

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT CABINET PANEL  
THURSDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 10:00AM****ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT PERFORMANCE MONITOR***Report of the Chief Executive & Director of Environment*

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Executive Member: Derrick Ashley, Environment, Planning & Transport

**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To allow the Panel to review the performance of Environment, Planning and Transport for the first quarter of this year (April - June 2017) against the Environment Department Service Plan 2016-2020 including key performance indicators, major projects, contracts and identified risks.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 The Cabinet Panel receives a suite of Annual Performance Reports including:

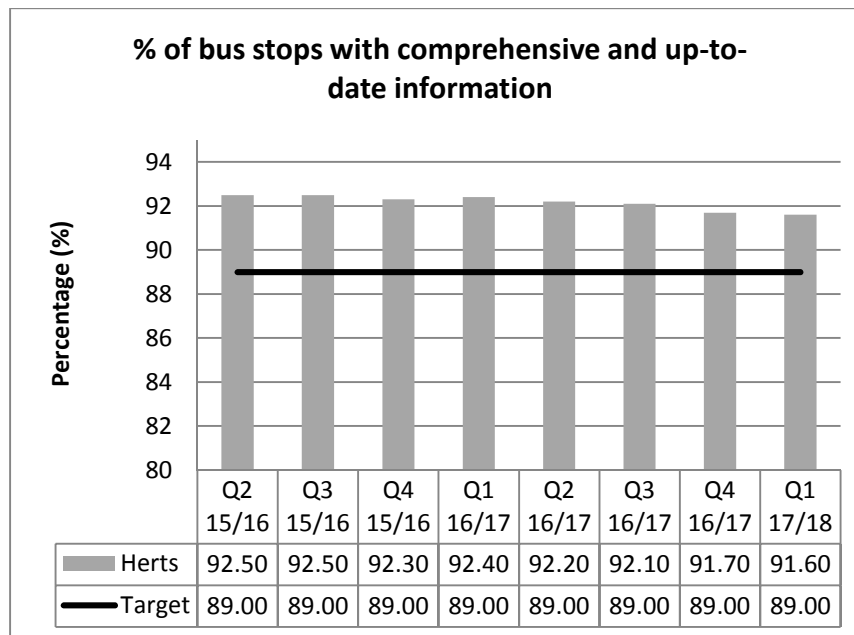
- Local Transport Plan (LTP) – Annual Performance Report (APR) (Q4 or Q1 depending on external data from Government and other sources).
- TD APR – Traffic and Data Annual Performance Report

**3. Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Cabinet Panel is invited to note the report and comment on the performance monitor for Quarter 1 2017-18.

## 4. Strategic Performance Indicators, Contracts and Projects

### 4.1 % of bus stops with comprehensive and up-to-date information



#### 4.1.1 Total number of Marked Hertfordshire Stops - 4306

Total number of Marked Hertfordshire Stops with timetable frames attached to the bus stop pole or shelter containing printed timetables/departures from that stop - 3943

4.1.2 Performance has maintained its high level above target. The number of stops with information has remained static. In general, we are continually aiming to install timetables where they are not present, though some stops are difficult due to the bus stops being formed from lamp columns of a design that does not facilitate attaching a timetable frame, or other constraints. For passengers with smart-phones or other devices the Intalink App and website provide an alternative method to accessing timetable information.

