in **Appendix 1**. The measures cover:-

- Through assistance provided by the Business Gateway: The number of business start-ups per year.
- Street lighting Faults - Percentage completed within 7 days
- Percentage of household planning applications dealt with within two months
- Percentage of non-householder planning applications dealt with within two months
- Percentage of the total number of planning applications dealt with within two months
- Other types of planning applications – average time taken to deal with application (weeks)
- Percentage of household waste collected by the authority during the year that was recycled and composted.

4.6 There are 5 measures showing performance below expectation in Quarter 1. These are shown in **Appendix 2**. These measures cover:-

- The average time taken to deal with a household planning application (in weeks)
- The average time taken to deal with a non-householder planning application (weeks)

- Number and percentage of processing agreements dealt with within agreed timescales
- Applications with Legal Agreements – average time to conclude (weeks)
- Average time taken to grant a Building Warrant (National Average 63 days).

4.7 In February 2016 Aberdeenshire Council agreed a set of council priorities, aligned to the Council Plan, to be delivered over the coming 12 months. In summary the priorities for the council are:

- Active travel – led by Infrastructure Services
- Affordable housing – led by Infrastructure Services
- Balancing the books – led by Business Services
- City Region Deal – led by Infrastructure Services
- Climate change – led by Infrastructure Services
- Estate rationalisation – led by Business Services
- Future governance – led by Business Services
- Peterhead community campus – led by Education & Children’s Services
- Regeneration – led by Infrastructure Services





4.8 The IS Service Plan sets out what actions IS is taking in support of these priorities.

4.9 In addition to actions taken to support the Council priorities, the Service Plan sets out what actions IS taking in support of its own service priorities. These priorities cover:-

- Flood recovery plan
- Flood prevention schemes for Stonehaven and Huntly
- Development of options for waste disposal (in partnership with colleagues in other services, neighbouring councils and the private sector organisations)
- Economic Development Strategy action plan
- A947 Route Improvement Strategy.

4.10 **Appendix 3** provides details of the progress made against the 26 main actions set out in the IS Service Plan. For each action the status is shown and the extent of progress is assessed using a progress bar.

The symbols used to indicate progress are:-

	Overdue; behind schedule
	Slightly behind schedule but are progressing well,
	In progress and on-target.
	Completed

4.11 As it is a new Service Plan with a range of new actions most of the actions are assessed as being on target at this stage in the year. However 5 actions are slightly behind but are progressing well, these are:-

- 2.1 Affordable Housing
- 2.3 Improving Energy Efficiency
- 4.2 Quarries
- 4.3 Recycling Construction waste
- 5.2 Maintenance of Council Footpath Network.

4.12 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and have no comments.

5 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications












- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required for the service plan because its purpose is to set out the strategic direction for the service and there will be no differential impact, as a result of the report, on people with protected characteristics. However every action outlined in this plan which has the potential to have a differential impact on different groups, will have an Equality Impact Assessment undertaken.
- 5.2 There are no specific staffing and financial implications arising from this report. Actions described within the service plan continue to be delivered within the resources allocated to the service by the budget setting process.

Stephen Archer
Director of Infrastructure Services
Report prepared by Alan Morris 20/09/2016

Quarter 1 2016/17 - Infrastructure Services - Good Performance



Generated on: 12 September 2016

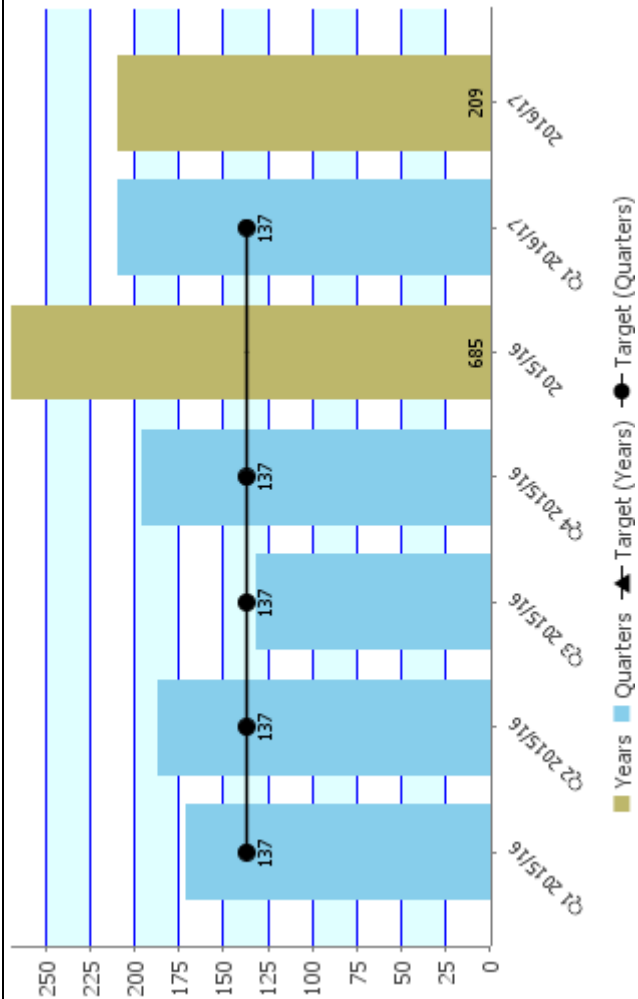
PI Status		Long Term Trends		Short Term Trends	
	Alert		Improving		Improving
	Warning		No Change		No Change
	OK		Getting Worse		Getting Worse
	Unknown				
	Data Only				

SO1 - Economic Development and Protective Services

1.1 Through assistance provided by the Business Gateway: The number of business start-ups per year.

Quarterly Results			
	Target	Status	Value
Q1 2015/16	137	✔	171
Q2 2015/16	137	✔	187
Q3 2015/16	137	⚠	131
Q4 2015/16	137	✔	196
Q1 2016/17	137	✔	209

Value vs Target (%)
124.82%
136.5%
95.62%
143.07%
152.55%



Business Gateway start up activity has been particularly strong in recent months. There are likely to be a number of reasons for this including:

Work by Business Gateway with schools and colleges over the last 5 years means more leavers are opening their own business particularly in the hair and beauty sector.

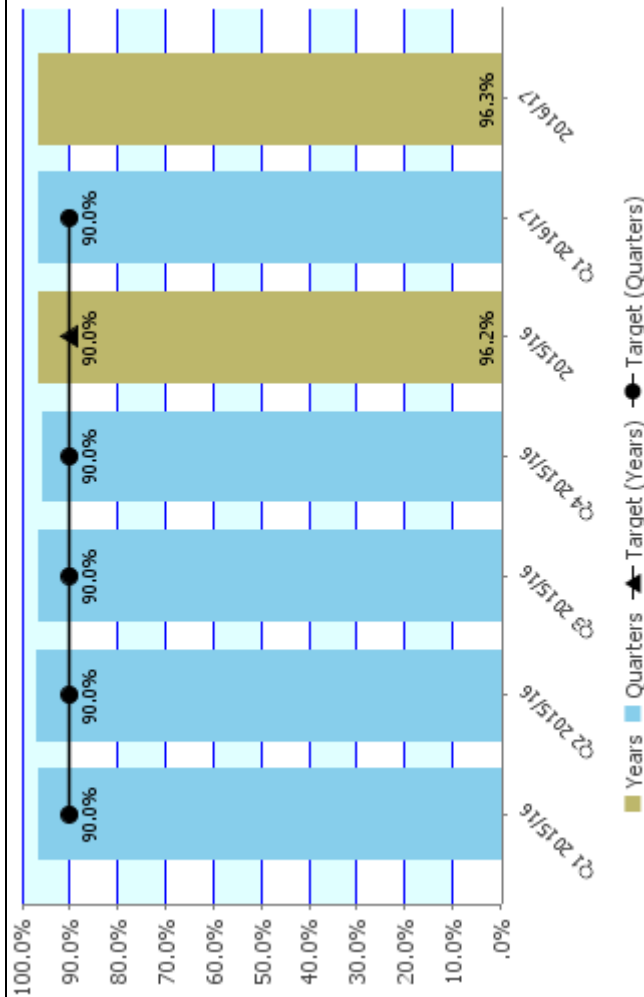
Job losses and redundancies in the Oil and Gas sector has led to some workers starting out on their own.

