



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION CABINET BOARD

Immediately Following Scrutiny Committee on THURSDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2014

ROOMS A&B NEATH CIVIC CENTRE

<u>PART 1</u>

- 1. To agree the Chairman for this Meeting
- 2. To receive any declarations of interests from Members
- 3. To receive the Minutes of the previous Economic and Community Regeneration Cabinet Board held on 23rd October 2014 (*Pages 1 - 4*)
- 4. To receive the Forward Work Programme 2014/15 (*Pages 5 6*)

To receive the report of the Director of Environment

- 5. Economic and Community Regeneration Performance Indicators for Quarter 2 or 2014/15 (*Pages 7 24*)
- 6. Corporate, Comments, Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure Monitoring Report (*Pages 25 30*)
- 7. Neath Food and Drink Festival (*Pages 31 32*)
- 8. Training Courses at Croeserw Community Enterprise Centre (*Pages 33 34*)

To receive the report of the Head of Resources and Commissioning

- 9. Christmas and New New Year Opening Times 2014-2015 (*Pages 35 40*) (Libraries, Theatres, Community Centres, Margam Country Park, Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools)
- Performance Indicator Monitoring Report 2nd Quarter 2014/15 (Pages 41 44)
- 11. Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairman pursuant to Statutory Instrument 2001 No 2290 (as amended)
- Access to Meetings to resolve to exclude the public for the following items pursuant to Regulation 4 (3) and (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2290 and the relevant exempt paragraphs of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

<u>PART 2</u>

To receive the Private Reports of the Director of Environment

- 13. Property Formerly Known as YGGD Glyn School (*Pages 45 48*)
- 14. Proposed Leases of the Playing Fields and Recreation Area at Seven Sisters, Neath (*Pages 49 54*)
- 15. Proposed Lease of Parc Newydd Playing Field, Llansawel Crescent, Briton Ferry, Neath (*Pages 55 - 60*)
- 16. Officer Urgency Action To Commission the Coal Authority to calculate a restoration and aftercare bond for East Pit Open Cast Coal Site (*Pages* 61 62)

S.Phillips Chief Executive

Civic Centre Port Talbot

Wednesday, 26th November 2014

Cabinet Board Members:

Councillors: A.J.Taylor and M.L.James

Notes:

- (1) If any Cabinet Board Member is unable to attend, any other Cabinet Member may substitute as a voting Member on the Committee. Members are asked to make these arrangements direct and then to advise the committee Section.
- (2) The views of the earlier Scrutiny Committee are to be taken into account in arriving at decisions (pre decision scrutiny process).

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 3.

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION CABINET BOARD

23 OCTOBER 2014

Cabinet Members:

Councillors: M.L.James (Chairman) and A.J.Taylor

Officers in Attendance:

Mrs.N.Pearce, W.John and Mrs.J.Woodman-Ralph

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Agreed that Councillor M.L.James be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

2. <u>MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION</u> <u>CABINET BOARD HELD ON THE 11TH SEPTEMBER, 2014</u>

Noted by Committee.

3. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE 4TH DECEMBER 2014

Decision:

Noted by Committee.

4. <u>PROGRESS REPORT IN RESPECT OF THE NEW LEISURE CENTRE</u> <u>AT ABERAVON SEAFRONT</u>

Decision:

That the above report be noted, and that the Newsletter detailing progress on the New Leisure Centre at Aberavon Seafront be circulated to the Afan Lido Task and Finish Group, when available, in accordance with the request made by the Scrutiny Committee.

5. **PROPERTY PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Decision:

That the report be noted.

6. WELSH PUBLIC LIBRARIES STANDARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

Decision:

That the Welsh Public Library Standards Annual Report be approved as detailed in the circulated report.

Reason for Decision:

To enable the Local Authority to comply with statutory requirement in respect of the public library service and provide the basis for future improvement.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

7. <u>NEATH PORT TALBOT UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (UDP) -</u> <u>CONSIDERATION OF RESPONSES RECEIVED FOLLOWING</u> <u>CONSULTATION ON THE REVISED AFFORDABLE HOUSING</u> <u>SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE</u>

Members noted that due to the Sustainability Appraisal of the Unitary Development Plan which incorporated an Equalities Impact Assessment, the Screening Exercise concluded that there was no requirement to carry out an additional separate exercise.

Decision:

That the revised Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance as detailed in the circulated report be adopted.

Reason for Decision:

To enable the Local Authority to provide further clarification and to assist with the Affordable Housing negotiations with developers.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

The report has been subject to internal and external consultation and reflects the outcome of the process.

CHAIRMAN

This page is intentionally left blank

2014/2015 FORWARD WORK PLAN

DRAFT ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION CABINET BOARD

Meeting		Туре	Rotation
Date and Time	Agenda Items	(Decision, Monitoring or Information)	(Topical, ,Annual, Biannual, Quarterly, Monthly)

12/01/15	DECISION ITEMS		
	1) Community Development Training Plan	Decision	Annual
	2) Anti-Social Behaviour Legislation	Decision	Annual
	3) Sale/Lease of Land Reports	Decision	Topical

26/02/15	DECISION ITEMS		
	1) Community Services Review	Decision	Annual
	2) Asset Management Review	Decision	Annual
	3) Fees and Charges Pre Application Planning Charges	Decision	Annual
	4) Fees and Charges Building Regs	Decision	Annual
	5) ARBED Grant	Decision	Annual
	6) Substance Misuse Strategy	Decision	Annual
	7) Community Fund Policy	Decision	Topical
	8) Sale/Lease of Land Reports	Decision	Topical

Agenda Item 4.