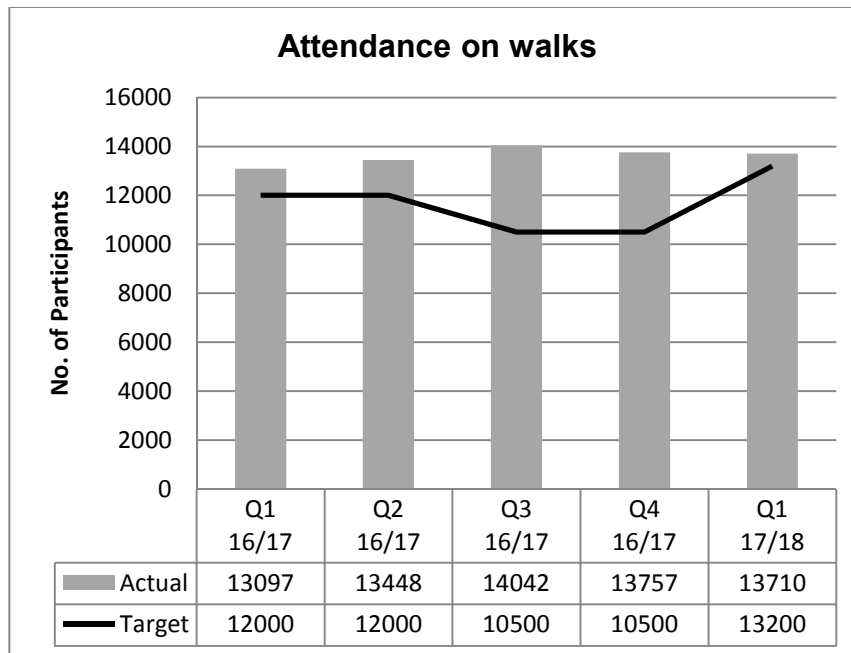
## 4.2 Hertfordshire Health Walks

4.2.1 Hertfordshire Health Walks (HHW) is a countywide initiative of free, volunteer led walks and is coordinated by Countryside Management Service (CMS). HHW promotes walking and encourages more people (all ages, backgrounds and abilities) to get outdoors, get more active and reap the benefits.

The target levels for 'Walks Participation' and 'Walks Led' were set at the start of the financial year. They are notably lower in the quarters where the autumn and winter months fall as past experience has shown that walk leaders and the walkers themselves are reluctant to lead or participate in walks when the weather is inclement and day light hours diminish. Increases in both are linked to activity to recruit more

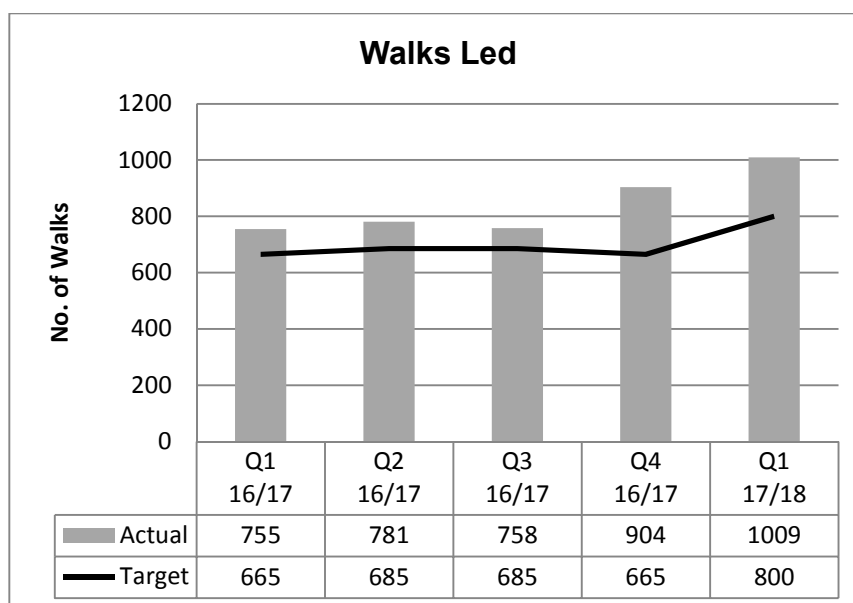
volunteers and deliver more walks in key locations. The target is to be reconsidered for 2017/18.

#### 4.2.2 Walks Participation



CMS achieved a very good outcome for Q1 with 13,710 attendances on the Health Walks. Whilst this exceeds the target of 13,200, the focus for much of CMS promotional activity in the past quarter has been on attracting participants for whom the walks will have most impact i.e. the least active or those currently or at risk of suffering from one or more long-term health issue.

