

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 1st July, 2020
6.30 pm





SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 1st July, 2020 at 6.30 pm

AGENDA

10) COVID-19 Q`s and A`s

5 - 16

To receive the responses from offices to the questions put by members following the last meeting.

11) Q4 Performance Report 2019/20

17 - 22

To inform members of the year end performance results.

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

Councillor Andrew Tatchell (Chair)
Councillor Marcus Johnstone (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Howard Baker
Councillor Tom Commis
Councillor Dale Ferrier
Councillor Andy Fewings
Councillor Beatrice Foster
Councillor Peter Gill
Councillor Tracy Kennedy

Councillor Shbana Khan
Councillor Gordon Lishman
Councillor Sehrish Lone
Councillor Lorraine Mehanna
Councillor Lian Pate
Councillor Emma Payne
Councillor Ann Royle
Councillor Mark Townsend

PUBLISHED

Tuesday, 23 June 2020

Member Questions – raised at or following 10th June Scrutiny Meeting

Councillor	Officer (where addressed to a specific officer)	Question	Response
Fewings	Paul Gatrell	<p>In the reply, Paul Gatrell stated that we can use selective licensing to help with empty properties. I have had it confirmed by the SL team several times that once a property is empty it is not a landlord and tenant situation and so they cannot do anything about disrepair or it being empty. I was struggling with that concept but could Paul please clarify what powers we have to tackle dilapidated and empty properties both generally and extra powers in SL areas?</p>	<p>The main power the Council has to tackle empty properties is compulsory purchase, but this can only have a limited impact. The majority of empty homes brought back in to use through Council intervention are done through a systematic programme of interaction with the owners that offers support, incentives and penal measures e.g. increased Council Tax charges.</p> <p>Whilst the legal powers in landlord licensing areas is restricted to the management of occupied private rented properties the improvements achieved give confidence to tenants moving into the area and other "good" landlords investing in the area, which we have seen evidence of over the years. Importantly selective licensing officers build relations with landlords with a priority being to advise and encourage them to bring their empty homes back into use, or to invest further in the area when an empty property becomes available, which can be facilitated through an empty homes loan.</p> <p>The strategy to tackle empty properties in the borough is led by the empty homes team but crucially involves a range of other services such as selective licensing, landlord accreditation, housing standards and Council Tax to ensure we use a mix of enforcement, penal measures and incentives.</p>
Pate	Paul Gatrell	<p>Planning services - in a recent correspondence I noted that there is a backlog in processing applications for</p>	<p>Officers had identified a shortage of capacity within the planning service. The Planning Team had a new post approved in principle in the 2020/21 proposed Executive budget but due to an amendment at</p>

		<p>planning, partly due to some unexpected TPOs at the end of 2019. The particular application has been in limbo since the start of the year. How is this being dealt with to get the timescales back on track, and how long is it anticipated that this will take to achieve?</p>	<p>Budget Council this appointment was delayed for 6 months. To manage the current demand on the planning service, the team have brought in an agency member of staff from the temporary staffing budget to increase capacity. Where there is a delay, officers are contacting the agent/applicants with an update. Enquiries about specific application delays can be investigated by the Planning Team manager and these should be bough to his attention.</p>
Townsend	Paul Gatrell	<p>Planning applications - are they being dealt with in timescales expected? Residents in my ward have been waiting for the outcome of an application submitted in December due for determination in February. Is this an exception or a new normal?</p>	<p>Unfortunately, the move to homeworking has resulted in a backlog due to staff absence and some changes to working practices. Whilst the team can remote work some tasks take longer or have not been possible. However, due to the efforts of the team these issues are now close to being fully resolved and we anticipate that performance should increase as homeworking routines are established and officers return to doing site visits. The planning team are working very hard to process delayed applications whilst also managing new applications, which have seen a positive increase in recent weeks. Enquiries about specific application delays can be investigated by the Planning Team Manager and these should be brought to his attention.</p>
Townsend	Paul Gatrell	<p>Development Control agendas have been light recently - is there a backlog? If so what's the plan to get things moving?</p>	<p>No applications have been withheld from Planning Committee but there have been some applications that need to go before Committee that have required additional information/amendments. Due to Covid-19 impacts, which include the furloughing of agents, in some cases this information has been delayed. As we move forward, with agents returning to work, we are expecting to see an increase in the number of applications that are presented to the Committee over the coming months.</p>
Fewings	Kate Ingram	<p>On the point about Burnley being hit hard by the recession due to the types of industry, I wanted to</p>	<p>Aerospace and Automotive – Aerospace includes businesses that operate in both civil and defence sectors. Prior to COVID the aerospace sector was projecting a 10% decline in production from</p>

