

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2003 AT 10.00 A.M.**

TRAFFIC LIGHT MONITOR

Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer

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Agenda item no.

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1. Purpose of Report

To report the latest data for the promises monitor 2003-4 to enable Members of the Committee to raise issues for scrutiny. This gives the estimated end of year position based on the results of the first 5 months of the financial year.

2. Summary

The monitor (circulated separately to all Members of the Council) shows:

- i) An overview of the promises for 2003-04 in the form of a pie chart, which shows the numbers of promises on target, under-performing, giving cause for concern or where data is not available.
- ii) The promise by promise list for 2003-04 compared to target and compared to 2002-03 performance. Note, 2002-03 figures used for comparison are those submitted to the Audit Commission in September 2003 following audit, and so may differ from those published in the BVPP.
- iii) The detailed traffic light monitor - additionally this shows performance against target for each indicator used to measure the promises for 2003-04.

Also attached is the list of promises indicating Scrutiny Committee responsibility, portfolio holder and Chief Officer and BVPP officer responsibilities

3. Conclusion

The Scrutiny Committee is invited to note the monitor and identify issues for future scrutiny as appropriate.

4. Traffic Light Monitor Rules

Following discussion at the June Resources Scrutiny Committee, the rules determining whether a promise is on target or not, have been amended from simple “majority rules” to take account of potential anomalies. See Appendix 1.

5. Rural Implications

Two promises have particular relevance to the rural community of Hertfordshire; to “work with the community to protect and enhance our environment” and to “fight the loss of green fields and avoid, wherever possible, development on green areas in our towns by encouraging buildings of high quality on previously developed land.

The monitor indicates that the first of these promises is on target. BVPI 102 shows a small decline in local bus passenger journeys. There are significant pressures on this sector affecting the whole country (with the exception of London). These apply particularly to costs, and, as a result service levels are reducing and fares increasing. These pressures are more acute in the South East (wages, land costs, congestion). This has led to a decline in ridership.

Data for the indicators for the second promise is only available annually.

In addition, Local 227a measuring the percentage of Rights of Way network (excl urban) covered by Parish Paths Partnership membership is on target.

ref	Promise wording 2003-04	Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet Member responsibilities	Responsible Officers
A	<i>To make Hertfordshire a better place to live and work</i>		
1	Work with the community to protect and enhance our environment	Environment Derrick Ashley	John Wood and Richard Brown
2	Fight the loss of green fields and avoid, wherever possible, development on green areas in our towns by encouraging buildings of high quality on previously developed land	Environment Derrick Ashley	John Wood and Richard Brown
3	Support the building of affordable quality housing to meet the needs of local people	Environment Derrick Ashley (Resources David Beatty)	John Wood and Richard Brown (Carole Grimwood)
4	Double the amount of household waste that is recycled by 2005 without the use of incineration in Hertfordshire.	Environment Derrick Ashley	John Wood and Richard Brown
5	Improve the condition of our roads	Environment Derrick Ashley	John Wood and Richard Brown
6	Cut the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads	Environment Derrick Ashley	John Wood and Richard Brown
7	Save lives and prevent injuries through raising awareness of fire safety	Community Services Iris Tarry	Steve Seaber and Jim Wallace
8	Work with the Police and other organisations to reduce crime, and prevent offending by children and young people	Children, Schools and Families Robert Gordon (Resources Iris Tarry)	John Harris and Lesley Brockington (Phillip Winter)
9	Work with business to increase prosperity, protect jobs and improve standards of living for local people	Resources Michael Janes (Community Services Iris Tarry)	Anne Fisher and Dave Kellett (Ian McLachlan)
B	<i>To offer children a better future</i>		
10	Ensure children at risk of harm are identified early and given support so they make maximum progress	Children, Schools and Families Robert Gordon	John Harris and Lesley Brockington
11	Improve educational outcomes, as measured by Key Stage results	Children, Schools and Families Robert Gordon	John Harris and Lesley Brockington
12	Assist schools with the lowest current levels of performance to make accelerated progress	Children, Schools and Families Robert Gordon	John Harris and Lesley Brockington

ref	Promise wording 2003-04	Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet Member responsibilities	Responsible Officers
13	Help people to continue learning throughout their lives	Children, Schools and Families Robert Gordon	John Harris and Lesley Brockington
14	Ensure that all children benefit from the diversity of schools within Hertfordshire	Children, Schools and Families Robert Gordon	John Harris and Lesley Brockington
15	Enable parents and carers to understand and support their children's learning	Children, Schools and Families Robert Gordon	John Harris and Lesley Brockington
16	Enhance provision for gifted and talented pupils both in school and through experiences which complement their work at school	Children, Schools and Families Robert Gordon	John Harris and Lesley Brockington
17	Promote the learning of all children by tackling problems with behaviour (<i>new promise</i>)	Children, Schools and Families Robert Gordon	John Harris and Lesley Brockington
C To help people to help themselves			
18	Work with the NHS, voluntary organisations and other councils to improve health and care services	Adult Care and Health Services Jane Pitman	Sarah Pickup
19	Fight for the interests of elderly and disabled people and their carers. We will help them to maintain their independence and get easy access to our services.	Adult Care and Health Services Jane Pitman	Sarah Pickup
20	Improve employment prospects for disadvantaged people	Resources Michael Janes	Anne Fisher and Dave Kellett;
21	Promote equality and improve access to our services, employment and buildings	Resources David Beatty (Community Services Iris Tarry)	Alan Warner and Gill Hibberd (Ian McLachlan)
22	Make it easier for people to get the advice and information they need from us	Community Services Iris Tarry	Andrew Robertson and Ian McLachlan
23	Give local communities a better voice to tackle local problems	Partnerships Michael Janes	Anne Fisher and Dave Kellett
D To give the public value for money by getting more cost efficient every year			
24		Resources David Beatty and Alan Searing	Chris Sweeney and Andy Nightingale

APPENDIX 1

TRAFFIC LIGHT MONITOR RULES

- a) The status, *on target* (Green) or *under-performing/causing concern* (Yellow/Red) of the majority of PIs measuring that promise determines the overall status of that promise. The number of PIs that are Yellow and are Red are added together, as these may prompt remedial action.
- b) If the number of Yellows and Reds is the majority, then it shows the predominant category.
- c) If there is no majority, then the status of the promise is determined in the order, Red and Yellow then Green; i.e. if there are 2 red/yellow indicators and 2 green indicators, the overall status would be red/yellow. This is again based on the premise that this will provide a prompt for action.
- d) Only if all the indicators for a promise are *not available/not comparable* does the promise show as White.

Other rules (unchanged)

- e) Variance to targets is shown, with a positive result indicating good performance and a negative result indicating poor performance.
- f) All parts of performance indicators are shown as separate indicators.
- g) Weightings for each indicator are applied. The standard weighting is 1. Where an indicator has been split between its parts, the weightings are equally distributed (adding up to 1) e.g. Local L213a and Local L213b. Thus at present, no indicator has more or less effect on the overall result than any other.