

Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	26 July 2018
Officer	<u>Local Members</u> All Members <u>Lead Director</u> Mike Harries, Director for Environment and the Economy
Subject of Report	Outcomes Focused Monitoring Report: July 2018
Executive Summary	<p>The 2017-19 Corporate Plan sets out the four outcomes towards which the County Council is committed to working, alongside our partners and communities: to help people in Dorset be Safe, Healthy and Independent, with a Prosperous economy. The Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee has oversight of the Prosperous corporate outcome.</p> <p>The Corporate Plan includes objective and measurable population indicators by which progress towards outcomes can be better understood, evaluated and influenced. No single agency is accountable for these indicators - accountability is shared between partner organisations and communities themselves.</p> <p>This is the first monitoring report for 2018-19. As well as the most up to date available data on the population indicators within the Prosperous outcome, the report includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performance measures by which the County Council can measure the contribution and impact of its own services and activities on the outcomes;• Risk management information, identifying the current level of risks on the corporate risk register that relate to our outcomes and the population indicators associated with them.

	<p>The Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee is encouraged to consider the information in this report, scrutinise the evidence and commentaries provided, and decide if it is comfortable with the trends. If appropriate, members may wish to consider and identify a more in-depth review of specific areas, to inform their scrutiny activity.</p>
<p>Impact Assessment:</p>	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment: There are no specific equalities implications in this report. However, the prioritisation of resources in order to challenge inequalities in outcomes for Dorset’s people is fundamental to the Corporate Plan.</p>
	<p>Use of Evidence: The outcome indicator data in this report is drawn from a number of local and national sources, including Business Demography (ONS) and the Employer Skills Survey (UK CES). There is a lead officer for each outcome on this group whose responsibility it is to ensure that data is accurate and timely and supported by relevant commentary.</p>
	<p>Budget: The information contained in this report is intended to facilitate evidence driven scrutiny of the interventions that have the greatest impact on outcomes for communities, as well as activity that has less impact. This can help with the identification of cost efficiencies that are based on the least impact on the wellbeing of customers and communities.</p>
	<p>Risk: Having considered the risks associated with this report using the County Council’s approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as:</p> <p>Current: Medium</p> <p>Residual: Low</p> <p>However, where “high” risks from the County Council’s risk register link to elements of service activity covered by this report, they are clearly identified.</p>
	<p>Outcomes: The Overview and Scrutiny Committees each have a primary focus on one or more of the outcomes in the County Council's Outcomes Framework: Safe, Healthy, Independent and Prosperous. The Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee has oversight of the Prosperous corporate outcome, and this outcome is therefore the primary focus of this report.</p>
	<p>Other Implications: None</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>That the committee:</p> <p>i) Considers the evidence of Dorset’s position with regard to the outcome indicators in Appendix 1; and:</p>

	ii) Identifies any issues requiring more detailed consideration through focused scrutiny activity.
Reason for Recommendation	The 2017-19 Corporate Plan provides an overarching strategic framework for monitoring progress towards good outcomes for Dorset. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees provide corporate governance and performance monitoring arrangements so that progress against the corporate plan can be monitored effectively.
Appendices	1. Outcomes Monitoring Report July 2018 – Prosperous
Background Papers	<i>Dorset County Council Corporate Plan 2017-19</i> , Cabinet, 28 June 2017 https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/corporate-plan-outcomes-framework
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1.0 Corporate Plan 2017-18: Dorset County Council’s Outcomes and Performance Framework

- 1.1 The corporate plan includes a set of “population indicators”, selected to measure progress towards the four outcomes. No single agency is accountable for these indicators - accountability is shared between partner organisations and communities themselves. For each indicator, it is for councillors, officers and partners to challenge the evidence and commentaries provided, and decide if they are comfortable that the direction of travel is acceptable, and if not, identify and agree what action needs to be taken.
- 1.2 Each indicator has one or more associated **service performance measures**, which measure the County Council’s own specific contribution to, and impact upon, corporate outcomes. For example, one of the population indicators for the “Prosperous” outcome is "The rate of start-ups of new business enterprises". A performance measure for the County Council on this is "the number of new enterprises created or safeguarded at the Dorset Enterprise Park", since the Enterprise Park is one of the ways in which we strive to help businesses start and grow.
- 1.3 Unlike with the population indicators, the County Council is directly accountable for the progress (or otherwise) of performance measures, since they reflect the degree to which we are making the best use of our resources to make a positive difference to the lives of our own customers and service users.
- 1.4 Where relevant, this report also presents **risk management** information in relation to each population indicator, identifying the current level of risks on the corporate register that relate to our four outcomes.

- 1.5 Outcome lead officers work to ensure that the commentaries on each page of these monitoring reports reflect the strategies the County Council has in place in order to improve each aspect of each outcome for residents. the commentary seeks to explain the strategies we have in place to make improvements, and then report on the success of those strategies.
- 1.6 Members are encouraged to consider all of the indicators and associated information at Appendix 1, scrutinise the evidence and commentaries provided, and decide if they are comfortable with the direction of travel. If appropriate, members may wish to consider a more in-depth review of specific areas.

2.0 Suggested area of focus

2.1 The percentage of residents educated to level 4 (or equivalent) and above

- 2.1.1 Level 4 is equivalent to having a Higher National Certificate (HNC). In Dorset, the percentage of residents qualified to NVQ4+ is mostly above the national average but appears to have fallen from 35.9% in 2015-16 to 32.7% in 2016-17. This data needs to be treated with some caution however - data is drawn from a household sample survey so year to year changes can reflect statistical error.
- 2.1.2 However, this follows the last two outcomes monitoring reports which have shown a decline in Key Stage 4 performance in Dorset, and if true, adds to a picture of educational attainment in decline. Level 4 skills are key to future jobs. Raising skill levels in the workforce would help reduce skill shortage vacancies, especially for skilled trade occupations. Ageing of the workforce means employers need to upskill their workforces for succession planning. Higher skill levels give workers the opportunity to apply for better jobs and have greater job satisfaction and wellbeing. The availability of a higher skilled labour pool would attract new employers and investment, thus raising the quality of jobs and productivity.
- 2.1.3 Although it falls within the remit of the People and Communities Committee, it is also relevant to report in this context that the percentage of 16 to 18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) has risen slightly from 3% to 3.1% in March this year. For care leavers, the figure has risen more sharply, from 15.7% to 20%. The percentage of 16 - 17 year olds receiving an offer of education or training has also fallen this year, to the levels of 2013. Higher numbers of Year 11 leavers and 17 year olds did not apply for learning, went into jobs without accredited training, or were unable to be contacted. In addition, there has been a lower availability and take-up of apprenticeships which are jobs with training.
- 2.1.4 Data on NEETs and Jobs Without Training should be treated with some caution; it is subject to seasonal fluctuation, and is affected by seasonal employment, and also by the employment 'journey' of young people, some of whom leave formal education in December and begin to find low-skilled jobs without training in March. However, the figures appear to be moving in the wrong direction, albeit slowly, and the Committee may wish to monitor the trends closely over the coming year.