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Introduction

This report is the County Council's third Six Monthly Progress Report, outlining performance from 1 April to 30 September 2004. It is produced in a format which will augment and update the Performance Plan of 2004/05, focusing primarily on those services that are evaluated as priorities in the Strategic Plan 'Building a Future' - 2001-05. As the Plan reaches the end of its current cycle next year it is ever more important to be constantly aware of issues surrounding performance, and the need to review and monitor progress.

The report summarises:

- Progress made in meeting key targets identified in the 2004/05 Performance Plan.
- The Council's performance in meeting the targets set in our Strategic Plan, Local Public Service Agreement, and Comprehensive Performance Assessment
- The outcome of external inspections and assessments.

The findings outlined in this report will be used to drive forward improvements in those areas where there are weaknesses, and to celebrate the areas of excellence within the Council.

SECTION ONE – Progress against key areas of performance

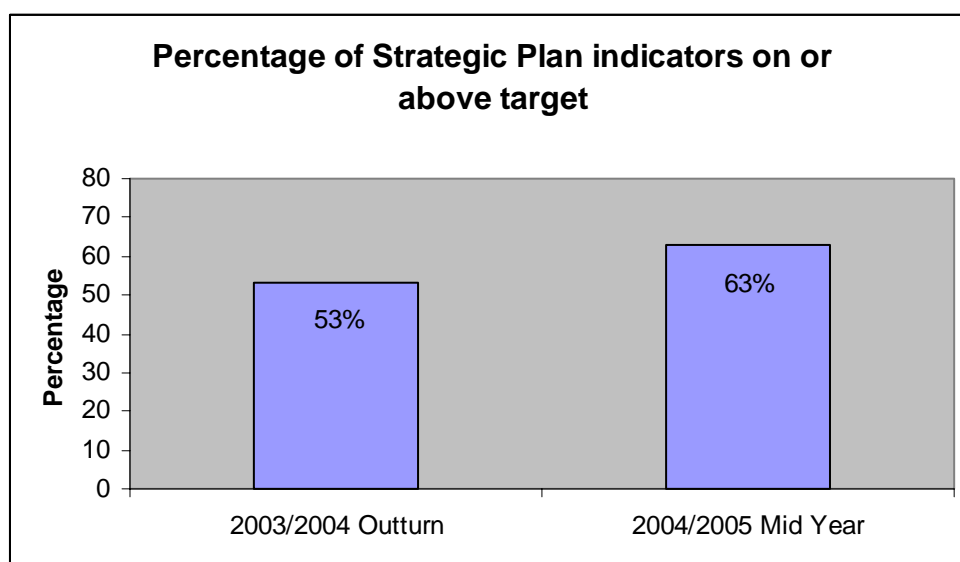
Please note that where figures are cumulative, analysis undertaken in this section for the purposes of identifying ‘direction of travel’ does not take into account seasonal fluctuations and judgements in tracking trends.

1. Strategic Plan Indicators

The table below shows the number of indicators that are on target, and the direction of travel for each Strategic Plan theme.

Theme	Number of measures	On/Above target	Below target	Direction of travel compared to outturn 2003/4			No Data
				↑	⇌	↓	
Community	3	2	1	3	0	0	3
Culture	4	3	1	4	0	0	0
Effective Council	4	2	2	3	0	1	0
Environment	2	2	0	2	0	0	4
Learning	6	2	4	5	1	0	0
Regeneration	5	1	4	2	1	2	0
Social Health & Care	8	8	0	7	1	0	0
Total	32 = 100%	20 = 63%	12 = 37%	26	3	3	7

26 of the 32 Strategic Plan measures are improving (81%), while only 3 have deteriorated. Where there is no data available, performance has not been analysed in the above table.



Mid year 2004/2005 63% of Strategic Plan performance indicators are on or above target.

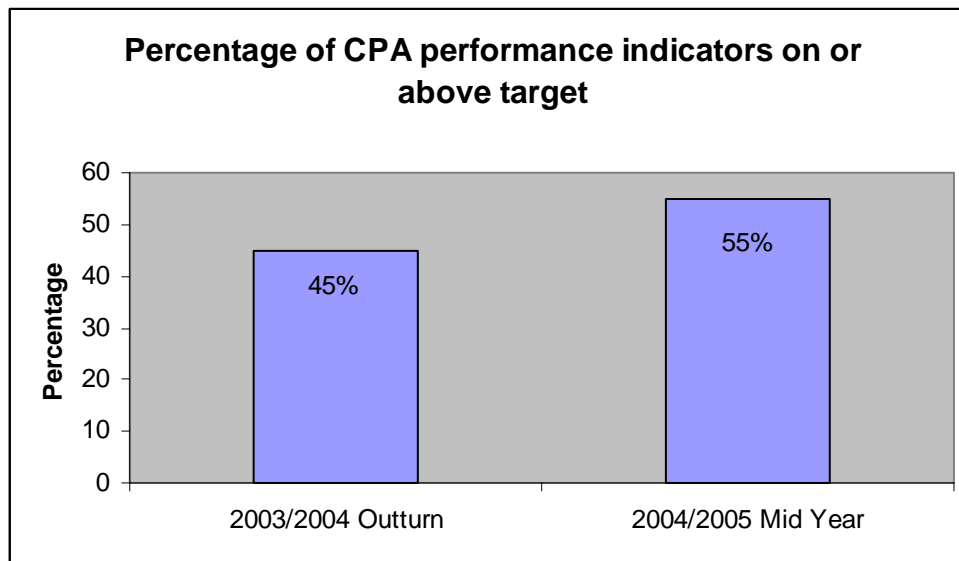
2. Comprehensive Performance Assessment Indicators