		<p>make the point that we should be supporting the employees of those industries (with financial support, in transferring skills to other sectors and bringing in long term sustainable job prospects to the area) and not necessarily the industries themselves where those industries will struggle to get back to where they have been. For example, aviation is on the decline due to our need to hit the Paris climate goals on emissions and with it having flatlined due to Covid19 it will not return to its previous economic standing. We should not be putting all our eggs in that basket and instead support new green and sustainable industries which are fit for the future. My question is how are we diversifying for longevity of prospects for our residents in this context?</p>	<p>2019 levels. The main primes were already developing adaptations to existing fleet and future programmes focussed on improving efficiency and reducing the environmental impacts on flying. The Current Pandemic has led to an immediate drop in demand for civil aircraft of 95% and it is likely to be 3-5 years before production returns to 2020 projected level. The Council is working Lancashire Enterprise Partnership to implement programmes to assist employees in businesses affected by any recession to transfer their skills to other sectors. The Council has already secured support through the Lancashire Skills Hub to work with businesses and employees directly affected by redundancy. This will include seeking opportunities for transferring skills to other sectors. The LEP is specifically looking at the energy and nuclear sectors where there continues to be growth and clear transferable skills. The Council is lobbying government via the MP and through the LEP for a support package for the aerospace sector to diversify in the short term into other sectors e.g. HS2, defence, and to develop skills, capacity and adopt new technologies within smaller Tier 2 and 3 suppliers to ensure that their businesses are fit for recovery and to deliver solutions and products required for low emission aircraft and vehicles.</p> <p>In terms of diversification the key sectors for future development are likely to focus on energy and low carbon, digital and robotics, and medi-tech. The existing manufacturing base already has transferable skills and technologies to move into these sectors. A key fundamental to growing any of these is a well educated (level 4) plus workforce together with higher levels of innovation, R&D and Industry 4.0 within businesses. The growth of the University in the town is key to delivering these fundamentals that will enable residents to transfer into new areas of work and for businesses to embrace new technologies and processes to either diversify or be more competitive within their existing sectors.</p>
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Townsend		<p>Infrastructure projects - can you please provide details of which projects have been affected and the revisions to schedule?</p>	<p>Rosegrove Junction - Work was suspended in March 2020 due to COVID-19, this applied to utility contractors and Highway Ops activities, work recommenced in early May 2020, site fully functional, completion due around end of calendar year but will be influenced by utility response to future work and also subject to suitable blacktop laying weather.</p> <p>Public Realm works on Lower St James' Street should have commenced in early April but work was suspended due to COVID 19. Revised start date on 22nd June was agreed and work has commenced.</p> <p>Padiham Public Realm Works had been delayed as LCC were unable to tender works due to staff being re-deployed. This has now been resolved with work due to commence in July 2020.</p> <p>Due to Storm Ciara and COVID working restrictions there is a delay in the delivery of the Padiham Flood Defence scheme which will mean the Phase I is delayed from Spring to late Summer 2020. A revised funding profile and drawdown has been agreed with the funders.</p> <p>Sandygate Halls – construction has continued throughout the lockdown but there have been supply chain issues in terms of both materials and resources that have created delays. The contractors are working towards a partial completion at the end of August and final completion by the end of October.</p>
Townsend		<p>An estimate of the Borough workforce on furlough? Do we have business intelligence as to what may happen as furlough ends?</p>	<p>11,200 (HMRC, 11th June 2020). Discussions with businesses indicate that there will be redundancies at the end of the furlough but it is not possible for either businesses, or the council to project what these may be and it will vary between sectors and for some sectors notably hospitality and leisure it will depend very much on the length of lockdown and subsequent social distancing measures.</p>

