

Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	20 th March 2019
Officer	<u>Local Members</u> All Members <u>Lead Director</u> Mike Harries, Chief Executive Officer
Subject of Report	Outcomes Focused Monitoring Report: March 2019
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 People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee has oversight of the Healthy and Independent corporate outcomes.</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. This is the third monitoring report for 2018-19. As well as the most up to date available data on the population indicators within the "Prosperous" outcomes, 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</p>

	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.
Impact Assessment:	Equalities Impact Assessment: There are no specific equalities implications in this report. However, the prioritisation of resources to challenge inequalities in outcomes for Dorset's people is fundamental to the Corporate Plan.
	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.
	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>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>
	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 outcomes, and this outcome are therefore the primary focus of this report.
	Other Implications: None
Recommendation	<p>That the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considers the evidence of Dorset's position regarding the outcome indicators in Appendix 1; and: • 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 March 2019 – Prosperous
Background Papers	Dorset County Council Corporate Plan 2017-19, Cabinet, 28 June 2017 https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/corporate-plan-outcomes-framework
Officer Contact	Dr David Bonner (Strategic Insight, Intelligence and Performance Manager, Insight, Intelligence and Performance) Email David.Bonner@dorsetcc.gov.uk Tel 01305 225503 Anne Gray (Insight, Intelligence and Performance) Email a.e.gray@dorsetcc.gov.uk Tel 01305 224575

1. Corporate Plan 2017-19: 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 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 to improve each aspect of each outcome for residents. the commentary seeks to explain the strategies we have in place to make improvements – such as smoking cessation – and then report on the success of those strategies.
- 1.6 Members are encouraged to consider all 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. Overview

2.1 Prosperous

- 2.1.1 **Productivity:** There was no update on the previous report where the data showed a very small gain in productivity over the year. Whilst this does narrow the gap to the UK, the situation is little changed and the gap is still significant.
- 2.1.2 **Births of new enterprises:** There was no update on the previous report where the number of business births fell in Dorset, as they did in England as a whole. The number dropped by about 10% over the year, much in line with the England average. However, in the previous two years, growth in business births was considerably below the national average suggesting cause for concern.
- 2.1.3 **Children achieving the 'Basics' measure at KS4:** The provisional figure given in the previous report was confirmed showing Dorset is now in line with or above National and the South West for all indicators. Dorset saw the second highest improvement in Progress 8 in England from 2017. Wholesale changes in the curriculum and exam system have caused some volatility in the system, this has affected some schools in Dorset who are now adjusting to the changes.
- 2.1.4 **Residents aged 16-64 qualified to Level 4+:** There has been no update to this dataset since the previous report. There has been no real change in the last five years except that in 2017 it became statistically evident that Dorset is below the national average.
- 2.1.5 **Lower quartile house prices to earnings:** There has been no update to this dataset since the previous report. The ratio of lower quartile earnings to lower quartile house prices rose for the third consecutive year meaning that properties in Dorset are likely to have become less affordable. This has also happened nationally, but the gap continues to widen at a greater rate in Dorset, meaning Dorset properties are becoming increasingly less affordable relative to the national picture.
- 2.1.6 **Superfast broadband coverage:** Superfast broadband (24Megabits per second / Mbps) across the Superfast Dorset partnership (Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole) is **97%** and above the UK average of **95%**, and across DCC Dorset is in line with the UK average. This shows approximately 10,000 premises spread across the county remain in need of access to superfast broadband. Although superfast broadband coverage in the UK is ahead of many countries, full fibre network coverage is below the global average. The UK has only **5%** full fibre coverage, and in DCC Dorset this is **3%** and across the Superfast Dorset partnership area this is **7%**. The Superfast Dorset programme's third contract is currently deploying fibre to the premises, which increases access to superfast broadband by 4,000 premises or approximately 1%.

2.1.7 Apprenticeship starts: In Dorset, Apprenticeship starts of all ages expressed as a percentage of residents aged 16-64 years is above the national average. However, the number of starts dropped over the year both locally and nationally as a reaction to the significant major national changes to Apprenticeships which started on 1 May 2017. These include the introduction of an employer levy to fund Apprenticeships, changes to the apprenticeship curriculum, the introduction of end point assessment by independent organisations and the requirement for training providers delivering Apprenticeships to be registered on a national database. In percentage terms, the decline in starts over the year was lower locally than nationally, but this represents a significant drop of 760 in the number of local starts.

2.2 Areas for focus

2.2.1 Most key datasets have not been updated since the previous report. Increasing productivity is the very evident message underlying the Government's Modern Industrial Strategy, and the call to action for industry, commerce, Local Enterprise Partnerships and local authorities. Productivity is typically measured, as here, as GVA (Gross Value Added) per hour worked. The UK lags behind the other G7 nations, including Germany, France, the United States of America and Italy, and the South West of England typically lags behind London and the South East. Thus, Dorset will always lag behind the national average, distorted by London and South East.

2.2.2 Productivity is a blunt measurement. It is more helpful to consider Dorset's progress and performance against the various factors which actually contribute to productivity, and which we need to improve to achieve the inclusive and sustainable economic growth we are seeking to achieve.

2.2.3 These factors include: -

- Improving the skills of the workforce
- Investment in digital and physical infrastructure
- Innovation in the way we provide goods and services
- Increasing enterprise through business creation, growth and exporting

2.2.4 Whilst PO1 indicates a marginal improvement in productivity for Dorset, we need to look beyond this indicator, and seek to do so with other indicators and outcomes.

2.2.5 Officers have identified the need for a more joined up approach to apprenticeships that addresses all aspects of the council's involvement as a levy payer and employer, as a commissioner of services, in its economic development functions around meeting the skills needs of the area and in its statutory functions to promote all post 16 education and training options to young people. Apprenticeships starts in Dorset saw a significant decline over the year (down by 760).