

www.guildford.gov.uk

Contact:

James Dearling 01483 444141 Tom Horwood
Joint Chief Executive
of Guildford and Waverley

Borough Councils

5 September 2022

Dear Councillor,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held in Council Chamber, Millmead House, Millmead, Guildford, Surrey GU2 4BB on **TUESDAY**, **13 SEPTEMBER 2022** at **7.00 pm**.

Yours faithfully,

Tom Horwood

Joint Chief Executive

MEMBERS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor Paul Spooner Vice-Chairman: Councillor James Walsh

Councillor Chris Blow
Councillor Guida Esteves
Councillor Graham Eyre
Councillor Angela Goodwin
Councillor George Potter
Councillor Councillor Fiona White

Authorised Substitute Members

For the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, there is no limit on the number of substitute members for each political group on the Council.

QUORUM: 4

WEBCASTING NOTICE

This meeting will be recorded for live and/or subsequent broadcast on the Council's website in accordance with the Council's capacity in performing a task in the public interest and in line with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014. The whole of the meeting will be recorded, except where there are confidential or exempt items, and the footage will be on the website for six months.

If you have any queries regarding webcasting of meetings, please contact Committee Services.



THE COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK (2021-25)

Our Vision:

A green, thriving town and villages where people have the homes they need, access to quality employment, with strong and safe communities that come together to support those needing help.

Our Mission:

A trusted, efficient, innovative, and transparent Council that listens and responds quickly to the needs of our community.

Our Values:

- We will put the interests of our community first.
- We will listen to the views of residents and be open and accountable in our decision-making.
- We will deliver excellent customer service.
- We will spend money carefully and deliver good value for money services.
- We will put the environment at the heart of our actions and decisions to deliver on our commitment to the climate change emergency.
- We will support the most vulnerable members of our community as we believe that every person matters.
- We will support our local economy.
- We will work constructively with other councils, partners, businesses, and communities to achieve the best outcomes for all.
- We will ensure that our councillors and staff uphold the highest standards of conduct.

Our strategic priorities:

Homes and Jobs

- Revive Guildford town centre to unlock its full potential
- Provide and facilitate housing that people can afford
- Create employment opportunities through regeneration
- Support high quality development of strategic sites
- Support our business community and attract new inward investment
- Maximise opportunities for digital infrastructure improvements and smart places technology

Environment

- Provide leadership in our own operations by reducing carbon emissions, energy consumption and waste
- Engage with residents and businesses to encourage them to act in more environmentally sustainable ways through their waste, travel, and energy choices
- Work with partners to make travel more sustainable and reduce congestion
- Make every effort to protect and enhance our biodiversity and natural environment.

Community

- Tackling inequality in our communities
- Work with communities to support those in need
- Support the unemployed back into the workplace and facilitate opportunities for residents to enhance their skills
- Prevent homelessness and rough-sleeping in the borough

AGENDA

ITEM NO.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

2 LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

In accordance with the local Code of Conduct, a councillor is required to disclose at the meeting any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) that they may have in respect of any matter for consideration on this agenda. Any councillor with a DPI must not participate in any discussion or vote regarding that matter and they must withdraw from the meeting immediately before consideration of the matter.

If that DPI has not been registered, the councillor must notify the Monitoring Officer of the details of the DPI within 28 days of the date of the meeting.

Councillors are further invited to disclose any non-pecuniary interest which may be relevant to any matter on this agenda, in the interests of transparency, and to confirm that it will not affect their objectivity in relation to that matter.

3 **MINUTES** (Pages 5 - 12)

To confirm the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 12 July 2012.

4 LEAD COUNCILLOR QUESTION SESSION

A question session with the Leader of the Council. Councillor Joss Bigmore's areas of specific responsibility: Governance including corporate Health and Safety; Guildford/Waverley partnership; Partnerships; Corporate Strategy; and Strategic Planning.

- 5 **GUILDFORD AND WAVERLEY COLLABORATION UPDATE**
- 6 **PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT 2022/23 QUARTER 1** (Pages 13 70)
- 7 CUSTOMER SERVICES: PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS UPDATE (Pages 71 82)
- 8 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 83 92)

To agree the draft Overview and Scrutiny work programme.

Please contact us to request this document in an alternative format



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 July 2022

* Councillor Paul Spooner (Chairman)
* Councillor James Walsh (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Chris Blow Councillor Guida Esteves

- * Councillor Graham Eyre
- * Councillor Angela Goodwin
- * Councillor George Potter

- * Councillor Maddy Redpath
- * Councillor Tony Rooth
- * Councillor Will Salmon
- * Councillor Deborah Seabrook Councillor Fiona White

*Present

Councillors Tim Anderson (Lead Councillor for Resources), Joss Bigmore (Leader of the Council), Julia McShane (Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Community and Housing), John Redpath (Lead Councillor for Economy), and John Rigg (Lead Councillor for Regeneration) were also in attendance, with Councillor Catherine Young in remote attendance.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 23(i), Councillor Ramsey Nagaty attended as a substitute for Councillor Guida Esteves.

OS9 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

The Committee was advised of apologies for absence from Councillors Chris Blow, Guida Esteves, and Fiona White and a substitution as detailed above.

OS10 LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

Councillor Angela Goodwin advised the meeting that, in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 2 [specifically, that 'no councillor may be involved in scrutinising a decision in which he or she has been directly involved (unless that involvement was only as a member of an EAB)'], she would withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of item 6, Review of the Council's Ownership of Liongate House. Councillor Goodwin indicated that her withdrawal was to avoid any appearance of conflict between her previous role on the Executive and her current role as a scrutineer.

OS11 MINUTES

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 7 June 2022 were agreed.

OS12 LEAD COUNCILLOR QUESTION SESSION

The Chairman welcomed the Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Community and Housing and reminded the Committee that Councillor Julia McShane's main areas of responsibility included health, wellbeing, access and disability, safety, grants and voluntary services, Careline, handyperson, care and repair, housing, homelessness, housing standards (HMOs and the private rented sector), and human resources. The Chairman indicated that the Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Community and

Housing had been advised of several question areas in advance of the meeting and that other questions would naturally arise.

During the ensuing discussion a number of points were made, including:

- In reply to questions about void properties across the Council's housing stock, the Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Community and Housing indicated that there were 102 houses currently progressing through the void process. She advised the meeting that the timetable for each void property varied according to the work required and that delays were due to shortages of materials and staff. The Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Community and Housing indicated that the financial impact of each property being unoccupied could be up to a week's rent and that provision was made for this within the annual budget. The meeting was informed that relevant performance monitoring had been reviewed and would lead to a standard, benchmarked approach.
- In reply to a question on accessible home improvements, the Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Community and Housing advised the meeting that the respective numbers of adaptations completed via the Home Improvement Agency Care & Repair service and the handyperson service, the number of self-funded private projects, and adaptations within the Council's housing stock could be provided to Committee members. She indicated that details of the types of adaptations completed in the Council's housing stock could be provided if requested by members. The Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Community and Housing informed the Committee of the delivery of the service during the pandemic and increasing demand for the service, including from the introduction of further grants for home adaptations.
- A member of the Committee questioned the take-up of the Council's community transport service and queried whether resources were sufficient to meet demand. The Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Community and Housing indicated that the community transport service was operated in accordance with licence controls and staff contracts. The Committee was advised that the scheduling of the service was centred on customer need and aimed to ensure that the journey times of the most vulnerable users were as short as possible. The Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Community and Housing advised that the amendment of licensing conditions to promote community use of the minibuses during weekends and evenings was being progressed.
- In response to a question, the Head of Community Services agreed that not all aspects of the community transport service were operating at full capacity and some elements could be promoted further.
- A member of the Committee asked how much social housing would be included in the Guildford Park Road, the Weyside Urban Village, and the North Street developments. In response, the Interim Head of Housing, Exchequer and Development informed the meeting that the schemes would be compliant with the Council's planning policies and aimed to deliver at least 40% affordable homes.
- In response to a question about progress with a target of building 3,000 council houses by 2029, the Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Community and Housing indicated the Council had delivered approximately 110

additional affordable homes each year recently and was not working to a particular delivery date. The Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Community and Housing indicated that the Council anticipated that approximately 700 affordable homes would be built over the next five years, with additional affordable homes also expected to be delivered by developers and housing associations. The Interim Head of Housing, Exchequer and Development informed the meeting that in terms of a legal definition, social housing and affordable housing were considered the same. In reply to questions, the Interim Head of Housing, Exchequer and Development stated that affordable housing and social housing were essentially the same thing.

- In reply to a question, the Interim Head of Housing, Exchequer and Development outlined the affordable housing requirements of the Council's planning policies.
- In reply to questions, the Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Community and Housing updated the Committee on implemented and planned improvements to the Number 5 night shelter and indicated that options for further development would be shared with Councillors.
- In response to a question, the Head of Community Services advised the meeting that
 the third tranche of the Household Support Fund had come through from Surrey
 County Council and its distribution to families and pensioners would be administered
 by the Council's community services team. She advised the Committee of efforts to
 ensure that people most in need were identified and supported.
- The response to a request, the Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Community and Housing advised the meeting that the Council's social housing consisted of 5,281 homes, while housing associations had a further 2,281 social homes in the Borough. She indicated that there were 1,491 households on the housing needs register. The Committee was advised that a recent review of the housing needs register had reduced the number significantly. The Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Community and Housing informed the meeting that in the last year 15 homes had been sold under the Right to Buy scheme, with Right to Buy funds used to purchase 22 homes. The Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Community and Housing indicated that members of the Committee could be provided with the number of new build homes on former garage sites, on vacant land on estates, and on sites in West Horsley and elsewhere.
- The Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Community and Housing thanked the former directors of North Downs Housing Ltd for their time, effort, and expertise. In reply to a question, the Interim Head of Housing, Exchequer and Development informed the meeting that North Downs Housing Limited would look to develop sites in future when possible.
- The value in providing Councillors with a summary of the different types of affordable and social housing was agreed by the Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Community and Housing and the Interim Head of Housing, Exchequer and Development undertook to provide the details and definitions of affordable housing for circulation to Councillors. In addition, he referred members to the glossary at the back of Guildford's Local Plan.

The Chairman thanked the Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Community and Housing and officers for attending and answering questions.

OS13 GUILDFORD AND WAVERLEY COLLABORATION – UPDATE

The Joint Chief Executive of Guildford and Waverley Councils advised the meeting that the Joint Appointments Committee had met in June and agreed to recommend appointments to the joint strategic director roles in the joint management team. The meeting was advised the appointments were to be considered by full Council on 26 July and that if agreed the directors would commence in their roles on 1 August. The meeting was informed that a formal consultation had commenced with the joint heads of service and it was envisaged that new heads of service would start in their roles on 1 October.

The Joint Chief Executive of Guildford and Waverley Councils advised the meeting that the previous week he had provided Councillors with a detailed briefing on the progress of the Guildford and Waverley collaboration. He advised the Committee of the benefits of collaborative working to date, including sharing of learning and information on Ukrainian resettlement, on leisure service contracts, and for climate change action plans.

The Committee was informed that it would be proposed that the post of Section 151 Officer for Guildford Council be agreed as an interim joint appointment with the current Section 151 Officer within Waverley Council.

There were no questions or comments from Councillors. The Chairman thanked the Joint Chief Executive for his attendance.

OS14 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S OWNERSHIP OF LIONGATE HOUSE [At this juncture, Councillor Angela Goodwin withdrew from the meeting in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 2.]

The Chairman invited the Lead Councillor for Resources to comment on the report submitted to the Committee. The Lead Councillor for Resources introduced the item.

The Lead Councillor for Resources suggested that the report submitted to the Committee was produced in response to two complaints that were politically driven. He referred to the Council's decision to purchase Liongate House for £13 million in 2013 and the process leading to the decision to dispose of the property for £10.1 million in 2020. The Lead Councillor for Resources suggested delaying the sale in 2020 would have been inadvisable and reminded the Committee that the disposal of Liongate House had been audited as part of the audit of the 2019-20 statement of accounts for the Council and no issues or concerns had been raised with the valuation or the disposal.

With reference to a Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) investigation as to the merit of the complaints about the advice given to the Council for both the acquisition and disposal of Liongate House [the outcome of which was circulated as supplementary information shortly before the meeting], the Lead Councillor for Resources informed the meeting that RICS had concluded there was insufficient evidence to show a failure to comply with RICS rules or professional standards and that there was no case to answer. He stated that there was no evidence to suggest Liongate House was not marketed effectively or was worth more than £10 million at its time of disposal in 2020.

The Director of Resources summarised the acquisition, sale, and rental income of Liongate House as detailed within the report submitted to the Committee. She indicated that since the disposal of the property the Council had received complaints relating to its sale and one

complaint relating to its acquisition. The Director of Resources advised the meeting that the terms of reference for the overview and scrutiny review were drafted by her and approved by the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. She confirmed that the report submitted to the Committee contained the evidence the Council held relating to the acquisition and disposal of Liongate House and the decision-making processes followed by the Council. The Director of Resources invited the Committee to consider each of the questions posed in the terms of reference for the review and the evidence presented in the report.

In accordance with the Council's Public Speaking Procedure Rules, Mr Geoff Davis addressed the meeting.

Mr Davis advised the Committee that he was a former Guildford Borough Councillor and had no current or prospective personal or financial interest in the subject. He stated he was a Fellow of the RICS, with extensive experience in the property profession, including 47 years in Guildford, and had a degree in planning and development. He suggested that, if handled differently, the disposal of Liongate House could had resulted in an additional £5 million or so for the Council.

Mr Davis commented on the time taken to address his queries and the importance of exploring the issues raised. He suggested that Liongate House was a trophy building and that it had been sold at an undervalue. Mr Davis questioned why the building had not been offered to the Council's housing department for affordable or social housing. He indicated that he would not be commenting on the purchase of the building in 2013.

Mr Davis suggested the merit in the Council holding the property after the break clause was exercised by the tenant and questioned whether dilapidations had been collected. He suggested that at the time of the Council's disposal of Liongate House there was a strong market for large office buildings with permitted development rights. He queried whether the proceeds from the disposal of Liongate House had been reinvested as indicated.

Mr Davis noted that the 2019-20 valuation of Liongate House was £12.15 million. He indicated that if the building had been offered to the market correctly, as the circumstances in relation to permitted development rights changed, then a higher price could have been achieved from the disposal. He suggested there were inaccuracies in the pre-application enquiry. In addition, Mr Davis highlighted the period taken to complete the sale with the cash buyer of Liongate House. He suggested the permitted development rights should have been put into place by the Council before the marketing of the site, not after. Mr Davis criticised the omission of an overage clause in the sales contract.

Mr Davis suggested that Liongate House should have been valued at approximately £15 million. With reference to the report submitted to the Committee, he suggested that the Council's Property Review Group identified the value in obtaining permitted development rights in September 2019 and that the options appraisal commissioned by the Council noted the need to ensure an overage agreement to cover off any additional consented space, such as accommodation in the roof space.

In concluding his statement, Mr Davis summarised his concerns threefold: not offering the building to the Council's housing department for affordable or social housing; not seeking permitted development rights prior to marketing the property; and not ensuing an overage clause was in place.

In accordance with the Council's Public Speaking Procedure Rules, Councillors then questioned Mr Davis and a number of points were made:

- A member of the Committee suggested that the Council explored obtaining permitted development rights for Liongate House prior to disposal and that an overage clause was not available. In addition, he queried the accuracy of the £15 million valuation of the site. In response, Mr Davis suggested the permitted development rights should have been in place by the Council before the site was marketed, rather than being put in place by the purchaser.
- In response to a question from a member of the Committee about the acquisition of Liongate House by the Council in 2013, Mr Davis advised that he did not became a Guildford Borough Councillor until 2015.
- Members of the Committee suggested that Liongate House was not a trophy building due to its proximity to the A3, the A320, and Ladymead retail park. With reference to air quality, a Committee member questioned the desirability of the Council using the site for affordable housing. In addition, Mr Davis's assessment of the value of obtaining permitted development rights for the site was questioned. In response, Mr Davis referred to the apparent sales of apartments at the site and the advantages to the Council of securing permitted development rights ahead of marketing the site.
- In reply to questioning, Mr Davis defended his valuation of the site at approximately £15 million. He suggested the Council had not achieved the immediate, unconditional sale it had agreed with the purchaser. He confirmed that his £15 million valuation was at current prices.
- The Lead Councillor for Regeneration asked if Mr Davis agreed with him that the
 original purchase of Liongate House in 2013 was a poor investment by the Council.
 In reply, Mr Davis indicated that he would not have recommended its purchase in
 2013.
- In reply to a question, Mr Davis stated that the site was not marketed with the information that the flooding risk had been removed.

