HEALTH & COMMUNITY PROTECTION

PORTFOLIO HOLDER STATEMENT

HALF YEAR REVIEW 2015-16

Performance

1. What do the measures in the Service Plan tell you about the performance of the service at this point in the year?

Comments

- Customer service, in dealing with the range of service requests across the service, remains strong.
- The number of food businesses with a high food hygiene rating has continued to increase. The percentage of those businesses which are 'broadly compliant' has also increased.
- The Community Safety Partnership is working well with continued reductions in serious acquisitive crime. Whilst there is projected to be a considerable reduction in vehicle crime there is a small increase in theft of vehicles. Anti-social behaviour incidents continue to fall with a projected 18% reduction at year-end.
- Anti-social behaviour incidents continue to fall with a projected 18% reduction at year-end.
- Due to changes in the way violent crime is recorded the number of incidents will be seen to increase, though the longer term trend is still down. We are confident that the level of harm has not risen but it will impact on the total recorded crime figures.
- The monthly monitoring results for nitrogen dioxide, at numerous sites around the district, indicate increases in the last quarter. To some extent this can be explained by seasonal fluctuations.
- Due to changes in the Community Partnership team it has been difficult to provide data to report measures.

2. What actions do you intend to take based on the measures?

Comments

- To maintain our good service delivery and high levels of food safety assurance, we continue to look for opportunities to enable new technology. We are trialling the use of 'Totalmobile' for use in food safety inspections. We are also working to enable service delivery increasingly by electronic means, particularly in relation to licensing.
- Officers will visit high performing Community Safety Partnerships in the family group in order to identify best practice and better understand the impact of the new recording standard.
- There have been changes to the Community Partnership arrangement with Warwickshire County Council which has meant a reorganisation of the team and

has led to uncertainty. One of the team has also taken maternity leave and this has necessitated other changes in staffing. The necessary staff changes have now been made and routine management.

- The Council has adopted a new Air Quality Action Plan and progress towards improving air quality will be monitored annually by the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Risks

3. Highlight any significant changes to the risks in your Service Plan and any actions that you intend to take to address the revised risks.

Comments

- Workforce and succession planning has been one of the main risks for the service. Plans have been put in place to ensure timely recruitment and re-alignment of services, to ensure continued service delivery.
- Further to new legal opinion in relation licence fees and charges there is a significant risk of a legal challenge. This could lead to the need to refund fees over a period of 6 years. Work is being carried out to assess our position and to make necessary changes to protect the Council's position.
- The County have withdrawn some support for the community partnership arrangement. This has reduced resources for community partnership work.

Workforce Planning

4. Highlight any significant changes to your Workforce Planning and any actions that you intend to take to address the revised plan.

Comments

- The decision by the County Council to alter their approach to the community partnership arrangement necessitated changes within our own set-up to maintain the community development and Community Forum work, which continue to be managed through a difficult period of change.
- The Head of Service and Environmental Sustainability Manager announced that they would retire at the end of the financial year. Plans have been put in place to recruit to the posts and to ensure a smooth transition.
- The CCTV manager also retired within the period and one of the Engineers took up a post outside of the Council. This has resulted in a minor re-alignment of services to fit in with succession planning for the Head of Service retiring.
- Some changes of roles and job descriptions have been implemented within the Licensing Team. These corrected some anomalies in job descriptions which existed over a period of time and ensures that the team is better structured for future service delivery. It has not affected the number of staff employed.

Budget

5. Highlight any significant changes to the budget pressures highlighted in the Service Plan and any actions required to address these changes.

Comments

- Budget pressures continue to be kept under review. Savings of 5% in discretionary budgets have been agreed for the 2016/17 financial year. Further savings of approximately £66,000 in the revenue budget have also been identified as part of the re-alignment of the service when the Head of Service retires. This is as set out in the Fit of the Future programme.

Planned changes, work streams and projects

6. Highlight any work streams/projects that have been completed at this point in the year

- We are now working with stakeholders, towards accreditation for the Purple Flag award.
- The Cubbington Flood Alleviation Scheme was completed and all legal and financial matters resolved, within budget.
- The Voluntary Sector Commissioning contracts were let and the review and monitoring regime implemented. Progress to date has been good.
- A proposal to implement a trial project for the use of electric vehicles has been reported to Executive, as part of the Sustainability agenda.
- A peer review of the Council's progress towards the Healthy Workplace Charter was conducted in December. Feedback from this is expected in January.
- The Health & Wellbeing Lead Officer has undertaken Dementia training and is now an accredited Dementia Champion. Proposals have also been put forward to for the Council to become 'Dementia Friendly'
- A review of the Sexual Entertainment Venues policy has been conducted. A report has been made to Executive in January which recommends going out to public consultation on the proposed changes.

7. Highlight any significant changes or new work streams/projects expected during the year.

- Having become an accredited trainer for this purpose, the Health & Safety Coordinator will be delivering IOSH refresher training to managers and staff in early 2016 to ensure corporate compliance with our health & safety obligations.
- Further to the potential risk highlighted in relation to licence fees, work to review our position has commenced.
- We are about to sign a 'Primary Authority' agreement with Nuffield Health. This will mean that the service will act as the lead local authority nationally, on Food Safety, Health & Safety and Environmental Protection matters and will receive payment for this. The company has approached the department for this arrangement because of their confidence in dealing with officers locally.