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 5.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION CABINET BOARD

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT – G.NUTT

4TH DECEMBER 2014

SECTION C-MATTER FOR MONITORING

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR QUARTER 2 OF 2014/15

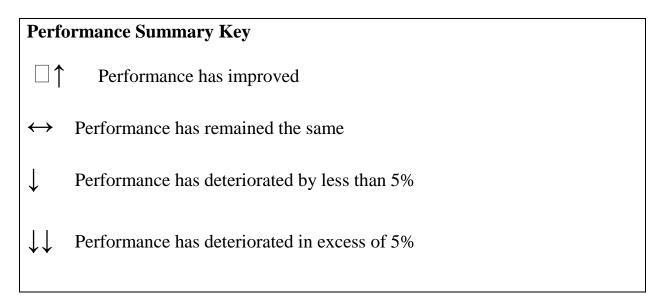
Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of performance during the 2nd Quarter of 2014/15.

On the 14th November 2013 the Corporate Improvement Plan six month progress report 2013/14 was presented to Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee. The report recommended that relevant scrutiny committees are updated on progress of the improvement priorities in the Corporate Improvement Plan that fall within their remit. This recommendation was endorsed by Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee and subsequent Cabinet Board.

Note: The relevant sections of the six month progress report for 2014/15 is attached as Appendix A. Improvement Objective 4, includes some improvement milestones that relate to areas within the remit of Social Care, Health & Housing, which will be reported to their Cabinet Board on 27th November 2014. The full half year progress report, which includes progress on all six of the Improvement Objectives will be reported to Policy & Resources Cabinet Board on 27th November 2014.

Part 1 of the report will highlight performance levels over the 2nd quarter of 2014/15 and will demonstrate comparatives between 2013/14 and newly collated data for the 2^{nd} quarter of 2014/15. A key has been produced overleaf.



Part 2 will include commentary on performance information in general.

Part 1 Performance Summary

Indicator No.	Indicator Name	Accountable Manager	Outturn 13/14	Q2 (2013/14)	Q2 (2014/15)	Year on Year Q2 performance comparison
	Number of jobs created as a result of financial	Robert				
L(ED) 1	support by the Local Authority	Scourfield	255	120.5	56.5	**
	Number of new business start-ups enquiries	Robert				
L(ED) 2	assisted through Business Services.	Scourfield	429	222	184	↓ ↓
	Number of business enquiries resulting in advice,	Robert				▲
L(ED) 3	information or financial support being given to	Scourfield	682	382	388	
	existing companies through Business Services team					
Planning					1	1
Indicator	Indicator Name	Head of	Outturn	Q2	Q2	Year on Year
No.		Service	13/14	(2013/14)	(2014/15)	Q2
						performance
		Ni - 1- D	20.1	30.2	28.07	comparison
PLA/M001	Average time taken from receipt of application to	Nicola Pearce	30.1			↑
	validation of application		days	days	days	l
PLA/M002	Average time taken from receipt of application to	Nicola Pearce	87.6	81.7	77.58	↑ 1
	date decision is issued		days	days	days	I
PLA/M003	Percentage of applications where the quality of the development has been improved (following negotiation by the case officer either at pre application stage or during the course of the application).	Nicola Pearce	36%	35.4%	29.80%	$\downarrow\downarrow$
PLA/M004	The percentage of major planning applications determined during the year within 8 weeks	Nicola Pearce	23.1%	18.18%	26.67%	1

Indicator No.	Indicator Name	Head of Service	Outturn 13/14	Q2 (2013/14)	Q2 (2014/15)	Year on Year Q2 performance comparison
PLA/002 (SID)	The percentage of applications for development determined during the year that were approved	Nicola Pearce	95.5%	95.8%	97.22%	\uparrow
PLA/004 b) (SID)	The percentage of minor planning applications determined during the year within 8 weeks.	Nicola Pearce	71.3%	72.5%	68%	$\downarrow\downarrow$
PLA/004 c) (SID)	The percentage of householder planning applications determined during the year within 8 weeks.	Nicola Pearce	94%	93.5%	88.82%	$\downarrow\downarrow$
PLA/004 d) (SID)	The percentage of all other planning applications determined during the year within 8 weeks.	Nicola Pearce	73.9%	72.7%	83.54%	↑
PLA/006(b) (PAM)/ (NSI)	The number of additional affordable housing units provided during the year as a percentage of all additional housing units provided during the year	Nicola Pearce	69	Reported	annually	N/A
Building Co						
Indicator No.	Indicator Name	Head of Service	Outturn 13/14	Q2 (2013/14)	Q2 (2014/15)	Year on Year Q2 performance comparison
BCT/004 (SID)	Percentage of building control 'full plan' applications checked within 15 working days during the year	Nicola Pearce	98.1%	98.3%	100%	\uparrow
BCT/007 (SID)	The percentage of 'full plan' applications approved first time.	Nicola Pearce	99%	99.1%	96.6%%	\downarrow

	Indicator No.	Indicator Name	Accountable Manager	Outturn 13/14	Q2 (2013/14)	Q2 (2014/15)	Year on Year Q2 performance comparison
	CAM/001a(i)	The percentage of the gross internal area of the local authority's building in condition category A – Good.	Simon Brennan	7.15%	Reported Annually		N/A
	CAM/001a(ii)	The percentage of the gross internal area of the local authority's building in condition category B – Satisfactory.	Simon Brennan	41.17%	Reported Annually		N/A
	CAM/001a(iii)	The percentage of the gross internal area of the local authority's building in condition category C – Poor.	Simon Brennan	42.23%	Reported	Annually	N/A
	CAM/001a (iv)	The percentage of the gross internal area of the local authorities buildings in condition category D – Bad	Simon Brennan	9.45%	Reported	Annually	N/A
222	CAM/001b(i)	The percentage of the total value of required maintenance for the local authority's buildings assigned to works priority level 1 – Urgent	Simon Brennan	15.16%	Reported	Annually	N/A
×	CAM/001b(ii)	The percentage of the total value of required maintenance for the local authority's buildings assigned to works priority level 2 – Essential	Simon Brennan	60.61%	Reported	Annually	N/A
	CAM/001b(iii)	The percentage of the total value of required maintenance for the local authority's buildings assigned to works priority level 3 – Desirable.	Simon Brennan	24.23%	Reported	Annually	N/A

Part 2 Performance Commentary

Economic Development

L(ED) 1) – the performance output for this indicator has been affected by the fact that no loans have been offered to date. Changes in European Regulations meant that the loan fund had to be registered with the Financial Conduct Authority by 31st March 2014 (which has been met). We have now received confirmation that loan scheme can resume and this should impact on the figures reported by the end of the year. In addition, there are a number of approved applications that are still being processed and we anticipate that these outputs will reflect in the figure reported next quarter.