An increased awareness of Business Gateway locally and the help the service can provide.

SO4 - Roads, Landscape Services and Waste

4.4 Ashire - Street lighting Faults - Percentage completed within 7 days

Quarterly Results				
	Target	Status	Value	Value vs Target (%)
Q1 2015/16	90.0%	✓	96.6%	107.3%
Q2 2015/16	90.0%	✓	96.9%	107.7%
Q3 2015/16	90.0%	✓	96.2%	106.9%
Q4 2015/16	90.0%	✓	95.8%	106.4%
Q1 2016/17	90.0%	✓	96.3%	107.0%

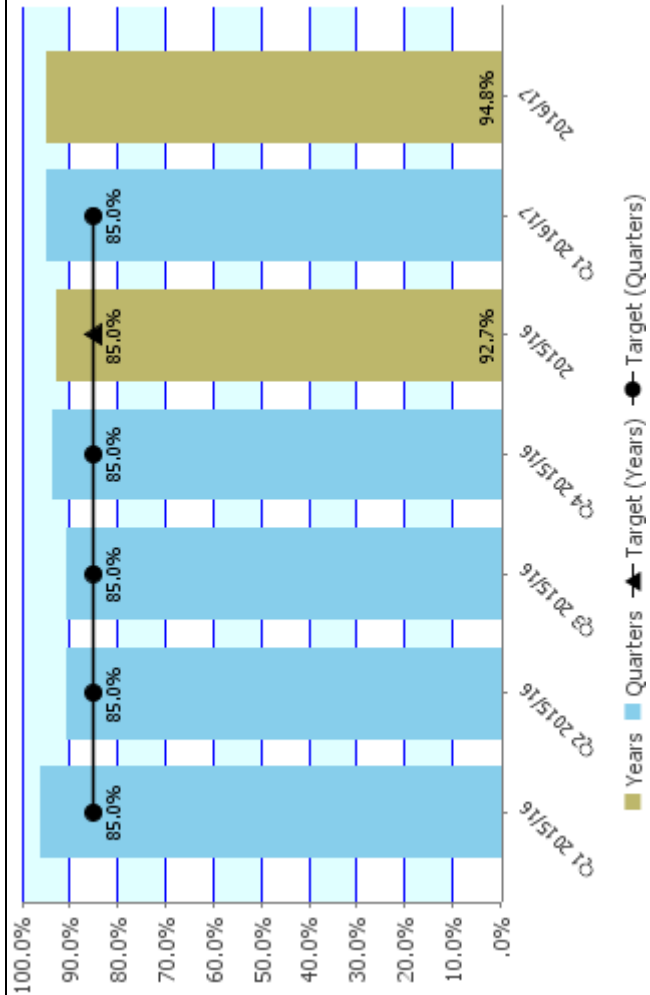


Performance continues above target.

SO5 - Planning and building standards

5.3 Ashire - Percentage of household planning applications dealt with within two months (SPI)

Quarterly Results				
	Target	Status	Value	Value vs Target (%)
Q1 2015/16	85.0%	✔	96.2%	113.1%
Q2 2015/16	85.0%	✔	90.5%	106.5%
Q3 2015/16	85.0%	✔	90.7%	106.7%
Q4 2015/16	85.0%	✔	93.6%	110.1%
Q1 2016/17	85.0%	✔	94.8%	111.5%



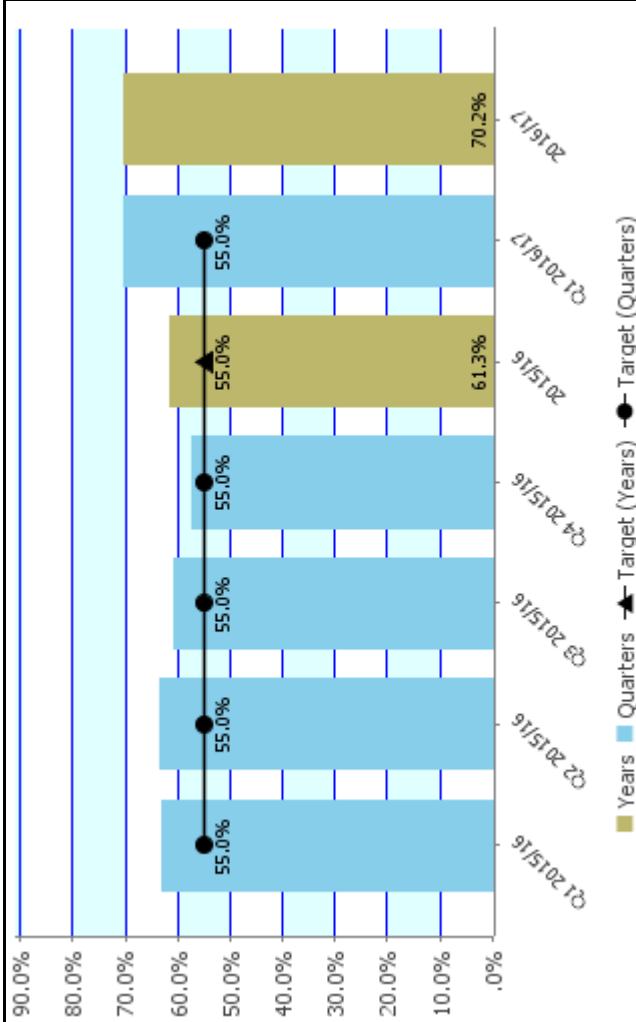
Performance has increased by 1% to record 96% for householder applications determined within 2 months between the last Quarter 4 of 2015-16 and this Quarter 1 (2016-17). There was an increase in the numbers of household applications determined in this quarter. It should also be noted that the range between the individual teams recorded between 86% and 100% in the months during this quarter.

By comparison Quarter 1 of 2015-2016 performance was at 96% while the overall performance for 2015-16 was 93%. The average weeks remained at 6.8 average weeks for the respective Quarter 1 years. Householder performance is consistently high which reflects the work being carried out by the Service as a whole and Area Teams to process householder applications as quickly as possible focusing on target times.

As such the overall Aberdeenshire target of 85% has continued to be well exceeded. As always further improvement and consistency in overall performance remains the focus.

5.5 Ashire - Percentage of non-householder planning applications dealt with within two months (SPI)

Quarterly Results				
	Target	Status	Value	Value vs Target (%)
Q1 2015/16	55.0%	✔	63.1%	114.7%
Q2 2015/16	55.0%	✔	63.4%	115.3%
Q3 2015/16	55.0%	✔	60.8%	110.6%
Q4 2015/16	55.0%	✔	57.1%	103.8%
Q1 2016/17	55.0%	✔	70.2%	127.7%