Of the 51 indicators that are included in the CPA and are reported annually, only 18 are reported mid-year. The table below shows the number of indicators that are on target, and the direction of travel for each Strategic Plan theme.

Theme	Number of measures	On/Above target	Below target	Direction of travel compared to outturn 2003/4			No Data
				↑	⇒	↓	
Effective Council	9	4	5	7	0	2	0
Environment	5	4	1	4	1	0	0
Learning	2	2	0	2	0	0	0
Social Health & Care	2	0	2	0	0	2	0
Total	18 = 100%	10 = 56%	8 = 44%	13	1	4	0

Thirteen of the 18 CPA indicators are improving while only 4 of the indicators are deteriorating.

The graph below compares the proportion of indicators on target at the end of last year with the position after six months in 2004/05.



55% of CPA performance indicators are now on or above target, compared to 45% of the 2003/04 outturn figures, an increase of 10 percentage points.

3. Best Value Performance Indicators

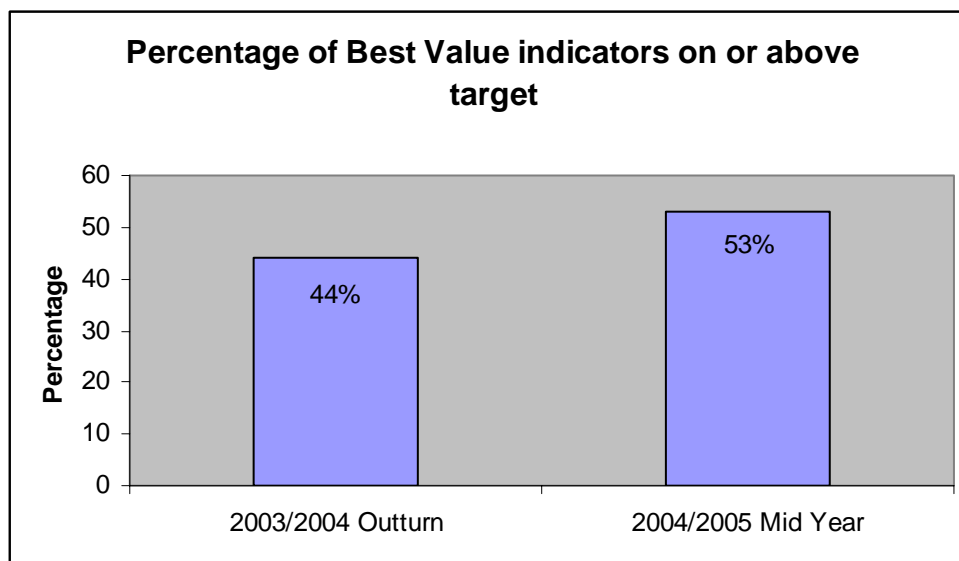
Of the 120 Best Value indicators reported annually, only 49 are reported mid year. The table below shows the number of indicators that are on target and the direction of travel for each Strategic Plan theme.

Theme	Number of measures	On/Above target	Below target	Direction of travel compared to outturn 2003/4			No Data
				↑	⇒	↓	
Community	4	2	2	3	1	0	0
Effective Council	14	5	9	7	3	4	0
Environment	9	7	2	7	1	1	0
Learning	10	6	4	4	1	5	0
Social Health & Care*	12	6	6	5	2	4	0
Total*	49 = 100%	26 = 53%	23 = 47%	26	8	14	0

*Including 1 new indicator where no comparison possible with outturn 2003/04.

71% of Best Value indicators reported mid year are moving in the right direction. 26 of the 49 indicators are improving, while only 14 are deteriorating.

The graph below compares the proportion of indicators that were on or above target at the end of last year with the position after six months in 2004/05.



