



Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Report to:	Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	BCC Response to DoE draft Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015
Date:	Friday 20 th February 2015
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Emer Husbands, Strategic Performance Manager Sandra Donnelly, Strategic Planning and Policy Officer (Ext. 6189)

1.0	Purpose of Paper – Consultation Response
1.1	This paper provides an overview of the Council’s response (attached at Appendix A) to the DoE’s consultation on the <i>draft Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015</i> . In order to meet the response deadline of March 2 nd the attached response will be forwarded to the DoE, following approval by this Committee, with an understanding that full Council ratification is pending.
1.0	Background
1.1	Part 12 of the Local Government Act 2014, to take effect from the 1 st April, imposes a new duty on the Council to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions and to set improvement objectives for each financial year.
1.2	As a Council we will be required to gather information to assess service improvements and to produce an annual report on performance. This is not a new concept for Belfast as we have had a performance management framework in operation for a number of years. This has involved developing a range of performance indicators to help services see how they are performing over time and in comparison to other places. It is our intention to continue with this process and to incorporate the new duty within our framework.
1.3	However the Act also includes a provision (paragraph 89) for the DoE to specify additional

1.4	<p><i>statutory</i> performance indicators and to set targets for Councils. Councils have now been invited to consider an initial suite of seven performance indicators, with targets, proposed by the Department for the 2015-16 period in the - <i>draft Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015</i>. The restriction to one year will allow for new indicators to be developed in line with any new Programme for Government that might emerge. The first year will also allow services to establish some baseline information from which to agree future targets.</p> <p>The indicators proposed for the 2015-16 financial year cover the functions of: one economic development indicator; three planning indicators; and three waste management indicators. The attached response combines the feedback received from the services that will be responsible for carrying out these functions.</p>
2.0	<p>Content of the draft Order</p>
2.1	<p>The proposed indicators for 2015-16 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Number of jobs promoted through business start-up activity (ii) Number of major planning applications processed (iii) Number of local planning applications processed (iv) Progress of enforcement cases (v) % of household waste collected by district councils that is sent for recycling (including waste prepared for re-use) (vi) Amount (tonnage) of biodegradable Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste that is landfilled (viii) Amount (tonnage) of Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste arisings <p>The Committee should note that in addition to the three Planning PIs above the Council is engaging with the DoE over a number of additional indicators of a more operational nature. Members will of course be notified about these, and indeed any other PIs that may emerge, as and when necessary.</p> <p>The attached response contains feedback for the DoE on each of the above Indicators individually. However having reviewed the indicators and standards outlined in the consultation paper we are largely satisfied that these can be collected and reported as required.</p>

	In general terms it is the Council's view that the proposed indicators remain operational and output focused which does not appear to reflect the intent of Parts 10 and 12 of the Act to encourage more <i>outcome</i> based performance indicators. Although this is useful information there will of course be other measures that would provide a better picture of how well we are performing against each of the three areas covered; economic development, waste and planning. We recognise, however, that this Order has been designed only to last or the 2015-16 period and a new Order will therefore be created in 2016 and we have requested that the Council is fully engaged in the development of any future indicators.
3.0	Recommendations:
	It is recommended that the Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considers and approves that the response attached at Appendix A be forwarded to the DoE with an understanding that it remains subject to ratification by full Council.
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	There are no additional resource requirements associated with this Order.
5.0	Equality and Good Relations Implications
5.1	There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this Order.
6.0	Call in
6.1	This report is subject to call in.
7.0	Documents attached
7.1	Appendix 1 Letter and Response.