The Chairman thanked the public speaker for his attendance and for answering questions from Councillors.

During the ensuing discussion a number of issues were raised:

- In response to a question, the Director for Resources confirmed that all information relating to the acquisition of Liongate House in 2013 was included in the report and appendices submitted to the Committee.
- In reply to questions about his statement introducing the item, the Lead Councillor for Resources reiterated that he believed the acquisition of Liongate House in 2013 was a poor decision.
- The Lead Councillor for Resources suggested the review of the Council's ownership
 of Liongate House was a poor use of both his time and that of the Director of
 Resources.

- In reply to a query about the declining rental income from Liongate House, the Director of Resources confirmed that the Council was bound by the terms of the lease agreed before its acquisition of the property.
- In response to a question about the actions the Council took after identifying the likelihood that the tenant would exercise the break clause, the Director of Resources indicated that the process that resulted in the decision not to pursue permitted development rights occurred between the autumn of 2018 and April 2019, with the property marketed from May/June 2019 onwards.
- In reply to questions, the Head of Asset Management advised that the valuations of Liongate House during the Council's period of ownership were provided externally.
- The Director of Resources confirmed that the RICS investigation had considered concerns raised over the advice provided to the Council for both the acquisition and the disposal of Liongate House.
- A member of the Committee questioned whether during its disposal of Liongate
 House the Council as an organisation had the ability to react once the implications of
 the Environment Agency's decision relating to the flood zone became clear.
- The Director of Resources indicated that the Council received interest payments because the purchaser delayed completion. In addition, she confirmed that the Council received the dilapidations payment.
- A member of the Committee indicated that due to rental income the Council's ownership of Liongate House had resulted in a net profit of £3 million. He suggested that the Council's decision-making processes had been clear and rational. Another member of the Committee suggested that the Council took and followed professional advice for both the acquisition and disposal of Liongate House.

RESOLVED: That the report submitted to the Committee and the comments of Committee members be noted.

OS15 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

The Senior Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) introduced the report submitted to the Committee. He advised the meeting that the report stated the work of Overview and Scrutiny over the past year and its future work plan, reported on the use of call-in, and detailed the use of urgency provisions during the past municipal year.

The Senior Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) advised the Committee of changes to the draft Overview and Scrutiny work plan since the publication of the papers for the meeting; namely, confirmation of the date of the October Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting; the re-scheduling of the Borough's Response to Refugees from January 2023 to October 2022; the re-scheduling of the Safer Guildford Partnership Annual Report from September 2022 to October 2022; the addition of Corporate Performance Monitoring to the September 2022 and January 2023 meetings of the Committee, and scheduling the update on the Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service for January 2023.

Agenda item number: 3

RESOLVED: (I) That, subject to the addition of the updates in the work plan as detailed above, the report submitted to the Committee be commended to Full Council as the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report, 2021-22.

(II) That the current rules relating to call in or urgency provisions remain unchanged.

The meeting finished at 9.27 pm

Signed		Date		
	Chairman			

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report

Ward(s) affected: n/a

Report of Joint Strategic Director of Place

Author: Andrea Barnett, Policy Officer

Tel: 01483 444062

Email: andrea.barnett@guildford.gov.uk
Lead Councillor responsible: Joss Bigmore

Tel: 07974 979369

Email: joss.bigmore@guildford.gov.uk

Date: 13 September 2022

Performance Monitoring Report 2022/23 Quarter 1

Executive Summary

Following a review of the terms of reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the quarter 1 Performance Monitoring Report (attached as Appendix 1) is presented to this Committee for review and to be noted. Previous reports were considered by the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee.

Recommendation to Committee

The Committee is requested to review and note the contents of this report along with the Performance Monitoring Report for 2022/23 quarter 1 (Appendix 1).

Reasons for Recommendation:

To support our corporate performance monitoring framework and enable the Committee to monitor the Council's performance against key indicators, as well as review key data relating to the 'health' of the borough.

Is the report (or part of it) exempt from publication? No

<u>Committee members please note:</u> Should any members of the Committee have any queries about specific performance indicators detailed in the Performance Monitoring Report, please submit these to <u>andrea.barnett@guildford.gov.uk</u> at least two days prior to the Committee meeting to enable an explanation to be given.

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report is accompanied by the Performance Monitoring Report for quarter 1 of the financial year 2022/23 (Appendix 1).

- 1.2 The Performance Monitoring Report is presented to this Committee on a quarterly basis, allowing councillors to monitor our performance against the indicators set out in our performance framework.
- 1.3 The Performance Monitoring Report is a public document which shows the Council's progress against a variety of performance indicators.

2. Introduction

2.1 The accompanying Performance Monitoring Report is part of our performance monitoring framework. It includes our quarterly performance indicators and where possible, annual performance information. As part of the framework, we will continue to present the report to the Committee on a quarterly basis for review.

3. Strategic Priorities

- 3.1 The Council's performance management arrangements support our aim of delivering good value for money services by tracking our progress against each indicator. As trends develop, we will be able to build a bigger picture of our performance to help inform and shape future activity and decision making.
- 3.3 The performance management framework supports all aspects of the Council's strategic priorities by ensuring that we stay on track in delivering key outcomes shown in our corporate and service plans. By monitoring key performance indicators, we can celebrate our successes and identify any broad trends or key issues. This will support us in being an efficient, focussed organisation delivering high quality services.

4 Background

- 4.1 The last Performance Monitoring Report was received positively by the Corporate Management Team and Corporate Governance and Standards Committee (CGSC).
- 4.2 During 2021/22, the CGSC discussed the PIs captured and information which would be useful in future, as well as giving constructive feedback. The Committee was keen for the report to include commentary where PIs are not meeting a target or not heading in the preferred direction of travel. This information is now provided by Service Leads when they submit their PI data in their Service Plans.
- 4.3 The report for quarter 1 shows 64 quarterly Pls. Out of 64 quarterly Pls, 35.9% were showing a positive green or amber rating, which is a decrease of less than 1% on quarter 4 data, although the number of green rated Pls has increased by 1. The red rating has decreased by 13.6% since the last quarter which is due to revisions in data provided in quarter 4. There were 10.9% of the quarterly Pls reporting as no data available, mainly due to a time lag in receiving data, although this will reduce from Q2 onwards once data is provided. The primary reason for the lack of data submission was due to time lags in receiving data and data requiring approval by external sources.

4.4 The time lags and data requiring approval relate to the following PIs:

PI ref:	Indicator	Reason
ENV1	Kilograms of domestic residual waste collected, per household, from the kerbside	3-month time lag
ENV2	Household waste recycled and composted	3-month time lag
ENV3	Number of fly tips	2-month time lag
H&J3	Number of net new additional homes	3-month time lag
H&J16	Percentage of vacant town centre retail units	1-2 month time lag
H&J19	Domestic Abuse Victims prioritised for Housing	2-3 month time lag
СОМ9	Number of successful homelessness outcomes	Data pending approval from the DLUHC.

- 4.4 Some highlights from Q1 performance include:
 - **H&J17** Visits to town centre car parks showing an increase of over 35,000 ticket sales since Q4.
 - **H&J18** Guildford town centre footfall showing an increase in footfall of over 250,000.
 - H&J21 No. of visits to paid, town centre on-street parking spaces this is a new PI for 2022/23 but from the comparison provided for Q4, this is showing an increase of over 5,000 visits.
 - **COM8** Snapshot of rough sleepers below target in Q1.
 - **COU3** Council Suppliers paid within 30 days although below target in 2021/22, this has exceeded the target for Q1.
- 4.5 For PIs that are above target or heading in the wrong direction, mitigating actions have been put in place to address these.
- 4.6 During Quarter 4, we undertook a review of the current set of performance indicators in consultation with relevant Service Leads, CMT and Portfolio Leads. The purpose of the review was to ensure that our PIs are meaningful, useful and provide a clear definition of what is being collected.
- 4.7 At the request of Executive Liaison Group, a workshop will be held in September to further consider the new set of KPIs against the key themes, priorities, and Core Values within our Corporate Plan. The Chair and Vice-Chair of this Committee have been invited to the workshop.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 No financial implications apply.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

7. Human Resource Implications

7.1 The report provides an overview on several key workforce indicators, such as staff sickness and turnover.

8. Equality and Diversity Implications

8.1 This duty has been considered in the context of this report and it has been concluded that there are no equality and diversity implications arising.

9. Climate Change/Sustainability Implications

9.1 The report shows our performance across a range of environmental indicators, such as energy use and waste.

10. Conclusion

- 10.1 Our performance monitoring framework provides us with the tools to ensure we are delivering what we set out to do within the themes of our Corporate Plan. As the picture of data grows, we will be able to identify and assess trends for each performance indicator.
- 10.2 Reporting our quarterly Performance Monitoring Report through Corporate Management Board and this Committee ensures that the Council's performance is monitored and discussed at the highest level. This helps us to embed performance management into the culture of the organisation, allows us to celebrate success and remedy any issues.
- 10.3 We welcome continuous feedback on the performance monitoring framework, and comments and questions from the Committee.

11. Background Papers

11.1 None.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 1, 2022/23

Agenda item number: 6

Appendix 1

Guildford Borough Council – Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 1, 2022/23

1. Introduction

The Council's performance monitoring framework incorporates a range of performance indicators (PI) aligned under four broad themes: Environment, Homes and Jobs, Community and Council. The PI data shows how the Council is performing in various service areas along with indicators giving a broad picture of the 'health' of Guildford borough. Our framework comprises a total of 73 PI: 64 recorded quarterly and 9 annually.

This report incorporates an 'at a glance' <u>scorecard summary</u> of the rating of each PI, with more detailed information and a chart for each indicator shown in <u>section 5</u>. An explanation of the rating for each PI is included in section 1.2, as is an overview of our <u>current position</u> in section 3 and an <u>exception summary</u> in section 4 showing where PI data has not been submitted for reporting on this occasion.

Section 1.4 gives details on changes which have been made to the report/ PI since the previous iteration.

This report will be submitted to Corporate Management Board and our Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis for their comment and review.

1.1 External factors

The rising cost of living is already having a significant impact on our residents, including the most vulnerable. Our services are seeing an increase in demand and will need to continue to respond to the impact. This is also having an impact on business as usual activities as resources are being redirected to deliver timebound government initiatives, for example, within Exchequer Services, this is the Council Tax Energy Rebate and the Household Support Fund in Community Services.

In addition, there has also been an impact on services due to an increase in vulnerable people being referred to Community Services and the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

1.2 Performance indicator rating

To show the status of individual indicators we have assessed each one against a red, amber, or green (RAG) rating. Where the indicator has a target, it will be RAG rated against this, otherwise it will be rated against the preferred direction of travel (i.e. increasing or decreasing).

The RAG ratings applied to this report are detailed below:

- Green: on, or over, target or heading in the preferred direction of travel (including for annual targets)
- Amber: up to 5% off target, or the same as the previous quarter/year
- Red: more than 5% off target or heading in the wrong direction of travel
- Data only, or no data to compare with
- No data submitted for this quarter

Agenda item number: 6 Appendix 1

1.3 Performance monitoring themes

To help categorise our PI we have grouped them under the headings shown below. These themes are broadly aligned to our current Corporate Plan.

Environment (section 5.1)	ENV
Homes and Jobs (section 5.2)	H&J
Community (section 5.3)	COM
Council (section 5.4)	COU

1.4 Changes and updates from our previous report

Our performance monitoring framework will continue to evolve and there will be changes to the report and PIs to ensure that they continue to provide the right information and detail required. There have been several changes made to the framework since the last meeting, including some target and definition changes to better reflect what is being collected, as well as 1 new PI relating to on-street parking and 3 new Customer Service PIs which are highlighted below.

H&J21	No. of visits to paid, town centre on-street parking spaces
COU15	% of contact via the phone into the Customer Services Centre
COU20	Average phone wait times

COU23 Average response times for online contact through forms.

1.5 Data Assurance

Following an audit by KPMG last year, a recommendation was made for our performance monitoring framework to incorporate a review of data prior to its inclusion in this report.

Each quarter we will review the collection, calculation and reporting processes of a sample of at least three PIs. Remedial actions will be followed up to ensure that our data gathering and reporting remains as robust as possible.

During Q4 of 2021/22, we reviewed the data for Planning Policy for:

H&J3	Number of new additional nomes
H&J15	Net change in completed commercial and business floorspace (B1, B2 and B8); and
H&J20	Percentage of affordable housing units granted planning permission on eligible sites.

Local authorities are required to monitor approvals, commencements and completions for planning application data which result in a net loss or gain of residential units, or non-residential floorspace. In Guildford, this is primarily achieved through inputting the relevant data into monitoring database software called CDPSmart, which is used by the Planning Policy team. Process notes were provided together with supporting documentation to show the lifecycle of a planning application which meets the requirements as it moves through the monitoring database and showed how automated reports which come from CDPSmart were compiled.

All documentation was reviewed for accuracy and provided assurance that the calculations were correct and that checks were made by relevant senior officers throughout the process.

Agenda item number: 6 Appendix 1

For Q1 we have commenced a review of the following PIs from Exchequer Services and once completed, we will report back to this Committee on the findings:

H&J10 Local Council Tax Support claimants - pension and working age

H&J12 Non-domestic (business) rates collected (%)

H&J13 Total number of empty days in rateable properties

H&J14 Number of empty rateable properties

COM10 Council tax collected (%)

COU5 Time taken to assess new Housing Benefit claims

1.6 Review of Indicators

During Quarter 4, we undertook a review of the current set of performance indicators in consultation with relevant Service Leads, CMT and Portfolio Leads. The purpose of the review was to ensure that our PIs are meaningful, useful and provide a clear definition of what is being collected.

At the request of Executive Liaison Group, a workshop will be held in September to further consider the new set of KPIs against the key themes, priorities, and Core Values within our Corporate Plan. The Chair and Vice-Chair of this Committee have been invited to the workshop.

The table below provides an overview of the RAG rating for each PI for 2021/22 and Q1 of 2022/23.

For quarter 1, there may be no means of assessing the RAG rating against a preferred direction of travel if we do not have data for the preceding quarter. Where this is the case, quarter 1 data has been rated as 'data only' (i) and is shown in the chart table accompanying each PI in section

Not applicable (n/a) is shown for quarters without data which were prior to the collection of data for new Pls.