L(ED) 2) – business advisors now attend Job Centre Plus and this has resulted in referrals to the monthly Enterprise Club being significantly reduced. However, as enquiries from other sources are developed, it is anticipated that the target set for this indicator for 2014/15 will be achieved.

L(ED) 3) – the Business Development Team receives enquiries from existing businesses for support on a range of issues such as property, rates relief, local contract opportunities, tendering, events, etc. It is therefore, anticipated that the target set for this indicator for 2014/15 will be achieved.

Planning

PLA/M003 - The percentage of applications where the quality of the development has been improved - has dropped in comparison with the same quarter last year. Nevertheless, this figure is largely dependent on the nature of applications that are received during any quarter and, as a consequence, is subject to minor fluctuations throughout the year. This quarter resulted in 30% of applications requiring the intervention of Officers to improve proposals to make them more acceptable. This reduction in the overall number of applications requiring improvement can be attributed to the fact that the Department received a greater number of applications which were acceptable upon submission, and as such did not require negotiation.

PLA/004 c) - The percentage of householder planning applications determined during the year within 8 weeks - remains high at close to 89% but falls short of the high standards set in recent years. The relatively poor Q1 performance has affected these cumulative figures, although the performance during Q2 (July-September), taken by itself, has improved from Q1 (up from 86.2% to 90.2%), demonstrating improvement in challenging times.

PLA/004 b) The percentage of minor planning applications determined during the year within 8 weeks dropped from 72.5% to 68%, which remains a consequence of the complexity of the type of application determined and pressures on staff resources, but is balanced by the significant increase in performance for 'all other' planning application - **PLA/004 d**) – which increased from 72.7% to 83.5%.

Overall, efforts will continue to ensure that Officers and applicants 'front-load' negotiations as part of our continuing commitment to delivering 'Quality Development Quickly', and thus reducing delays later in the process.

Affordable housing units provided (**PLA/006**) is an annual indicator and will be monitored over the quarter 4 period of 2014/15.

Building Control

100% of building control 'full plan' applications were checked within 15 working days (**BCT/004**) which is an improvement on previous year's high performance levels. The number of full plan applications approved first time (**BCT/007**) dropped marginally from 99.1% but continues with a high performance level of 96.6%. The marginal drop in performance reported can be attributed to a reduction in the number of staff employed within the Building Control section as a result of contributions to the councils FFP.

Corporate Health & Asset Management

Local authority buildings conditions and maintenance are annual indicators and will be reported during the quarter 4 period of 2014/15

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the performance levels achieved.

Appendices

Appendix A

List of Background Papers

File Ref. TA14/3

Officer Contact

Diane Leonard Environment Resources Officer Tel: 01639 686786 Email: <u>d.leonard@npt.gov.uk</u>

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2014-2017 – HALF YEAR PROGRESS REPORT (1.04.14 TO 30.09.14)





IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVE 4

Support and invest in our town centres and communities to promote economic growth, regeneration and sustainability, maximise job opportunities and improve access to employment

RAG Status	Comments
Green	Overall we are on track to achieve the milestones for this improvement objective.

- **Regeneration what we said we would:**
- 1. Continue work on Harbourside by developing pedestrian links to improve accessibility to employment opportunities

How are we doing? – We are in the process of formalising land ownership issues prior to submitting a planning application for the development of pedestrian links and a planning application has been submitted for the new NPT College campus and a proposed Business Park.

2. Begin work on the Baglan Link Bridge which will make Baglan Energy Park more accessible and enable local bus companies to provide a bus service to the site

How are we doing? - Construction work has started on site and is due for completion March 2015.

3. Begin construction work to deliver the first phase of the Neath Town Centre redevelopment to improve the town centre for the community and visitors to the town

How are we doing? - The first phase to include a new 600 space multi-storey car park, and 23,000 sq ft of new retail space is under construction and due for completion in August 2015.

4. Complete improvements in public areas in Port Talbot, Neath and Croeserw to enhance the environment for the community

How are we doing? - Initial works completed in Port Talbot and Croeserw, with additional work being undertaken in Lower Station Road, Port Talbot (due to be completed in June 2015). Also additional public realm works are being undertaken in Neath as part of the first Phase as mentioned in point 3 above.

5. Begin construction work, on the new Leisure Centre on Aberavon seafront

How are we doing? - Construction work is well advanced and the centre is due to open in December 2015.

6. Continue to drive forward regeneration projects in the Valleys to make enhancements to tourism, employment and public areas

How are we doing? - Regeneration projects in Pontardawe and Glynneath have been completed and a planning application has been submitted for the second phase at Sarn Helen.

7. Develop a comprehensive commuter cycle network to enable residents and visitors to access towns, employment centres and visitor attractions effectively and safely

How are we doing? - In partnership with the City and Council of Swansea we have introduced an integrated commuter route scheme covering the whole of Swansea Bay. This scheme has led to improved cycle signage in the County Borough, raising awareness to car/lorry drivers of cyclists and a full marketing programme is being implemented to raise awareness of the routes. This scheme so far has led to a 25% increase in cyclists on routes that have been measured.

8. Pursue the establishment of quality tourist accommodation and facilities at sites including Rheola

How are we doing? - The Rheola planning application is anticipated to be determined in November 2014.

9. Continue to renovate properties in the Council's two Renewal Areas- Neath East and Sandfields East & Aberavon. We aim to improve 75 properties

How are we doing? – Energy Company Obligation funding has been secured to support the renewal area energy upgrade works and currently 45 houses have been completed to date. A further 30 properties will be completed by year end.