Townsend	Asad Mushtaq	Exec Member Towneley informed the committee at the June 10 meeting that the Council has received £41.26m from Government and not spent it all. Can a breakdown be provided of this as to what has been received and spent to date?	Funding received to date as follows:																				
			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Funding</th> <th>£m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Share of £3.2m Homelessness Funding</td> <td>(0.006)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Discount and Nursery Relief</td> <td>(11.567)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Share of £1.6bn allocated from £5bn Coronavirus Fund – Burnley allocation for homelessness (Tranche 1)</td> <td>(0.075)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business Support Grants</td> <td>(26.510)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Discretionary Business Support Grants</td> <td>(1.215)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Share of £500m Hardship Fund (Council Tax)</td> <td>(1.475)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Share of additional £1.6bn funding announced on 18th April 2020 – non-ringfenced grant (Tranche 2)</td> <td>(0.882)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Share of £50m Re-opening High Streets Safely Fund</td> <td>(0.079)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>(41.809)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Funding	£m	Share of £3.2m Homelessness Funding	(0.006)	Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Discount and Nursery Relief	(11.567)	Share of £1.6bn allocated from £5bn Coronavirus Fund – Burnley allocation for homelessness (Tranche 1)	(0.075)	Business Support Grants	(26.510)	Discretionary Business Support Grants	(1.215)	Share of £500m Hardship Fund (Council Tax)	(1.475)	Share of additional £1.6bn funding announced on 18th April 2020 – non-ringfenced grant (Tranche 2)	(0.882)	Share of £50m Re-opening High Streets Safely Fund	(0.079)	TOTAL	(41.809)
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			<p>Spend to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trance 1 & 2 Government Funding – spend is fluid and ongoing. Regular monitoring taking place. • Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Discount and Nursery Relief – as at 15/06/20 reliefs totalling £11.838m have been awarded • Business Support Grants – Although our grant allocation was £26.51m, as per NNDR records only 2,218 businesses are eligible totalling £24.76m. As at 22/06/20 applications have been received from 1,922 eligible businesses totalling £21.65m, of which payment has been made to 98.9% of these businesses - 1,899 businesses totalling £21.42m. • Discretionary Business Support Grants – as at 22/06/20 28 businesses have been identified as eligible (£203k) of which 7 applications have been approved and paid (£49k). • Council Tax Hardship Grant – hardship grants have been paid to 98% of council tax support claimants. Based on grants paid to date and the increase in council tax support claimants the grant is expected to be fully utilised within the financial year. • Opening High Streets Safely – spend is ongoing. Grant monies ringfenced.
Townsend	Asad Mushtaq	Councillors have not seen any budget/spend details past Q3 2019/20 (over 5 months). Can we have the outturn for 2019/20 to help us understand the baseline position going into the pandemic?	In a 'normal year', the next reporting cycle after Q3 budget monitoring is the outturn report, which goes to the Executive in July. This year it has been delayed by one month to August due to the impact of Covid-19.
Townsend	Asad Mushtaq	What are the Councils figures regarding change in housing benefit claimant numbers and council tax support claims? Has there been an	A comparison of HB & UC claims as at the end of May 2019 to May 2020 has shown an increase of 9%. The movement between April 2020 and May 2020 is an increase of 5%.

		increase in take up of discretionary payments for these benefits?	<p>Similarly, a comparison of CTS claims between May 2019 and May 2020 shows a 5% increase. The monthly increase from April 2020 and May 2020 is 4%.</p> <p>Payment of DHP is following a similar trend to the previous financial year.</p>
Pate	Simon Goff/Gerard Vinton	The Leisure Trust must have been hit very hard. The closure of the facilities has also coincided with the cessation of £millions in funding that was provided via the Up and Active scheme. When will we expect to see a plan for the future, regarding both the financial elements and the re-opening and re-shaping of services?	<p>Along with the national leisure industry, the Leisure Trust's income has been heavily impacted by the pandemic. Council officers are working closely with the Leisure Trust to assess their financial plan as well as their plan for re-opening and reshaping.</p> <p>This will be made available to Members when the Leisure Trust have had the opportunity to develop the plan in detail once the Government has made clear announcements on the re-opening of facilities</p>
Fewings	Simon Goff/Gerard Vinton	Burnley Leisure Trust – I wanted to make the point that the Golf Club is a very niche and arguably elite market. Given the need for more amenity space to socially distance, I think this would be better used for the general public to exercise and keep safe in open space.	<p>There is sufficient open space at Towneley and in Burnley's other parks for social distancing.</p> <p>There is a public footpath across the golf course which is well used. Some private golf courses may be elite, but Towneley has a proud history of being a municipal golf course since the early 1930's and together with the 18-hole pitch and putt is used by people from all walks of life.</p>
Pate	Rob Dobson	Whilst the Council has an IT Strategy, I have long been questioning the lack of a dedicated Digital Strategy. This is now more important than ever. What	The council's digital strategy is part of the overall IT Strategy. This includes Liberata's digital strategy which was agreed with the council as part of its service offer. The current strategy is due for review this year. Many of the current's strategy's deliverables have been critical