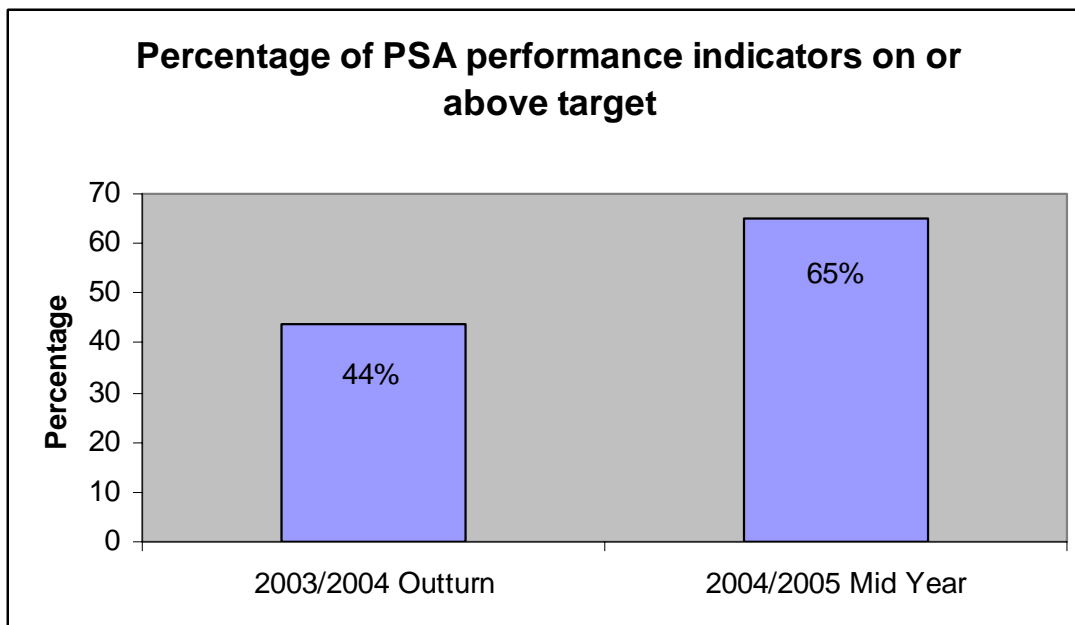
53% of indicators reported are now on or above target, an increase of 9 percentage points on the outturn for 2003/04.

4. Public Service Agreement Indicators

Our performance in meeting our PSA performance targets for mid year 2004/2005 continues to improve. 14 of the 20 PSA performance indicators - 70% - are improving, while only 3 are deteriorating.

Theme	Number of measures	On/Above target	Below target	Direction of travel compared to outturn 2003/4			No Data
				↑	⇒	↓	
Community	6	3	3	4	2	0	0
Effective Council	2	1	1	2	0	0	0
Environment	4	3	1	3	0	1	0
Learning	2	2	0	2	0	0	0
Regeneration	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Social Health & Care	5	3	2	2	1	2	0
Total	20 = 100%	13 = 65%	7 = 35%	14	3	3	0

The graph below compares the proportion of PSA indicators on target at the end of last year with the position after six months in 2004/05. 65% of PSA performance indicators are now on or above target, compared to 44% of the 2003/04 outturn figures, an increase of 21 percentage points.



5. *Annual Improvement Plan*

The Annual Improvement Plan which appears within the Performance Plan for 2004/05 contains 5 key areas for action. This section of the report details our progress in those areas.

i. Completing the work that will enable the Council to secure an 'Excellent' rating through the Comprehensive Performance Assessment in 2004.

As part of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment process for 2004 a full Self Assessment has been undertaken. This document details the way that the Council has built on its strengths and tackled the weaknesses that were identified in the corporate assessment in 2002. The document has been submitted to the Audit Commission, who will be undertaking a Proportionate Corporate Assessment in November.

A benchmarking exercise to compare our relative performance and expenditure on services has been undertaken and reported to Corporate Management Board. An initial report in July will be followed by a second report in November. This evaluation will form part of the budget setting process. Last year this approach led to a redistribution of expenditure within Culture and Community.

ii. Making detailed preparations for implementation of the policies set out in the 'Every Child Matters' Green Paper, and to integrate children's services.

So far we have:

- Formed a children and young people's strategic partnership, chaired by the Chief Executive of the County Council, with representatives of each of our partner agencies at Chief Officer or Chief Executive level.
- Developed an overarching strategy for children and young people in Nottinghamshire.
- Encouraged the development of children and young people's groups within each of our seven Local Strategic Partnerships.
- Formed a Member's working group to look at the implications of the Children Bill in Nottinghamshire. We are currently developing options to accommodate the Directorate of Children's Services. Formal decisions will be made on any structural changes by the new administration following local government elections in May.
- Further developed our pathfinder Children's Trust, which is developing integrated care pathways for children and young people with additional needs.

In addition we are:

- Holding a high profile conference on 16 November, involving 200 senior managers from across all the agencies working with children and young people. The key note speaker is Tom Jeffrey, Director General, Children and Young People from the DfES.
- Developing a number of interagency strategic working groups to look at workforce issues, training, finance, communication, involvement of parents, children and young people as well as evaluation. These will incorporate the work of our Pathfinder Children's Trust, Children's Centre Development, as well as the implementation of the Children Bill and Children's National Service Framework.

iii. Implementing our Job Evaluation schemes

Since the establishment of the Personnel Strategy Package formal agreement in August 2002 the following progress has been made:

- Hay job evaluation of all posts at principal officer and above has been established and implemented.
- National Job Evaluation Scheme has been undertaken for all posts in existence in April 2002, and evaluation of new and changed posts has now begun.
- Work has also now commenced on the pay strategy up to Principal Officer.
- A closer working relationship has been established with the trade unions as evidenced by their full involvement in the implementation of the National Job Evaluation Scheme.
- A draft Human Resources strategy covering Organisational Direction and Culture, Performance Improvement and 'Right People' has been considered by corporate management team.