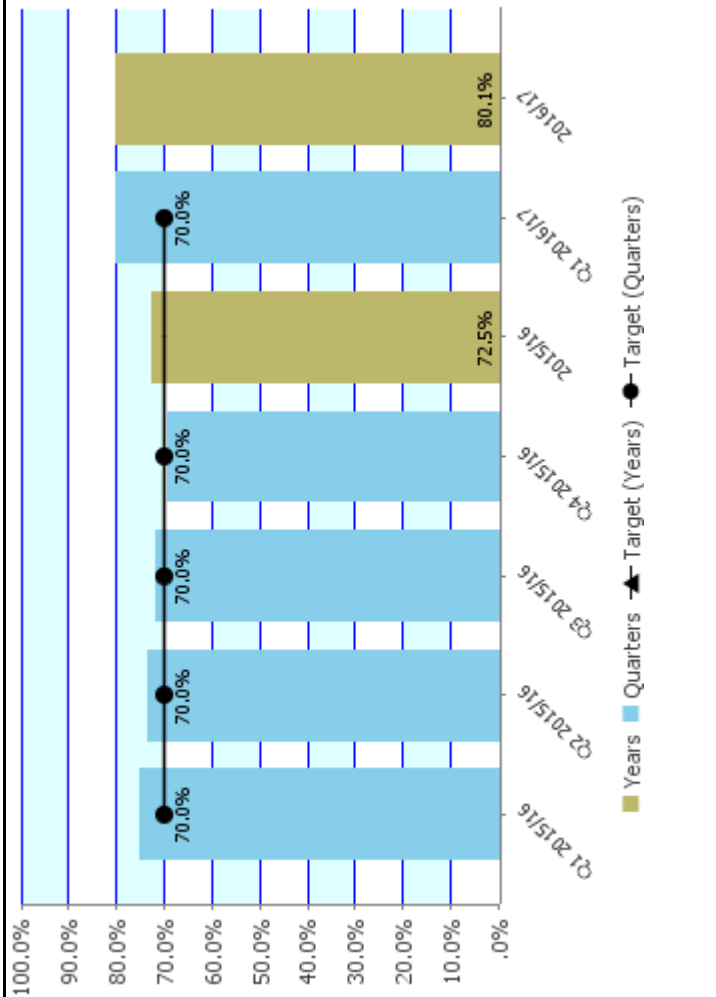
Performance has continued to improve from the latter quarters of last year. Quarter 1 for 2016-17 has recorded a significant improvement to 70% for non-householder applications determined within 2 months from the last Quarter 4 (2015-16) at 57%.

The number of applications determined between these Quarters has slightly decreased.

By comparison performance was 63% in the equivalent quarter last year while the overall performance for 2015-16 was 61%. Average weeks has similarly improved to 12.7 average weeks in this quarter. The improvement reflects the increased efforts that have gone into improving the performance in determining these types of applications, the impact of the further significant strides that have been made to reduce the number of "live" planning applications and in particular the 'legacy cases' and the use of process agreements attached to non-major applications. The processing and determination of non-household applications (as opposed to householder applications) is often dependent on many other more complex aspects of assessment and a wide variation of consultee responses both in content and timescales. The Aberdeenshire target of 55% has been well exceeded in this quarter.

5.7 Ashire - Percentage of the total number of planning applications dealt with within two months

Quarterly Results				
	Target	Status	Value	Value vs Target (%)
Q1 2015/16	70.0%	✔	75.0%	107.1%
Q2 2015/16	70.0%	✔	73.4%	104.8%
Q3 2015/16	70.0%	✔	71.8%	102.6%
Q4 2015/16	70.0%	✔	69.1%	98.7%
Q1 2016/17	70.0%	✔	80.1%	114.4%



Overall performance has increased from 69% in Quarter 4 of 2015-16 to 80% in Quarter 1 of 2016-17 for all applications determined within 2 months.

Performance was 75% in the equivalent quarter last year while the overall performance for 2015 -16 was 72%. The current Quarter 1 overall performance has risen and exceeds the 70% Aberdeenshire target.

In comparison between Quarter 4 (2015-2016) and Quarter 1 (2016-17) overall 35 less applications were determined with 39 more applications being determined within the statutory timescales.

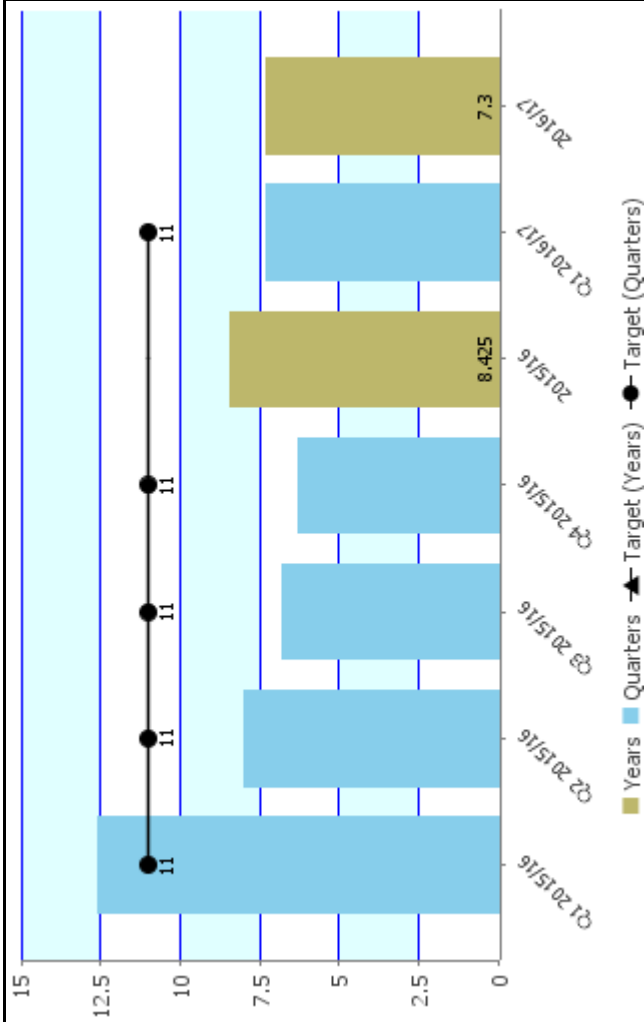
The performance graph overall continues in an upward direction both from Quarter 4 of last year (69%) and from last year's overall performance at 72%. There have as always been some team variations in specific areas which retains the focus on the fact that there is still work to be done to improve and importantly retain consistent performance.

It is with great credit to the Staff and their continuing commitment to achieving high standards of performance that the Aberdeenshire targets have been exceeded quite significantly in this quarter. There is of course never room for complacency and further improvement and consistency in performance remains the focus in all aspects of determining applications with ever increasing pressure from the government to do so.

5.9 Other types of planning applications – average time taken to deal with application (weeks)

Quarterly Results		Target	Status	Value	Value vs Target (%)
Q1 2015/16		11	✔	12.6	114.55%
Q2 2015/16		11	✔	8	72.73%
Q3 2015/16		11	✔	6.8	61.82%
Q4 2015/16		11	✔	6.3	57.27%
Q1 2016/17		11	✔	7.3	66.36%

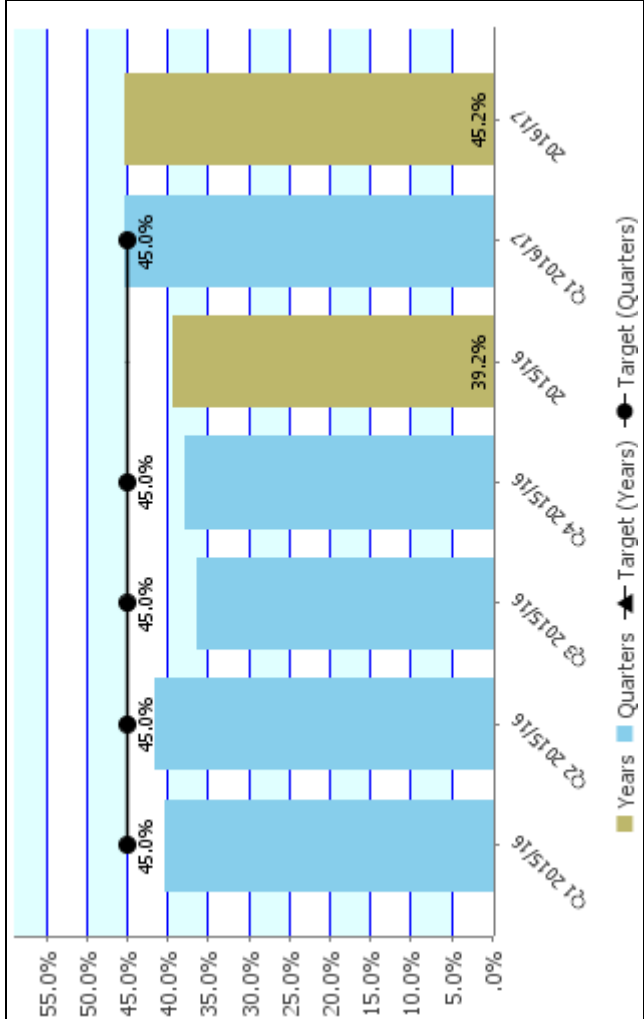
The performance for Quarter 1 at 89% significantly exceeds the Aberdeenshire target of 55%, and the 7.3 average weeks similarly exceeds the Aberdeenshire average target of 11 weeks.