		are the plans for developing a full strategy for the future, but also a short term strategy to get us through the coming months?	to the council's rapid response to the Covid-19 lockdown, with homeworking achieved quickly and easily for most officers including the contact centre (therefore ensuring business continuity and protecting staff from the spread of virus) and with changes in circumstance for benefits being processed quickly, for example.
Pate	Joanne Swift	Pest control services were suspended during the early stages of the lockdown. How do these look now? Is there a backlog, if so, how is this being addressed? When do you expect these services to return to normal pace?	<p>Due to the current restrictions we are unable to undertake internal domestic residential pest control visits. We remain in regular dialogue with our contractor whilst reviewing any announcements from Central Government that may change. This situation is reflected across the County with our neighbouring authorities all taking a similar approach.</p> <p>The services we are offering as an interim are as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to offer telephone support for any concerned residents and will prioritise cases, once services return. • We offer a support and guidance function advising residents what they can do during this period to help alleviate the situation. • All residents are advised we will re-contact them when we are able to resume internal visits. • We are undertaking preventative, pro-active sewer bating during this period to help alleviate any infestation issues. • We are re-starting the commercial pest control service where the strict social distancing and government guidelines can be followed <p>We continue to work with our contractor to assess the situation on a weekly basis and following any changes in government advice. Safety of staff and residents will remain the priority during this period.</p>
Pate		Whilst children are not the direct responsibility of the Borough council,	Schools, clinical commissioning groups and child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) have worked together to identify

		<p>there is concern that there are a number of vulnerable children that may be falling through the net when it comes to contact from professionals. At present, the majority of children are not in school and are not in contact with school. Some of those children were vulnerable before the closures, but some will have become vulnerable during the last couple of months. What is the coordinated plan at a Borough level to ensure that children are in contact with professionals, including teachers, social workers and other support networks?</p>	<p>vulnerable learners and encouraged them to come to school. The Burnley Together Hub has been linked and is able to make referrals. While LCC's Children and Family Wellbeing temporarily paused its operations in neighbourhood centre settings, the service is continuing to take requests for support for children, young people and families and allocating these to key workers who are able to respond. It is a maintaining contact with our children, young people and families via the phone and video calls, texting, etc. but is also still home visiting families in some circumstances where needs are high and/or urgent and more person centred contact is needed.</p> <p>Regards vulnerable new parents and babies, Virgin Care have advised that all new birth visits are being completed face to face. Ante-natal contact is via phone or a face-time application followed up by a 6-8 week visit. Those identified as being vulnerable at birth receive a face to face visit.</p>
Pate		<p>What is the plan to ensure that children who would normally access holiday provision are able to maintain contact with others, in particular young people that are at risk of holiday hunger and also those guided activities that are designed to engage in positive activities?</p>	<p>Members will have seen the Prime Minister's announcement on food vouchers over the summer, but the council will nevertheless continue to support plans to ensure adequate supplies at the Burnley Kitchen.</p> <p>Wider support to deprived children who do not qualify for school meal vouchers and are in need is also being put in place by the Burnley Together partnership.</p> <p>Burnley Leisure has announced plans to run holiday activities that are in line with the latest social distancing guidance.</p>
Townsend		<p>Vulnerable children - what % of those identified have been attending school through the lockdown? Have appropriate steps been taken to assure the ones who haven't attended are safe and secure?</p>	<p>Question asked of LCC by Rob last week. Awaiting response. Please see above response also.</p>