iv. Building the momentum around improving access to our services

So far we have:

- Expanded the number of services delivered from the pilot contact centre, with evidenced improvements in the 'customer experience'. Also we have agreed in principle to the roll-out of a full contact centre by December 2005.
- Increased the transactional capacity of our website – current 71% of all services are available electronically.
- Been part of the Audit Commission pilot on User Focus with an approved action plan to improve our consultation practice. A key deliverable will be the launch of a consultation database due to go live this autumn.
- Developed the Nottinghamshire portal with key local partners – due to go live November 2004.
- Channelled additional resources into our complaints work – in particular learning from complaints.

v. Developing and renewing Nottinghamshire's community strategy




In the six months April to September 2004, we have continued to develop and embed the work of the Community Strategy both internally and with partners across the county. This has involved;


- Developing the Delivery Plan for the Community Strategy – Altogether Better in Nottinghamshire – explaining the objectives being addressed under each priority, the performance measures and the supporting plans and partnerships.
- Commissioning MORI to undertake a further residents' survey, mirroring that carried out in autumn 2002, to measure progress on that baseline and to provide a robust base of knowledge about local people's priorities upon which the replacement community strategy can be drafted.
- Developing Countywide Strategic Boards to echo the Community Strategy priorities; these boards, for example the Community Safety Board, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and the Learning and Earning Board will drive countywide partnership work under these overarching priorities.
- Planning for and designing the major Stakeholder/Visioning Conference scheduled for 13 November, the results of which will inform the priorities which will frame the replacement longer term community strategy in spring 2005.

SECTION TWO – Analysis of Strategic Plan indicators

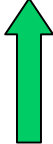
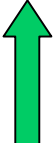
This section of the report looks at each performance indicator.

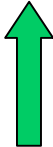
1. Effective County Council

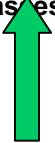

Indicator Description	Outturn 2003/04	Performance at 30 September 2004	6 month Target met?	Direction of Travel	Action for Service Improvement 1 April – 30 September
Community Strategy – <i>BV1a,b,c,d</i> 	Yes	Yes	Yes ✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The establishment and development of the strategic partnership around each theme of the community strategy. Publication of a delivery plan for the County Council contribution to the delivery of the strategy. <p>Organisation of a Visioning Conference to take place in November to commence the review and roll forward the strategy.</p>
Electronic Government - <i>BV15</i> 	71.46	69.13	75 X		<p>The Implementing Electronic Government return for this year (IEG4) has a new section called Priority Outcomes. This stipulates a number of transactions that authorities should e-enable and as a consequence the BV157 list is being re-validated with service departments. This exercise will be complete by the end of November, and a revised status report can then be provided.</p>
Developing our staff – <i>BVLC005</i> 	IIP accreditation	IIP credited	Yes ✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The expected outcomes of the Learning and Development System (LDS) include achievement of Level 4 of the LGA Equality Standard, IIP reaccreditation, and identification of appropriate training courses. The Implementation of LDS across the authority is planned to commence in early 2005, following piloting in the Environment and Social Services Departments (2004). Updates on progress to follow in departmental and team briefings.

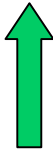
Indicator Description	Outturn 2003/04	Performance at 30 September 2004	6 month Target met?	Direction of Travel	Action for Service Improvement 1 April – 30 September
Position within CPA table <i>BVLC006</i> 	40	See action for service improvement	20		Improvements in both the service score and corporate ability score are expected. Improvements in Social services and Cultural service scores are anticipated but not yet confirmed. The Council has prepared for a corporate assessment in November 2004, which will determine our corporate ability score. Our self-assessment of progress and achievements since 2002 showed that we had made sufficient improvements to maintain our 'good' score for corporate ability. The actual scores will determine the Council's ranking on the 'TOP 20' league table.

2 Learning

Indicator Description	Outturn 2003/04	Performance at 30 September 2004	6 month Target met?	Direction of Travel	Action for Service Improvement 1 April – 30 September
<p>% achieving level 4 and above in English - BV41</p> 	76.5%	77.7%	85% X		<p>Actions to raise standards for 11 year-olds in English are set out in the 2002-2007 Education Development Plan and are approved by the DfES. The actions include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving school leadership and management through training and support for head teachers and governing bodies. • Improving the quality of teaching, learning and subject leadership. • Providing training and support for teachers to improve pupils' skills of speaking and listening and problem solving. • Making better use of information and communication technology across the curriculum. <p>The rate of improvement in this indicator is above the national rate.</p>
<p>% achieving level 4 and above in Mathematics - BV40</p> 	74%	77.7%	85% X		<p>Actions to raise standards for 11- year-olds in mathematics (as with English) are set out in the 2002-2007 Education Development Plan and are approved by the DfES. The actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving school leadership and management through training and support for head teachers and governing bodies. • Improving the quality of teaching, learning and subject leadership. • Providing training and support for teachers to improve pupils' skills of speaking and listening and problem solving. • Making better use of information and communication technology across the curriculum. <p>The rate of improvement in this indicator is above the national rate.</p>




