

FOR LIVING - KEY AIM: QUALITY OF LIFE

We need opportunities to enjoy ourselves and to lead full, healthy and safe lives.



Julian Taunton
Cabinet member –
Community Services

Last year we increased the number of visits to our sports centres by 3.5%, which was 1.5% above the target we had set, we also created 52 new play-scheme places and began work on a cultural strategy for the Borough. We considered the outcomes of the review of our sports centres and set the wheels in motion for a new approach to sports in the Borough.

This year, the development of a Dacorum-wide Cultural strategy, working on a new cultural venue for the Borough and improving access for The Old Town Hall are all significant projects for 2002/3. Finalising arrangements for the new Trust, which will enable members of the public to influence directly the management of sporting activity in the Borough, offers another exciting development.

We will have regular meetings with members of Management Team and relevant Heads of Service to keep up to speed with progress. The new performance management system will also ensure that we are able to celebrate achieving our commitments and to work with officers to find ways to help meet targets where we are not doing so.

We:

- Believe that everyone should have access to local leisure, arts, sports and community activities. We will continue to ask local people what they want and how we can work together to achieve it.
- Want to reduce crime so that you can feel safe and secure.
- Will work with our partners to promote good health and tackle health improvements.



Janice Marshall
Cabinet member –
Housing

Meeting the Government's Decent Homes standards is a big challenge for this and future years. The Housing service will also be looking at ways of reducing the time taken to re-furbish and re-let our accommodation and revising our allocation system.

How We did in 2001/2

In this section we tell you what we said we would do last year and update you on our progress.

- Aim to increase the number of swim and sports centre visits by 2%
We have achieved a 3.5% increase, this represents 30,000 additional visits.
- Complete a Cultural Strategy covering: Arts and Entertainment, Sports and Sports Development and Recreation.
The completion of this strategy is now set for September this year. This is in line with national targets.
- Help reduce the number of crimes in the Borough by 2%
Due to changes in crime reporting and record keeping, this has increased by 3%.
- Publicise on a web-site, services in Dacorum which support people suffering from, and concerned about drug and alcohol abuse.
*This was launched on March 1st.
Please visit www.drugson-line.info for useful information and advice.*
- Increase the number of repairs to our housing completed within the government's time limits from 90% to 93%.
We expect to achieve an increase of 91.6%.
- Find Ways of increasing the involvement of Council tenants in the planning of the housing service.
We reviewed our Tenant Participation Strategy and have appointed a second Tenant Participation Officer. One tenant group has been established and six more are in the process of starting up.
- Have extended full day play scheme and activity sessions directly managed by Dacorum Borough Council and assisted Voluntary groups to open new out of school provision.
52 new full day play scheme places have been created and an extended geographical allocation of activity sessions.
- Helping Young People to have their point of view heard and taken into account so that the Council and other organisations can appropriately offer services reflected by the user group.
A Young People's Support Officer has been appointed to co-ordinate consultation and communication with young people.
- Increase the number of community activities.
*We have set up a fishing project for young people at risk of offending.
Supported a number of community fun days during the year.
Organised a major volunteers 'thank you' event.*

We also:

- Opened a dual use sports centre at Longdean School.
- Refurbished Berkhamsted Sports Centre Life Fitness Centre.
- Extended the Life Fitness Centre at Hemel Hempstead Sports Centre.
- Introduced a revised Antisocial Behaviour Strategy.
- Obtained Antisocial behaviour orders on two young people who were severely disrupting their local community.
- Introduced estate warden schemes in parts of Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted, as part of the Best Value Review of Housing cleaning and caretaking services.

- Provided replacement double glazed windows in 1400 dwellings.
- Introduced a central contact number for all landscaping and recreation enquiries - it is 01442 228 529.
- Gave in excess of £1 million in grants to voluntary and community organisations, and together with representatives of voluntary and community organisations reviewed and redesigned the grant aid process and procedures to make them more open. For advice and an application form 'phone Mike Kember on 01442 228 640.
- Will have delivered meals of approximately 180,000 to lunch clubs and individuals in their own homes, and 30,000 afternoon teas.
- Supported the creation of a Skateboard Park in Tring which we hope will be followed by facilities in Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead.
- Ran summer activities and consultation for all at Northend Farm.
- Gave £500,000 in grants for disabled facilities adaptations to keep people living independently in their own homes.

We have set ourselves some tough targets for 2002/03 and we will:

FOR LIVING
1. CULTURAL SERVICES
CORPORATE SPONSOR - LAURA MCGILLVRAY
THEME LEADER - SUE KINGHORN
PORTFOLIO HOLDER – COMMUNITY SERVICES

Key Service Aim	Lead Officer	Tasks/Milestones				Performance Indicator (incl. Ref.)	Outcomes	Targets 2002/3 (2005 if necessary)
		1 st Quarter April-June 2002	2 nd Quarter July – September 2002	3 rd Quarter October – December 2002	4 th Quarter January – March 2003			
1.1 Complete a Best Value of Landscape and Recreation Services	Peter Snow	Scope, plan and continue phase 2 of review	Report to members on progress of review : Challenge Consult Compare Compete	Final Report and draft improvement plan	Members consider final report and improvement plan and make recommendations		Completion of Best Value Review and Improvement Plan	Dependant on Improvement Plan
1.2 Launch a Sports Strategy for Dacorum to develop local sporting activity	Dave Cove	Launch	Ongoing Sports Development Activity	Set targets for specific Sports after consultation			Increased sporting activity	Dependant on consultation with partners
1.3 Establish a Trust to run all of Dacorum's sports activity in line with the Sports Strategy	Dave Cove	Cabinet to consider make up of Trust Board and the principle agreements	Establish Shadow Board and write business plan	Final arrangements agreed			Trust established Saving achieved	To be built into the agreements
1.4 Arts Service - To demolish the Pavilion and run an – “On the Road” Arts and Entertainment Programme using other venues within the Borough	Sara Railson	Close Pavilion Produce “On The Road” brochure	Demolish Pavilion “On The Road” programme ongoing	→			Achieve savings of £100,000 “On the Road” programme of arts and entertainment	Develop when programme finalised