Employment & Prosperity - what we said we would:

10. Continue to work with Welsh Government to test and explore opportunities to reduce the number of individuals in South West Wales who are economically inactive or unemployed by working in a joined up, client centred way

How are we doing? - As at 30th June 2014, the latest data indicates that more people (73.6%) of working age (16 to 64) were economically active, compared to 71.6%, as at 31^{st} September 2013. As at 30^{th} September 2014, 2.7% of working age people were claiming Job Seekers Allowance, again an improvement compared to 3.5% as at February 2014.

11. Help economically inactive people and those who are long-term unemployed to improve their chances of getting a job through the Workways project and to explore self-employment through the Council's Innov8 programme

How are we doing? - 5,007 (cumulative figures) people were engaged in the project, above the target of 4,450 for this period (1.04.14 to 30.09.14) and 2,505 (cumulative figures) people were in sustainable employment, above the target of 1,871 for this period. This project has been extended to 31st December 2014.

12. Provide an effective and supportive service through our Business Development Team to local businesses to help them prosper creating more jobs and business start ups

How are we doing? - There were 388 business enquiries resulting in advice, information or financial support being given to existing companies. This output is on track to deliver the year end forecast of 430. We assisted 184 new business start-up enquiries and this output has already achieved the year end forecast. We have assisted 16 new start ups through the Innov8 programme and this output is on track to deliver the year end forecast of 28. 56.5 jobs have been created as a result of financial support by the Council and it is anticipated that year end forecast of 176 will be achieved.

13. Identify contracts for local companies and job and training opportunities for local people within major developments in the County Borough

How are we doing? -

- Trem y Mor Respite Centre, Aberavon (value £4m) outputs achieved: four local companies secured contracts to provide materials/supplies; 47 people secured work on site, including 15 new job opportunities; two pathway apprenticeships completed; two apprenticeship training weeks completed.; 197 training weeks completed and all outputs agreed at the tender stage were achieved.
- Neath Town Centre Redevelopment (Value £9.1m) outputs achieved to date: 22 local companies introduced to main contractor; five local companies secured contracts to provide materials/supplies; two local sub contractors secured M&E and Cladding contracts; 90 people secured work on site; there was one apprentice and one trainee work placement. The project is on track to achieve all outputs identified at the tender stage.

14. Provide opportunities for accessing training and employment, and support for businesses, in the community at the Croeserw Enterprise Centre

How are we doing? - We have established 30 training courses established, with over 150 participants gaining formal accreditation.

In partnership, we said we would:

1. Continue to monitor progress made by NPT Homes to ensure they meet the Council's promise to bring all former council housing up to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard and to regenerate communities

How are we doing? – NPT Homes are on track to deliver this milestone and good progress continues to be made with the programme having completed the following works since transfer: 4,286 kitchens; 3,901 bathrooms; 3,698 heating system installations; 2,670 rewires; 880 roof replacements; 1,544 window and door installations. The fifth NPT Homes half yearly progress report is due to go to Social Care Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee on the 27th November 2014.

2. Continue to offer the "Housing to Homes" interest free loans to encourage landlords, developers and home owners to renovate empty houses that have fallen into disrepair and aim to support ten homes to be available for use

How are we doing? - 12 units have been brought back into the housing market this financial year, with approximately 10 further applications at various stages including application and on site.

3. Work with our housing partners to deliver affordable housing, through the Social Housing Grant (including Smaller Properties programme and revenue funded schemes), Vibrant & Viable Places programme and the Welsh Housing Partnership; whilst continuing to explore other and innovative funding solutions

How are we doing? - We are still on target for the delivery of 77 properties however one site is subject to matters outside our control and has an 'amber' status. The current housing market and financial climate is impacting negatively on the delivery of affordable housing through Section 106.

4. Develop projects and programmes to maximise the impact of the next round of European Funding

How are we doing? – The European and External Funding team are supporting the development of the following projects: NEETs, Neath and Port Talbot integrated strategies; Workways; Social Enterprise support; Swansea Bay City Region

Economic Regeneration Strategy; and Regional Technical Assistance proposal. Note: the 2014 – 2020 ESF funds are not yet approved. WEFO proposed launch date is 20th November 2014.

5. Prioritise the allocation of Discretionary Housing Payment Grants to those in greatest need to prevent hardship

How are we doing? – To date we have made 568 awards totalling £252,000.

6. Continue to fund benefits advice services, including maintaining the Council's Welfare Rights Unit, so that people are accessing the benefits to which they are entitled

How are we doing? - The welfare rights unit assisted and supported 108 people to successfully appeal benefit decisions that have cut or removed the benefits that they are entitled to. A comprehensive report will be going to Policy and Resources Cabinet Board meeting on 27th November 2014.

7. Complete the three pilot projects that we have set up with the assistance of European funding, to improve access to advice and support services for people with low incomes and recommend next steps to the Local Service Board

How are we doing? - The three pilot projects have been completed and evaluated and all have achieved their planned outcomes.

- **Project one,** the Multi Agency Hub at Pontardawe the Policy & Resources Cabinet Board (16th October) received the evaluation report for this pilot and approved the recommendation to extend the project for a further 12 months and for a number of follow up actions to be undertaken.
- **Project two,** the dedicated advice line set up in the Council's Corporate Contact Centre a report will be presented to Policy & Resources Cabinet Board (27th November) on the evaluation with a list of recommendations, including extended the pilot to the end of March.
- **Project three**, one stop help for people actively seeking work through joint working between the library service and the Jobcentre the Policy & Resources Cabinet Board (16th October) received the evaluation of the pilot and approved the recommendation to endorse the continuation of the partnership arrangements and to report back to Members on the

outcome of discussions between Job Centre Plus and the Library Service re: availability of financial resources to support the work.

8. Deliver on the Strategic Aims of the Regional Economic Development Strategy to enhance the long-term prospects of our City Region economy, its businesses and communities and monitor the delivery via a newly developed performance management framework

How are we doing? - Work is continuing to develop a Performance Management Framework to monitor the delivery of the strategic aims of the strategy.