	QUARTE	RLY PIs:	PI Measure 2021/22					2022/23	ndix	
	Ref no	Theme Performance indicator		P=Performance; D/O=Demand/Output; H/B=Health of Borough	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	7
	ENV1	Environment	Kilograms of domestic residual waste collected, per household, from the kerbside	P	V	×	V	×		
	ENV2	Environment	Household waste recycled and composted	P	\checkmark	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	\checkmark			
Page	ENV3	Environment	Number of fly tips	D/O	V	V	×	V		
ge 20	ENV4	Environment	Number of outstanding statutory nuisance investigations (all noise (except in street), bonfires, light, odour, living conditions prejudicial to health, insects and accumulations)	D/O	1	V	V	V	×	
	<u>H&J1</u>	Homes & Jobs	Average time to let void housing properties	P	V	V	*	×	*	
	<u>H&J3</u>	Homes & Jobs	Number of net new additional homes	D/O	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	$\overline{\mathbf{A}}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	V		
	H&J4 Homes & Jobs Affordable new homes completed each year H&J5 Homes & Jobs Number of homeless families placed in B&B H&J7 Homes & Jobs Total number of households on the housing needs register H&J8 Homes & Jobs Total number of households on the housing transfer register		D/O	①	•	①	•	①		
			D/O	×	**	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	×	X		
			D/O	×		V	×	X		
			D/O	×		V	×	×		

PI Measure P=Performance:

D/O=Demand/Output; H/B=Health of Borough

H/B

Q1

(1)

QUARTERLY PIs:

Theme

Homes &

Homes &

Jobs

Performance indicator

benefits

Working age population claiming key out of work

Local Council Tax Support claimants - pension and

Ref no

H&J9

H&J10

H&J11

H&J12

H&J13

H&J14

H&J16

H&J17

H&J18

H&J19

H&J20

H&J21

COM1

COM₂

COM₃

2021/22

Q3

(1)

Q4

(1)

Q2

(1)

2022/23

Q1

(1)

QUARTERLY PIs:			PI Measure		202	21/22		2022/23
Ref no	Theme	Performance indicator	P=Performance; D/O=Demand/Output; H/B=Health of Borough	Q1	Q1 Q2 Q3		Q4	Q1
COM4	Community	Number of handyperson jobs completed	D/O	①	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	×	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	×
COM5	Community	Number of Care and Repair jobs completed	D/O	①	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$		×
COM6	Community	Number of public sector home adaptations completed	D/O	①		$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	V	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$
COM7	Community	Number of households living in temporary accommodation	D/O	V	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	V	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	×
COM8	Community	Snapshot of rough sleepers	D/O	×	×	V	×	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$
COM9	Community	Number of successful homelessness outcomes	Р	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	\checkmark	V	
COM10	Community	Percentage of Council tax collected	Р	①	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$			1
<u>COM11</u>	Community	Total attendance at G Live	D/O		①	(i)	×	①
COM12	Community	Total visits to sports and leisure venues (Spectrum, Lido, Ash Manor)	D/O	①	V	×	×	(i)
COM13	Community	Total visits to heritage attractions	D/O	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	V	×	×	1
COM14	Community	Number of people participating in events, activities and outreach sessions facilitated by Heritage Services	D/O	V	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	×	×	×
COM15	Community	Total visitor numbers to key parks and countryside sites	D/O	V	V	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	V	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$
<u>COM16</u>	Community	Number of bookings of sports pitches and courts	D/O	①	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	①
<u>COM17</u>	Community	Number of visitors to Thrive at the Hive	D/O	n/a	①	(i)	1	1
<u>COM18</u>	Community	Number of visitors to the Community Fridge	D/O	①	1	(1)	①	(1)
<u>COM19</u>	Community	Number of attendees at Playranger Sessions	D/O (i) (i)		①	①	①	
COU1	Council	Staff sickness absence	Р	\checkmark	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	V	×	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$
COU2	Council	Staff turnover	Р	×	×	×	×	V
COU3	Council	Council suppliers paid within 30 days	Р	×	×	×	×	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$

ത

QUARTE	RLY PIs:		PI Measure	PI Measure 2021/22 2			2022/23		
Ref no	Theme	Performance indicator	P=Performance; D/O=Demand/Output; H/B=Health of Borough	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	
COU21	Council	% of contact that is digital: 1. Direct contact that is digital 2. Overall contact that is digital	P	*	*	X		×	genda i
COU22	Council	% of contacts received with a Guildford address that have a MyGuildford account	Р	①	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	V	V	item r
COU23	Council	Average response times for online contact through forms	P	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	X	<u>ppe</u>
COU24	Council	Percentage of Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulation requests responded to within statutory timeframes	P	V	V	V	V	✓	ndix 1

3. Current position

Each quarter we will present the current position of our performance indicators which will show, broadly speaking, our overall progress against each RAG rating. This will also be considered in relation to previous quarters where relevant.

3.1 Quarter 1

At the end of quarter 1, we have been able to give a RAG rating to all 64 of our quarterly recorded PIs are shown in the table below.

	RAG Rating						
Quarter	Green	Amber	Red	Data only	No data		
1	23	0	19	15	7		
1	35.9%	-	29.7%	23.4%	10.9%		

In the table above, the number of quarterly PIs that are showing a positive green or amber rating totals 35.9% which is a decrease of less than 1% on quarter 4 data although the number of green PIs has increased by 1. The red rating has decreased by 13.6% since the last quarter which is due to revisions in data provided in quarter 4. There were 10.9% of the quarterly PIs reporting as no data available which is a 9.2% increase on the figure reported in quarter 4 (1.7%) which relates to the PIs identified in the exception summary below and will reduce once data is provided from Q2 onwards. The primary reason for the lack of data submission was due to time lags in receiving data and data requiring approval by external sources.

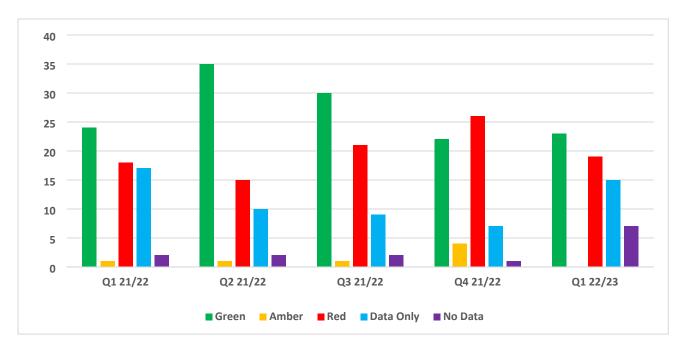
3.2 Previous quarters

There are 64 PIs for quarter 1 of 2022/23. The table below focusses on the quarterly recorded PIs to provide a comparison across the year. The change in the number of PIs from 2021/22 is due to the deletion of some PIs which were for covid monitors, plus the addition of new PIs. Data omitted from/ updated since our previous report has been included in the table where possible.

			RAG Rating						
Year	Quarter	Green	Amber	Red	Data only	No data			
	Q1	24	1	18	17	2			
	62 PI	38.7%	1.6%	29%	27.4%	3.2%			
	Q2	35	1	15	10	2			
2021/22	64 PI	55.6%	1.6%	23.8%	15.9%	3.2%			
2021/22	Q3 64 PI	30	1	21	9	2			
		47.6%	1.6%	33.3%	14.3%	3.2%			
	Q4	22	4	26	7	1			
	60 PI*	36.7%	6.7%	43.3%	11.7%	1.7%			
2022/23	Q1	23	0	19	15	7			
2022/23	64 PI	35.9%	-	29.7%	23.4%	10.9%			

^{*}following PI review in Q4

The data is demonstrated in the chart below:



4. Exception summary

This section highlights any indicators where data has not been submitted for the period of this report (2022/23 quarter 1). The exception summary below covers quarterly PIs, i.e. the situation at the end of quarter 1.

Three categories of 'exceptions' have been used in this summary:

Reason	Explanation
Time lag in data provision	There is a period of lag in data for this PI being available/ recorded
Data not currently available/ possible to record	Data is not available or the capacity/ ability to record data for this PI is not possible currently
No reason given	Data has not been submitted and no further explanation has been given

The 'time lag in data provision' category in the exception summary shows where data will be provided but has a time lag (usually between 1 and 3 months). This data will appear in a report from quarter 2, 2022/23 onwards.

We have a total of 64 quarterly PI reportable for quarter 1 and 10.9% of these PI had no data provided. We have relied on Service Leads to communicate any reason for the non-submission of data for this quarter.

Reason	Number	Percentage
Time lag in data provision	6	85.7%
Data not currently available/ possible to record	1	14.3%
No reason given		
Total	7	100%

Agenda item number: 6
Appendix 1
The tables below show the exception summary by directorate and service area.

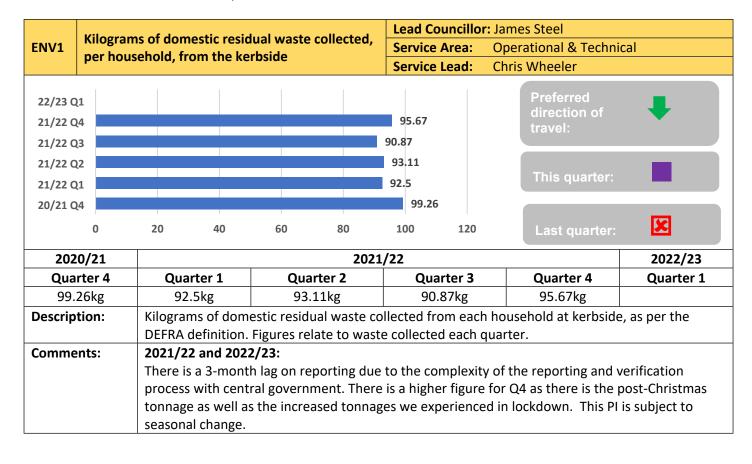
	Directorate	
Reason	Service Delivery	Strategic Services
Time lag in data provision	4	2
Data not currently available/ possible to record	1	
No reason given		
Total	5	2

Service Area	Time lag in data provision	Data not currently available	No reason given
Housing	1	1	
Operational and Technical	3		
Planning Policy	1		
Strategy and Communications	1		

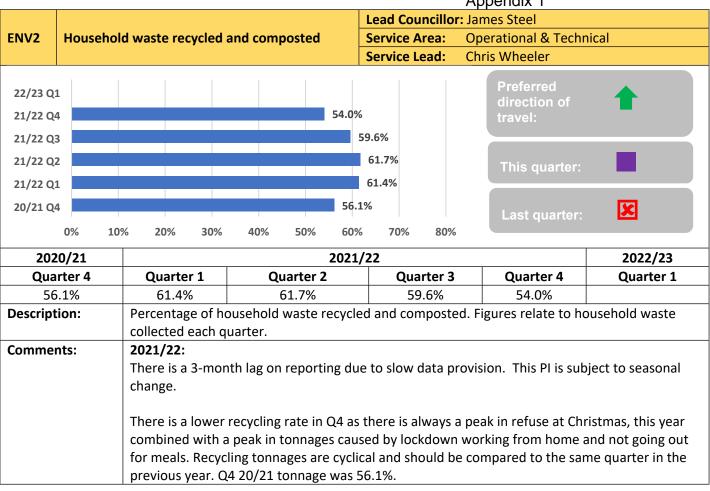
5. Performance monitoring data

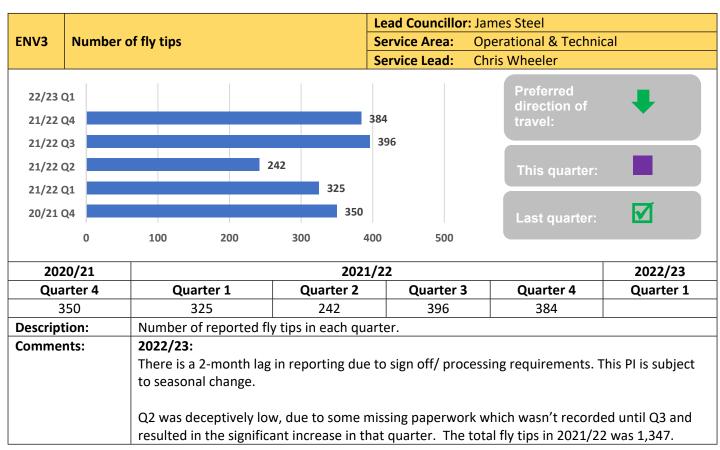
5.1 Environment

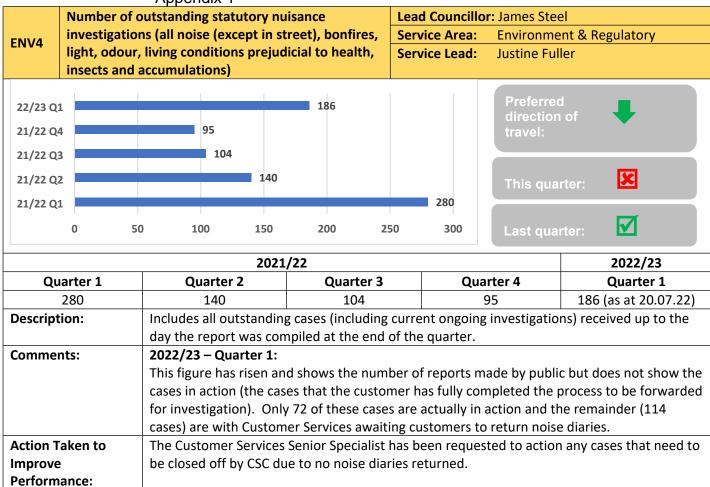
This section includes all performance indicators with a broad environmental theme.



Agenda item number: 6
Appendix 1

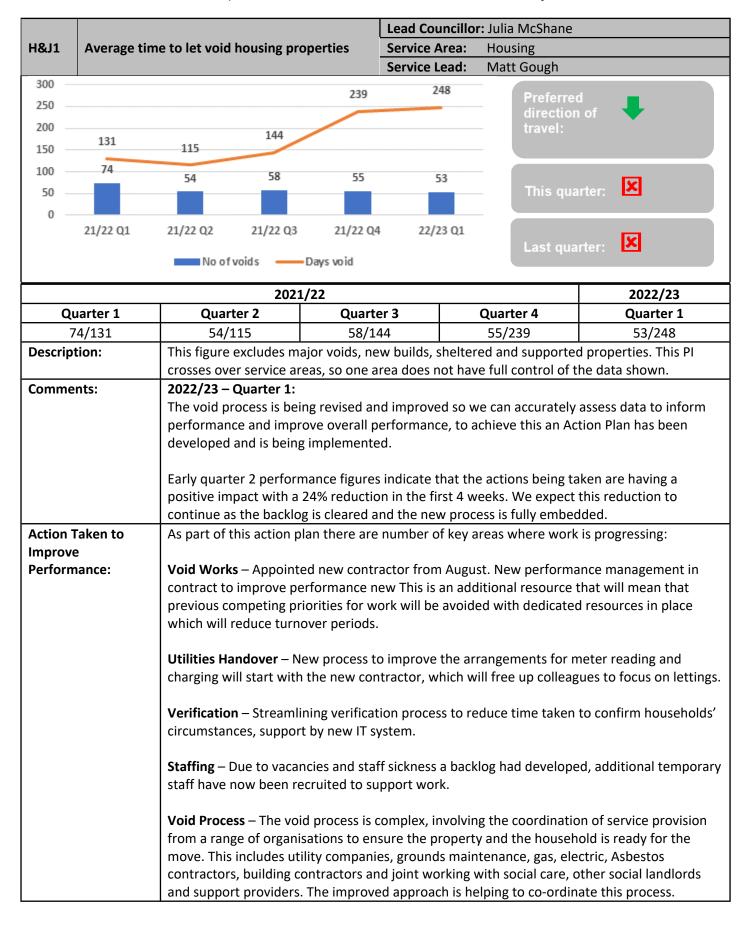


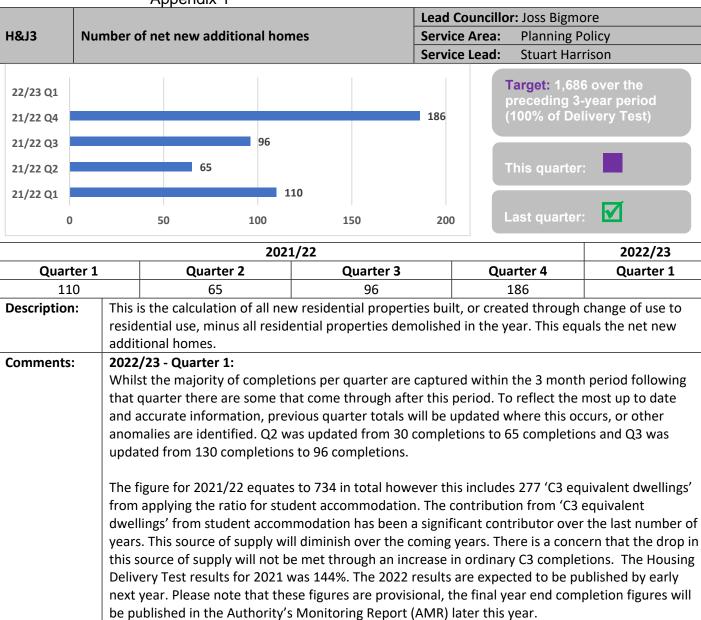




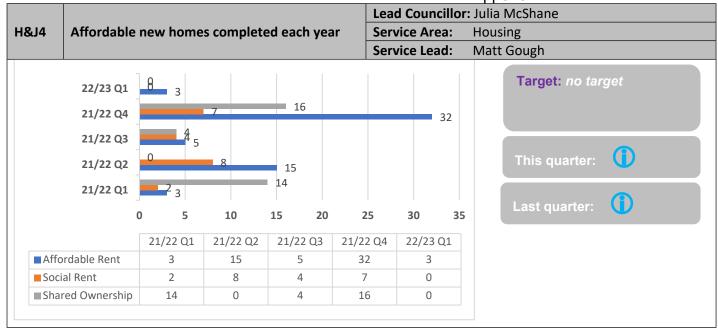
5.2 Homes and Jobs

This section includes all performance indicators with a broad homes and jobs theme.

