

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

**Resources Executive Committee
20th March 2007**

**Report Number C/06/07
Performance Target Setting 2007 to 2010**

Report by Karen Scott, Corporate Services Manager

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To adopt the National and Local Performance Targets for 2007 to 2010.

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 2007/08 to 2009/10. 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 2007.

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 2007/08. Therefore as in previous years, late guidance and/or change in circumstance have 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 2003/04 and 2005/06.

Quartile	2003/04		2004/05		2005/06	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Top	25	52%	23	55%	18	36%
Above the median	8	17%	12	28%	14	28%
Below the median	10	21%	4	10%	14	28%
Bottom	5	10%	3	7%	4	8%
Total	48		42		50	

3.6 Of the four indicators that were in bottom quartile in 2005/06, two are Resources Executive indicators.

3.6.1 BV11b – Top 5% of staff from an ethnic minority. - It should be noted that for Kennet 1fte is equivalent to 5% and top quartile.

3.6.2 BV78b – Notification of change in housing benefit circumstances. - As previously reported we have had serious concerns that other councils are not calculating this indicator correctly. We have finally received confirmation that this issue is being looked into from the following press release.

“The LGA together with the other two Local Authority Associations have repeatedly questioned the accuracy of the reported performances on the Change of Circumstances Performance Measure, and in particular, the timescale required to achieve a score of 4 under the current levels. DWP therefore asked BFI to undertake a small study on the reported high performance of 9 LAs. Although the resulting report is not available for open circulation, the Summary of Findings was presented to the last meeting of the Steering Group. This showed that of the 9 LAs visited, 8 had their reported number of days increased. Some of these increases were small but others involved increases from 8 to 15 days, 8 to 22 days and 11 to 22 days. Six of the original scores fell into the Excellent category, but following this study, only 3 LAs retained an Excellent score.

Presented with this information, the Associations believed that their previously expressed concerns had been justified and ask for the current PM Bandings to be adjusted from April 2007. The LGA has therefore written to DWP on behalf of all the Associations, officially requesting a relaxation to these Banding Scores, but to date, no response has been received”.

It should be noted that we have committed to improving this indicator and our profiled actual to quarter three for 2006/07 takes us above the median

compared to all England for 2005/06. It remains to be seen if the audit commission scrutinize this more closely at the close of 2006/07.

3.7 Of the fourteen indicators below the median three were Resources Executive indicators.

3.7.1 BV15 – Ill health retirements as a % of the total workforce. – It is to be noted that 0.2% represents 1fte at Kennet.

3.7.2 BV79a – % of benefits cases calculated correctly. – The profiled performance to quarter three in 2006/07 takes us above our target and the median for all councils in 2005/06.

3.7.3 BV157 – Electronic government target. – This indicator was discontinued in 2006/07.

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

1. Adopts the performance targets as set out for 2007/08 to 2009/10, subject to any last minute amendments in the publication of the Best Value Performance Plan.

KDS

March 2007