9. Work towards linking strategic employment sites by establishing priority bus corridors between key towns within the City Region

How are we doing? - Construction of the Baglan Energy Park Link Bridge continues as part of the Port Talbot to Swansea bus corridor (completion March 2015), through Harbourside and Fabian Way Strategic Sites. Work continues to develop on other schemes in liaison with the Regional Transport Forum.

10. Work with community transport operators to enhance and integrate their services to support local communities and ensure the schemes meet the transport targets as set out in the Service Level Agreements with the Council

How are we doing? - All targets as set out in Service Level Agreements have been met. There have been regular meetings with both Community Transport schemes and Shopmobility, to encourage closer working and combined bids, to improve future funding prospects. To date, an Regional Development Plan bid has been submitted and a project proposal put forward to Pen-y-Cymoedd Community Fund.

11. Redevelop Port Talbot Parkway Station, to improve access, parking and facilities for customers

How are we doing? - On target for completion in Spring 2015.

12. Implement the Vibrant and Viable Places Regeneration Framework to combine support for people and places, and encourage partnership working by the public, private and third sector

How are we doing? - First scheme at Green Park on site, 34 homes to be delivered by November 2015.

13. Develop key sites and premises across the County Borough to encourage economic growth Sites include: Harbourside, Coed Darcy Urban Village and Swansea University's new Bay Campus

How are we doing? - All sites under various stages of advanced construction.

14. Enable the establishment of caravan site facilities at Margam Park in partnership with the Camping and Caravanning Club to enhance visitor numbers to the County Borough

How are we doing? - A planning application has been submitted.

15. Make the most of community investment by working in partnership with developers/organisations who are delivering substantial investment programmes, to encourage and monitor training and job opportunities for local people, and local supply chain activity

How are we doing?

- Residential Care Homes (Grwp Gwalia) Value £3.7m, Moor Road contract completed. 18 companies introduced to main contractors; seven contracts awarded to local companies; 300 persons secured employment on site; four apprentices completed training weeks on site; eight trainee/temporary job opportunities/work placements. There were no set targets for this contract.
- Caewern Home work on site to commence in October 2014...To date, 13 companies have been introduced to main contractors and four contracts awarded to local companies.

- Welsh Housing Quality Standards (NPT Homes) 31 people have secured jobs with sub-contractors; eight apprentices secured placements with sub contractors and 25 people have been provided with temporary job opportunities.
- New Leisure Centre (Aberavon) to date 80 companies have been introduced to main contractors; three contracts awarded to local companies and 11 people have secured jobs on-site.
- Swansea University 450 companies have been introduced to main contractors; 40 local companies secured contracts; 33 job opportunities created; more than 50 individuals completed 1000 trainee weeks and the canteen facilities are being run by NPT COASTAL projects providing jobs and training to those looking to get back into employment.
- Further projects due to commence shortly: Vibrant & Viable Places Funded Projects Green Park Industrial Estate (Coastal Housing), Renewal Areas (Aberavon) and Briton Ferry Health Centre (Deryn Properties Ltd).

Agenda Item 6.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION CABINET BOARD

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT – G. NUTT

4TH DECEMBER 2014

SECTION C- MATTER FOR MONITORING

WARD(S) AFFECTED: Glynneath, Margam, Blaengwynfi, Baglan, Aberdulais, Bryn & Cwmavon and Coedffranc

CORPORATE COMMENTS, COMPLIMENTS AND COMPLAINTS POLICY AND PROCEDURE MONITORING REPORT

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to advise Members on comments, compliments and complaints received which have been received through the Authority's Complaint Policy by the Directorate for the six month period from April to September 2014.

Background

The following number of comments, compliments and complaints have been received by the Environment Directorate.

Comments	-	0
Compliments	-	2
Stage 1 Complaints	-	2
Stage 2 Complaints	-	5

Compliments

Case 1

A compliment was received from a member of the public who had attended the Enterprise Club at Sandfields Business Centre in June thanking everyone involved for all the expertise and friendly welcoming atmosphere.

Case 2

A compliment was received from South Wales Police and Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service to an Officer of the Environment Resources Section for all the work undertaken to ensure that the Safety Advisory Group functioned to the best of its ability.

Stage 1 Complaints

Case 1

A complaint was received from a local trader regarding the Glynneath Regeneration Scheme. The complainant had concerns about the slow progress of the works within the town centre and in particular, the excessive coning off of pavements which was affecting trade to his premises.

Conclusion

The complaint was investigated and found unforeseen drainage works had been carried out along the pavements which had caused additional disruption. However, with the co-operation of the contractors, the length of operations along the High Street had been reduced and the pedestrian barriers had been reconfigured to improve access to shops.

Case 2

A second complaint was received regarding the Glynneath Regeneration Scheme from a local trader who was concerned about the length of time being taken to complete the works. The complainant stated that due to a loss of street parking in the area, there had been a considerable downturn in trade to their store.

The complaint was investigated and found that the scheme was ahead of programme. However, it was acknowledged that the ongoing works would inevitably disrupt and inconvenience traders and visitors to the town. It was recommended however, that communication between traders and operators be improved to ensure disruption is minimised.

Stage 2 Complaints

Case 1

A complaint was received from a resident of Blaengwynfi who wished to complain about the Authority's Local Development Plan. The complainant stated that officers had not fully considered the policy of the Community Economic Regeneration Section in forming and implementing the Local Development Plan in this area. In addition, he stated Officers had not been helpful in dealing with his concerns and in particular, in submitting his appeal.

Conclusion

The complaint was investigated and found that correct procedures had been implemented in drawing up the plan and all relevant sections had been consulted before its implementation. A log of Officers meetings with the complainant had also been kept, which indicated that Officers had spent a considerable amount of time and effort in dealing with the complainant and in advising him of the various options available to him should he wish to submit an appeal. In view of this, the complaint was not upheld and was investigated within the 20 day guidelines.

Case 2

A complaint was received from a member of the public regarding the restoration of the Park Slip/Margam Open Cast Coaling Site Restoration Scheme. The Complainant had concerns regarding the slow progress of restoration of the site, its future outcome and in particular the lack of action taken by the Authority in resolving the issue. The complainant also had concerns regarding the lack of minutes taken at meetings between agents and officers and requested the matter be investigated.