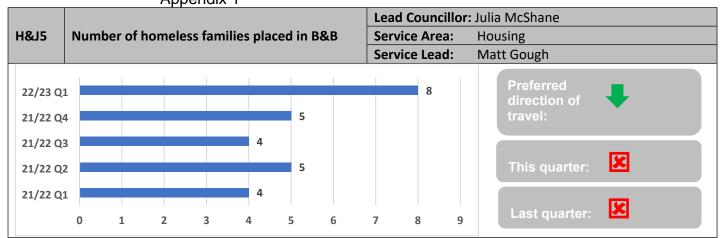




Agenda item number: 6 Appendix 1

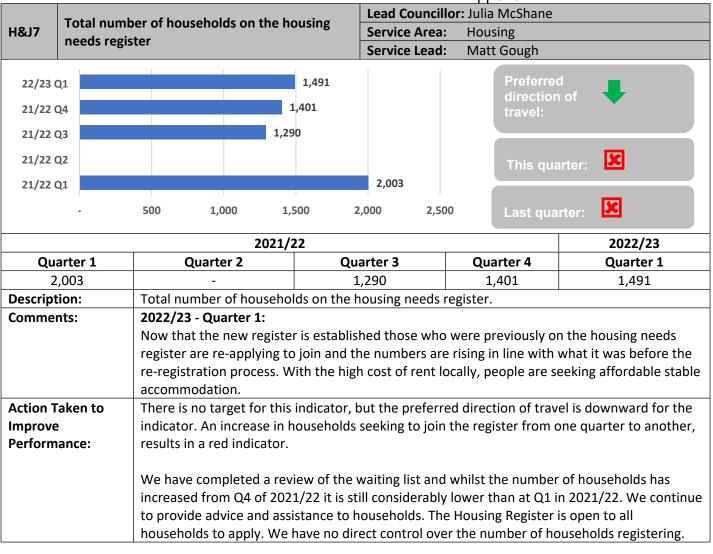


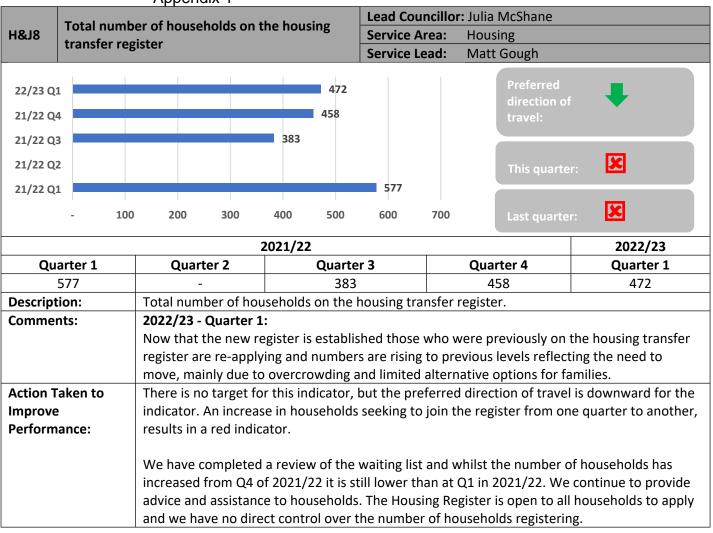
2021/22				2022/23
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1
Total affordable units	Total affordable units	Total affordable units	Total affordable units	Total affordable units
19	23	13	55	3
Description:	Data only. Affordable new homes completed each year			
Comments:	2022/23 – Quarter 1:			
	From April 2022 the government requires information on First Homes for new homes provided on residential developments. This information will be available from Q2.			

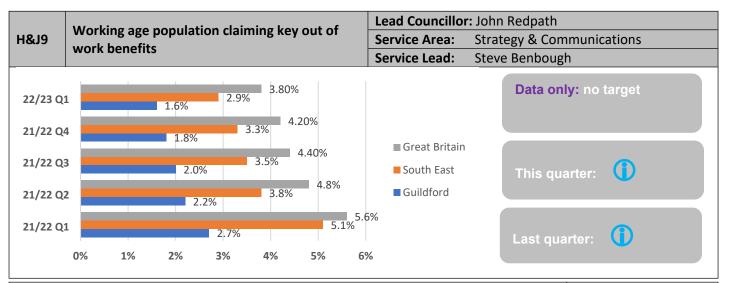


2021/22			2022/23	
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1
4	5	4	5	8
Description:	Number of homeless	families placed in B&B.		
Comments:	2022/23 – Quarter 1:			
	There has been an increase of 'on the day' homeless presentations which require us by law to			
	accommodate pending our enquiries. They have been families fleeing violence and Ukrainian			
	households excluded by family and friends. All went into nightly accommodation that is self-			
	contained. We continue to source accommodation in most cases if given enough notice to			
	source it. This may change with the reduction in available private rented accommodation in			
	the area for large families. The pressure on local accommodation means we are placing out of			
	the area.			
Action Taken to	There is no target for this number as it provides context and insight into service provision.			
Improve		,	J	'
Performance:	The levels will contin	ue to be managed through a	ctive prevention work	, but activity and need
	will continue. We expect a monthly variation but the trend to continue to be stable overall.			
	No further specific action is planned.			

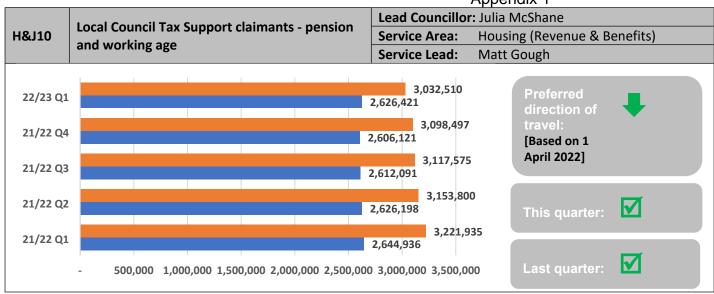
Agenda item number: 6 Appendix 1



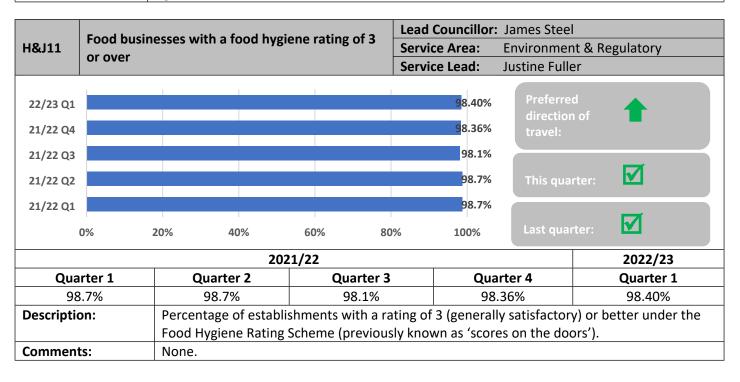


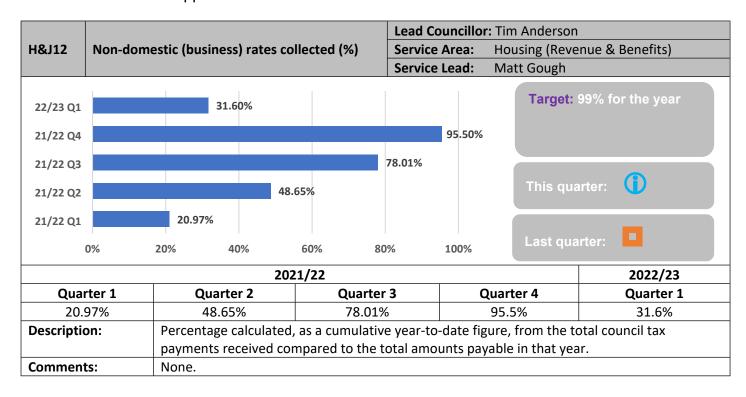


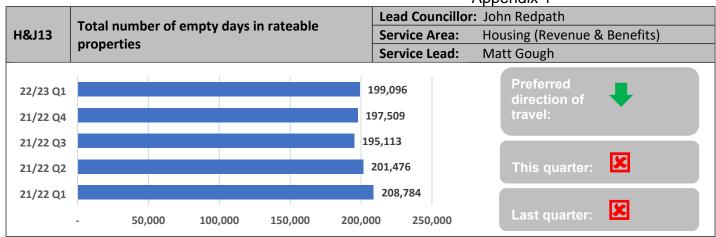
2021/22			2022/23	
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1
2.7%	2.2%	2.0%	1.8%	1.6%
Description:	The claimant count is the number of people claiming benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed. Data shown is for the month at the end of each quarter. Comparison provided for Guildford, South-East and Great Britain. Data provided by the ONS.			
Comments:	There is a 1-2 month lag on reporting.			



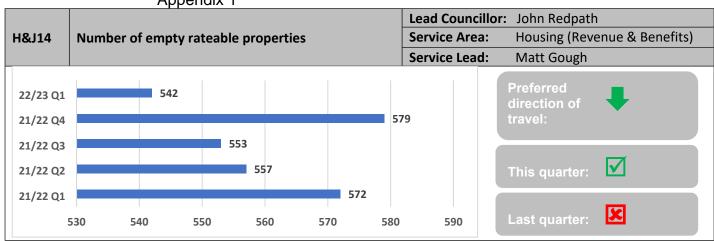
	2021/22			
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1
£3,221,935/	£3,153,800/	£3,117,575/	£3,098,497/	£3,032,510/
£2,644,936	£2,626,198	£2,612,091	£2,606,121	£2,626,421
Description:	the number of claiman pension age (shown in above are the amounts	ort claimants are defined a ts, and split between work blue above). In a normal yo granted so far this year ur e to the elapsed year so fai	ing age (shown in oran ear this declines slightl ntil the end of the finan	ige above) and y over the year. The
Comments:	the amounts that relate to the elapsed year so far). 2022/23 – Quarter 1: When Council Tax increases the amount of LCTS also increases. Comparison is therefore with 1 April figures and not the previous year outturn. During the year the trend is generally down, with an upward trend indicating economic difficulties and an additional cost for both GBC and SCC. This was a COVID monitor. 1 April 2022 figures were Working Age £3,107,521 Pension Age £2,658,808.			



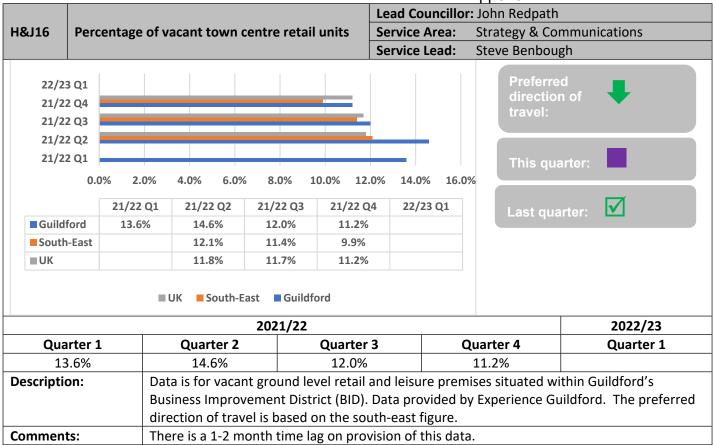


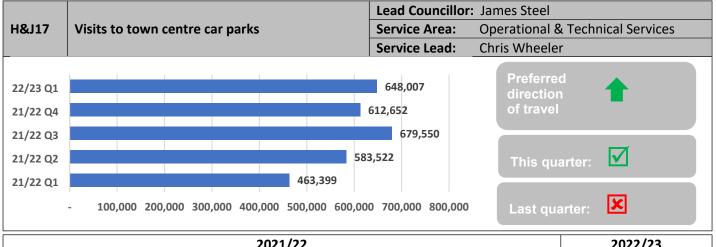


	2021/22				
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	
208,784	201,476	195,113	197,509	199,096	
Description:	Snapshot data: this is t	he total number of emp	ty days for the financial	year on the last day of	
	the quarter (i.e. it assu	mes a lot of empty days	in future, which may no	ot happen).	
Comments:	2022/23 – Quarter 1:				
			·	indicate the number of	
	empty business proper	ties in the Borough base	ed on rating records.		
	H&J14 indicates that the	ne number of empty pro	perties has decreased fi	rom 579 to 542. This is	
		the number of empty pr			
	another.				
		er of empty days for all			
		e empty for longer. This			
		s that the property will be not the comes occupied agon		·	
	, ,	pe empty until 31 March		· · ·	
		as reoccupied on 20 July		days. by the cha of Q2	
Action Taken to	There is no direct action required of the Service to reduce levels, but this will be affected by				
Improve	wider national and loca	al work around regenera	ition and the economy.		
Performance:					

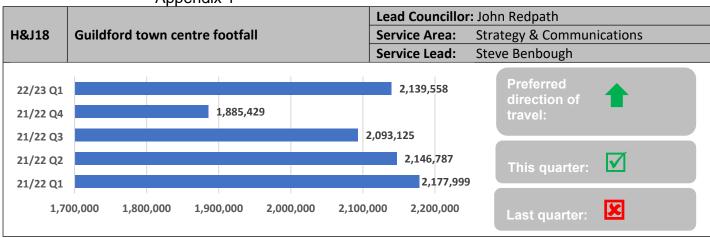


	2021/22						
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1			
572	557	553	579	542			
Description:	Snapshot data: these ar	Snapshot data: these are the properties showing as empty on the system on the last day of					
	the quarter.						
Comments:	2022/23 – Quarter 1:						
		These measures were introduced as COVID monitors. They attempt to indicate the number of empty business properties in the Borough based on rating records.					
	H&J14 indicates that the number of empty properties has decreased from 579 to 54 a snapshot comparing the number of empty properties on one day to the number of another.						
	H&J13 totals the number of empty days for all properties across the year and indicates whether properties are empty for longer. This measure is most accurate in Q4. In Q1 the assumption for rating is that the property will be empty for the rest of the financial year and this only changes when it becomes occupied again. A property falling empty on 29 June would be assumed to be empty until 31 March at the end of Q1 – 276 days. By the end of Q2 we may know that it was reoccupied on 20 July after only 22 days.						
Action Taken to	There is no direct action	required of the Servi	ce to reduce levels, but t	his will be affected by			
Improve	wider national and loca	l work around regener	ration and the economy.				
Performance:							



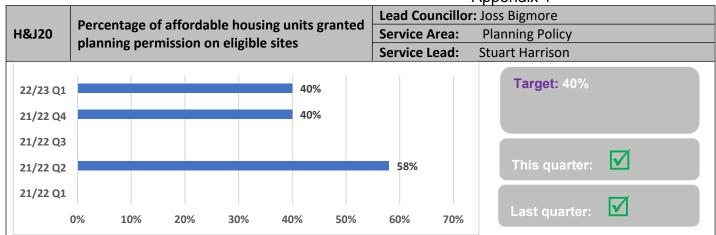


	2022/23					
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1		
463,399	583,522	679,550	612,652	648,007		
Description:	Ticket sales for town cer	Ticket sales for town centre car parks.				
Comments:	None.					

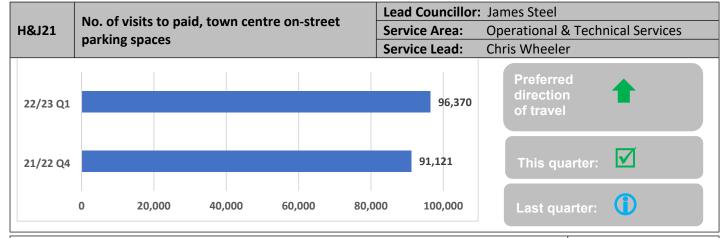


	2022/23					
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 1				
2,177,999	2,146,787	2,093,125	1,885,428	2,139,558		
Description:	heads passing a beam a House of Fraser). Data	Footfall across High Street and North Street combined (this is an industry standard measure of heads passing a beam across the street; one in front of M&S and the other at the rear of House of Fraser). Data provided by Experience Guildford. The indicator is impacted by a wide range of external factors and is not a direct measure of the Council's own performance.				
Comments:	None.	·				

				Lead Coun	cillor: Ju	ılia McShane	
H&J19	Domestic Abuse Victims prioritised for Housing		Service Are	ea: H	ousing		
				Service Lea	ad: ∨	latt Gough	
Data not	available fo	r Q1 2022/23				Preferred direction of travel:	Data Only
						This quarter	
						Last quarter	
		2021	1/22				2022/23
Qua	rter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter	3	Qua	rter 4	Quarter 1
	15	8					
Description	on:	Successful Prevention or Relief for homeless cases, where the applicant has either: domestic abuse recorded as 'reason for loss of last settled address' or 'at risk of / has experienced domestic abuse' recorded as a support need. There is a 2-3 month time lag on reporting figures which require approval from the DLUHC					
		(Dept. for Levelling Up	, Housing & Co	ommunities).	•		
Commen	ts:	2022/23 - Quarter 1: Data not available as it	t is pending ap	proval from	DLUHC.		