#### 4.2.3 Walks Led



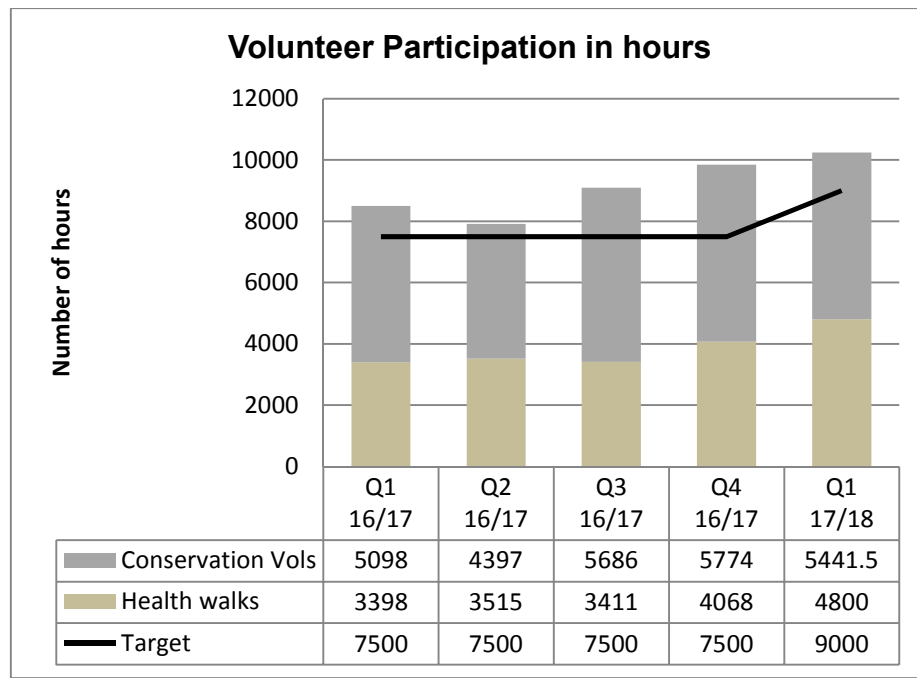
For Q1, 1,009 Health walks were delivered against a target of 800 which is an improvement on the previous quarter. The increase in number of walks led in this quarter compared to the previous is due to a number of factors:

- CMS has offered additional First Steps/Grade 1 walks delivered through partnership working with Patient Participation Groups (PPGs) and the mental health charity MIND
- CMS has changed the way that some walks are recorded – those offering slower/short cut options were counted as 1 walk but are now recorded as 2.

### 4.3 Countryside Management Service Volunteer Participation

4.3.1 Countryside Management Service engages volunteers in all aspects of its activity through a variety of opportunities. Volunteers lead Health Walks, deliver environmental improvements in and improve access through green space including Hertfordshire’s Rights of Way and lead guided walks that raise awareness of the local environment. CMS has been awarded the national Investing in Volunteers Standard for its work supporting volunteers.