S07 - Street cleansing and waste management

6.11 Percentage of household waste collected by the authority during the year that was recycled and composted (S)

Quarterly Results				
	Target	Status	Value	Value vs Target (%)
Q1 2015/16	45.0%	🔴	40.3%	89.5%
Q2 2015/16	45.0%	🔴	41.5%	92.3%
Q3 2015/16	45.0%	🔴	36.4%	80.9%
Q4 2015/16	45.0%	🔴	37.9%	84.2%
Q1 2016/17	45.0%	🟢	45.2%	100.5%














Figures exclude commercial waste/recycling. The new collection regime has bedded in now and the figures for recycling rates have improved significantly. We have variable recycling rates at our sites and we are now trialling something new, a Meet and Greet Service, to see if we can move the poorer performing sites closer to the good ones. This is about gentle re-education of the users so that they can stream their items into the correct skips.
















Quarter 1 2016/17 - Infrastructure Services - Performance Below Expectations

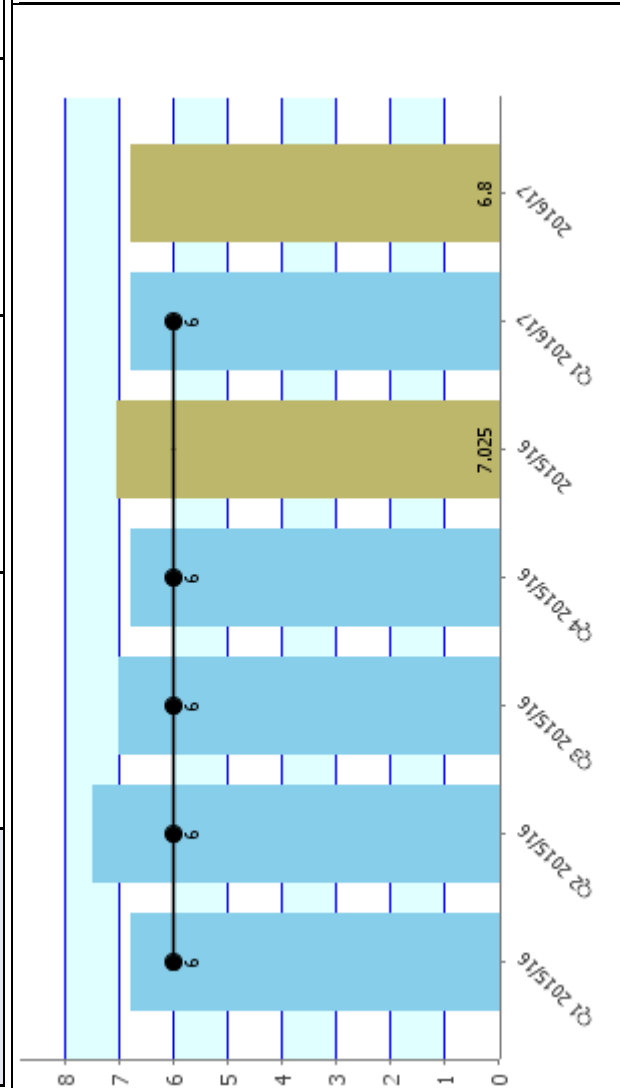


Generated on: 12 September 2016

PI Status		Long Term Trends		Short Term Trends	
	Alert		Improving		Improving
	Warning		No Change		No Change
	OK		Getting Worse		Getting Worse
	Unknown				
	Data Only				

Traffic Light: Red 6 Amber 1

Indicator	5.4 The average time taken to deal with a household planning application (in weeks)						Red T'hold	Amber T'hold
	Target	Status	Value	Base	Long Trend	Short Trend		
Q1 2015/16	6		6.8					
Q2 2015/16	6		7.5					
Q3 2015/16	6		7					
Q4 2015/16	6		6.8					
Q1 2016/17	6		6.8					



Quarter	Value	Target (Years)	Target (Quarters)
Q1 2015/16	6.8	6	6
Q2 2015/16	7.5	6	6
Q3 2015/16	7	6	6
Q4 2015/16	6.8	6	6
Q1 2016/17	6.8	6	6

Performance has increased by 1% to record 96% for householder applications determined within 2 months between the last Quarter 4 of 2015-16 and this Quarter 1 (2016-17). There was an increase in the numbers of household applications determined in this quarter. It should also be noted that the range between the individual teams recorded between 86% and 100% in the months during this quarter.

By comparison Quarter 1 of 2015-2016 performance was at 96% while the overall performance for 2015-16 was 93%. The average weeks remained at 6.8 average weeks for the respective Quarter 1 years. Householder performance is consistently high which reflects the work being carried out by the Service as a whole and Area Teams to process householder applications as quickly as possible focusing on target times. As such the overall Aberdeenshire target of 85% has continued to be well exceeded. As always further improvement and consistency in overall performance remains the focus.
















Indicator	5.6 The average time taken to deal with a non-householder planning application (weeks)					Red T'hold	Amber T'hold
	Target	Status	Value	Base	Long Trend	Short Trend	
Q1 2015/16	11	✔	17.3		?	?	
Q2 2015/16	11	✘	12.7		↑	↑	
Q3 2015/16	11	✘	13.6		↑	→	
Q4 2015/16	11	✘	16.7		→	→	
Q1 2016/17	11	✘	12.7		↑	↑	

Performance has continued to improve from the latter quarters of last year. Quarter 1 for 2016-17 has recorded a significant improvement to 70% for non-householder applications determined within 2 months from the last Quarter 4 (2015-16) at 57%.

The number of applications determined between these Quarters has slightly decreased.

By comparison performance was 63% in the equivalent quarter last year while the overall performance for 2015-16 was 61%. Average weeks has similarly improved to 12.7 average weeks in this quarter. The improvement reflects the increased efforts that have gone into improving the performance in determining these types of applications, the impact of the further significant strides that have been made to reduce the number of "live" planning applications and in particular the 'legacy cases' and the use of process agreements attached to non-major applications. The processing and determination of non-household applications (as opposed to household applications) is often dependent on many other more complex aspects of assessment and a wide variation of consultee responses both in content and timescales. The Aberdeenshire target of 55% has been well exceeded in this quarter.

Quarter	Actual Value (Weeks)	Target (Weeks)
Q1 2015/16	17.3	11
Q2 2015/16	12.7	11
Q3 2015/16	13.6	11
Q4 2015/16	16.7	11
Q1 2016/17	12.7	11

Indicator	5.11 Number and percentage of processing agreements dealt with within agreed timescales						Red T'hold	Amber T'hold
	Target	Status	Value	Total Number of applications	Long Trend	Short Trend		
Q1 2015/16	100.0%		100.0%	2				99.0%
Q2 2015/16	100.0%		84.6%	13				
Q3 2015/16	100.0%		79.2%	24				
Q4 2015/16	100.0%		91.3%	69				
Q1 2016/17	100.0%		89.9%	69				

Legend:
■ Years
■ Quarters
● Target (Years)
● Target (Quarters)

Sixty two applications out of 69 were determined with associated Processing Agreements within the set timescales as agreed as part of the respective Processing Agreements.

All major applications are determined through the use of a Processing Agreement and many other non-majors are also subject to Processing Agreements. Although these are not statutory, the Service promote their usefulness to developers where appropriate.

Indicator	5.12 Applications with Legal Agreements – average time to conclude (weeks)						Red T'hold	Amber T'hold
	Target	Status	Value	#	Long Trend	Short Trend	33.6	32.32
Q1 2015/16	32		71.2					
Q2 2015/16	32		37.5					
Q3 2015/16	32		83					
Q4 2015/16	32		60.4					
Q1 2016/17	32		79.5					

Quarter	Value	Target (Years)	Target (Quarters)
Q1 2015/16	71.2	32	32
Q2 2015/16	37.5	32	32
Q3 2015/16	83	32	32
Q4 2015/16	60.4	32	32
Q1 2016/17	79.5	32	32

A total of 14 applications were determined within a time of 79.5 average weeks in this Quarter 1 period.
In the equivalent quarter 1 of 2015-16, a total of 13 applications were determined within a time of 71.2 weeks. This remains significantly above the Aberdeenshire target of 32 weeks. Timescales for each legal agreement can differ depending on the complexity of the application.