Indicator Description	Outturn 2003/04	Performance at 30 September 2004	6 month Target met?	Direction of Travel	Action for Service Improvement 1 April – 30 September
<p>% achieving at least one GCSE pass grade – BVLED09</p> 	95.6%	96.6%	96.5% ✓		<p>The actions to improve standards for pupils in secondary schools and particularly for 16-year-olds are set out in the 2002-2007 Education Development Plan but are strengthened by the implementation of a local key stage 4 strategy. This strategy is funded by the County Council's medium term financial strategy. The actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of teaching and learning through training and support for teachers. • Developing schools' understanding of continuity in pupils' learning from aged 3 to 16 years. Work is targeted at groups of schools and families of schools where there is a real need to lift pupil performance. • Identification and dissemination of good practice taking place in Nottinghamshire secondary schools particularly in relation to teaching, learning and assessment. • Improve the quality of leadership and management of learning including delivering support programmes for schools for middle level leaders in partnership with the National College for School Leadership. • Schools will be encouraged and supported to work collaboratively and in partnership and networks, particularly making use of specialist and leading edge schools. • Detailed performance data will be used to target intensive support for identified schools. Work will also take place to improve schools' provision of a relevant and collaborative 14-19 curriculums for students including providing support to deliver work related learning. <p>This indicator is no longer a national indicator.</p>

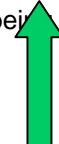

Indicator Description	Outturn 2003/04	Performance at 30 September 2004	6 month Target met?	Direction of Travel	Action for Service Improvement 1 April – 30 September
<p>% achieving five good passes at GCSE – BV38</p> 	47.1%	47.5%	51%		<p>Actions set out above relate also to this indicator. Other actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving standards for pupils who are at risk of exclusion. • Improving the attainment of excluded pupils and of underachieving ethnic minority pupils. • Improve school attendance. <p>The performance of Nottinghamshire pupils has consistently been below the national average.</p>
<p>% of schools subject to special measures – BV48</p> 	1.3%	1.3%	1%		<p>The actions to support this indicator are set out as priority 4 of the 2002 - 2007 Education Development Plan. The actions cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing training for governing bodies. • Improving LEA monitoring systems for all schools. • Developing network learning communities and leadership networks. • Making effective use of advance skills teachers. • Working with schools to improve their self evaluation skills and improvement planning. • A detailed and rigorous programme of targeted support is in place for schools causing concern and this is reviewed on a termly basis. Schools will be supported to set targets for improvement and to plan how they will achieve these targets and schools with insufficiently challenging targets will be challenged. <p>There are 5 schools judged to have serious weaknesses compared to 11 in 2003.</p>

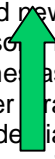

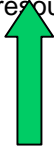
Indicator Description	Outturn 2003/04	Performance at 30 September 2004	6 month Target met?	Direction of Travel	Action for Service Improvement 1 April – 30 September
Annual target for adult learners – BVLCS39 	10,449 (Aug 02 – July 03)	11,756 (Aug 03 – July 04)	9000 ✓		<p>The contract with the Learning & Skills Council runs from August to July. The actual amount report on the left of 8917 for 2003/4 was for the LSC year August 02 – July 03 and was reported mid contract year, so at this time was incomplete. The actual amount for the complete year was 10,449. The target has therefore been met.</p> <p>The target for August 03-July 04 was 9,000 and actual performance was 11,756. This will be reported via PIMS in NCC year 2004/5 in September 04. The target has been met. The target for August 04-July 05 is 9,000. This will be reported via PIMS in NCC year 2005/6 in Sept.05. There is no data as of yet to report against this target as the contract only started in August 04.</p>

*The GCSE data provided in the above table is not validated until January 2005.

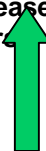
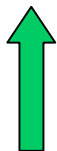
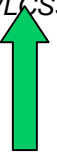
3. Social Health & Care


Indicator Description	Outturn 2003/04	Performance at 30 September 2004	6 month Target met?	Direction of Travel	Action for Service Improvement 1 April – 30 September
Increase the number of adults with physical disabilities helped to live at home – BVLSS09 	390	400	Increase of 60 on the base year. Target achieved and exceeded ✓		Updated actual figures for performance in relation to this target are not available due to current changes within data collection and production arrangements through the development of Framework I. However this Strategic Plan target has already been achieved and improved recording practice, greater uptake of direct payments and the continued impact of the implementation of physical disability teams has resulted in continued progress in this area.
Increase the number of adults with learning disabilities helped to live at home – BVLSS10 	664	670	Increase of 50 on the base year. Target achieved and exceeded ✓		Updated actual figures for performance in relation to this target are not available due to current changes within data collection and production arrangements through the development of Framework I. However this Strategic Plan target has already been achieved and the continued use of supported living schemes has resulted in continued progress in this area.
Increase the number of older people helped to live at home – BV54 	411	411	Increase of 450 on the base year. On course to achieve target ✓		Updated figures for performance in relation to this target are not available due to current changes within data collection and production arrangements through the development of Framework I. However continued investment in homecare has increased the volume of service which is available to service users and progress in this area continues.