#### 4.3.2 Volunteer Hours



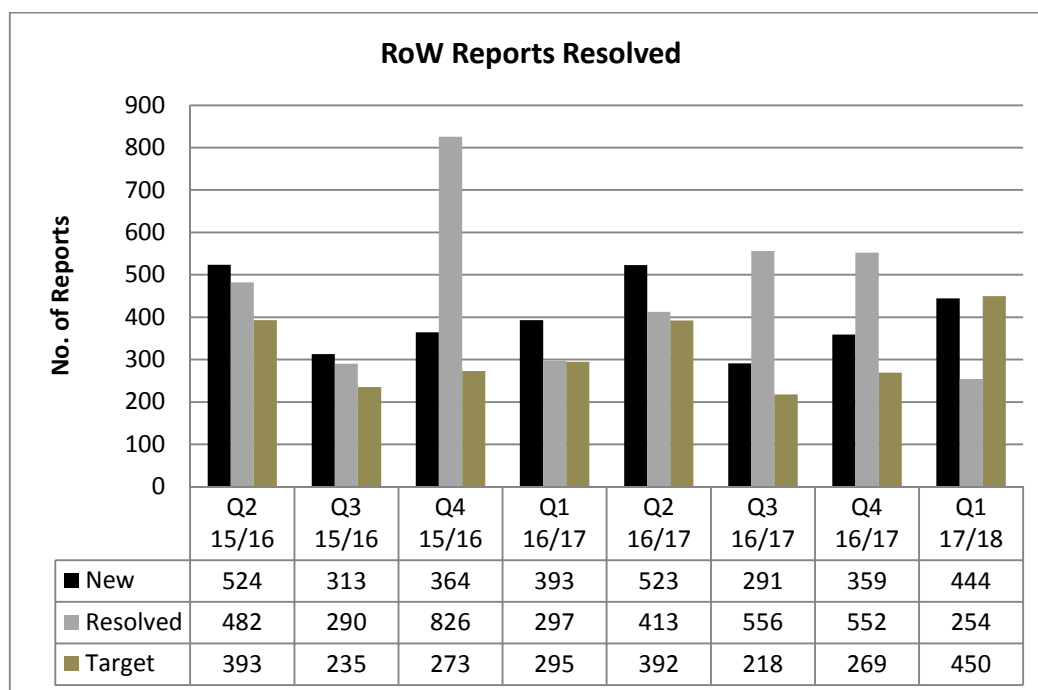
4.3.3 There were 4,800 and 5,441.5 volunteering hours committed to the Health Walks and conservation volunteering respectively. The increase in volunteering hours for Health Walks was due to a volunteer recruitment drive earlier in the year, an increase in the number of walks and the associated administration.

4.3.4 Volunteers in the new role of Rights of Way surveyor became active in Q1. As a result, there was a total of 10,241.5 volunteering hours in this quarter which surpassed the target 9,000 hours.

#### 4.4 Project Income Secured from Sources External to the CMS

4.4.1 Countryside Management Service prepares plans that set out how green space is to be enhanced for people and for wildlife. These plans are used to engage local communities in decision making as well as forming the basis to recruit external funding to enable the actions set out within. Small scale external funding is also secured to expand coverage of Hertfordshire Health Walks and enable volunteering activity in the environment. To date £261,000 has been secured from external sources this year to enable the delivery of these land management plans and other CMS activity including: £80k of S106 funding for river restoration in a Hertsmere park, £10k for improving access on RoW and greenspace in Hertford and a further £6k for a feasibility study looking at flood management and chalk river restoration in Rickmansworth.

