

Performance Improvement

An Overview



Executive's Vision for Local Government

“...a strong, dynamic local government creating communities that are vibrant, healthy, prosperous, safe, sustainable and have the needs of all citizens at their core.”

Central to this vision is the **provision of high quality, efficient services that respond to the needs of people and continuously improve over time.**



Performance under the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

- Part 12 of the Act – provides general duty of improvement
- Council to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions
- Set improvement objectives for each financial year.
- Select at least one improvement objective in terms of :
 - strategic effectiveness;
 - service quality;
 - service availability;
 - fairness;
 - sustainability;
 - efficiency; and
 - Innovation
- Central government will also specify performance indicators and standards for functions that local government is carrying out under its legislation.
- Councils' performance improvement plans and delivery arrangements will be audited by the Local Government Auditor.



Performance - the link to Community Planning

- Performance improvement and community planning should inform, and be informed by, each other.
- Improvement objectives should compliment (not conflict with) the strategic vision as set out in the community plan.
- community planning should be based both on an understanding of what appears reasonably deliverable by a council and/or its partners, and on continual monitoring of the effectiveness of delivery

Performance arrangements for 2015-16

- While undesirable to require councils to report on a large number of indicators and standards during their first year of operation.
- Equally, it will be useful and necessary to have in place arrangements to allow measurement of new councils' performance and progress, in particular for new functions transferring to councils
- The collection and evaluation of performance information allows baseline positions to be established for new and existing council services. This will support councils' future planning and decision-making on delivery arrangements for those services.



Legislation and Statutory Guidance

- Consultation on the Local Government (Performance Indicators & Standards) Order (NI) 2015 opened on 23 December and closes on 2 March 2015. It is available online :

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/local_government/local_government_consultations.htm

- The Order prescribes performance indicators and standards for economic development, planning and waste management, along with specific guidance on data collection and reporting arrangements
- The Order will only apply for the 2015-16 financial year.
- Limiting the Order to the first year of the new councils' operation allows for adjustment to take account of the new Programme for Government.

Legislation and Statutory Guidance

- DOE will also provide general guidance on councils performance improvement duties and the role of the Local Government Auditor. This guidance will issue for consultation in February 2015