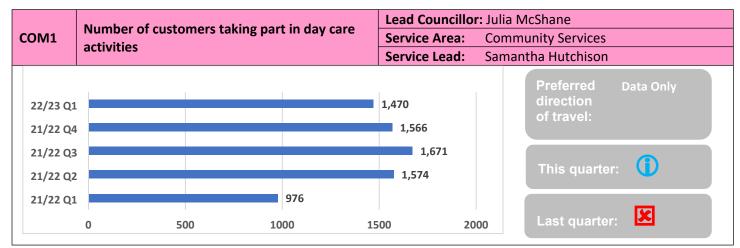
	2022/23				
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 1			
n/a	58%	n/a	40%	40%	
Description:	Percentage of affordable housing units granted planning permission on eligible sites.				
Comments:	2022/23 - Quarter 1: There were four permissions on qualifying sites during Q1 and all achieved policy compliant 40% for affordable housing.				



	2022/23				
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 1			
n/a	n/a	n/a	91,121	96,370	
Description:	Visits to paid, town centre on-street parking spaces. New PI for 2022/23.				
Comments:	None.				

5.3 Community

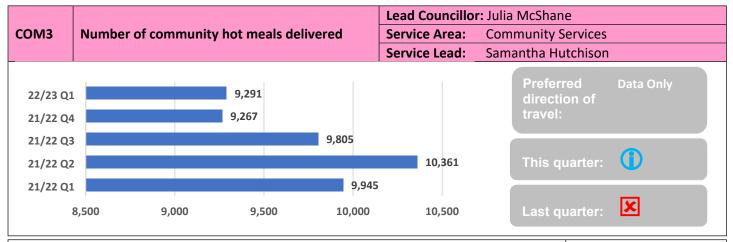
This section includes all performance indicators with a broad community theme.



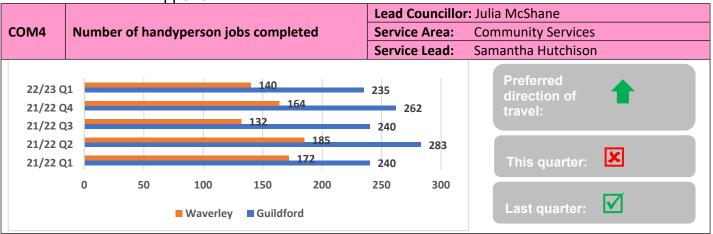
	2021/22					
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1		
976	1,574	1,671	1,566	1,470		
Description:	_	Includes activities taking place at all day centres and activity packages delivered to customer homes. From 2022/23 this PI will be recorded as Data Only as it is a measure of demand, rather than a target				
Comments:	availability of social care We are now using the H	Attendance to the day centre by our older residents is dependent on many factors including the availability of social care funded spaces. We are now using the Hive for intergenerational activities regularly and during these activities see on average an extra 70 family visits per term time, which are not included in these figures.				



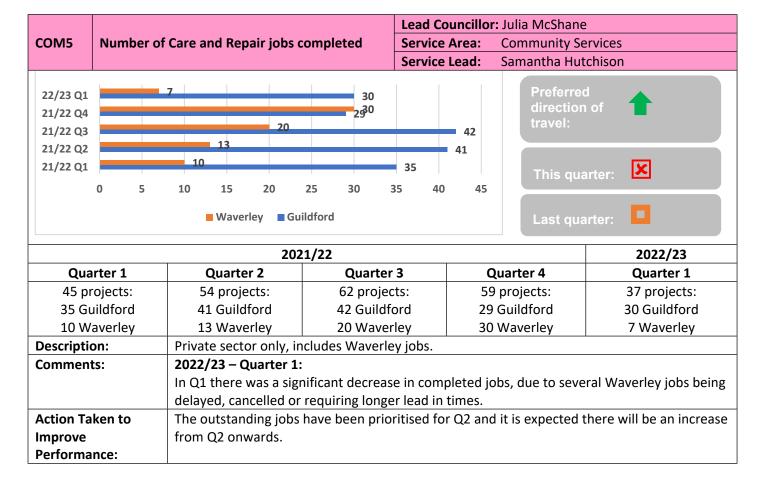
	202	1/22		2022/23
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1
2,113	3,791	2,748	3,654	3,341
Description:	Includes all journeys of	completed by Communit	y Transport. For examp	le, trips to medical
	appointments, comm	unity centres, supermar	kets etc. A return journ	ey is classed as two single
	trips.			
Comments:	In Community Transp	ort we are currently thre	ee full time drivers dow	n due to two people
	retiring and one mem	ber of the team moving	to another area of GBC	within a month of each
	other, which means t	hat we have had less cap	pacity for journeys.	
Action Taken to	The recruitment proc	ess is very lengthy, but t	wo new transport drive	rs started on 1/08/22 and
Improve	we finished interview	ing for the third transpo	rt position and the vaca	nt meals position on
Performance:	27/07/22 with a view	to offering the successf	ul candidates a position	. DBS and health checks
	need to be completed	d to come back before th	ney start. Once all the p	ositions are filled and new
	staff have been traine	ed to the level of operati	ng on their own, our ca	pacity will increase again.

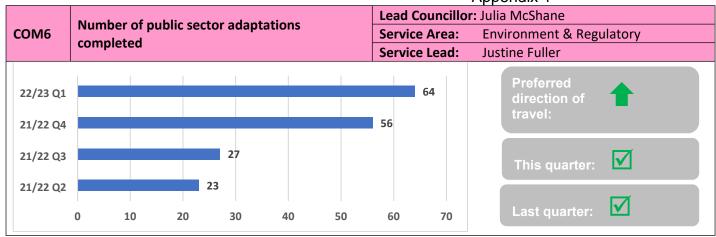


	2022/23					
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 1				
9,945	10,361	9,805	9,267	9,291		
Description:	our day centres. From	Includes community meals delivery service as well as meals ordered by day care customers at our day centres. From 2022/23 this PI will be recorded as Data Only as it is a measure of demand, rather than a target.				
Comments:	None.					

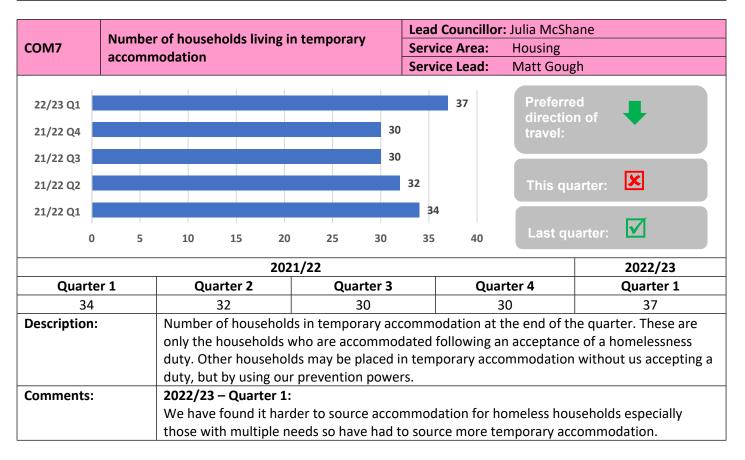


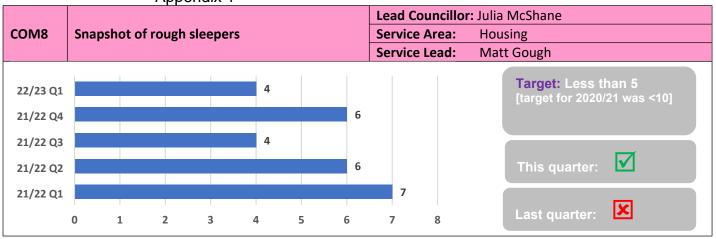
	2021/22					
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 3 Quarter 4			
240 Guildford	283 Guildford	240 Guildford	262 Guildford	235 Guildford		
172 Waverley	185 Waverley	132 Waverley	164 Waverley	140 Waverley		
Description:	Number of handypers	Number of handyperson jobs completed.				
Comments:	2022/23 – Quarter 1:					
	The jobs completed in Q1 were larger jobs such as installing galvanised rails which takes up more time than the smaller jobs such as grab rails. There have also been some staff shortages in the depot which has also had an impact.					
Action taken to	The Operations Lead a	advised that they still ha	ve 2 vacancies but are I	ooking to recruit in the		
Improve	near future.	near future.				
Performance						





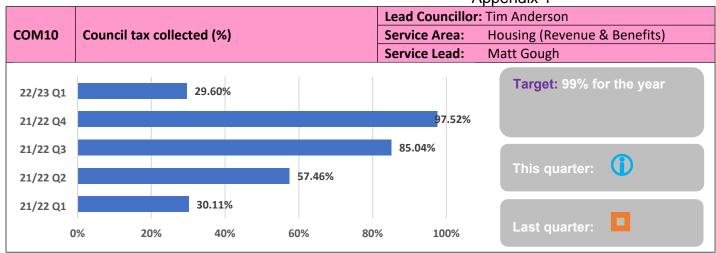
	2022/23				
Quarter 1	Quarter 1				
24	23	27	56	64	
Description:	Number of public sector adaptations completed. Public sector only, includes Waverley jobs.				
Comments:	None.				



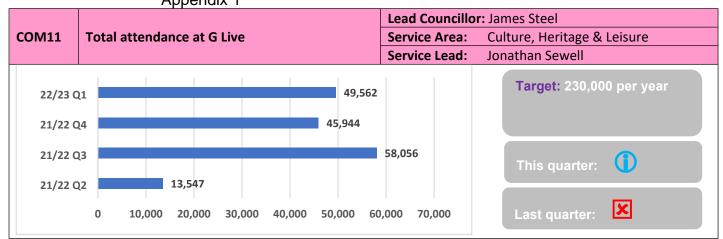


	2022/23				
Quarter 1	Quarter 1 Quarter 2 Quarter 3 Quarter 4				
7	6	4	6	4	
Description:	These figures are intelligence-based estimates relating to a specified date each quarter. HOST collate information based on their caseload, rough sleeper outreach and multi-agency feedback received.				
Comments:	None.				

			Lead Councillor: Julia McShane		
COM9 Number	per of successful homelessness outcomes		Service Area	a: Housing	
			Service Lead	d: Matt Gough	
Data not availabl	e for Q1 22/23			Target: to relief This qua	arter:
	20	21/22			2022/23
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter	. 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1
38/29	32/32	34/31		34/33	
		(subject to [DLUHC (s	ubject to DLUHC	
		confirmat	ion)	confirmation)	
Description:	Successful preventio			•	ı
Comments:	2022/23 – Quarter 1				
	Data not available as		nroval from C	ITIHC	



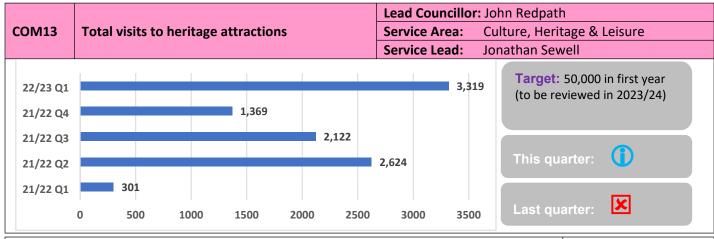
	202	1/22		2022/23		
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1		
30.11%	57.46%	85.04%	97.52%	29.6%		
Description:	_	Percentage calculated, as a cumulative year-to-date figure, from the total of council tax payments received compared to the total amounts payable in that year.				
Comments:	2022/23 – Quarter 1: Council Tax collection is not as high as we would like at this point in the year (between 30–31% would be better). The reasons are threefold: (1) Resourcing issues in the Service Delivery Case Team mean that amendments and enquiries are not dealt with as quickly as we would like. Delays inevitably lead to instalments being due over less instalments and payments being profiled to be received later in the year. (2) We are using members of the Revenues and Benefits Specialist Team to deliver the government's £150 Council Tax Energy					
Action Taken to improve	Rebate, reducing their capacity to carry out debt recovery tasks. (3) The economy. We should have a clearer picture at the end of Q2 when the Energy Rebate will be substantially complete. We monitor monthly allowing us to see if the situation is improving.					
Performance:	Sabstantiany complete	e. We monitor monthly	anowing as to see it the	e steadtion is improving.		



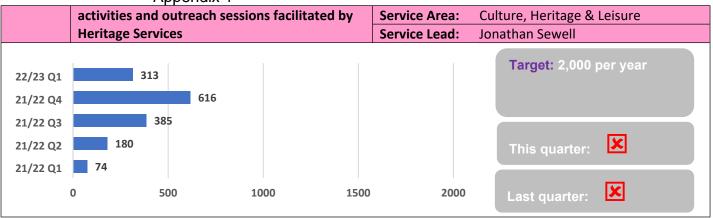
2021/22				2022/23	
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	
-	13,547	58,056	45,944	49,562	
Description:	Ticket sales plus estim	ates of other events. Da	ata provided from HQ T	heatres. HQ Theatres	
	data collection is approximately 2 months behind and will be a year to date figure reported				
	on a quarterly basis. For 2022-23 a cumulative total will be provided each quarter.				
Comments:	2022/23 – Quarter 1:				
	Some events are not a	ittracting the same num	bers pre-covid, this is p	articularly true of	
	events targeted towar	ds an older demograph	ic. The numbers are im	proving as confidence	
	returns to the market.				
Action Taken to	HQ Theatres fully expe	ect the target attendance	ces to be achieved and v	we are expecting a	
Improve	business case to be submitted for an enhanced catering offer at the site which will further				
Performance:	support the programme as the impact of the pandemic recedes.				



