SECTION 3: Statutory Indicators – Self Assessment

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council is committed to meeting and, where possible, exceeding the standards set by central government departments through the following seven statutory performance indicators. Below are the results for 2020/21, the Council’s data for 2019/20 and 2018/19 has also been included to show comparisons.

| **Ref** | **Statutory Indicator** | **Standard to be met (annually)** | **Result**  **2018/19** | | **Year End**  **2019/20 2020/21** | | **Explanation of 2020/2021 result** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ED1** | The number of jobs promoted through business start-up activity  (Business start-up activity means the delivery of completed client led business plans under the Department of Economy’s Regional Start Initiative or its successor programmes.) | 85 | 140 | 112 | | 106 | Target Achieved  Northern Ireland Business Start Programme for NI launched in September 2017 as a collaboration between all 11 Councils. Job creation targets for the programme are being achieved Nationally.  For LCCC this has resulted in 106 jobs being created in 2020/2021 versus a statutory indicator of 85. Whilst this remains well in excess of the statutory requirement of it was below previous years. This was due to the impact of COVID primarily in the months of March and April 2020.  For 2020/2021 the Council has risen to 1st place in NI in terms of jobs promoted versus this statutory target, this number of jobs is reflective of the council’s total business base and number of population within the Council area who are economically active.  Forecast for 2021/2022 is 126 jobs against an unchanged statutory indicator of 85 jobs. |
| **P1** | The average processing time of major planning applications.  [An application in the category of major development within the meaning of the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015(a)] | Major applications processed from date valid to decision or withdrawal within an average of 30 weeks. | 78  weeks | 55.2  weeks | | 79.7 weeks | Flexibility arrangements for Council meetings requiring new legislation only came into place at the end of Q1 to allow major and called in local application processes to be concluded and this impact on performance.  An improvement in processing times is noted towards year end and into the new reporting period more aligned with the statutory target albeit it is not met for the major category of application.  Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council were also able to process to decision approximately the same number of applications as received and there is no evidence to suggest any significant fall-off in application activity during the year.  An increased interest in application processes was also noted with increased numbers of pieces of correspondence. There was also a rise in the number of planning appeals received and processed over this period. |
| **P2** | The average processing time of local planning applications.  [Local applications means an application in the category of local development within the meaning of the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and any other applications for approval or consent under the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (or any orders or regulations made under that Act)] | Local applications processed from date valid to decision or withdrawal within an average of 15 weeks. | 17.7 weeks | 16.6 weeks | | 23.8 weeks | The response to the Covid-19 emergency required the Council to adapt and embed new work practices.    The changes were most acutely felt in the early stages of the pandemic with restrictions on travel and access to Council buildings.    The Council focus in Q1 and into Q2 was on local applications that had been visited and a full suite of consultation responses were available.   The processing times reported reflect that there was limited opportunity to preform against the statutory target for new local applications and this impacted on year end performance.   The processing times for all new applications coming into the system were also adversely affected by phases of lockdown throughout the year and the need to ensure safe working practices in terms of social distancing. |
| **P3** | The percentage of enforcement cases processed within 39 weeks.  [Enforcement cases are investigations into alleged breaches of planning control under Part 5 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (or under any orders or regulations made under that Act). (b).] | 70% of all enforcement cases progressed to target conclusion within 39 weeks of receipt of complaint. | 84.5% | 84% | | 83.6% | Target Achieved through a very challenging year of the Covid Pandemic which saw an unprecedented increase of planning enforcement complaints to the council and enforcement officers having to adapt to alternative working practices to ensure continuity of service through the pandemic. Officers had to prioritise cases to ensure a high level of service was maintained and this will continue to be the case in the near future as the unit balances workloads in line with the agreed enforcement protocols. |
| **W1** | The percentage of household waste collected by district councils that is sent for recycling (including waste prepared for reuse).  [Household waste is as defined in Article 2 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997(a) and the Controlled Waste and Duty of Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013(b)] | 50% household recycling by 2020 | 48.1% | 50.79% | | 50.4% (unverified) | LCCC has achieved a household waste preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting rate, KPI of over 50%. There is however question over Northern Ireland achieving the EU Waste Framework Directive target of 50% of waste from households recycling rate (including preparing for reuse and composting) (%) by 2020. A task and finish working group has been established to assess Northern Ireland’s performance, failure to meet the EU target, taking into account the impact of Covid-19 in 2020/21.  It is important to note that the global Covid-19 pandemic has impacted waste and recycling services as well as effecting the types and volumes of waste generated from local households. In 2020/21 challenges included increased volumes of waste coming from local homes as a result of lockdowns, school closures and increased home working. Local Household Recycling Centres were closed for a number of weeks during the first lockdown and the types of materials and configuration of presentation of kerbside sort dry recyclables also had to be adjusted. These factors have impacted on waste and recycling volumes and rates with the impact likely to continue into 2021/22. During these unprecedented times the focus has been on maintaining service provision to local households.  Validated 2020/2021 figures will be included in the NIEA NI Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Statistics annual report when published later this year. (Approx November 2021) |
| **W2** | The amount (tonnage) of biodegradable Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste that is landfilled.  [Local authority collected municipal waste is as defined in section 21 of the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003(c)] | 2017/18 - 18580  2018/19 - 17512  2019/20 - 16444 | 16,108 tonnes | 14,373 tonnes | | 15,967 tonnes (unverified) | NILAS targets were set until 2019/20 so while there is no target for 2020/21 it is the expectation that levels of BLACMW should remain within the final year allowance.  The validated 2020/2021 figure will be included in the NIEA NI Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Statistics annual report when published later this year. |
| **W3** | The amount (tonnage) of Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste arisings.  [Local authority collected municipal waste arisings is the total amount of local authority collected municipal waste which has been collected by a district council] | N/A | 77,861 | 78,905 | | 80,846 | 2020/2021 figure is subject to final validation by NIEA/DAERA and will be included in their annual statistical report when published later on this year. |