Conclusion

The complaint was investigated and found that whilst the developer had not submitted a detailed restoration strategy as is required by the operating conditions of the site, both NPT and Bridgend Council had jointly commissioned an independent restoration scheme for the site, with a view to securing restoration of the site. However, the complicated legal position with regard to this site has prevented the LPA's from serving enforcement notices and discussions ongoing with regard to the future of this site. It was also noted that minuted meetings were not a legal requirement in this instance. The complaint was not therefore upheld and was investigated within the 20 day guideline.

Case 3

A complaint was received from a resident of Baglan regarding his inability to access the Planning web pages on the Authority's web site. The complainant

stated that due to this issue, the consultation time for this particular planning application should be extended.

Conclusion

The complaint was investigated and found the Authority's web pages were in working order. In addition, it was noted that the complainant had been advised of several alternative methods of accessing the information he required should he have wished to do so. In view of this, the complaint was not upheld and was investigated within the 20 day guidelines.

Case 4

A complaint was received from a resident of Cilfrew regarding a Building Control Officer's decision not to provide a completion certificate for his property. The complainant stated that as he had complied with Building Control regulations and the section were in possession of the necessary inspection reports, a completion certificate should be issued. His complaint had been considered by the Section Manager but the situation remained unresolved.

Conclusion

The complaint was investigated and found that the completion certificate had been withheld, as full payment for his application had not been received. Legal representation was sought and it was decided that whilst the Authority was not legally bound to provide a completion certificate, it was agreed that a certificate could be issued in this instance and the complaint was upheld. The complaint was investigated within the 20 day guidelines.

Case 5

A complaint was received from a resident of Cwmavon regarding the determination of a Planning Application in his area. The complainant argued that the officers had not been consistent in determining the application when compared with a previous application in his area and wished for his complaint to be investigated.

Conclusion

The complaint was investigated and found that given each application must be considered on its individual merits, it was evident that material differences between both applications had been considered in detail by Officers and agreed by Members of the Planning & Development Control Committee. In view of this, the complaint was not upheld and was investigated within the 20 day guidelines.

Case 6

A complaint was received from a resident of Skewen regarding the incorrect advice he had received from the Planning Section. He stated that due to this advice, he believed he did not require permission to replace his garden shed. In addition, after being served an Enforcement Notice, the complainant stated that he had not received sufficient advice from the Enforcement Officer regarding the appeal's process. He also stated that an incorrect fee had been quoted to him by the Enforcement Officer.

Conclusion

The complaint was investigated and found that the Planning Officer had provided the correct advice with respect to replacing the structure. It was also found that the Enforcement Officer had provided the complainant with sufficient information regarding the appeals process, however, on investigation, it was noted that an incorrect fee had been quoted in an accompanying letter, to which, an apology was made. Whilst it was noted that an incorrect fee had been quoted, the complaint was not upheld and was investigated within the 20 day guidelines.

Recommendation

That the Comment, Compliments and Complaints Monitoring Report be noted.

List of Background Papers

Mail Monitoring System Files Ref. TA8, TA8/C

Officer Contact

Carole Thomas, Senior Environment Resources Officer Property and Regeneration ☎01639 686794 ⊠ c.g.thomas@npt.gov.uk This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 7.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION CABINET BOARD

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT – G. NUTT

4TH DECEMBER 2014

SECTION A – MATTER FOR INFORMATION

WARD(S) AFFECTED: Neath North

NEATH FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL

Purpose of Report

To inform members of the success of Neath Food and Drink Festival 2014.

Background

Several years ago, the Local Authority developed a strategy to promote the Town Centre of Neath in order to counter the effects of the recession and to identify events that could be developed to encourage footfall into the Town. A local food producer and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council worked in collaboration to put forward a proposal to run a food festival as a mechanism for boosting the town centre generally and the local food economy in particular. As a result of positive feedback during the first two events, the decision was made to extend the event to a two day festival with events going right through the day into the evening. The event started as a one day festival in 2009 with around 35 exhibitors and has more than doubled in size five years along the line.

The Welsh Government awarded funding to the sum of $\pounds 9,952$ for the sixth Neath Food and Drink Festival which took place over two days on Friday 3^{rd} and Saturday 4^{th} October.

Neath & Drink Festival has now established itself as a major event in the town and the wider area. The event has rapidly grown in size and popularity over the past five years, and 2014 saw the biggest festival to date with 72 exhibition stands, a hot food zone and seating area, cookery demonstrations, cask ale tasting, a champagne tent, educational walks, talks and demonstrations all set against a backdrop of fabulous live entertainment from local groups.

Restaurants, cafes, other town centre businesses and even churches opened their doors and put on themed events and offers over the weekend and it was a

celebration of Neath's Community Spirit. Thousands of people visited the town over the two days and it was a true celebration of the market town atmosphere.

The festival is a Finalist for Best Event/Festival in the Swansea Bay Tourism Awards 2014. The Awards celebrate quality, innovation and excellence in the vibrant Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality industry.

There has been a huge interest in the awards this year with over 1400 entries & nominations received - therefore competition has been very competitive in all categories. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on the 27th November.

Appendices

None

List of Background Papers

None

Officer Contact

For further information on this report, please contact Andrew Collins, Property and Regeneration on 01639 686416 or e-mail <u>a.collins@npt.gov.uk</u>

Agenda Item 8.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION CABINET BOARD

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT – G. NUTT

4TH DECEMBER 2014

SECTION A – MATTER FOR INFORMATION

WARD(S) AFFECTED: Cymmer

TRAINING COURSES AT CROESERW COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE CENTRE

Purpose of Report

To inform members of the success of learning and training courses taking place at Croeserw Community Enterprise Centre.