	2021/22			2022/23	
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 4	Quarter 1		
233,017	420,956	1,055,676	1,456,036	Spectrum: 348,584	
				Lido: 16,488	
				Ash Manor: 16,071	
Description:	Ticket sales plus estimates of other events (includes door counters and booking sources).				
	Data provided from Fre	eedom Leisure. Freedo	m Leisure data collection	on is around 2 months	
	behind. For 2022-23 a	cumulative total will be	e provided each quarte	r.	
Comments:	2022/23 – Quarter 1:				
	The new gym at Ash Manor is encouraging members to return. The new wellbeing area			new wellbeing area is	
	popular with customers at Spectrum and class numbers are improving as a result. The				
	numbers for gym membership and classes are still recovering from the impact of covid,				
however they are going in the right direction.				,	



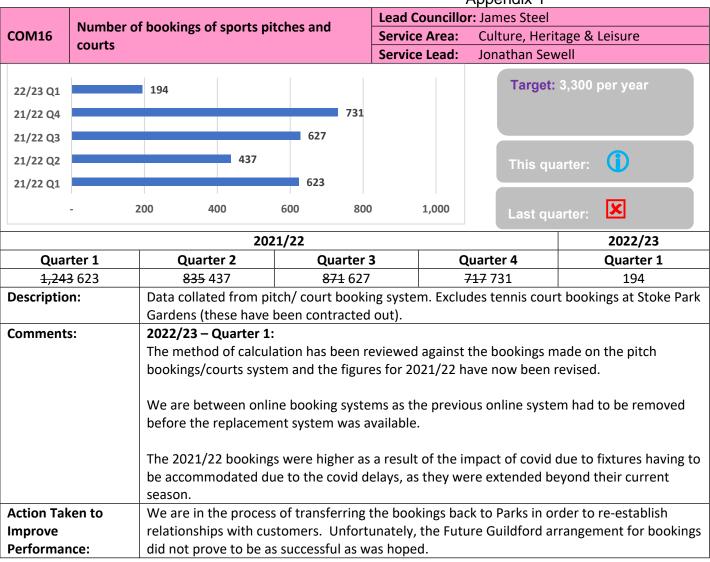
2021/22				2022/23
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1
301	2,624	2,122	1,369	3,319
Description:		Q1 2022/23. Total visits	•	•
	Guildford House, the Museum and the Undercroft. Data is collected through manual visitor counts and/ or door counters. Includes school/ group visits to each attraction. For 2022-23 a cumulative total will be provided each quarter.			
Comments:	Currently all attractions are operating on reduced opening days/ times which will be considered within the Heritage review.			
Action Taken to Improve Performance: The heritage service is under review at present and will include the promotion and marketing of events. It will also address the resource issues associated with some of the heritage venues such as the Guildhall. Significant maintenance works will have been completed particularly at Guildford House Gallery facilitating more community visits to the venue.				
COM14 Number of people participating in events age 51 Lead Councillor: John Redpath				

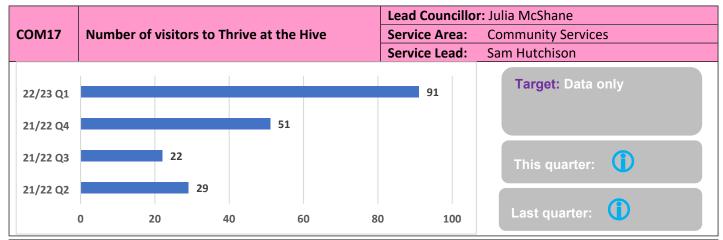


	2021/22					
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1		
74	180	385	616	313		
Description:	Participation in 'in pers	Participation in 'in person' and virtual sessions. Participants are recorded by facilitators and				
	through bookings. Sessions in the Victorian School Room sessions are also included. For 2022-					
	23 a cumulative total will be provided each quarter.					
Comments:	2022/23 – Quarter 1:					
	Due to limited resources, we are operating a reduced schedule of events, activities and outreach sessions. This is being considered as part of the Heritage review.					
Action Taken to	Heritage Services is currently under review.					
Improve		•				
Performance:						

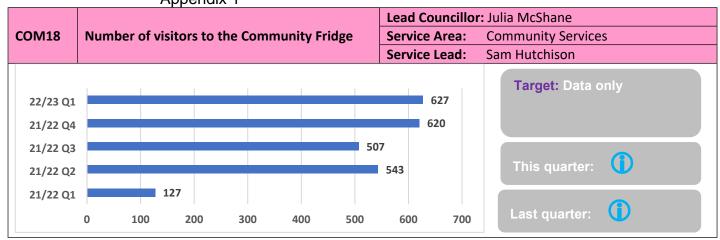


	2022/23				
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	
653,000	421,912	296,685	362,983	215,509	
Description:	Based on counters at Stoke Park Gardens, Castle Grounds, Chantry Wood, Riverside Nature Reserve and Westnye Gardens. Target revised from 2022/23 to reflect visitor numbers more accurately. For 2022-23 a cumulative total will be provided each quarter.				
Comments:	None.				

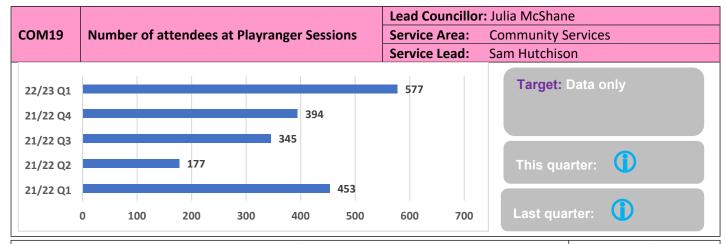




	2021/22				
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	
n/a	29	22	51	91	
Description:	Thrive at the Hive provides a space for individuals and families to get good quality pre-loved clothing, homeware, and toys. Everything is donated by the community and is available on a pay-as-you-feel basis. This means you can give as much or as little as you like for items. All donations go back into community projects.				
Comments:	None.				



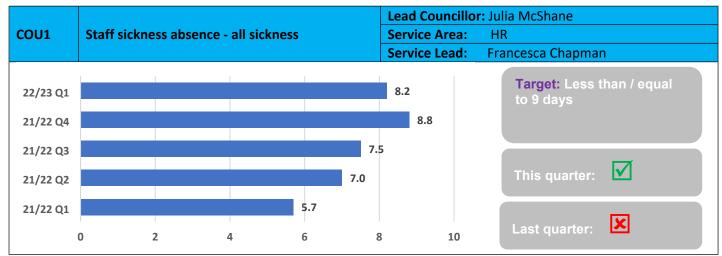
	2022/23				
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	
127	543	507	620	627	
Description:	Situated at the Hive, the Community Fridge is open for everyone. The fridge reduces food waste in the borough and celebrates sharing of quality food.				
Comments:	None.				



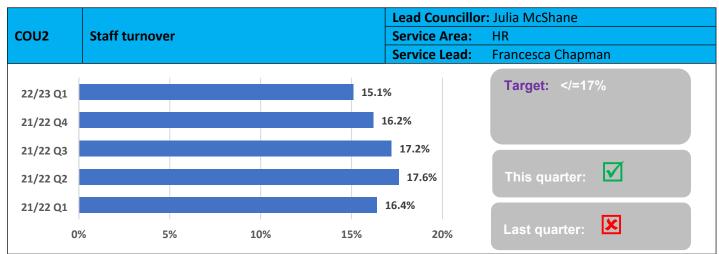
	2022/23				
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	
453	177	345	394	577	
Description:	Playrangers is a project which encourages children to play freely outdoors. All children between the age of 8 and 12 are welcome to join the free sessions that are held after school in five locations around Guildford.				
Comments:	Attendances can be expected to vary by season.				

5.4 Council

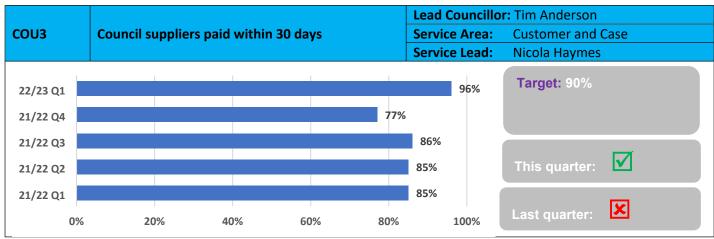
This section includes all performance indicators with a broad Council theme.



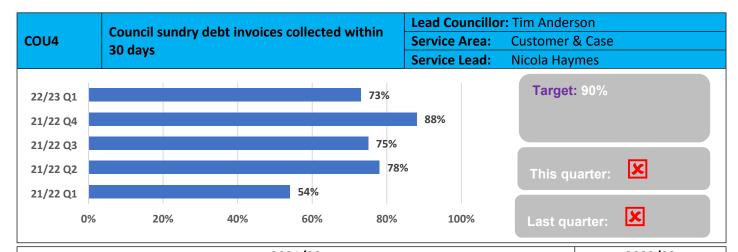
2021/22				2022/23	
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	
5.7 days	7.0 days	7.5 days	8.8 days	8.2 days	
Description:	calculated by the nun	Rolling year to date number of working days/ shifts lost due to sickness absence. This is calculated by the number of long- and short-term sickness absence days divided by the number of full-time equivalent staff.			
Comments:	2022/23 – Quarter 1: Target revised from 2022/23 as it was artificially low during Covid because of homeworking and isolation. We will continue to monitor absence levels and check that these are broadly reflective of the national local government sickness absence levels.				



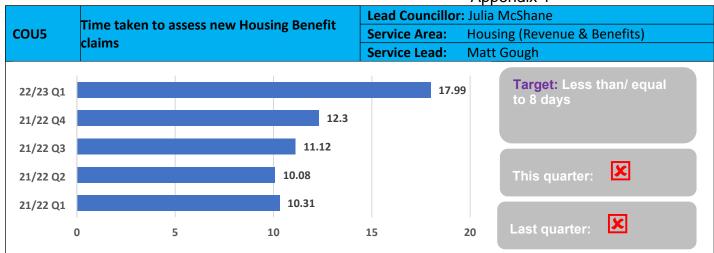
2021/22				2022/23	
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	
16.4%	17.6%	17.2%	16.2%	15.1%	
Description:	This is a rolling year-to	This is a rolling year-to-date figure calculated from the total number of staff leaving			
	(voluntarily and non-v	(voluntarily and non-voluntary) as a percentage of total staff in post.			
Comments:	2022/23 – Quarter 1:	2022/23 – Quarter 1:			
	The target has been in	creased for 2022/23	due to the Guildford/Wa	averley collaboration.	



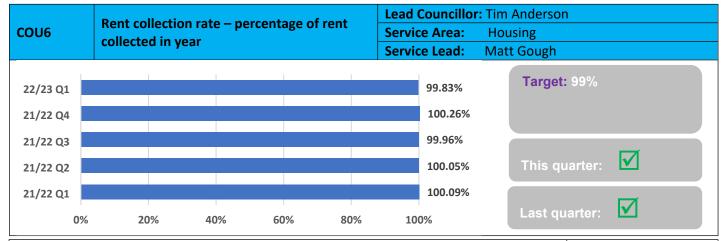
2021/22				2022/23	
Quarter 1	Quarter 1				
85%	85%	86%	77%	96%	
Description:	Percentage of Council	Percentage of Council suppliers paid within 30 days.			
Comments:	None.				



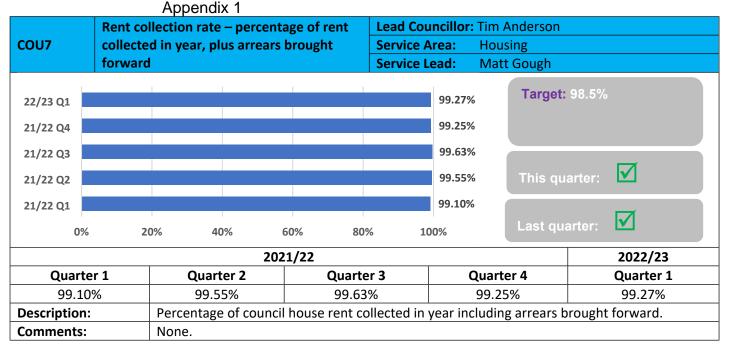
	2021/22				
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	
54%	78%	75%	88%	73%	
Description:	Percentage of sundry	debt owed to the Counc	cil collected within 30 da	ays.	
Comments:	2022/23 - Quarter 1:				
	The decrease on the previous quarter is not unexpected as customers would have been				
	paying invoices as part of settling financial years. Although a decrease, this % is on par or				
	better in comparison to other non end of year quarters.				
Action Taken to	We continue to actively chase debt, we are working to improve our reminder processes				
Improve	around outstanding debt and are working closely with services where the outstanding debt				
Performance:	is larger to help suppo	ort their recovery of this	•		

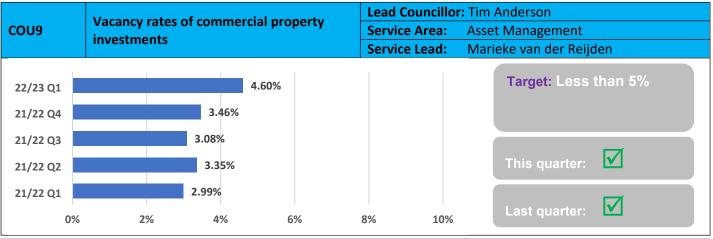


	2021/22					
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1		
10.31 days	10.08 days	11.12 days	12.3 days	17.99 days		
Description:	Days taken to process	Days taken to process new Housing Benefit claims.				
Comments:	2022/23 – Quarter 1: As reported in Q4 21/22 resourcing of the Service Delivery Case Team is still being addressed.					
Action Taken to Improve Performance:	Recruitment has been successful with one new starter in June and another in July. However, both need training as they have no benefits knowledge. The consequence is that in the short term one benefits assessor is training instead of assessing.					

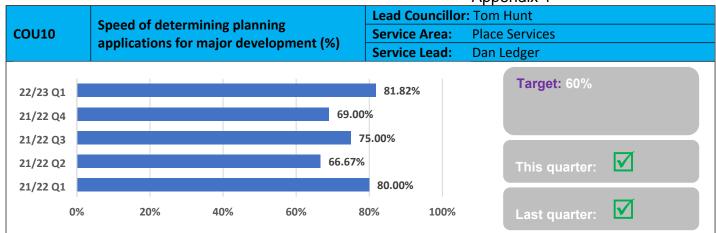


	2022/23				
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	
100.09%	100.05%	99.96%	100.26%	99.83%	
Description:	Percentage of council house rent collected in year.				
Comments:	None.				

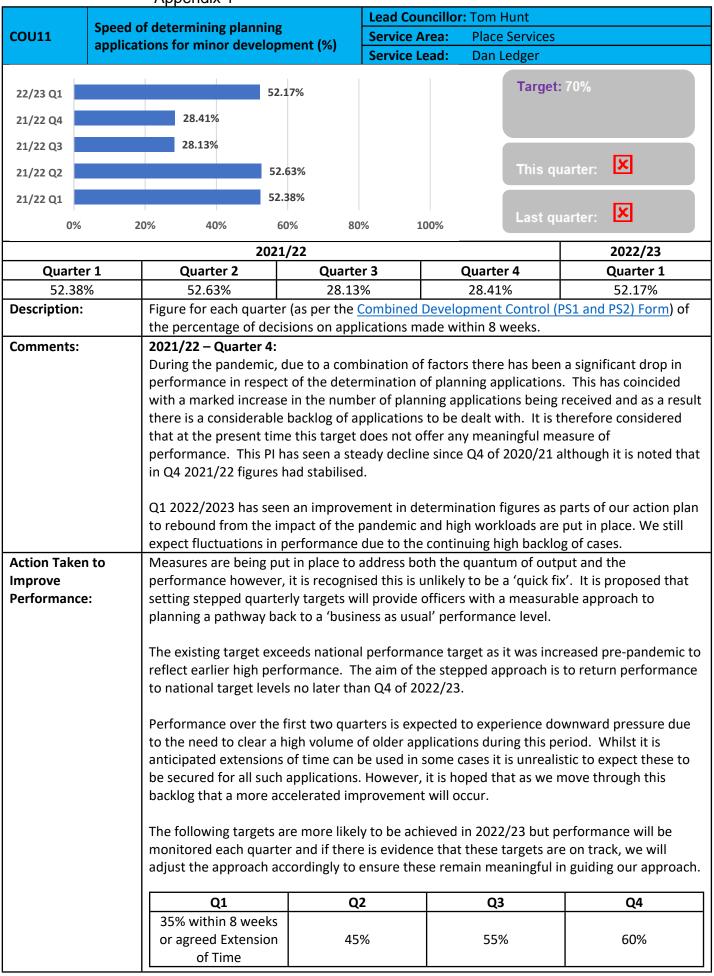


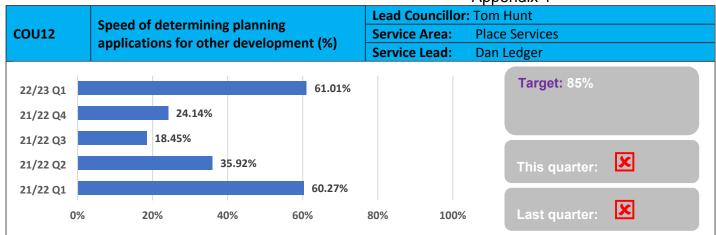


	2022/23					
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1		
2.99%	3.35%	3.08%	3.46%	4.6%		
Description:		Percentage vacancy rates based on days per property, excluding intentional voids. Incorporating the number of properties, potential and actual vacant days.				
Comments:	None.					

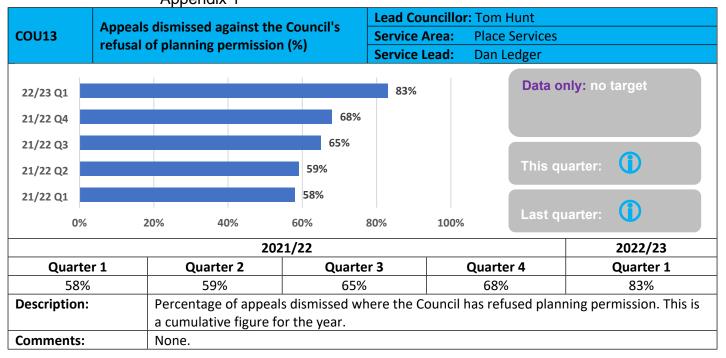


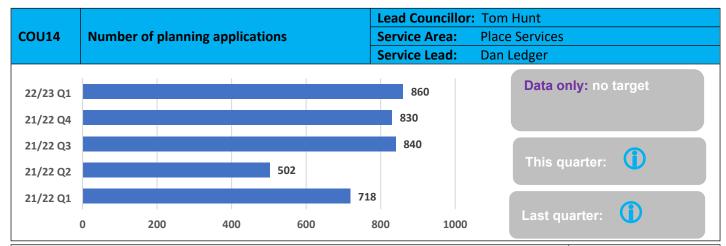
2021/22				2022/23		
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1		
80%	66.67%	75%	69%	82.82%		
Description:	Figure for each quarte	Figure for each quarter (as per the Combined Development Control (PS1 and PS2) Form) of				
	the percentage of decisions on applications made within 13 weeks.					
Comments:	None.					