#### 4.5 Resolve a minimum of 1,800 of reports received about the rights of way network each year.

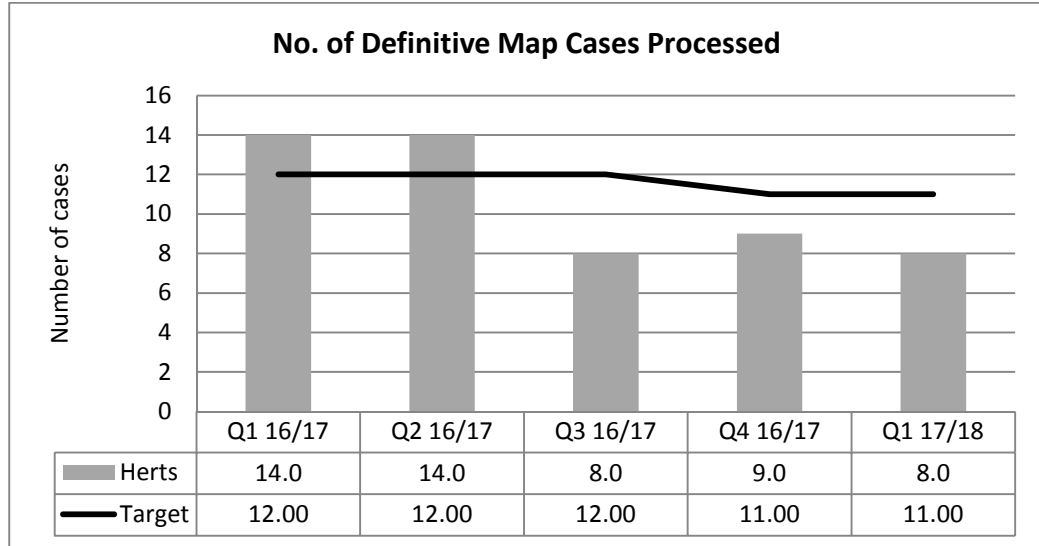


4.5.1 This indicator was previously known as “We will aim to deal with and resolve 75% of reports received about the rights of way network each year” but has undergone revision to reflect clearer outcomes. For instance, there is now a fixed quarterly target of 450.

4.5.2 This quarter is lower as officers have received and logged many overgrown vegetation reports, resulting from the recent swift growth.

As the annual mowing & clearance contract gets fully underway all these reports should be resolved.

**4.6 The number of decisions & orders made and public inquiries held for definitive map cases each year.**



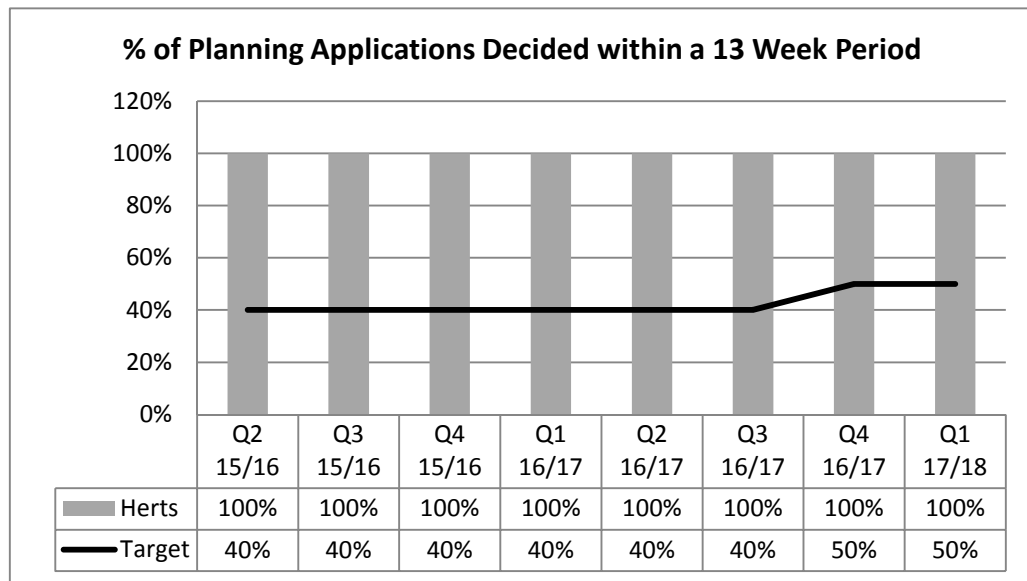
4.6.1 This year’s first quarter is lower than the previous quarter as well as the same period last year, which reflects fluctuations in case progress through a year from delays due to external influences. There are currently 3 cases which have required more than one decision meeting, due either to the complexity of the cases and the quantity of evidence that needs to be assessed, and on-going negotiations for dedication of the route with the landowner. These have therefore not been counted, as a decision has not yet been reached this quarter.

4.6.2 This quarter’s outcome has been achieved during a period when Legal support has been reduced (due to a higher turnover of lawyers) and extra Legal support has had to be bought-in directly by RoW, to maintain customer service levels.