Indicator Description	Outturn 2003/04	Performance at 30 September 2004	6 month Target met?	Direction of Travel	Action for Service Improvement 1 April – 30 September
<p>Reduce the time children spend in care before returning home or being adopted</p> 	<p>26 months (8.3% increase on the base year)</p>	<p>25 months (4.2% increase on the base year)</p>	<p>Reduce the time children spend in care before returning home or being adopted by 5%</p> <p>✓</p>		<p>The increase in the average time children spend in care is due to success in finding placements for children who have been in care for longer periods of time. Due to the way that this indicator is calculated the number of days that a child spends in care is only included within the calculation at the point that they return home or are adopted.</p> <p>As a result the success achieved within adoption services has resulted in children who have been in care for a longer period of time and have now been placed being included in the calculation.</p>
<p>Ensure that all of the accommodation we provide meets or exceeds government standards</p> 	<p>A number of specific strategies being implemented with others awaiting approval</p>	<p>Modernisation programme underway</p>	<p>100% of Council residential accommodation meeting new Guiding Standards by 2007</p> <p>On course to achieve target current position being reviewed as part of the Asset Management Plan</p> <p>✓</p>		<p>100% of Council residential accommodation meeting new Guiding Standards by 2007. On course to achieve target. Current position being reviewed as part of the Asset Management Plan. This is a longer term target aiming at compliance with Government standards which needs to be achieved by 2007. There is an on-going programme of modernisation, replacement and refurbishment relating to this target and good progress is being maintained.</p>


Indicator Description	Outturn 2003/04	Performance at 30 September 2004	6 month Target met?	Direction of Travel	Action for Service Improvement 1 April – 30 September
Build new older person residential homes as part of a wider strategy for residential and community support enabling people to remain independent 	Completed	Target of 4 new homes completed	4 new homes. Target achieved ✓		Build four new residential homes for older people alongside the closure of seven existing homes. The first phase of the residential homes strategy has been completed with 12 homes for older people being replaced with 5 new homes. We are currently in the final stages of completing a new extra care scheme at Southwell. Another redevelopment of a residential home with extra care is due to start in March 2005.
Create new children's homes to replace old ones 	Completed	Completed	Develop new children's units to replace older large units Target achieved ✓		The main strategy has been completed with older larger units being replaced with 5 new smaller, domestic scale, properties. Further improvements are currently being planned in specialist children's facilities.
Target and make most efficient use of resources 	Single assessment process not in place	Single assessment process in place	Implement a health and social care single assessment Target achieved ✓		An agreed single assessment process document has been implemented by agreement with all partners. The document is currently being used as part of pilot schemes in all intermediate care settings across the county and within the integrated Gedling Action Team. Following the completion of these pilot schemes the document will be refined and the process will be rolled out countywide to ensure that it is fully operational by April 2005.





4. Culture

Indicator Description	Outturn 2003/04	Performance at 30 September 2004	6 month Target met?	Direction of Travel	Action for Service Improvement 1 April – 30 September
Increase library opening hours <i>BVLCS05</i> 	128.8	149.8	149.8 ✓		The increase in opening hours is an important step towards increasing the usage of libraries in accordance with Government and local priorities.
Development of historic landscape at Rufford. 	4 year target to deliver a £7m project	Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid has been resubmitted. Feasibility study and relocations completed	Project has been rescheduled X		<p>The timelines have been revised. Subject to Heritage Lottery Fund approval, Stage 1 will go live in December 2004.</p> <p>The revised bid is on track to be re-submitted on 9 November 2004. The council has worked closely with the Heritage Lottery Fund and revised the shape of the project to meet the HLF's revised funding regime. Although this has increased the likelihood of the bid being successful it has inevitably led to delays and means that over the life of the Strategic Plan the objective will not be met. However, the revised funding bid is ready for executive approval and the project is now on-track.</p>
People and clubs participating and coaching in key sports – <i>BVLCS35</i> 	9140	9860	9000 ✓		<p>Target exceeded due to greater than anticipated take up in the Nottinghamshire Youth Games and extra schools taking part in the Mini Basketball programme.</p> <p>The Sports Service continues to work hard to encourage young people into community settings. Our work to develop and support voluntary sector sports clubs in the county continues to provide high quality progression routes for young people to sustain their interest and participation outside school. Our success is the result of collaborative work with a great many agencies in the public and voluntary sectors.</p>

Indicator Description	Outturn 2003/04	Performance at 30 September 2004	6 month Target met?	Direction of Travel	Action for Service Improvement 1 April – 30 September
People including young people participating in the arts – BVL S36 	29711	14500	8000 ✓		Target exceeded due to expansion of work with education team, Next Stage, with the aid of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) has resulted in more opportunities for adult education.