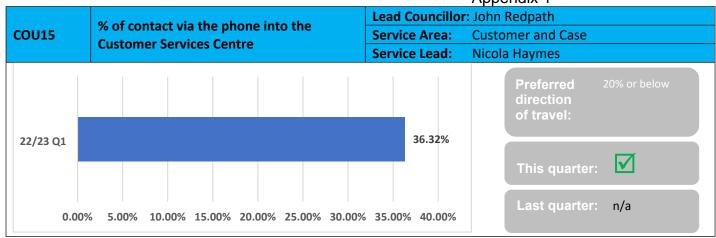


21/22 Q2	35.92%		This qu	arter:
21/22 Q1		60.27%		
0%	20% 40%	60% 80%	100% Last qu	arter:
	202:	1/22		2022/23
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1
60.27%	35.92%	18.45%	24.14%	61.01%
Description:			Development Control (PS1 and PS2) Form) of
_	<u> </u>	isions on applications m	nade within 8 weeks.	
Comments:	 2021/22 – Quarter 4: During the pandemic, due to a combination of factors there has been a significant drop in performance in respect of the determination of planning applications. This has coincided with a marked increase in the number of planning applications being received and as a result there is a considerable backlog of applications to be dealt with. It is therefore considered that at the present time this target does not offer any meaningful measure of performance. This PI has seen a steady decline since Q4 of 2020/21 although it is noted that in Q4 2021/22 figures had stabilised. Q1 2022/2023 has seen an improvement in determination figures as parts of our action plan to rebound from the impact of the pandemic and high workloads are put in place. We still 			
Action Taken to	· ·	•	e continuing high backlooth the quantum of out	
Improve Performance:	setting stepped quarter planning a pathway bath the existing target excreflect earlier high per to national target level. Performance over the to the need to clear a anticipated extensions be secured for all such backlog that a more as the following targets a monitored each quarter.	erly targets will provide ack to a 'business as ususeeds national performation of the aim of the second of the sec	ence target as it was income target as it was income the stepped approach is 022/23. Dected to experience doplications during this posome cases it is unreality, it is hoped that as we is the will occur. This will occur.	reased pre-pandemic to to return performance ownward pressure due eriod. Whilst it is stic to expect these to move through this
		1		
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	35% within 8 weeks or agreed Extension of Time	45%	65%	80%

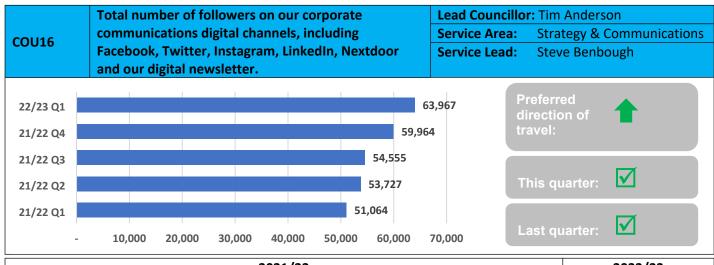




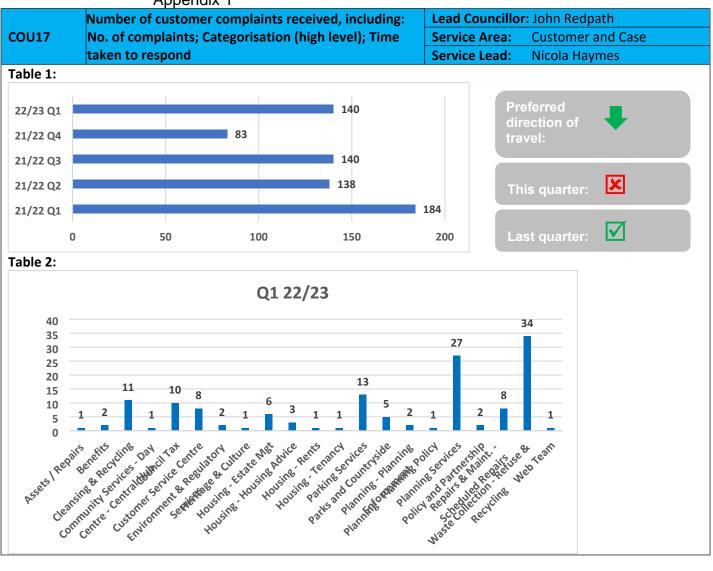
2021/22				2022/23	
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	
718	502	840	830	860	
Description:	Relates to number of planning applications validated during each quarter.				
Comments:	None. For comparison purposes, the total number of applications validated in 2020/21 was				
	2,317 and 2,890 in 2021/22.				



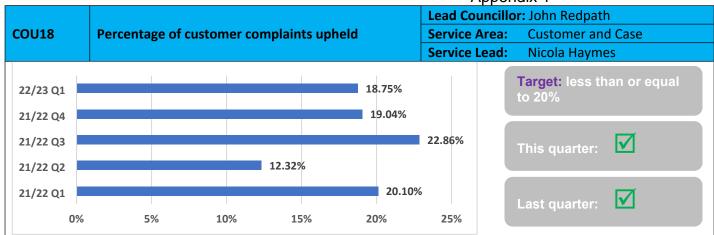
	2021/22				
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	36.32%	
Description:	New PI for 2022/23.				
Comments:	2022/23 – Quarter 1:				
	Our goal operating model is 20% phone contact, 75% digital and 5% online. The current stats				
	are a significant improvement compared to the past 6 months but is not yet at target. New				
	PI for 2022/23.				
Action taken to	Over Q1 there has bee	n substantial work to c	lear backlogs of online o	cases, meaning that	
improve	most cases are respon	ded to within advertise	ed timescales or faster th	nan previously. This	
Performance:	reduces the need for residents calling to chase online requests.				
	Work is continuing to promote channel shift with customers. We are undertaking customer user experience testing of our website to improve customer journeys and working with				
	services directly to imp	prove our customer jou	irneys and contacts.		



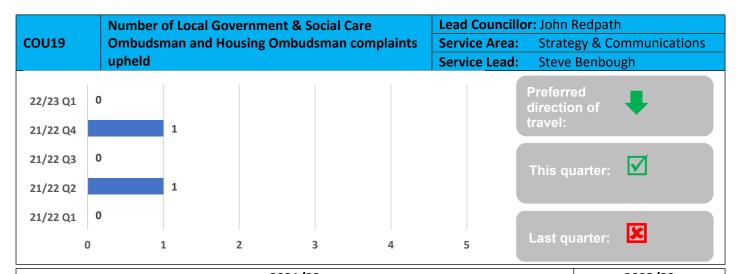
2021/22				2022/23
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1
51,064	53,727	54,555	59,964	63,967
Description:	Total number of social media followers across all platforms at the end of each quarter.			
Comments:	None.			



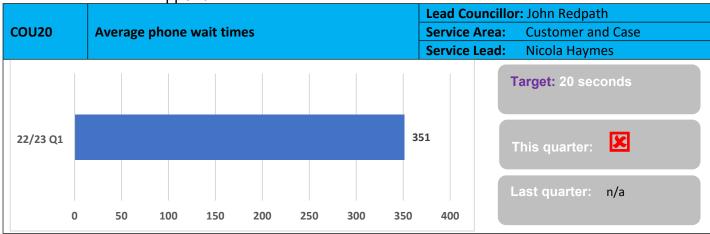
	2022/23			
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1
184	138	140	83	140
Description:	This includes complaints received through our formal complaints system (currently eCase). It excludes general enquiries received through the complaints system and specific enquiries which already have remedial action in place e.g. missed bin collections. All complaints are dealt with inside of 10 working days (as per our complaints process) unless an extended deadline has been given to the complainant. Table 1 shows the total number of complaints received each quarter. Table 2 provides a breakdown by service area of the complaints received.			
Comments:	2022/23 – Quarter 1: 54 out of 101 complaints were responded to within the standards set by our Policy. The remaining 39 complaints were given extensions of which the customer has been informed. These target response dates have not yet elapsed so have not been included in the % response rate for this quarter.			
Action Taken to Improve Performance:	The complaints policy has recently been refreshed and published on our website. From this we will be putting in place an action plan to ensure that staff are aware of the complaints policy, associated standards and procedures and importance of complaints and the potential learning from them.			



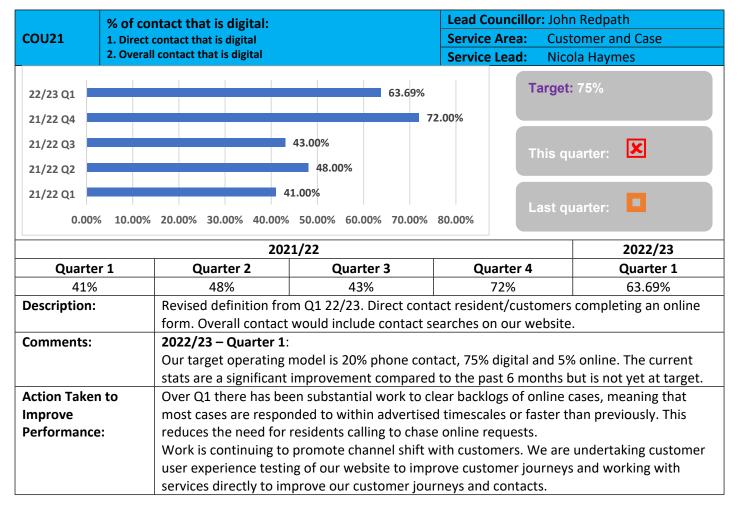
2021/22				2022/23	
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter1	
20.10%	12.32%	22.86%	19.04%	18.75%	
Description:	The data relates to the complaints upheld in each quarter; it does not include partially upheld complaints.				
Comments:	None.				

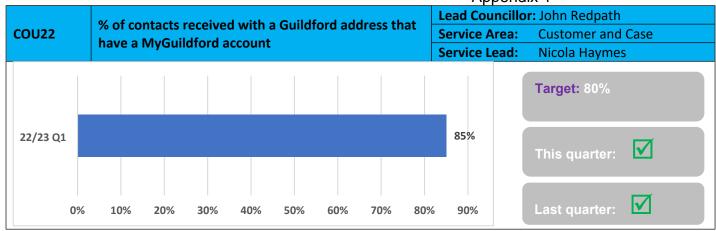


2021/22				2022/23	
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	
0	1	0	1	0	
Description:	Number of Housing Ombudsman (HO) and Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) complaints upheld.				
Comments:	2022/23 – Quarter 1: There were 6 complaints received during quarter 1 (2 HO and 4 LGSCO). 4 of the complain were not upheld and two remain open.				

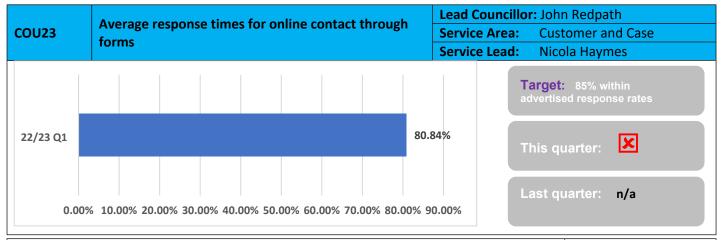


	2022/23					
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1		
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	351 secs		
				(5 mins 51 secs)		
Description:	New PI for 2022/23. Th	New PI for 2022/23. The average time for phone calls to be answered.				
Comments and:	2022/23 – Quarter 1:					
	The average call wait time is higher than we would like but has significantly improved					
	reducing by 6/7 minutes wait on average. Some phone lines still have a longer wait time. This					
	is because some calls such as council tax are complex.					
Action Taken to	We are in the process of cross training staff in the team to be able to align resource to busier					
Improve	call lines. We have also implemented a call back functionality to prevent customers from					
Performance:	waiting on phone lines	waiting on phone lines, all call backs are actioned within 24 hours. A review of our customer				
	services strategy needs to take place in 2022/23.					

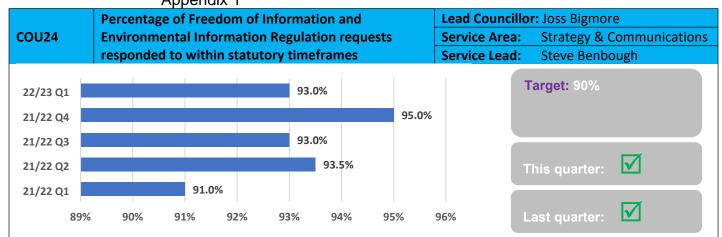




	2022/23				
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	
4,602	6,486	6,804	22,074	85%	
Description:	% of contacts received with a Guildford address that have a MyGuildford account. Revised definition and target for 2022/23.				
Comments:	2022/23 - Quarter 1: The target for 2021/22 was 10,000 within one year which was achieved in Q2 of 2021/22. The cumulative total in 2021/22 was 39,966.				



	2022/23				
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	80.84%	
Description:	New PI for 2022/23. A	New PI for 2022/23. Average response times for online contact through forms.			
Comments:	2022/23 – Quarter 1: 80.84% is the target for cases closed within our advertised response rates. This varies depending on the type of enquiry but the expected timescales are made clear to the customer on initial contact.				
Action Taken to Improve Performance:	We are currently cross training staff to be able to respond to more queries to improve response times and we continue to monitor progress daily. We are also working with other services to increase knowledge within customer services to allow them to respond to more enquiries as the first point of contact.				



2021/22				2022/23	
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	
91%	93.5%	93%	95%	93%	
Description:	Percentage of FOI/ EIR responses given within the statutory timeframe of 20 days.				
Comments:	Reporting lag of 1 month due to 20 working day deadline (some FOIs will still be within their				
	due date after the month ends).				

6. Conclusion

This report shows that for this quarter the number of quarterly PIs that are showing a positive green or amber rating has dropped to 35.9% which is a decrease of less than 1% on quarter 4, although the number of green PIs increased by 1 in Q1. 29.7% of PIs were off track, or not meeting targets, which is a decrease of 13.6% since the last quarter. For all PIs showing a red rating, Service Leads are required to provide information within the commentary about what actions they are taking to recover the PI performance.

Those PIs which, for quarter 1, were rated as 'no data' (i.e. no data was submitted for this report) made up 10.9% of all PIs, which showed an increase of 9.2% on quarter 4. The primary reason for the lack of data submission was due to time lags in receiving data and data requiring approval by external sources. This figure will reduce from Q2 onwards once data is provided.



Overview and Scrutiny Report

Ward(s) affected: All

Report of Director of Community Wellbeing

Author: Nicola Haymes, Interim Head of Customer and Case Services

Tel: 01483 444500

Email: nicola.haymes@guildford.gov.uk

Lead Councillor responsible: Councillor John Redpath

Tel: 01483 533448

Email: john.redpath@guildford.gov.uk

Date: 13 September 2022

Customer Services: Performance and Progress update

Executive Summary

The Overview and Scrutiny committee requested an update on the performance and progression of Customer Services. This report provides an overview of this and invites comments.

Recommendation to Committee

That the Committee be invited to comment on this report

Reason(s) for Recommendation:

The committee has asked to review the performance and progression of customer services improvement as part of its work programme.

Is the report (or part of it) exempt from publication?

No

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The report provides an update on the performance and progression of customer services at Guildford Borough Council since the implementation of Future Guildford.

2. Strategic Priorities

- 2.1 Customer services is at the heart of what we do at Guildford Borough Council, acting as the front door to the Council for our residents.
- 2.2 Customer services contributes to the Council's values of listening to the views of our residents and delivering excellent customer service.

3. Background

- 3.1 As part of the Future Guildford programme, the customer service team increased its remit significantly. The team became the front door for all enquiries into the Council, bringing together areas that were previously within the services themselves, increasing the knowledge and skills required to do the role. At full capacity the team is 21 FTE, however with ongoing vacancies we usually run at an average of 17-18 FTE.
- 3.2 Recruitment issues mean that we have struggled to reach the number of customer service advisors required to take on this new service. This was coupled with a significant training requirement, organisational changes in other areas that increased customer contact and new systems and processes in place at the same time which meant that the service offered to our residents did not meet the standards that our customers expect and deserve. There were also changes of management within the service that created further disruption.
- 3.3 Since January 2022 an action plan has been in place to improve our customer services offering both digitally and on the phone. This report provides an update on the progress of this and the current performance of the service.