Background

Croeserw Community Enterprise Centre was built to respond to the ever challenging and demands in the Upper Afan Valley by providing a state of the art fit for purpose centre that not only provides essential and traditional community activities but also equip the community with the skills, training and entrepreneurial/enterprise opportunities to compete and work in the current global economy. Its stated aims in the business plan were:

Project Aim 1

To create a community enterprise centre that will provide skills and training development to address the high level of high economic inactivity.

Project Aim 2

To provide a range of advisory support services that can reduce the high levels of economic inactivity and assist and engender an entrepreneurial culture in the area.

The centre officially opened in September 2013 and immediately started providing further – learning and training courses to improve opportunities for employment.

Working in partnership with organisations such as Communities First, Skills and Training Unit, Adult Community Learning, NSA Afan and Bridgend College, courses provided at the centre include sector specific skills such as hair and beauty, general construction, plastering, carpentry, essential skills and ICT.

There have also been several 'Springboard into Work' courses including sectors such as Retail, Gardening, Care and Construction and employability courses in in Food Hygiene, Manual Handling, First Aid and Health and Social Care which have been jointly organised by the council's Regeneration Team and Communities First. All the courses organised have been accredited courses.

To date there have been:

- Over 30 courses held including IT, Carpentry, Plastering, Hairdressing and Cookery
- Over 150 people attending from throughout the Upper Afan Valley and Llynfi Valley with all who completed the course receiving accreditation

All courses have been oversubscribed and are continuing to prove very popular. The centre is on course to meet all its outputs, rented out all available office space and has consistently met its revenue targets since opening thus contributing to its long term sustainability.

Appendices

None

List of Background Papers

None

Officer Contact

For further information on this report, please contact Andrew Collins, Property and Regeneration on 01639 686416 or e-mail <u>a.collins@npt.gov.uk</u>

Agenda Item 9.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION CABINET BOARD

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF RESOURCES AND COMMISSIONING

4th DECEMBER 2014

SECTION A – MATTER FOR DECISION

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES 2014 - 2015 Libraries, Theatres, Community Centres, Margam Country Park, Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is for Members to agree the proposed opening times for libraries, museums, theatres, community centres, Margam Country Park and leisure centres and swimming pools over the Christmas and New Year period 2014 - 2015.

Background

Members will be aware that traditionally over the Christmas and New Year period the opening times of the above facilities are amended to reflect patterns of demand and to accommodate statutory Bank Holidays. The proposals for opening and closing have a direct effect on front line staff and the arrangements for their annual leave over this period.

The following proposals have been prepared by taking into consideration historical levels of usage of the facilities.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Proposed Opening Hours Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools Appendix 2 - Proposed Opening Hours – Margam Country Park

Recommendation

That Members agree the proposals for Christmas and New Year opening for the above facilities as detailed within Appendices 1 - 2.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

To ensure that the Council's facilities are available to the public when there is a demand for them to be open and to enable managers to make appropriate arrangements with front line staff over their annual leave for this period.

List of Background Papers

N/A

Officer Contact

Neil Thomas, Co-Ordinator of Sport, Culture and Active Living. Tel: 01639 861106 e-mail: <u>n.g.thomas@npt.gov.uk</u>

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES 2014 - 2015 Libraries, Theatres, Community Centres, Margam Country Park, Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools

(a) Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day period

(b) Sustainability Appraisal

Community Plan impacts		
Economic Prosperity	-	no impact
Education & Lifelong Learning	-	no impact
Better Health & Well Being	-	positive
Environment & Transport	-	no impact
Crime & Disorder	-	no impact
Other Impacts		
Welsh Language	-	no impact
Sustainable Development	-	no impact
Equalities	-	no impact
Social Inclusion	-	positive impact

(c) Consultation under Forward Work programme

There has been no requirement under the Constitution for external consideration on this item.

Appendix 1

PROPOSED OPENING HOURS LEISURE CENTRES AND SWIMMING POOLS

		Tuesday 23.12.14	Wednesday 24.12.14	Thursday 25.12.14	Friday 26.12.14	Saturday 27.12.14	Sunday 28.12.14	Monday 29.12.14	Tuesday 30.12.14	Wednesday 31.12.14	Thursday 01.01.15	Friday 02.01.15
	NLC Pool/Squash	Normal Opening	Closed	Closed	Closed	9.00am – 5.00pm	9.00am – 5.00pm	7.00am – 5.00pm	7.00am – 5.00pm	Closed	Closed	Normal Opening
	NLC Gym	Normal Opening	Closed	Closed	Closed	9.00am – 5.00pm	9.00am – 5.00pm	7.00am – 5.00pm	7.00am – 5.00pm	Closed	Closed	Normal Opening
	VON Pool	Normal Opening	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Normal Opening
	VON Gym	Normal Opening	Closed	Closed	Closed	8.00am – 3.00pm	8.00am – 3.00pm	8.00am – 3.00pm	8.00am – 3.00pm	Closed	Closed	Normal Opening
	NSC	Normal Opening	Closed	Closed	Closed	10.00am – 4.00pm (Gym only)	10.00am – 4.00pm (Gym only	10.00am – 4.00pm (Gym only	10.00am – 4.00pm (Gym only	10.00am – 4.00pm (Gym only	Closed	Normal Opening
Page	NSC-BAR	Normal Opening	2.00pm – 11.00pm	11.00am – 3.00pm	12.00pm – 11.00pm	Normal Opening	Normal Opening	Normal Opening	Normal Opening	3.00pm - 12.30am	Closed	Normal Opening
ge 38	PSP	Normal Opening	Closed	Closed	Closed	9.00am – 2.00pm	9.00am – 1.00pm	10.00am – 4.00pm	10.00am – 4.00pm	Closed	Closed	Normal Opening
Ō	PLC Gym & Sports Hall	Normal Opening	Closed	Closed	12.00pm- 8.00pm	8.00am- 6.00pm	8.00am- 6.00pm	8.00am- 8.00pm	8.00am- 8.00pm	8.00am- 4.00pm	Closed	Normal Opening
	PLC-BAR	Normal Opening	Closed	Closed	12.30pm- 7.30pm	12.30pm- 7.30pm	12.30pm- 7.30pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Normal Opening
	Cymmer	Normal Opening	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Normal Opening
	Ultima	Normal Opening	8.00am - 12.00pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	8.00am - 4.00pm	8.00am - 4.00pm	8.00am - 4.00pm	Closed	Closed	Normal Opening
	Hengwrt	Normal Opening	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Normal Opening
	Gwyn Hall	Normal Opening	11am – 4.00pm	Closed	Closed	Normal Opening	Normal Opening	Normal Opening	Normal Opening	11am – 4.00pm	12.00pm – 4.00pm	Normal Opening
	Central Staff	Normal Working Hours	am – Normal pm – Stat Holiday	Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday	Non Working Day	Non Working Day	Normal Working Hours	Normal Working Hours	Extra Statutory Holiday	Bank Holiday	Normal Working Hours