Indicator	5.21 Ashire Average time taken to grant a Building Warrant (National Average 63 days)					Red T'hold	Amber T'hold
	Target	Status	Value	Base	Long Trend	Short Trend	
Q1 2015/16							66.15
Q2 2015/16							63.63
Q3 2015/16							
Q4 2015/16							
Q1 2016/17	63	●	89		?	?	

Period	Value	Target
2015/16	63	63
2016/17	89	58


The average time taken to grant a Building Warrant in Aberdeenshire in 2015-16 was 61 days. This figure has risen considerably to 89 days in the last quarter. This is because Aberdeenshire Building Standards have recently introduced a 9 month refusal procedure, as provided for within the Building (Scotland) Act 2003, where an application is refused after comments have been returned to an applicant or agent and there has not been a response for a 9 month period. As this refusal procedure is being undertaken retrospectively this has resulted in a number of applicants and agents being stirred into action and getting these older warrants approved, some of which are being approved years after the initial application. This has resulted in the average number of days to get a warrant approved increasing dramatically as the time included also covers the period an application is with an applicant or agent, over which Building Standards have no control. Over a period of time, as the initial surge of approvals work through the system, it is expected that the figure will return to a more acceptable average level. Some, but not all Local Authorities refuse a Building Warrant application after 9 months but the benefits are that it does remove old files from the system, make old applications comply with most recent legislation, as a new application would be required to be made, and assist in preventing work on site being undertaken where applicants believe approvals are in place.

IS Service Plan 2016 - 2019 Progress Report October 2016


Generated on: 06 September 2016

Action Status	
	Cancelled
	Overdue; Neglected
	Unassigned; Check Progress
	Not Started; In Progress; Assigned
	Completed


1. Economic Development and Protective Services

1.1 Delivery of Regeneration Actions in the 4 Priority Towns		
Status	Progress	Due Date
	<div style="width: 50%;"><div style="background-color: #0070C0; height: 10px;"></div></div> 50%	31-Mar-2017
<p>Commentary</p> <p>In March 2016 ISC agreed to approve a new regeneration strategy: From Strategy to Action: Developing Excellence in our North Coast Communities. ISC also approved the establishment of 4 new Development Partnerships in Peterhead, Fraserburgh, Macduff and Banff to take a strategic leadership role in the development and delivery of new visions and action plans for their area.</p> <p>In June 2016, Policy and Resources Committee agreed the proposed procedure for the distribution of funds in the Regeneration and Priority Town Centres Reserve and approved two early projects, including £25,000 towards the Macduff Harbour Study. It was agreed that each town would develop an action plan that would be approved by</p>		


		<p>the Area Committee. The action plans would then be submitted to Policy and Resources Committee for the approval of the respective funds.</p> <p>These action plans have now been developed. They represent a complex set of projects and initiatives, some well- developed, some requiring research and refinement prior to delivery. The actions will be honed throughout the process of regeneration and due diligence applied as appropriate prior to the commitment of funds to independent projects. Progress with each action plan will be reported to ISC every six months.</p> <p>Regeneration has been continuing apace in Aberdeenshire with the delivery of the existing holistic Regeneration Action Plan in Fraserburgh, with town centre action plans in Peterhead, Banff and Macduff and the maturing of the Business Improvement District development in Peterhead.</p> <p>The delivery of the Fraserburgh Action Plan is maturing, with major grant applications approved from Historic Scotland, Heritage Lottery Fund and the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund for the development of Fraserburgh. Key projects during the year have been the continuation of Super Saturdays, a popular community led initiative which is stimulating vibrancy in the town centre and Active Fraserburgh, a celebration of the width and depth of sports clubs and facilities in the town. Active Fraserburgh has also increased usage of sports facilities and services and has created interest from diverse user groups in facilities, for example over 50s yoga and all ability bikes. A new community organisation has been formed to take forward the South Links Sports development and continues to submit further funding applications to make new facilities a reality.</p> <p>A prospectus has been launched to encourage interest in new visitor accommodation in Fraserburgh and funding agreed to help develop a business case with partners who come forward.</p>
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1.2 Energetica Strategic Delivery Framework and Delivery Plan		
Status	Progress	Due Date
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #4a86e8; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">50%</div>	31-Mar-2017
Commentary		
Energetica is a 25-year programme to attract and retain world-class talent of all ages. It is run as a partnership by three public sector organisations; Scottish Enterprise, Aberdeenshire Council and Aberdeen City Council. Additionally, other key		

			<p>stakeholders sit on the Energetica Steering Group to provide leadership, direction and activity prioritisation for the programme.</p> <p>The overall aim is to make the region the location of choice for high-value oil and gas and renewable energy organisations, and a first choice for organisations of all sizes operating in other high value, quality, niche markets. This aligns with and reflects the aims and aspirations of the Aberdeen City and Shire Regional Economic Strategy (RES) agreed in December 2015. Significant progress has been made by the Energetica Team over the past 12 months or so. For example:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Energetica has identified strategic locations within the Energetica corridor to locate promotional signage; . The Energetica website has been refreshed to enable tablet and mobile users better accessibility and to provide a new look and clearer information; . The Energetica Summer Festival continues to grow. Last year the programme was extended across the summer period with a similar programme of events arranged for this year; . Energetica continues to raise its profile through attendance at various conferences and exhibitions at home and abroad, through briefings, speaking tours and generation of marketing material. <p>The Energetica Steering Group are currently reviewing the positioning of the Energetica Programme in relation to the new economic governance framework that has emerged over the last six months with the formation of Opportunity North East (ONE) and the approval of a new North East Regional Economic Strategy and City Region Deal. The area is entering a new phase of activity with renewed priority around the diversification of the wider North East economy.</p>
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1.3 City Region Deal		
Status	Progress	Due Date
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #4F81BD; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">50%</div>	31-Mar-2017
Commentary		
<p>In July it was announced that a letter was to be sent by the partners to the Scottish Government seeking “clarity” on funding arrangements behind the City Region Deal. The £250 million City Region Deal, to be delivered on a 50-50 basis by Westminster and Holyrood, was unveiled on January 28. On the same day, the Scottish Government (SG) pledged a further £254 million funding package for infrastructure</p>		



			<p>projects. An agreement has yet to be ratified for the additional funding, with officers working with the Scottish Government on this.</p> <p>In August a report was published which outlines progress made on the additional funding. It provides details of the terms and conditions of the housing infrastructure fund provided by the Scottish Government with plans in place to deliver £130m of affordable housing grant.</p> <p>The report said: "Both local authorities have developed strategic local programme agreements with the Scottish Government for 2016/17. Sites have been identified in partnership with registered social landlords and developers. Spend of approximately £13.5m in Aberdeenshire and £15- £21m in Aberdeen City has been identified for 2016-17. These figures may change subject to development timescales and the availability of new opportunities. The report adds that meetings involving the Scottish Government and both councils have commenced to ensure an "overview" of the City Region Deal is in place. It also states that work is ongoing to identify housing projects for delivery through to 2020/21.</p>
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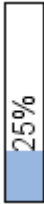
1.4 Climate Change Action Plan		
Status	Progress	Due Date
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #4F81BD; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">50%</div>	<p>31-Mar-2017</p> <p>Commentary In August a draft of the new Aberdeenshire Council Environmental and Climate Change Policy was presented to the Sustainability Sub-Committee for consideration. The new policy had been drafted to enhance the previous Environmental Policy by including the Council's commitment to better mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Sub-Committee was asked to discuss and provide feedback on the draft Policy and to recommend that the draft Policy be presented to P&R for approval.</p> <p>At the same meeting the Sub-Committee was also asked to consider and recommend for approval to P&R a revised draft Climate Change Action Plan. This plan has been developed to replace the Council Climate Change Action Plan 2011-2015 which has now expired. A first draft of the plan had been accepted by the Sustainability Sub Committee on 26 August last year.</p>

1.5 Economic Development Strategy Action Plan		
Status	Progress	Due Date
	<div style="width: 50%;"><div style="background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px; width: 100%;"></div></div> 50%	31-Mar-2017
Commentary In June ISC considered a report setting out a draft set of Economic Development Priorities for the Council for the period 2016-2021. The priorities reflect the changing circumstances being experienced in the region and revised Council priorities including Regeneration and Climate Change. It outlines the framework within which the Economic Development function operates to support delivery of the City Region Deal (CRD), the ambitions and projects of Opportunity North East (ONE), delivery of European Funding Programmes and the Council's priorities in areas such as regeneration, sustainable development and employability, as identified in the 2016 – 2019 Infrastructure Services Service Plan, February 2016. It was agreed that officers should present the draft Economic Development priorities to the Area Committees for comment, prior to the development of an Action Plan to be approved by ISC.		