4. Our strategy and target operating model

- 4.1 Our customer engagement strategy, corporate customer charter and target operating model set out our goals and shape how we approach customer service at the Council.
- 4.2 The strategy also sets out our target operating model of customer contact 75% of customer transactions undertaken online, 20% via the telephone and 5% face to face.
- 4.3 Our corporate customer charter sets out our promise to our customers and our target response times for customer contact. The charter is published on the external website Corporate Customer Charter Guildford Borough Council

5. Customer and Digital improvement Tactical Plan

5.1 In January 2022, a tactical action plan was put in place to drive improvements to our customer service across the Council.

- 5.2 The plan is based around five key themes: engage and collaborate, digital first, policies and strategies, improving our service, and working with councillors.
- 5.3 One of the key areas of focus has been on improving our response rate to both telephone calls and online cases for customers. At the beginning of the year we know that there were unacceptably long waits for customers to receive responses either to online queries or whilst on the phone. We have taken a range of steps to improve this.
- 5.4 We took the decision to reduce our phone operating hours by one hour in April 2022. This was not a decision that was taken lightly but was done to allow us to be able to cross train staff so that we could add more resilience to phone lines and online queries by having more staff trained to answer a range of queries and to allow us to be able to assign staff to enquiry lines with the highest volume as required.
- 5.5 Having more online contact from customers does mean that we have to change the way we operate and dedicate time to responding to online cases in the same way that we would to other forms of customer contact. The reduced phone hours has allowed the team the time to manage online contact and respond to customers within 2 working days, often faster, in many cases removing the need for customers to follow up with phone calls.
- The reduced call time was implemented in our quietest time of customer contact and we have received no feedback that this is a detriment to customers but we will continue to monitor feedback. The statistics show that we are receiving similar average call numbers even with reduced opening times and an out of hours service is available for customers if needed. However the changes we have been able to make by reducing the phone hours has had a positive impact on our average call wait times and responses to online cases.
- 5.7 The changes we have made have meant the average wait time on the phone has reduced and online enquires average response time has increased to contact being made in general within 2 working days. More detailed statistics are available in Appendix 1. There are still improvements that we can make and will strive to do so but we are confident that the changes we have made will help us to do that.
- In January 2022, we also implemented a call back function that allows residents to request a call back rather than wait on hold. Since going live the team have made over 3000 call backs, the majority within 24 hours of the original call, and feedback from customers has been extremely positive. We are looking to further develop this service by reducing the amount of time a customer is on hold prior to the call back option being offered.
- 5.9 We fully acknowledge that customer service at the Council is not just the customer service team, but all teams and functions within the council have a role to play. To help support this we have been working closely with service leads and all services to improve training, improve the sharing of information and in some cases staff have been "loaned" to the programme from other departments to help

make improvements to the customer experience in those areas, particularly waste and recycling.

6. Our Digital Offering and Customer Engagement

- 6.1 Our digital offering is crucial to supporting those customers who are digitally enabled to be able to access our information and support 24/7, at a time that is most convenient to them. Over the past 8 months we have been working to improve and refine our customers digital journeys.
- 6.2 MyGuildford is our online customer portal that allows customers to log and track customer requests, pay for services and link their council tax and benefits information so that it can be viewed in one place. Our initial target was to have 10,000 customers signed up to MyGuildford accounts in the first year. As of the 31 July 2022 there are 43,416 customers registered for a MyGuildford account which equates to 85% of customers who have contacted us.
- 6.3 It is important that our digital offering is fit for purpose so to ensure this we have been undertaking customer insight testing of our current digital offering. This has been in person at Guildford library and online via testing on our website. Customers were asked to undertake real life scenarios and show how they would find information on our website. Ninety residents attended the library user testing and a further 310 people undertook the online testing. This has given us an insight on how customers navigate and search the website providing us with crucial information to help improve customers digital journeys.
- 6.4 Other improvements to the website and customers digital journeys has included improving the search terms on the website to increase the click through rate to the right result first time, speech to text options, improved customer contact forms including knowledge based articles to help customers find the answers to their queries more quickly.
- 6.5 Further details on improvements made as part of the tactical plan can be found in Appendix 2.

7. Future Actions

- 7.1 We know that there is still more to do and further improvements we can make to improve the service we offer our customers. We will continue to strive for improvements and work with customers and councillors to ensure that what we are doing meets the needs of our residents.
- 7.2 Alongside service improvements many of our customer policies and strategies are approaching their renewal dates. We will be looking to develop these over the coming months to ensure our strategies and policies support our residents' needs and our operational delivery.

8. Consultations

8.1 The Lead Councillor responsible for Customer Services has been consulted on this report and approved its submission to the Committee.

9. Key Risks

- 9.1 Much of our current strategy and operational delivery is based on achieving a channel shift of customer contact towards our online services for those residents who are digitally enabled to do so. Without this there is a risk that customer service agents on the telephones will not be able to support the number of calls received or our residents who are not able to access support online.
- 9.2 The shift to online and social media customer contact over the past few years has significantly changed how customers interact with organisations and this applies to councils as well. If we continue to embrace the latest technologies, provide a reliable service through online contact and continue to actively seek customer feedback on our digital platforms to ensure they are fit for purpose then we should be able to achieve this channel shift.

10. Financial Implications

10.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

11. Legal Implications

11.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

12. Human Resource Implications

12.1 There are no human resources implications from this report.

13. Equality and Diversity Implications

13.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report. Any future changes to the service will have regard to the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) and may be subject to an equalities impact assessment.

14. Climate Change/Sustainability Implications

14.1 There are no climate change or sustainability implications arising from this report.

15. Suggested issues for overview and scrutiny

15.1 As requested as part of its work programme, this report gives the Committee the opportunity to comment on the progress and performance of customer service.

16. Summary of Options

16.1 None.

17. Conclusion

- 17.1 There have been significant changes at Guildford Borough Council that whilst embedding, had a negative impact on the service that we offered our customers and residents and we fell short of what was expected and deserved.
- 17.2 Significant changes have been made to our customer and digital services over the past 8 months and we are starting to see improvements in customer telephone wait times and uptake of our digital services.
- 17.3 We are not perfect and there is still more we can do to improve and we will continually strive to improve our performance ensuring that our residents are at the heart of everything we do, but we now have a much stronger foundation to build on as we move forward.

18. Background Papers

None

19. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Call and online customer contact statistics

Appendix 2 – Customer and Digital improvement plan

Appendix 1 – Call and online contact statistics through customer services (1 January – 31 July 2022)

Average call wait time by Month January – May 2022

Month	Average wait time
January 22	7m 8s
February 22	9m 12s
March 22	10m
April 22	5m 27s
May 22	6m 38s

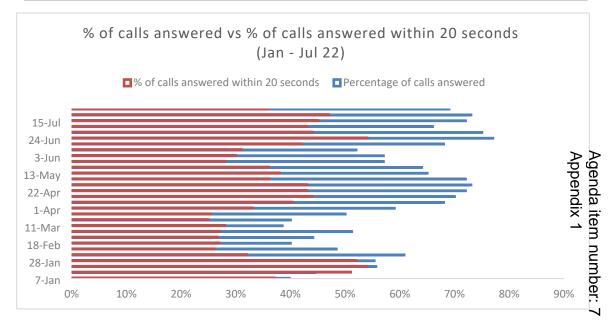
Detailed call wait time by week June – July 2022

Month	Average wait time
3 rd Jun	7m 46 s
10 th Jun	9m 03s
17 th Jun	5m 22s
24 th Jun	3m 32s
Average	6m 45s
1 st Jul	4m 33s
8 th Jul	5m 24s
15 th Jul	4m 30s
22 nd Jul	3m 59s
29 th Jul	5m 35s
Average	4m 48s

Council Tax calls remain the ne with the longest wait time with each call taking around 15mins to resolve. The monthly Council Tax cycle is often what impacts on call wait times.

Summary of contact Jan – July 2022

Customer Contact	Totals Jan- July
Weekly Average Calls Answered	1403
Total calls answered	41592
Most frequent call type	Council Tax - 8627
Total call backs completed	3050
Total number of customer cases created	71,001
	By phone – 22600
please note email contact was removed in January	By email – 2702
	By web form – 45,639
Total number of cases resolved within Service Level Agreement (SLA)	41,497 (58%)



This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda item number: 7 Appendix 2

Appendix 2 – Customer and Digital Improvement Plan January 2022 - Present

Area	Goal	What's happened so far	Outcomes to date
Engage and Collaborate	Embed a "think customer" approach to everything we do working as one organisation to support our customers at every stage	 Service leader Customer strategy session took place Cross service collaboration continues with staff "on loan" from specialist areas to work on improving customer journeys New starter training has included onsite visits to understand the full customer journey Customer insight user testing is underway at Guildford Library and Online Customer Service staff attending Housing tenant forums to share updates and gather feedback – articles now being included in tenants' newsletters to promote areas such as MyGuildford 	 400 people took part in the customer insight testing of the website Collaborative working has led to improvements to the online reporting form for customers for waste and recycling
Digital First	Embrace and embed digital options wherever possible to improve efficiencies	 Ongoing improvements to the Salesforce platform to make processes more efficient Search term improvement project has begun to get customers to the right place first time and remove ineffective searches Voice search on the website has been soft launched (in May) Customer touch point identification work has been scoped to check 	 There were 268,488 visits to the website (131,936 were unique visits)* - an increase of 36,000 visits compared to the previous period 3.9% increase on click through rates from the search up to 59.8% - this is customers who got to the

information they were

voice search

looking for from the search. • 1% of searches between

May – July have been via

associated policies

consistency, improve messaging and

Customer online journey refinement

work has started focusing on waste

sign posting for customers

and recycling first

Improving our Service	Ensure our service is being effectively measured and continuously improving	Please see Appendix 1	Please see Appendix 1
Working with Councillors	Working in collaboration with councillors to support residents with their enquiries	 The first digital newsletter for councillors has been circulated Monthly meetings take place with the lead councillor and other updates circulated as appropriate The first councillor signposting guide for waste and recycling has been circulated to all councillors A central point of contact for councillor customer service enquires has been setup to help ensure queries are responded to and directed to the best areas first time 	

This page is intentionally left blank

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report

Report of Joint Strategic Director of Transformation and Governance

Author: James Dearling, Senior Democratic Officer (Scrutiny)

Tel: 01483 444141

Email: james.dearling@guildford.gov.uk

Date: 13 September 2022

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Recommendation

That the Committee consider the overview and scrutiny work programme attached at Appendix 1 and determine its work plan.

Reason for Recommendation

To enable the Committee to review and agree its work programme for the coming months.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 As approved by Council, the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) includes the specific responsibility to approve the overview and scrutiny work programme to ensure that the Committee's time is used effectively and efficiently.
- 1.2 A well-planned overview and scrutiny function will help both officers and members plan their workloads as well as providing a clear picture to the public of planned activity. An effective work programme is the foundation for a successful overview and scrutiny function.
- 1.3 This report sets out the overview and scrutiny work programme as developed thus far for 2022-23.

2. Work Programme Meetings

2.1 In addition, Council has agreed that the OSC is responsible for setting its own work programme in accordance with the following procedure:

The chairmen and vice-chairmen of the OSC and the Executive Advisory Boards and relevant officers shall normally meet at least bi-monthly to exchange, discuss and agree proposed rolling 12-18 month work programmes for submission periodically to the OSC (in respect of the OSC work programme) and to the Executive Advisory Boards (in respect of the EAB work programmes) for approval. The proposed work programme for the OSC will be determined with reference to the P.A.P.E.R. selection tool, attached as Appendix 2 to these procedure rules [and as Appendix 2 to this report].

The chairman and vice-chairman of the OSC will ensure that all councillors are able to submit requests for alterations to the work programme for consideration at each of these work programme meetings.

Agenda item number: 8

- 2.2 The next work programme meeting of the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the OSC and the EABs is scheduled for 7 September 2022 with subsequent meetings arranged for 16 November 2022, 18 January 2023, and 15 March 2023.
- 2.3 Councillors are encouraged to attend a work programme meeting to explain in more detail their proposal, including how it fulfils the criteria outlined in the mnemonic P.A.P.E.R. (Public interest; Ability to change; Performance; Extent; and Replication).
- 2.4 In addition to the work programme meetings in section 2.2 above, Councillors can discuss and submit proposals to the OSC Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.
- 3.2 The Council's governance arrangements review of 2015 led to the introduction of a discretionary budget for overview and scrutiny, set at £5,000 per annum. It is envisaged that the work programme, as drafted, is achievable within the existing financial resource.

4. Human Resource Implications

- 4.1 There are no specific human resources implications. It is envisaged that the work programme, as drafted, is achievable within the existing resources.
- 4.2 Overview and scrutiny will call on relevant officers during the conduct of its reviews. Individual scoping reports will seek to take additional resource requirements into account when drafted.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 The Council has a statutory duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 which provides that a public authority must, in exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The relevant protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.
- 5.2 This duty has been considered in the context of this report and it has been concluded that there are no equality and diversity implications arising directly from this report. Future overview and scrutiny reviews will consider equality implications on a case-by-case basis.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no specific legal implications.

7. Climate Change/Sustainability Implications

7.1 There are no specific climate change / sustainability implications.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1 Developing a work programme for the overview and scrutiny function is an essential stage in the scrutiny process. An effective overview and scrutiny work programme identifies the key topics to be considered over the coming months. In addition, it is suggested that a well-developed programme ensures that the views of councillors, partners, the public, and external organisations are represented effectively in the process.
- 8.2 The Committee is requested to consider the work programme attached at Appendix 1 and determine its work plan.
- 8.3 For information, attached at Appendix 3 is the procedure which task and finish groups are expected to operate and report their findings in accordance with.

9. Background papers

None

10. Appendices

- 1. Overview and scrutiny work programme, September 2022
- 2. P.A.P.E.R. selection tool
- 3. Task group procedure [Appendix 4 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules within the Council's Constitution].



Overview & Scrutiny work programme, 2022-23

Overview & Scrutiny Committee items

18 October 2022 meeting

- Lead Councillor Question Session Councillor tbc
- Guildford & Waverley Councils Collaboration: update
- Safer Guildford Partnership Annual Report 2022
- Borough's response to refugees [not just from Ukraine, but Syria, Afghanistan, and elsewhere]
- Review of Council's Communications
- Procurement Annual Report (inc. annual reporting on Charter Against Modern Slavery)

8 November 2022 meeting

- Lead Councillor Question Session Councillor James Steel, Lead Councillor for Environment
- Guildford & Waverley Councils Collaboration: update
- Guildford's Air Quality Strategy [Minute OS37, 19 October 2021, refers]
- Operation of the Leisure Management contract, 2021-22
- Review of Dogbusters stray dog contract

17 January 2023 meeting

- Lead Councillor Question Session Councillor Tim Anderson, Lead Councillor for Resources
- Guildford & Waverley Councils Collaboration: update
- Annual report and monitoring arrangements for operation of the G-Live contract, 2021-22
- Performance Monitoring Report 2022-23 (Quarter 2)

28 February 2023 meeting

- Lead Councillor Question Session Councillor John Rigg, Lead Councillor for Regeneration
- Lead Councillor Question Session Councillor Tom Hunt, Lead Councillor for Development Management
- Guildford & Waverley Councils Collaboration: update
- Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service: update [Minute OS71, 25 April OSC refers]

Currently unscheduled items

- Regeneration
- Management of community assets
- Review of Older People's Services
- Visibility and transparency of asset disposals by the Council, including green spaces

Task and finish group

Title	Update
Affordable Housing	Membership: Cllrs Angela Gunning, Tony Rooth (Chair), Jo
	Randall, Ruth Brothwell, and Ramsey Nagaty. Evidence
	gathering sessions to be held with NDH Ltd and Lead
	Councillors. Report to Committee in 2022.

Agenda item number: 8 Appendix 2

P.A.P.E.R. topic selection tool

Public interest: concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen

Ability to change: priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically influence

Performance: priority should be given to areas in which the Council and Partners are not performing well

Extent: priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or a large part of the Borough

Replication: work programme must take account of what else is happening to avoid duplication or wasted effort

This page is intentionally left blank

TASK AND FINISH GROUP FLOWCHART

