

Quarterly corporate performance summary

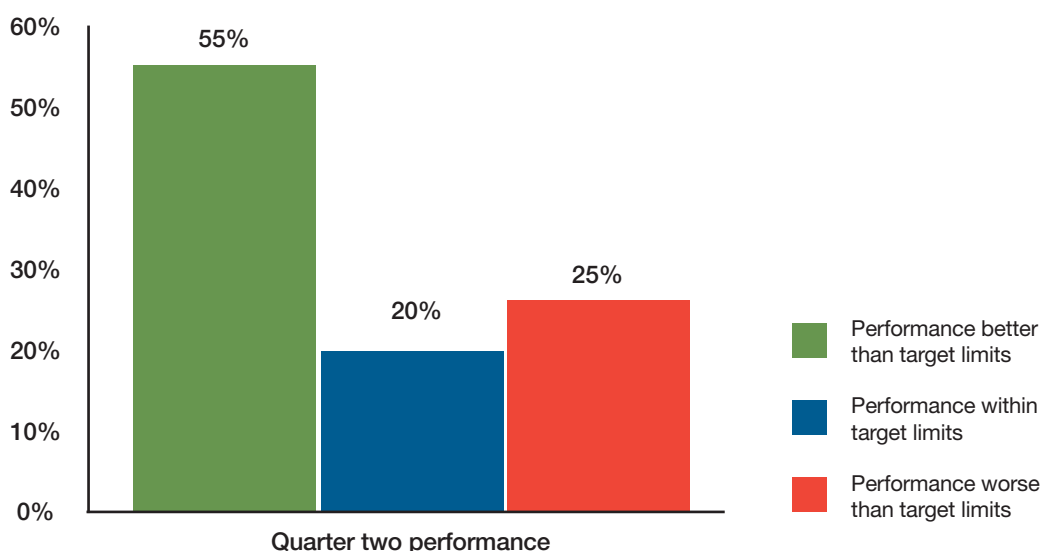
Quarter two 2009/10

Regular monitoring of our council plan priorities ensures effectiveness is continually under review. Corporate performance management reports are prepared quarterly for cabinet and corporate board.

Additional scrutiny is provided by the member performance management sub-group, which reviews and comments on the reports prior to their submission to cabinet. This summary contains the performance highlights and areas for concern discussed by the sub-group at their quarter two meeting.

How did we perform in quarter two?

75% of our reported council plan key performance indicators are on or exceeding target at the end of quarter two.



Performance highlights

- Significant progress has been made in reducing overcrowding in the borough, through our participation in the CLG overcrowding pathfinder programme
- Work has commenced on site at the first two extra care housing schemes in Dudley and Coseley
- Progress continues to be made in improving the cleanliness of the borough. We are ahead of targets for the removal of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly-postings
- The 2008/09 academic year provisional results estimate 49.5 percent of pupils will achieve five or more A* to C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths, this is 2.6 percent up on that achieved in 2008
- Provisional results estimate 48.8 percent of pupils will achieve two or more A* to C grades at GCSE or equivalent in science is up 2.5% on that attained in 2008
- At 6.3 percent, Dudley has improved against its target of 6.5 percent of pupils persistently absent in secondary schools
- So far this year, 100 disadvantaged residents have been placed into work through Future Skills Dudley
- 590 disadvantaged residents have received training and/or achieved recognised qualifications through Future Skills Dudley

- Overall recorded crime is 11 percent down against the same period last year and successful initiatives within the safe & sound partnership continue to result in reductions in the number of incidents of violent crime, criminal damage, motor vehicle theft, serious acquisitive crime and assaults with less serious injury
- The extended Kingswinford Library and Learning Centre was successfully reopened in September
- The first stage of the Dudley Council Plus service roll-out to libraries went live in September
- As per Dudley's 10 point recession action plan, the average number of days to pay creditor invoices has reduced from 12 in April to an average for the half year of 10.2 days

Current areas of concern

- Despite hitting our target for reducing the percentage of children in year 6 who are obese, the result for September 2009 at 20.8% is slightly higher than the September 2008 figure of 20.1%

Partnership working, however, ensures that progress continues to be made in reducing childhood obesity. For example all children's centres have staff trained to deliver the obesity prevention programme, Jumping Beans and 100 percent of schools have achieved the national healthy schools status. In September the National Millions Meals programme awarded Wrens Nest Primary the National School of the Month award as recognition of the work they are doing to improve healthy eating and school meal uptake

- Delivering on our target for the number of affordable homes remains a challenge

Effective partnership working with social housing providers, however, is resulting in a steady improvement in performance during the year and an increase in quarter two in the provision of affordable housing within the borough

- The challenge of reducing the levels of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in line with the demanding LPSA 2 target remains

The dip in quarter two, however, reflects the normal seasonal position when NEETs rise at the end of the academic year due to school leavers. It is hoped that the various initiatives in place will result in improved performance in quarter three

- The number of JSA claimants in the borough has risen by 518 since June to 11,132

Future Skills Dudley continue to work on a number of initiatives and in addition a range of community information events have recently taken place to engage with out of work residents, with more planned in the coming months. Learning support continues to be targeted at priority areas, with six job clubs established in community venues, including libraries

- The continued rise in the looked after children population has impacted upon the percentage of looked after children cases reviewed during quarter two

The proportion of re-arranged reviews remains high and the looked after children improvement group continues to identify ways of improving performance in the future



Councillor Les Jones

Chairman of cabinet performance management sub group



For further information on Dudley's performance contact the corporate policy & research team on 01384 814716 or use the link to view the quarterly corporate performance reports <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/council--democracy/performance-matters-in-dudley/performance-reporting>