2. Housing


2.1 Affordable Housing		
Status	Progress	Due Date
	<div style="width: 25%;"><div style="background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px; width: 100%;"></div></div> 25%	31-Mar-2017
Commentary Housing prices in the North East have traditionally been amongst the highest in the Country and rental levels in the private rented market were until recently the second highest in Scotland. This has resulted in many people having difficulty in accessing affordable housing in their area. To help assist these people the Council launched an initiative with their partners Create Homes to develop mid-market rental housing options. The recent fall in house prices and rental levels has resulted in a reduced level of interest in mid-market rent properties. To mitigate this, mid-market rental levels are being revisited and possibly reduced where appropriate and viable. In addition, the Create Homes Board will consider the eligibility criteria, which currently requires applicants to have a gross household income between a lower and upper threshold, is amended in the case of housing incoming Syrian New Scots. The benefit of this step would be the minimisation of void periods and assisting in the sourcing of necessary accommodation for the Syrian New Scots.		


2.2 Key Worker Accommodation		
Status	Progress	Due Date
	 50%	31-Mar-2017
<p>Commentary</p> <p>Research on the need for key worker housing in Aberdeenshire Council, NHS Grampian and the private sector in the North East was carried out during 2015. At the time, it identified a clustering of 'hard-to-fill' posts in the £17 - £35k salary range with market rents considered unaffordable. However, the fall in rent levels and the downturn in the oil and gas industry has significantly reduced/ eased the need for key worker housing in the North East. While rent levels are still relatively high in the Aberdeenshire Housing Market Area compared to the rest of Scotland, there is little evidence to suggest that the affordability of housing is a barrier to recruitment for Council services, Police Scotland or the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.</p> <p>The Council continues to work in partnership with Police Scotland, NHS Grampian and other organisations to identify opportunities to use existing public sector assets for key worker housing. Two specific projects – Blackhall Road, Inverurie (site owned by Police Scotland) and Cameron Street, Stonehaven (site owned by Aberdeenshire Council) – have returned positive initial viability tests to be developed as mid-market rental schemes by Create Homes Aberdeenshire LLP. Both projects are advancing to the detailed design stage including further business modelling, subject to the Board approval of Create Home Aberdeenshire. Both projects are proposed to deliver 1 and 2 bedroom flatted accommodation at a rental below the open market rent. Further updates will be provided to Committee as the projects progress.</p> <p>Where public sector bodies have struggled to recruit staff due to the high cost of living in the area and the lack of affordable housing, the Council's housing service has worked with private landlords to create a pool of available private rented sector accommodation. This has formed part of a wider recruitment package and could be used again in the future should the need arise. In addition, where there are specific local recruitment challenges, there is scope to explore local lettings initiatives where these are appropriate and viable.</p>		

2.3 Improve Energy Efficiency		
Status	Progress	Due Date
	 25%	31-Mar-2017
<p>Commentary</p> <p>The Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH) is the minimum energy efficiency level that Councils must make sure their houses and flats meet by</p>		


			December 2020. It is set by the Scottish Government. A report to the SW&H Committee in September 2016 detailed proposals for the HRA Capital Programme to be delivered in 2016/17 and the budget requirements to achieve this. The proposed programme includes the works contributing towards achieving EESSH by December 2020.
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3. Transportation

3.1 Improve Energy Efficiency Of Street Lighting			
Status	Progress	Due Date	Commentary
	<input type="text" value="50%"/>	31-Mar-2017	Work continues with the implementation of LED lighting as a replacement for traditional forms of street lighting.

3.2 Local Transport Strategy			
Status	Progress	Due Date	Commentary
	<input type="text" value="50%"/>	31-Mar-2017	<p>In August ISC approved a range of works for the coming year under the active travel and road safety programme. Given the scale of some of the projects, they are likely to run into the year 2017/18, forming part of that programme of works.</p> <p>In August it was announced that a contract to build a new cycle and footpath at Uryside to link the new housing development with Inverurie Town Centre had been awarded to the local construction company MTM. This path is the first in a network proposed to span a 60-hectare riverside park and will be constructed at a cost of around £230,000.</p> <p>The new path links the bridge which crosses the River Urie close to the Osprey Village housing development with the town of Inverurie, crossing the area which will in time become a wetland park and ending near the retail park and railway station, linking in with existing paths.</p> <p>In May it was announced that the Council had been successful in securing £135,000 of grant funding from Transport Scotland's 2016/17 Community Links programme and</p>


			<p>£50,000 from the Cycling Development Fund to support the Council's ongoing Integrated Travel Town (ITT) project.</p> <p>The ITT project, aims to develop active & sustainable transport schemes, and will help to enable everyday journeys to be made by bike or foot.</p> <p>The funding, which will be matched by an additional £135,000 from Council budgets and £50,000 from Regional Transport Partner NESTRANS, will be used to undertake feasibility studies and design work for proposals identified through the ITT project.</p>
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3.3 Fleet Optimisation			
Status	Progress	Due Date	Commentary
	<div style="background-color: #4F81BD; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">50%</div>	31-Mar-2017	The review of the fleet is on-going.


3.4 A947 Route Improvement Strategy			
Status	Progress	Due Date	Commentary
	<div style="background-color: #4F81BD; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">50%</div>	31-Mar-2017	<p>In March 2016, Aberdeenshire Council's Infrastructure Services Committee approved the A947 Route Improvement Strategy. The Strategy, which was developed throughout 2015, is designed to provide a long term plan for improving the A947 between Aberdeen and Banff over the next 20 years. The ultimate goal of the Strategy and subsequent interventions is "to develop a route which is fit for purpose of connecting the communities along the route in a safe, effective and sustainable manner, while fully supporting the regeneration activity in north Aberdeenshire".</p> <p>The Strategy has been informed based on a comprehensive review of problems and issues along the route including analysis of traffic and travel surveys, journey times and platooning consideration of future development implications. In addition, the Strategy has been heavily informed by an extensive consultation process comprising online surveys, roadside interviews with motorists, and feedback from communities, stakeholder groups and businesses along the route.</p> <p>The overarching goal of the Strategy has been further informed by the development of five Transport Planning Objectives and an Action Plan. In the context of the 20 year vision, the Action Plan was developed to set out a series of actions to guide the</p>


			<p>implementation of future improvements. The Action Plan comprises both short and long term actions, and includes soft measures, such as enforcement and education and engagement programmes, and hard measures, such as overtaking lanes and route upgrade and realignment options. Work is on-going delivering these actions.</p>
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4. Roads, Landscape Services and Waste