Pate		<p>In the early days of the pandemic only those with underlying health conditions were eligible for government support, so in particular the elderly and those with learning disabilities but no underlying conditions fell into a gap when it came to support. Some of these people are still receiving letters telling them to isolate. These letters are also the essential key to receiving extra support, such as priority online shopping slots. What steps were taken to engage with those who may well be very vulnerable but will not see social media messages or newspapers? Are professionals now confident that these vulnerable residents are now identified?</p>	<p>In addition to contacting those identified by the NHS as clinically vulnerable and therefore asked to shield, the Hub also contacted socially vulnerable residents. The Hub telephoned or made a doorstep welfare check to 400 socially vulnerable residents (as identified by adult social services) and we also wrote to 2400 residents on the assisted collections list. We also contacted a wider list clinically and socially vulnerable residents as identified by local GPs.</p>
Pate		<p>What analysis has and will be done on the financial impacts that some of Burnley's 3rd sector organisations will no doubt be feeling?</p>	<p>A survey by the National Council for Voluntary Service suggests that charities expect to miss out on a quarter of their income in the year ahead, which would result in a shortfall of £12.4bn across the sector nationally.</p> <p>The survey shows that charities expect that both voluntary income and trading income will be badly hit, but also that the loss in trading income will be more significant. At the same time, almost half of respondents reported an increase in demand for the services they provide during the pandemic, with 24% seeing a “significant” increase.</p> <p>Charities expect that the funding crisis will impact their ability to deliver those services over the next year, with 77% saying they will</p>

			<p>have to reduce what they offer. Some 5% of respondents think their charity will have to close.</p> <p>The government released figures revealing that 164,000 staff in the charity sector were furloughed in the first six weeks of the scheme. According to NCVO data, as of 2018 the sector employed 865,000 people, meaning almost a fifth of the whole charity workforce benefited from the scheme.</p> <p>Locally, charity shops have been eligible for the government support schemes administered by the council. In addition, we have directly provided a small amount of grant funding to key partners such as the CVS or by supplying PPE.</p> <p>Indirectly we have encouraged the VCFS to apply for community support grants: £55,000 has been awarded to Burnley 3rd sector organisations so far. The council has been working closely with the CVS who have been making representations to local MPS and nationally about the impact on the sector.</p>
Pate		At what point do you feel that services can begin to be wound up, with some elements being mothballed, and how do you expect to plan to keep things flexible enough so that you are able to bring services back into play if there is a 2nd wave or increase in cases?	Partners in the Health and Wellbeing Partnership have agreed to look at a plan to retain the partnership approach established by the Burnley Together response. The partnership is agile and can ramp up or down and re-model when needed.
Townsend		UCLAN - have they updated their projections regarding future student numbers plans and/or any other campus implications?	Yes. UCLAN are operating in a very uncertain environment and are planning for a number of scenarios. It is likely that in the short term recruitment of foreign students will dip but there will be an increase in domestic students. They are still confident in achieving a longer term target of 4000 FTE students by 2025.

Townsend		Bus services are being cancelled / changing without notice and consultation. (No 3 As an example). This has removed all bus services through a major estate (Turf Moor) except on a Sunday! Can we have an overall view of what has changed for buses and rail services within the Borough and to/from the Borough?	This query is being raised with Lancashire County Council and a response will be shared with the Committee once it is received.
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REPORT TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



DATE	10 July 2020
PORTFOLIO	Resources and Performance Management
REPORT AUTHOR	Rob Dobson
TEL NO	3115
EMAIL	rdobson@burnley.gov.uk

Scorecards: Q4 performance report 2019/20

PURPOSE

1. To inform members of the year end performance results.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the committee note this report

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. To help inform Scrutiny Committees discussion on organisational performance.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

- 4 Sections 5 and 6 of this report provide highlights from the scorecards. They were selected on the basis of being either measures of strategic significance, or where performance has been particularly strong or poor.

The report does not comment on finance measures, as these are reported separately in budget monitoring reports.

Where comparison with other authorities is available for the indicators, data is provided using information hosted on the Local Government Association's LG Inform website.