**4.7 The length of the rights of way network that is easy to use**

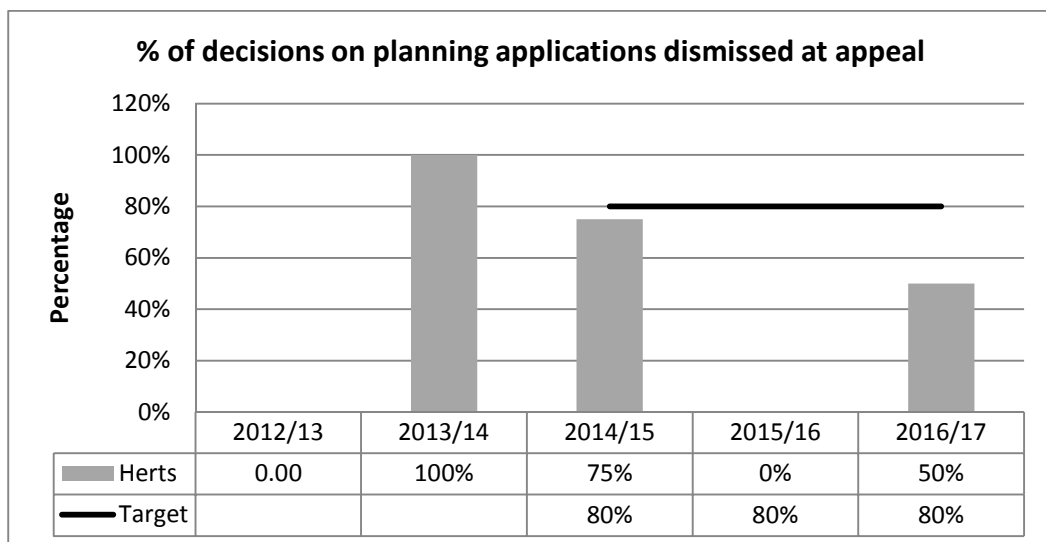
4.7.1 The Herts Countryside Management Service have engaged volunteers to carry out the surveys in 2017, saving valuable officer time. The survey is ongoing and this indicator will be updated as soon as the data has been collected.

#### 4.8 The timeliness of decisions for all County Matter planning applications



4.8.1 In Q1, our performance was 100% or 2 out of 2. Both applications were determined within the statutory 13 week period, with no need for an extension of time. Both applications were determined under delegated powers, rather than by the Development Control Committee.

#### 4.9 Percentage of decisions on planning applications dismissed at appeal



4.9.1 There were two appeals against the refusal of planning permission which were subsequently determined in the reporting period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. The appeal at Radwell Bury Farm was dismissed, and the county council's decision was upheld. The appeal at Pynesfield was allowed; the Officer's recommendation for approval

was overturned by the Development Control Committee who refused the application. The Planning Inspector granted planning permission.

## **5. Risks**

**5.1** Environment, Planning and Transport has 1 corporate level risk and it is as follows:

### **5.2 Tree Health (Risk ENV0142)**

5.2.1 Due to the threat of an increasing number of tree pests and diseases, in particular the threat from Ash Dieback, there is a risk of a significant number of trees being affected which may result in significant unplanned costs, potential dangers to the public and/or service users, impacts on the landscape and loss of biodiversity.

5.2.2 The risk to Hertfordshire's trees from Ash Dieback and other tree health issues is likely to be long-term. With Controls progressing well and more known about the spread of the disease it is felt that the Impact of the risk in any one year can be reduced to (4) Medium. The Likelihood of the tree health issues having an impact in the county remains (5) High. As such the current score for the Tree Health Risk in any one year is (20) Medium.

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **7. Internal Audit**

7.1 There were no internal audits in Q1.

## **8. Equalities Implications**

**8.1** When considering proposals placed before Members it is important that they are fully aware of, and have themselves rigorously considered the equality implications of the decision that they are making.

**8.2** Rigorous consideration will ensure that proper appreciation of any potential impact of that decision on the County Council's statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As a minimum this requires decision makers to read and carefully consider the content of any Equalities Impact Assessment (EQiA) produced by officers.

**8.3** The Equality Act 2010 requires the County Council when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant



protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.

- 8.4** No equality implications have been identified in relation to this report although Panel will not make a decision in respect of its contents.

*Background Information*

*None.*