4.1 Develop Maintenance Programmes And Implement			
Status	Progress	Due Date	Commentary
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; background-color: #4F81BD; color: white; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">50%</div>	31-Mar-2017	<p>In March reports were presented to each Area Committee setting out the maintenance programmes for the road infrastructure. The total budget for the Roads Maintenance and Reconstruction programme was £26,842,000 and £4,280,000 for Winter Maintenance and Other Emergencies for 2016/17. Budgets were allocated to the Areas on a priority/needs basis using the normal survey and assessment techniques for the various categories of work. This ensures that the monies are used in the most cost-effective way on an Aberdeenshire wide basis and is in accordance with the approved policy on Road Inspections and Assessments.</p> <p>A separate report set out the maintenance programme for the Council's bridges. The Revenue Budget includes an allocation of £651,000 for 2016/17 for general bridge repairs, routine cyclic bridge maintenance and the repair of non-recoverable vehicle collision damage to bridge parapets. The Council's Capital Budget includes an allocation of £2,616,000 in 2016/2017 for Works required to renew, strengthen, enhance and protect bridges in line with strategic asset management. The Works required to be carried out in 2016/2017 for each Council Area were identified on a prioritised basis taking into account individual bridge maintenance condition and by assessing structural load carrying capacity. Remedial works to current defects which pose an unacceptable risk to public safety were allocated the highest priority.</p> <p>A third report to Committee set out the flood management and coast protection programme of measures for 2016/2017. The Revenue Budget made an allocation of £825,000 to fund these measures. Of this total £584,500 is taken up by essential measures covering all areas identified and agreed by officers.</p>



			Since each programme of works were approved work has been on-going to deliver the agreed works. This year it has been a really busy season for surface dressing and this is not always something that is well received by the public. However, Roads are continuing to maintain a steady state Road Condition Index (RCI) while investing less.
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4.2 Quarries			
Status	Progress	Due Date	Commentary
	<div style="width: 25%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 15px;"></div> 25%	31-Mar-2017	Work is on-going to source and install required equipment.



4.3 Recycled Construction Waste			
Status	Progress	Due Date	Commentary
	<div style="width: 5%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 15px;"></div> 5%	31-Mar-2017	<p>The Council has set a target of 10% of construction waste to be recycled, however current levels are well below this target. There are various reasons for this. In the past year both Pitcaple and Balmedie Quarries have undergone development works to open up different areas of the Quarries for extraction of material. This has led to a reduction in the available space to store unprocessed and processed materials for recycling</p> <p>On top of this all three Quarries have significant stock levels of recycled materials which have not been sold in to the market place due to local Contractors recycling materials on site at source.</p> <p>As well as this Aberdeenshire Council's budget reductions have led to more repair and maintenance style works being carried out with a significant reduction in the need for dry aggregates such as recycling.</p>



4.4 Increase biodiversity			
Status	Progress	Due Date	Commentary
	<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 15px;"></div> 50%	31-Mar-2017	Landscape Services is continuing to work hard toward increased joint working with local communities on maintenance of identified areas and closer working


			<p>relationships with other environmental groups. Currently alternative maintenance regimes, including additional tree and wild flowers planting which support the principles of biodiversity and a more sustainable and cost effective approach to the maintenance of parks and open spaces in the larger parks, country parks and road verges are being developed. This will result in a gradual move towards the increase of habitat and eco- systems that support all living things.</p> <p>All Community Councils are encouraged to participate in considering village/town horticultural and environmental improvements they would wish to see.</p>
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4.5 Flood Recovery Plan			
Status	Progress	Due Date	Commentary
		31-Mar-2017	<p>A comprehensive Flood Recovery Plan has now been put in place. Still lots to be done to address the damage to infrastructure assets and programmes are being reprioritised to accommodate this within available resources. However, this will be a challenge and some assets will not be replaced/repared in the medium term.</p> <p>In May it was estimated that the Council had enabled people to access nearly £2 million in grant payments and funding from other sources to help them recover from the flood events of earlier this year. Teams had also been out to repair and clear streets, waterways, homes, roads, bridges and properties to help Aberdeenshire's communities thrive post-flooding.</p> <p>In terms of roads and bridges, the council has undertaken a significant programme of inspection and repairs. Works have already taken place to repair Durris Bridge across the river Dee and the council enlisted the support of the Armed Forces in the removal of debris from the Dee Bridge in Ballater.</p> <p>With the assistance of 51 Brigade of the British Army, the council has been able to clear a large amount of debris made up chiefly of caravan chassis' and entangled vegetation. Around 605 tonnes of waste has been disposed and with the support of volunteers much of this has been recycled. In addition the council also funded the clear up of Ballater Caravan Park recycling as much material as much as possible.</p>

4.6 Flood Risk Plans			
Status	Progress	Due Date	Commentary
		31-Mar-2017	<p>In June a plan setting out which local communities are most at risk from flooding and what is to be done to reduce that risk was published. The North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan (LFRMP) was produced under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, which provides a strategic framework for considering appropriate mechanisms to manage flood risk across Scotland. Covering the period from 2016-22, it addresses Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs) in Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City, and parts of Moray and the Cairngorms National Park area.</p> <p>A range of measures to reduce risk have now been set out for 23 PVAs across the North East Local Plan District. The LFRMP presents a summary of the objectives and measures to manage flood risk and details how they will be implemented, as well as timescales for delivery, funding arrangements and details of partnership working to deliver them.</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council, as Lead Local Authority for the North East District, has developed the LFRMP in conjunction with neighbouring authorities to cover that six year period. This has involved partnership working and collaboration with Aberdeen City Council, The Moray Council, SEPA, Cairngorms National Park Authority and Scottish Water.</p> <p>The Flood Risk Management Plan has been developed to reduce the devastating and costly impact of flooding in the north east. This plan-led approach will focus on where the risk of flooding and benefits of investment are greatest. There has been a substantial amount of work done over the past few years by the partner agencies to put together a plan with common objectives which will coordinate the efforts of all organisations that tackle flooding. The publication of this local plan sets out a prioritised list of actions for flood protection works; flood protection studies; strategic improved understanding; and flood warning schemes across the majority of the north east.</p> <p>Action is being taken where the strategic appraisal indicates that an action, or group of actions is likely to address the flooding problem, and where initial assessments of technical, economic and environmental feasibility have indicated it is worth progressing to a detailed study.</p>


4.7 Flood Prevention Schemes For Stonehaven and Huntly		
Status	Progress	Due Date
		31-Mar-2017
<p>Commentary</p> <p>In July Scottish Ministers decided that plans for the Flood Protection Scheme for Stonehaven will not need to face a Public Inquiry. The Government confirmed that it is content with the plans and the processes taken to reach the final proposed design.</p> <p>Following a decision to agree the scheme in principle, Aberdeenshire Council had to notify Ministers of its position, given outstanding objections from some residents. After consideration of all the documentation relating to the plans, they decided not to call in the scheme for a Public Inquiry. Instead, they have referred it back to the council to hold a Public Hearing.</p> <p>An independent Reporter will be appointed to hear all arguments and make a recommendation, which will then be reported to the appropriate Council Committee. This is currently being arranged and should happen in the spring of 2017. This moves the scheme forward considerably, and hopefully the Hearing will confirm the acceptability of the scheme, allowing it to move to the tender stage. It is unlikely that works on the ground will start before mid to late 2017.</p> <p>In June the £3 million scheme to protect Huntly from flooding was given a boost with news of a dedicated team to work on the project. The P&R Committee agreed a “shared service arrangement” with Moray Council, which will result in a dedicated site supervision team being created, working with the contractor to deliver the construction elements of the important scheme.</p> <p>It will be led by a project manager who will manage the contract, delivering the works to budget, programme, and quality. The project itself will include work to replace culverts, construction of embankments and water storage options.</p> <p>Moray Council are helping Aberdeenshire Council by seconding to the team a member of staff who has been heavily involved in their own programme of flood alleviation schemes over recent years. The Scottish Government is keen to see councils sharing services wherever possible and this is a very good example of that type of inter-authority co-operation.”</p> <p>Huntly scheme now has all necessary approvals and a contractor is about to be appointed. Works will start on site soon, and will be completed in 2017.</p>		