5. Regeneration

Indicator Description	Outturn 2003/04	Performance at 30 September 2004	6 month Target met?	Direction of Travel	Action for Service Improvement 1 April – 30 September
<p>Support the creation of 2,000 jobs each year – BVLRG01</p> 	683	247	1000 X		<p>Over the life of the Strategic Plan the Council has continued to work to create and protect jobs. In 2003/4 we exceeded the target for number of jobs created or preserved. However, this Strategic Plan target relates specifically to new jobs created and performance for the job created element of the target was lower than anticipated. The buoyancy of the national economy has resulted in less emphasis on volume job creation and provided scope for greater emphasis on creating high quality knowledge-based jobs and on local areas where unemployment is still above the County's average. This shift is reflected in the over achievement on the knowledge economy target and on the indicator on jobs preserved and will provide evidence for the review of future targets and activities.</p> <p>Research by Local Futures into the characteristics of the local economy revealed that it is dominated by low value, low skilled employment vulnerable to outside competition. In contrast, successful economies have a higher proportion of knowledge economy businesses of high value, high growth and employing higher skilled people. Consequently, the portfolio holder for regeneration decided to refocus the Council's economic development activity away from net job creation towards a greater emphasis on the type and quality of employment.</p> <p>This Council works with fewer knowledge-based companies, often showing high growth but usually creating fewer more highly skilled jobs, at least initially. The buoyancy of the national economy has supported this change in direction. The target of 2000 jobs created will not be achieved but as a consequence of the change in approach other indicators relating to the knowledge economy are showing better performance.</p>

Indicator Description	Outturn 2003/04	Performance at 30 September 2004	6 month Target met?	Direction of Travel	Action for Service Improvement 1 April – 30 September
Knowledge economy development – <i>BVLS06</i> 	33	41	28 ✓		Target exceeded after successful investment in the Mansfield i-Centre, the objectives of the centre are now coming to fruition. The centre has supported over 50 high value knowledge based businesses creating over 200 new jobs with companies rapidly expanding out of the centre. An innovation network is now under construction including sites at Worksop and Newark to build on what has already been achieved.
Develop sector based employment programmes – <i>BVLR09</i> 	86	16	36 X		Project ceased in June 2004 after funding stopped. This project was externally funded and ceased in June 2004 as planned. Responsibility for managing the programme has been transferred to the training providers. During the life of the project some 405 people were recruited onto the training programme which exceeded the target of 300. Some 179 people continued into employment.
Help to reduce the regions unemployment rate – <i>BVLRG10</i> 	2.5%	2.2%	2% X		Whilst the overall direction of travel is in the right direction over the period of the Strategic Plan, there has been no change over the period from March this year. Whilst the unemployment rate is affected by many external factors, NCC is directing its resources to tackle specific hot spots of unemployment to address the local balance.
Help 1,800 unemployed people obtain jobs – <i>BVLS29</i> 	189	196	200 X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge to work programme development unit has employed a work placement officer from June 2004 to strengthen employer linkages to improve job outcome results. • Operate and reviews continuous improvement plan with delivery partners.

6. Environment

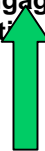

Indicator Description	Outturn 2003/04	Performance at 30 September 2004	6 month Target met?	Direction of Travel	Action for Service Improvement 1 April – 30 September
Waste Recycling – <i>BV82a & BV82b</i>	22.7%	Data collected annually			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set to exceed the government's 2005/6 recycling target of 24% this financial year. Performance will be further improved next financial year when all districts will have rolled out twin bin refuse/recycling. • Working actively with all seven districts in the county, including the operation of joint Member and Officer Boards for decision making. • NCC is one of eight authorities to have been awarded Private Finance Initiative (PFI) funding for waste management (£32m) and should be the first to sign under the new PFI arrangements. • In the latter stages of procuring a 26 year sustainable waste management contract. The contract will be underpinned by waste minimisation, reuse and education and incorporates targets that will exceed those set under the Landfill Directive. New contract to start in 2005/06. • The recommendations identified in the Audit Commission's inspection of Waste Management in 2002 have been addressed.

Indicator Description	Outturn 2003/04	Performance at 30 September 2004	6 month Target met?	Direction of Travel	Action for Service Improvement 1 April – 30 September
Reduce backlog of road repairs – BV96	50%	▶ Annual Survey			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital highway structural maintenance expenditure has been increased by 8.7%. Revenue highway maintenance budgets have been increased in line with inflation. • Environment is implementing a Building Better Communities programme, to improve local highways. This programme will invest £25m over the next five years, helping to raise the quality of the built environment in deprived areas and to improve road condition throughout the county. • Procurement of a Highways Asset Management System has commenced. When implemented this will enable resources to be targeted to achieve maximum impact on road condition. • In line with Audit Commission guidance, no target has been set for this indicator for 2004/05. The 'TRACS' survey to assess road condition in Nottinghamshire has commenced. This could have a negative impact on performance against this indicator. The survey measures different parameters to previous road conditions surveys. Experience in other authorities is that the survey identifies a higher percentage of roads as being in poor condition. Results for Nottinghamshire will be available by the end of December.
Reduce CO2 emissions from County Council buildings – BVLEN06	25.7%	▶ Data collected annually			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 3 year work programme to reduce CO₂ emissions by 3500 tonnes per annum is on track. The programme includes introducing woodheat boilers and replacing coal boilers with gas boilers. • An additional £500k grant has been secured from the Carbon Trust. The grant is being supplemented with match funding, and will be used to further improve energy efficiency of NCC buildings.

