

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

PERFORMANCE CLINIC REPORT (April 2007-March 2008) – SERVICE RESPONSE

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION	BY WHOM	BUDGET COST	TIMESCALE
<p>That specific analysis is taken of those targets that are considered to be overly ambitious and that representation is made to the appropriate body for those targets to be aligned to more realistically reflect Middlesbrough's position.</p>	<p>The majority of the targets in this category belong to Children Families and Learning. In this area there is a history of nationally dictated over-ambitious targets. Consequently representations have been made to the appropriate body every year during the target setting process for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFL complete a statutory return each year setting out Middlesbrough's proposed targets • Director of CFL and relevant Heads of Service attend an Annual meeting with GONE to discuss targets against national strategies • Targets are approved or revised as part of this process <p>The outcome of this process is reported to relevant Executive Members each year.</p> <p>In addition to this, CFL and the Council undertook discussions with GONE regarding Freedoms and Flexibilities available to 'Excellent' councils to enable more realistic targets to be set. Despite Middlesbrough Council's representations, targets continue to be set on the basis of a national formula, which continues to result in unrealistic targets for Middlesbrough.</p>	Gill Rollings	Nil	Annually

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That a clear distinction is made between poor performance and overly ambitious targets in any subsequent reports to the Board, to remove any ambiguity that targets are to blame for underachievement	Performance reports are examined at quarterly performance clinics by the Chief Executive and at integrated performance and budget clinics, led by the Deputy Mayor. The reports aim to ensure that the difference between overly ambitious targets that are outside the council's control (see response above) and under achievement, which is never acceptable, is made clear. Reports to Scrutiny Members will be reconsidered to ensure that this difference is more apparent.	Karen Robinson	Nil	September 2008
A specific report be provided to the Board which addresses the reasons behind why 21% of LAA targets were not achieved as these were apparently set following negotiation with Government Office.	<p>Achievement of 79% of targets represents very good performance and whilst national comparisons aren't yet available it is probable that this level of performance will be amongst the best in the country.</p> <p>The LAA includes targets which are duplicates of Best Value Performance Indicator targets and Strategic Plan planned actions; this is deliberate to ensure consistency and alignment across all plans and strategies. The LAA was developed by consensus, both locally and with Government Office. The LAA reflects the local situation, with a particular emphasis on areas where improvement is needed. Although intended to be local, there was pressure to reflect national agendas and a number of mandatory targets were imposed.</p> <p>The consolidated performance report is a retrospective report which takes into account the previous national performance framework which ended on 31st March 2008. The new national performance framework in operation from 1st April 2008 meant that Middlesbrough Council was required to completely revise its LAA. The new LAA has 51 targets (35 negotiated with Government Office and 16 statutory education targets). The next report to OSB will explain the changes to the national performance framework and its impact on future LAA targets.</p>	Karen Robinson	Nil	September 2008