

**KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S GROUP**

**Resources Executive Committee
21st March 2006**

**Report Number C/08/06
Performance Target Setting 2006 to 2009**

Report by Karen Cook, Policy Manager

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To adopt the National and Local Performance Targets for 2006 to 2009.

2.0 Financial, Staffing, Risk & Legal Implications

2.1 There are no potential staffing, financial, risk or legal implications arising out of this report.

3.0 Introduction

3.1 Attached with this report are the Performance Indicator targets proposed for the years 2006/07 to 2008/09. The council has for many years collected, monitored and reported its performance through the use of Performance Indicators. In many instances this has been through the use of statutory indicators or local indicators that services have chosen to adopt.

3.2 Since 2000 the council has been publishing its targets for the future along with the previous year actuals in the Best Value Performance Plan. This also shows comparative performance with other authorities to provide a useful source of information on how the council is performing overall and to put this in context at a national level.

3.3 As members are aware the requirement to publish the Best Value Performance Plan is the 30th June each year so that performance actual information can be included. The targets put forward to this committee are those proposed to be published in the next Best Value Performance Plan. They will however be adopted from April 2006.

3.4 The targets set out are in line with government guidance and local circumstance. The council has not yet received the statutory guidance on the targets to collect in 2006/07. Therefore as in previous years, late guidance and/or changes in circumstance has meant that one or two targets may change nearer to the publication date to ensure it is up to date.

3.5 The table below reflects how our indicators compare with the national data set between 2002/03 and 2004/05. The number of statutory indicators was greater in 2003/04 because of the General Opinion Survey.

	2002/03		2003/04		2004/05	
Quartile	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Top	20	54%	24	43%	19	40%
Above the median	7	19%	12	22%	20	43%
Below the median	7	19%	12	22%	5	11%
Bottom	3	8%	7	13%	3	6%
Total	37		55		47	

3.6 There were three bottom quartile indicators pertaining to resources in 2004/05. These were all benefits indicators:-

- BV 78a - The average time for processing new claims.
- BV78b - Notifications of changes in circumstances.
- BV79a – Accuracy of the calculation.

Members will record that they previously decided to increase investment in the service to deal with the performance issues. Progress has been monitored closely and the performance to December is as follows:-

BV78a 31.6 days against a target of 36 days. This will take us above the median.

BV78b 22.95 days against a target of 8.5 days. This indicator has continued to be of concern to officers. The department of Work and Pensions issued revised guidance on the calculation method. However despite Kennet District Council calculating the indicator using the revised guidance it has been clear that many authorities are not doing so. This has been confirmed by the Department of Works & Pensions (DWP) in their circular HB/CTB A3/2006. In which they state: “we are still not confident that the data we are receiving reflects the true position. Despite anecdotal evidence that changes in circumstances are taking longer to process since the abolition of benefit periods”. For this reason they have extended the grade range for scoring against the DWP criteria for this indicator to be between 9 – 20 days. If Kennet scores within this range that would be a “good” assessment. It is proposed to set a target of 15 days for this indicator, which using the audit commission criteria will place us in bottom quartile, but there will still be a positive direction of travel.

Unfortunately until the DWP and audit commission resolve this nationally Kennet will be unable to compare itself properly with other authorities.

BV79a 97.86% against a target of 98%. This will move us from bottom quartile.

4.0 Performance Indicators

National Best Value Indicators are marked 'BV'.

We have further identified which indicators directly support the themes contained in our new Corporate Strategy, these are marked as follows:-



Community Leadership



Supporting strong, safe and healthy communities



Stewardship of the environment



Improving services

In recognition of some of the key areas of cross cutting work we also highlight which of the indicators are helping meet objectives in the following areas:-

- QL** Cross cutting ie quality of life Indicators (as defined by "Local quality of life counts" published by DETR, IDEA and the LGA).
- SD** Sustainable Development Indicators
- CS** Community Safety Indicators
- SI** Social Inclusion indicators
- CH** Community Health indicators
- EQ** Equalities Indicators
- CG** Corporate Governance Indicators
- G** Gershon Quality Cross Checks

Quartile information is shown for national indicators and 4 equates to top quartile and 1 to bottom quartile.

Recommendations

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT; the Committee

Adopts the performance targets as set out for 2006/07 to 2008/09, subject to any last minute amendments in the publication of the Best Value Performance Plan.

KDC
March 2006