PROPOSED OPENING HOURS – MARGAM COUNTRY PARK

The proposal for Margam Country Park is to close at 1.00pm on Wednesday 24th December 2014 (Christmas Eve) and to remain closed on Thursday 25th December 2014 (Christmas Day).

During the period from 26th December 2014 to, and including, 1st January 2015, the Park will be open 10am-4 pm for those wishing to walk around however no facilities will be available.

The Park will reopen as normal on Friday 2nd January 2015.

PROPOSED OPENING HOURS – LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS AND THEATRES.

The proposal for libraries is to close at 12 noon on Wednesday 24th December and to reopen on Friday 2nd January 2015.

The proposal for the Princess Royal Theatre is to close on Wednesday 24th December at 1pm and re-open Monday 5th January at 10am.

The proposal for Pontardawe Arts Centre is to close to the public following pantomime on Tuesday 23rd December and will re-open on Monday 5th January 2015. The Centre will be open to the public on Saturday 3 January for a performance at 1.30pm with only the box office opening from 12.30 - 1.30.

PROPOSED OPENING HOURS – COMMUNITY CENTRES & LIFELONG LEARNING SERVICE, TIR MORFA, PORT TALBOT.

All Community Centres including Tir Morfa will be closed from 1pm Wednesday 24th 2014 until Friday 2nd January 2015 (with the exception of Slimming World using Croeserw Community Centre on the 29th December 4.30pm-7.30pm).

Agenda Item 10.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION BOARD

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF RESOURCES AND COMMISSIONING

ANDREW THOMAS

4th DECEMBER 2014

SECTION C – MATTER FOR MONITORING

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR MONITORING REPORT 2nd QUARTER 2014/15

Purpose of Report

To advise Members of the actual performance achieved for the second quarter of the current financial year i.e., 1st April 2014 to 30th September 2014.

Member's attention is drawn below to those indicators falling below the performance achieved during 2013/14 (outside the 5% tolerance). Further detail on all ELLL indicators is included for Members information as Appendix 1.

Indicators below Target

LCL/001 - Number using Public Library Services (physical visits & website visits) LCL/004 – No. of library materials issued (e.g. books, CD's, DVD's)*

The figures for the Library Service cannot be compared like for like to the previous year's performance, as NPTCBC ceded overall responsibility for five of the libraries to various community groups on 1st April 2014 and a further four on 1st May 2014. Furthermore opening hours for these four were considerably less (below 50%) in April.

However, if we compare the libraries that NPT have full responsibility over there is a fall of 5.93% in issues but a rise of 1.37% in library visits.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Performance Indicator Monitoring Table

List of Background Papers

Monitoring Forms/spreadsheets

Contact Officer

Neal Place, Performance Management Officer. E-mail <u>n.place@npt.gov.uk</u>. Tel. 01639 763619.

Performance Indicator Monitoring Table

Appendix 1

Performance Indicator	Actual 2013/14	Actual Performance 2014/15 (2 nd Quarter)
National Strategic Indicators		
LCL/001 - Number using Public Library Services (physical visits & website	958,162	
visits) (reported quarterly)	(6839 visits per 1000 pop'n)	$\begin{array}{l} 1^{\rm st} \ Q tr - \ 185,641 & ({\rm Pop'n} \ 139,898 \ = \ 1327 \ visits \ per \ 1000 \ pop'n) \\ 2^{\rm nd} \ Q tr - \ 405,267 & ({\rm Pop'n} \ 139,898 \ = \ 2897 \ visits \ per \ 1000 \ pop'n) \end{array}$
	2 nd Qtr 484,412	
LCS/002 – Number of visits (for physical activity) to sport & leisure centres	798,044	
(excludes school use))		1^{st} Qtr - 186,384(Pop'n 139,898 = 1332 visits per 1000 pop'n) 2^{nd} Qtr - 380,424(Pop'n 139,898 = 2719 visits per 1000 pop'n)
(reported quarterly)	(5696 visits per 1000 pop'n)	2 Qu = $580,424$ (rop ii $159,898 = 2719$ visits per 1000 pop ii)
	2 nd Qtr 397,840	
Public Accountability Measures/Service Improvement		
Défe		
LCL/002 The number of publicly accessible computers in libraries (reported annually based on a count on 31 st March 2015)	111	Reported 4 th Qtr
b) The percentage of available library computer hours in use (reported annually based on a sample week in March 2015)	47.91 %	Reported 4 th Qtr
LCL/003 - % of library material requests (books and/or other material e.g.	82.72 %	Reported 3 rd Qtr
CD's, DVD's) supplied in 7 calendar days (reported annually based on a sample week in October 2014)	(268 of 324)	
LCL/004 – No. of library materials issued (e.g. books, CD's, DVD's)*	587,079	
(reported quarterly)	(4190 per 1000 pop'n)	$\begin{array}{ll} 1^{\rm st} {\rm Qtr} - 116,736 & ({\rm Pop'n} 139,898 = 834 {\rm issues} {\rm per} 1000 {\rm pop'n}) \\ 2^{\rm nd} {\rm Qtr} - 240,396 & ({\rm Pop'n} 139,898 = 1718 {\rm visits} {\rm per} 1000 {\rm pop'n}) \end{array}$
	2 nd Qtr 298,573	