Indicator Description	Outturn 2003/04	Performance at 30 September 2004	6 month Target met?	Direction of Travel	Action for Service Improvement 1 April – 30 September
Reducing car use to schools – BVLEN17	29%	▶ Annual survey			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional resources have been appointed and are forecast to deliver 44 additional school travel plans during 2004/05. Performance against this indicator is likely to be adversely affected by a change in timing of the secondary school survey. It will now be carried out before the summer, and so will reflect a seasonal reduction in cycling and walking. This change is in line with a recommendation from internal audit.
Reduce child road accidents – BVLEN16	29%	▶ Annual survey			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance continues to improve and exceeds the strategic plan target of achieving a 28% reduction by 2005.
Robin Hood Line – BVLEN18	Achieved	▶ Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Half hourly daytime service. Achieved June 2002.

7. Community

Indicator Description	Outturn 2003/04	Performance at 30 September 2004	6 month Target met?	Direction of Travel	Action for Service Improvement 1 April – 30 September
<p>Reduce % of young people using the most harmful drugs <i>BV198</i></p>	17.26%	<p>Annual Survey</p>			<p>Numbers in treatment continue to increase. Local data collection indicates a 1-3% annual increase, but National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) data awaited from the Department of Health will provide accurate breakdown of treatment by tier.</p> <p>Increased numbers of people going into drug treatment in Nottinghamshire is a result of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused work with treatment providers to reduce waiting times in line with National Treatment Agency. • Introduction of the Direct Access scheme which allows people to access drug services every day somewhere in the county, seven days a week. • The Drug Intervention Programme which has brought a lot of people into treatment via the criminal justice system.
<p>Increase new childcare places</p>	Target 2562	Target achieved	Target achieved ✓	-	<p>Target achieved.</p> <p>From 1st April 2004 new childcare places are being funded through Sure Start with a target of 1200 new places over 2 years.</p>
<p>Ensure more young people at risk of social exclusion move into education, training at work - <i>BVLCS18</i></p>	542	262	208 ✓		<p>The Acorn and Adventure teams continue to work through the externally funded Education to Employment (E2E) and U Projects in order to secure positive progression for young people at risk of social exclusion</p>

Indicator Description	Outturn 2003/04	Performance at 30 September 2004	6 month Target met?	Direction of Travel	Action for Service Improvement 1 April – 30 September
 Engage young people in active citizenship	5 further Youth Assemblies and Youth Parliament established	Target fully achieved by 31 March 2004	Yes ✓		<p>Target achieved ahead of schedule.</p> <p>All seven Districts Youth Assemblies plus the County Youth Parliament were established by 31st March 2004 and are working to actively involve young people in the democratic process affecting their lives.</p>
 Number of domestic burglaries in the county	27.2	10.1	9 X		Support Crime Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) in targeting measures to tackle domestic burglaries. Support Criminal Justice Intervention Programme (CJIP) in tackling drug-related offending.
Reduction in under 18 conception rate	22.6%	<p>No data for yet for 2004/05</p> <p>2004-05 data to be reported in quarter 4</p>	No data available	-	<p>The Teenage Pregnancy team continues to work alongside its partners to reduce conception rates including the delivery of sexual health training to youth workers and other professionals.</p> <p>The new Assistant Director for Young People's Division (YPD) is now chairing the Teenage Pregnancy Board which it is hoped will have significant impact upon the effectiveness of the strategy</p>

SECTION THREE

1. Outcome of external evaluations

Strategic Plan Theme		
Environment – Regular Performance Assessment		
Outcome	Recommendations	Progress
<p>Assessment cancelled. Environment submitted performance information and a self assessment to the Audit Commission in advance of a Regular Performance Assessment (RPA).</p> <p>On the strength of the submission the Audit Commission determined that the RPA was not needed. The current inspection ratings have been extended.</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable

Strategic Plan Theme		
Cultural Services Inspection		
Outcome	Recommendations	Progress
<p>Cultural Services Inspection</p> <p>Good Service (two stars) with excellent prospects for improvement</p>	<p>The council needs to be clear about what is not a strategic priority within the delivery of cultural services, and should develop an explicit hierarchy of priorities.</p> <p>The council should develop the collection and drawing together of quantitative evaluation of qualitative outcome measures consistently and cohesively into an effective and useful tool to ensure that the contribution of cultural services is recognised.</p> <p>The council should ensure that the library service continues to improve and achieve external and internal targets.</p>	<p>Being addressed as part of the business planning round 2005/6</p> <p>Recognised as part of the department's performance management improvement strategy</p> <p>We are continuing to invest in libraries through the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and the marketing strategy is being rolled out to encourage usage</p>