4.8 Alternate means of Waste Disposal		
Status	Progress	Due Date
		31-Mar-2017
Commentary <p>In August ISC received a presentation on the proposed Energy from Waste (EfW) project which it is undertaking in conjunction with Moray and Aberdeen City Council. The project is required because 1 January 2021 sees a ban on landfilling biodegradable waste (including residual household/commercial waste) and by 2025 no more than 5% of waste can be disposed of to landfill. This means that the Council has to find a different way of dealing with residual waste and implement this by December 2020 at the latest. Failure to do so, or failure to have a detailed plan, with Council approval, for how these targets will be met, may result in a legal challenge, and/or penalties post 2020 and a risk of consequential reputational damage to the service, and the Council.</p> <p>The option being considered is to build a facility in Tullis in Aberdeen. The Project Director, Linda Ovens told the Committee that the proposed facility would use tried, trusted, reliable and flexible technology already well-established elsewhere in Europe. The EfW facility would not only provide a means of disposing of waste that can't be recycled, but would also produce heat for use in the local community. The energy which could be produced by the proposed facility is equivalent to around 30 wind turbines.</p> <p>A number of key milestones have been met including the establishment of a Project Board, comprising senior officers from each of the partner authorities, which is supported by a Joint Member Waste Working Group. In addition a part time Project Director (Linda Ovens) has recently been appointed, along with legal, financial and technical advisors. Lead officers from each Council have also been identified and form the Officer Working Group.</p> <p>Aberdeen City Council recently submitted a planning application for the facility, which is expected to have a lifespan of around 50 years. A public event in connection with the application also took place.</p> <p>A decision on planning permission expected to be taken in October. If permission is granted, the construction phase of the facility is expected to be between September 2018 and August 2021.</p>		


4.9 Increase Recycling Rates		
Status	Progress	Due Date
	<input data-bbox="288 1529 331 1731" type="text" value="50%"/>	31-Mar-2017
<p>Commentary</p> <p>The new collection regime has now bedded in and the figures for recycling rates are improving. However it is clear that a lot more needs to be done to move the Council forward towards the national targets. Waste officers are working with the Waste Management Member Officer Working Group to develop a new Integrated Waste Management Strategy that will build upon this for the future. This will explore options for waste prevention, increasing reuse and recycling, and driving waste further up the Waste Hierarchy. This work will consider the opportunities for the Council to support the aspirations of the Scottish Government document “<i>Making Things Last, A Circular Economy for Scotland, February 2016</i>.”</p> <p>The view expressed in this documents, supported by previous work done by other organisations, including Zero Waste Scotland, is that there will be a practical, technical and economic limit on how much material can be re-used and recycled from municipal waste. There will therefore be a proportion of the remaining residual waste that will continue to require treatment for the foreseeable future. There is always likely to be residual waste requiring treatment and in essence the question is: how much?</p> <p>In recent years Aberdeenshire Council has demonstrated good progress in reducing the volume of waste sent to landfill and increasing the recycling rate, from a very low rate in 2003. However, at the current rate of progress the council will not hit the national target of 60% by 2020. It is intended that the revised strategy will set out short, medium and long term actions to advance the journey to zero waste.</p>		


4.10 Open Space Maintenance and Management		
Status	Progress	Due Date
	<input data-bbox="1126 1529 1169 1731" type="text" value="50%"/>	31-Mar-2017
<p>Commentary</p> <p>During April/Early May a report detailing the Essential Routine Maintenance, the Essential Non- Routine Maintenance and any Capital works for the various budget headings was taken to each Area Committee for approval.</p> <p>The individual items identified in the work programme were those noted as requiring attention during the past year. In the main, they have come from Landscape Services staff, but also take account of queries, comments and requests from Elected Members, communities and members of the public.</p>		


			<p>The effectiveness of these programmes of work can be demonstrated as follows:-</p> <p>In July the environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful announced its Green Flag Awards for this year. In Aberdeenshire the two parks to receive an award are Aden Country Park and Haddo Park.</p> <p>The Green Flag is awarded to parks in recognition of the provision of high standards and quality outdoor spaces. All parks are assessed by volunteer judges with a background in park management, conservation or ecology. Applicants are judged against testing criteria which includes assessing whether the park or green space is welcoming, safe, well-maintained and secure.</p> <p>The Green Flag Award was the latest good news for Aden Country Park, which has just secured £149,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) towards an ambitious £1.4 million restoration and redevelopment project.</p> <p>The regeneration project aims to both enhance and conserve the attraction's rich cultural, architectural, archaeological and natural heritage, while restoring it as a prime visitor destination in rural Aberdeenshire.</p> <p>The development funding of £149,500 has been awarded from the first round HLF Parks for People funding programme and will help the council progress plans to apply for a second round, full grant of £1,399,500, at a later date.</p>
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4.11 Harbour Regeneration			
Status	Progress	Due Date	Commentary
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #4F81BD; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">50%</div>	31-Mar-2017	<p>The master planning exercise for Macduff Harbour and the business plan for Banff harbour was supported by Economic Development through the year to enable plans to be put in place for the development of these key assets in the towns.</p> <p>In June the Council agreed to spend £25,000 on the Macduff Harbour Study. The money will be used to develop a business case to establish the best course of action for the development and expansion of Macduff Harbour and its wider impact on the surrounding town. Options include a new basin and the deepening of the existing basin.</p>

5. Planning and Building Standards

5.1 Deliver of the Townscape Heritage and Conservation Schemes in Banff and Fraserburgh		
Status	Progress	Due Date
	<div style="width: 50%;"><div style="background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px; width: 100%;"></div></div> 50%	31-Mar-2017
<p>Commentary</p> <p>In May it was announced that Banff will get more than £300,000 to revive silver smithing in the town by bringing a derelict building back into artisan use as a studio for contemporary silversmith graduates. The Meal House, a B-Listed building at the east end of Bridge Street in Banff, is on the “Buildings at Risk” register due to its poor condition. Also known locally as the Old Smiddy, it will act as an incubation centre for up to five silversmith posts, with others potentially visiting, coaching and sharing equipment.</p> <p>There are also plans to host night classes and longer courses during the summer. The aim would be for graduates to settle in the area, possibly open a retail outlet and produce new silver pieces linked to the area once again. The project is intended to establish Banff as a part of the silver industry, which flourished in the town from 1600s to the 1800s. A longer term aim is to establish the town as a Scottish centre for silversmithing.</p>		

5.2 Development and Maintenance of Council Footpath Network		
Status	Progress	Due Date
	<div style="width: 25%;"><div style="background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px; width: 100%;"></div></div> 25%	31-Mar-2017
<p>Commentary</p> <p>The total length for path opened or improved in 2015/6 was 5.9km. The target was 10kms. The reason for the shortfall of 9.1km in length of path opened or improved is that the focus of officer activity in 2015/16 bridge refurbishment (Polhollick, Huntly and Newburgh bridges) and more recently dealing with the damage created by Storm Frank therefore limiting time and finance available to spend on new path development.</p>		

5.3 Conservation of the Natural and Historic Environment		
Status	Progress	Due Date
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #4F81BD; color: white; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;">50%</div>	31-Mar-2017
Commentary <p>The Historic Assets Management Project was established to undertake an asset review of all non-operational heritage assets in the ownership or under the management of Aberdeenshire Council. The review also considered historically significant assets where ownership is uncertain but may have been the responsibility of previous District or Burgh Councils.</p> <p>Following production of a list of non-operational assets a summer survey assistant was employed to undertake condition surveys of all assets. This was completed over 2 "summer periods" by two individual surveyors. The survey information gathered has enabled the production of a prioritised asset list, in regards to maintenance requirements for each asset, and will be used for the forecasting of future works.</p> <p>Given the vulnerability of all heritage assets it is considered that the prioritised list, cannot be determined as final as it is highly likely that unforeseen damages will arise. Funding resources available under the HAMP budget together with the overall numbers of health and safety priorities, limit the capacity to address all the prioritised projects, and a strategy for ongoing monitoring and assessment is required.</p> <p>Some projects will require large investments beyond the scale of the Historic Assets Management Project budget of £200,000 per annum calling for match funding from external sources such as Heritage Lottery Fund or Historic Environment Scotland. It is proposed that an annual report on HAMP works will be brought to each of the Area Committees advising them of the number and condition of assets, with a list of proposed projects.</p>		