5 On target indicators

- Corporate- Average number of days per employee lost to sickness absence:
 - On average staff took 5.1 days during 2019/20, against the target of 6. This is the lowest recorded result.
- Liberata Revenues and Benefits: average number of days to process benefit new claims and changes of circumstances.
 - Against a target of 9 days, the Q4 result was 2.43. This is the lowest recorded result (see chart 1).
 - The latest available data for comparison with other areas is from Q2 2019/20 (this measures housing benefit processing only) and shows that Burnley's

housing benefit processing time overall was 5 days in that quarter, compared to a statistical nearest neighbour average of 6 days.

- **Liberata Revenues and Benefits: current year council tax collection.**
 - Reaching 94.69% by the end of Q4, the collection rate is below the result in 18/19 (95.22%), but above the target of 94.50%.
 - The latest available comparative data is from year end 2018/19, when Burnley's collection rate was slightly higher than the average of statistical nearest neighbours.
- **Liberata- NNDR Collection Rate**
 - Reaching 97.80% by the end of Q4, the collection rate is higher than the result in 18/19 (97.27%), and above the target of 97.50%.
 - The latest available comparative data is from year end 2018/19, when Burnley's collection rate was slightly lower than the average of statistical nearest neighbours.
- **Economy and Growth- Actual Jobs created/safeguarded through current business support programmes**
 - By year end, 129 jobs were created and 47 safeguarded, against a target of 25 and 20 respectively.
 - Nearly £22 million in external investment was levered into the borough, against a year end target of £15.5m
- **Housing and Development Control- vacant properties brought back into use:**
 - Against a target of 80, 94 properties were brought back into use by year end, an increase of 10 compared to last year (see chart 2).
- **Housing and Development Control- planning applications processed within target time:**
 - In Q4, as shown in chart 3, targets for all types of planning applications were achieved.
- **Policy and Engagement- online transactions**
 - There was a large increase in the number of online transactions in Q4, and in the proportion of customer transactions carried out online (57% against a target of 45%).
 - While the increase started prior to lockdown, it is too early to assess whether this is a step change driven by the council's communications and digital strategy.

6 Off target indicators

- **Liberata Contact Burnley- telephone calls answered within target time:**
 - 71% of calls were answered within the target time against a target of 80%. The year end result is 73%. This compares with 80% at year end in 18/19.
 - However, because of the covid crisis, self-isolation and the sudden need to establish home working directly impacted on Liberata's ability to achieve the target. In both January and February, the target was achieved.
 - The face to face wait time in contact centre has, however, continued to drop, averaging about 7 minutes at year end, against a target of 10 mins.
- **Housing and Development Control- disabled facilities grants delivery**
 - By year end, 64% of DFGs were completed within the target time of 75 days, against a target of 80%
 - However, this was mainly due to the increased number of extensions that were

required; such building work takes far longer than the average DFG project.

7 Responding to the covid-19 pandemic

The council helped support the borough through the ongoing crisis. In summary:

- The council has played a key role in the Lancashire Resilience Forum, with the CEO leading on the business continuity strategy and track and trace response.
- The Burnley Together Hub has ensured that all clinically and socially vulnerable people in the borough have had an offer of support. Through our key partners Calico, Burnley Leisure, Ghausia Mosque, CVS and Charterhouse, many hundreds of food parcels have been delivered each week.
- Economy and Growth, Finance and Liberata have supported businesses through the grants programme: over 2,000 businesses have been assisted. Around £25m will be allocated. The team took a proactive approach to raise awareness of eligibility.
- Remote working by council officers has been possible due to adaptable IT solutions and a can-do attitude by staff and Liberata colleagues. While there was some disruption to contact centre operation as highlighted above, these was kept to a minimum, and a face to face service continued at the town hall. Urbaser was also successful in keeping its services running,

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

8. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

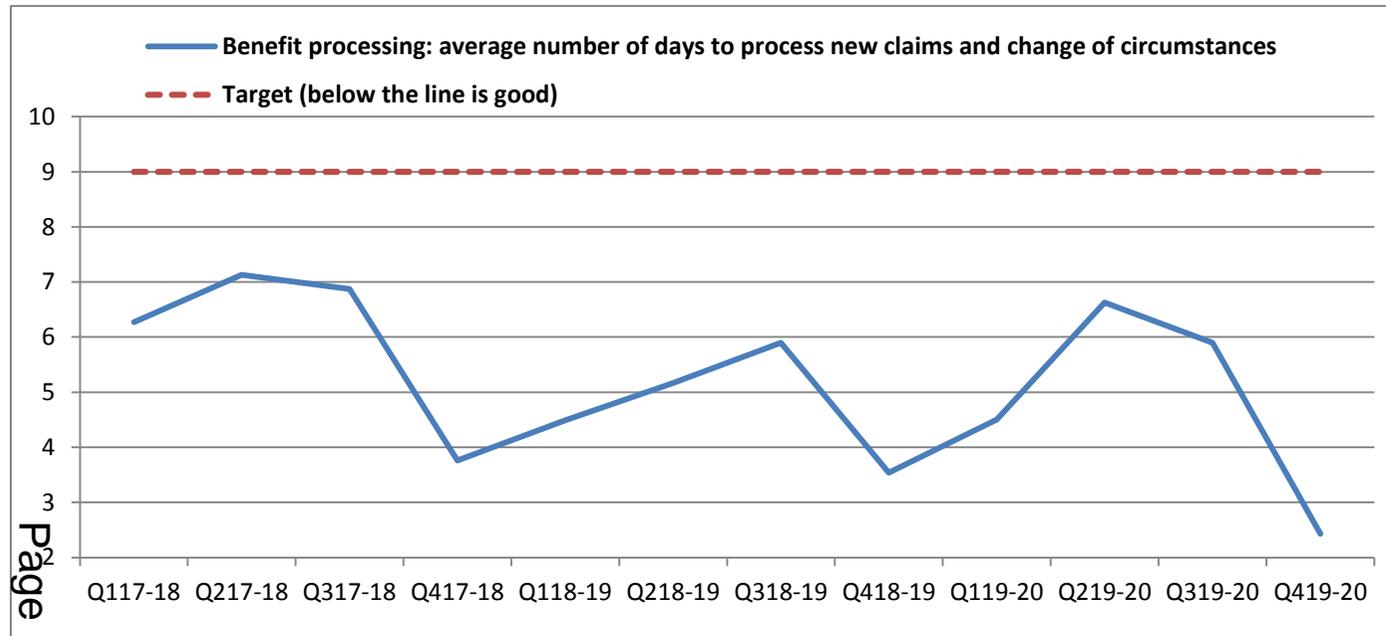
9. The council, each year, has proactively prepared a cost reduction programme to ensure a balanced budget. The scorecard data suggests that cost saving decisions have not significantly diminished performance in key service areas. However, the Medium Term Financial Strategy shows that, over the next three years, there is a potential cumulative budget gap of £4.5m, and this budget gap could grow considerably following a loss of income to the council as a result of the covid crisis. In agreeing savings that will be delivered, the council may also wish to consider whether existing performance targets, that are linked to those savings, are sustainable in the medium term.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

10. Not applicable.

Appendix 1: Trends

Chart 1:



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Chart 2:

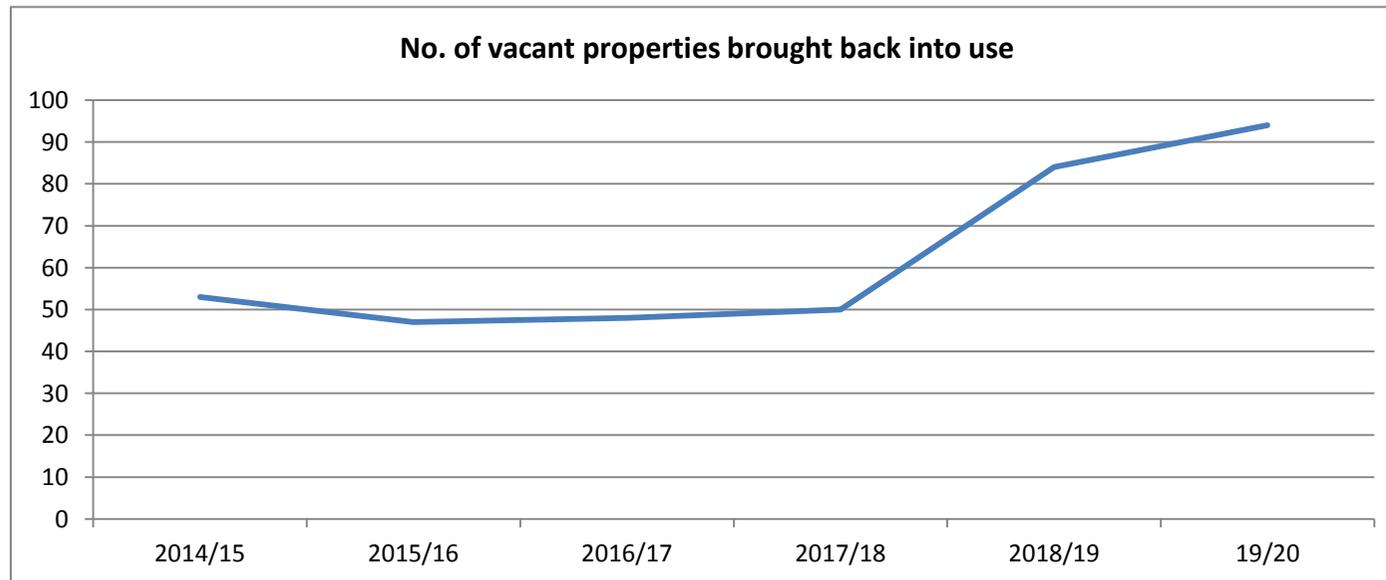
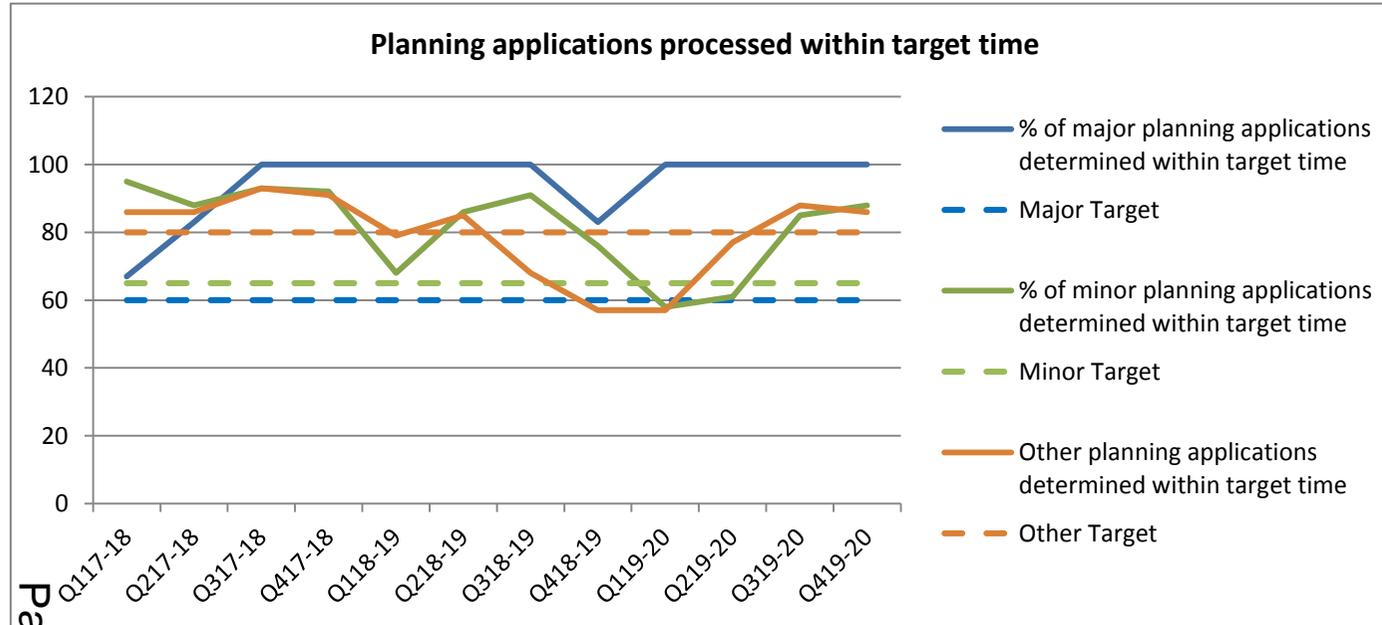


Chart 3:



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