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1.5 Complete the feasibility study and specification for a new arts and entertainment venue in Hemel Hempstead by June 2002	Sara Railson	Complete the feasibility study	Design brief	Prepare design options	Begin fund raising for rebuild		An agreed specification for a new arts and entertainment facility	
1.6 Refurbish the Old Town Hall to improve disabled access as required by legislation to re-open in September 2002	Sara Railson	Close OTH for refurbishment	Open refurbished OTH – Publicise improvements to access				Accessible arts facility	Increase in disabled users to be established
1.7 Consult on and complete an Arts Strategy for Dacorum which will develop and promote local arts/entertainments activities	Sara Railson		Consultation	Complete draft Arts Strategy			Arts Strategy to develop and promote arts entertainment and activities	Develop when strategy finalised
1.8 Consult on and complete a Cultural Strategy for Dacorum which promotes Arts, Sports and leisure activities (building on the Arts and Sports strategies) by October 2002	Sue Kinghorn	Agree scope	Initial Consultation	Draft for consultation	Working document agreed	BVPI 114 achieved	Cultural strategy with an implementation plan	Develop when strategy complete

FOR LIVING
2. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
CORPORATE SPONSOR - LAURA MCGILLIVRAY
THEME LEADER - IFOR JONES
PORTFOLIO HOLDER – COMMUNITY SERVICES

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2.1 Complete the Best Value Review of Catering Services and the Borough Meals Service by March 2003	Brian Trainor	Scope and plan BVR. Identify wider links with services supporting people at home	Report to members on progress of review : Challenge Consult Compare Compete	→	Best Value Review complete		BVR completed with Improvement Plan agreed	Dependant on Improvement Plan
2.2 Complete the Best Value Review of Community Involvement including voluntary and community support services by March 2003	Ifor Jones / Dave Gill/Mike Kember	Scope and plan review	Report to members on progress of review: Challenge Consult Compare Compete	→	Best Value Review complete		BVR completed with Improvement Plan agreed	Dependant on Improvement Plan
2.3 Develop a strategy to increase community involvement throughout the Borough by March 2003	Ifor Jones	Scope and plan strategy development	Consultation as part of the above BVR	Report progress to Members	Draft Strategy Complete		Draft Community Involvement strategy	Targets dependant on outcome of strategy
2.4 Put in place the new policies and procedures for managing Grant Support to voluntary and community groups,	Mike Kember	New procedures in place.	On-going implementation	On-going implementation.	Review effectiveness of new approach	Increase the take-up of one off grants by new applicants by 20%	Open and transparent grant aid process.	

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2.5 Work in partnership with other agencies to continue to expand provision for children and families and support new youth initiatives	Val Ansell	Plan extended provision with partners	Increase provision	→		<p>Increase attendance at Adventure Playgrounds by 10%</p> <p>65,000 more opportunities for care, play and after school activities for children in the Borough. An increase of 26% over 2001/02</p> <p>Provide 200 more after school activity places</p>	Increased opportunities for children and young people	

FOR LIVING
3. HOUSING SERVICES
CORPORATE SPONSOR - LAURA MCGILLIVRAY
THEME LEADER – COLIN FARRAR
PORTFOLIO HOLDER – HOUSING

Key Service Aim	Lead Officer	Tasks/Milestones				Performance Indicator (incl. Ref.)	Outcomes	Targets 2002/3 (2005 if necessary)
		1 st Quarter April-June 2002	2 nd Quarter July – September 2002	3 rd Quarter October – December 2002	4 th Quarter January – March 2003			
3.1 Complete a BV review of the Sheltered Housing Service	Lou Wilson	Scope and plan review	Report to members on progress of review: Challenge Consult Compare Complete	→	Best Value Review Complete		BVR completed with Improvement Plan agreed	Dependant on Improvement Plan
3.2 Meet the Government's target for reducing the number of homes which do not meet the "decent homes standard" by a third by 2004	Graham Miles	Review of data on dwellings which do not meet the "decent homes standard non-decent homes	Develop action plans to improve standards	Review lettable standards against DTLR proposals	Monitor progress	BVPI 184 BVPI 185	Compliance with the Government's Decent Homes standard	Review of progress to determine remaining
3.3 Prepare, consult on and adopt a Housing Maintenance Strategy	Colin Farrar/ Graham Miles	Scope and plan strategy development	Consultation	Report progress to Members	Strategy Complete	BVPI 74 BVPI 63	A Housing maintenance Strategy	To meet long term decent homes targets
3.4 Develop and introduce a revised allocation system for Council dwellings	Ray Anderson	Prepare and consult on draft scheme	Review proposals	Seek agreement to final scheme	Implement scheme		Introduce review scheme by April 2003	
3.5 Reduce the time taken to refurbish and re-let vacant accommodation	Colin Farrar	Identify changes required to achieve targets	Implement changes in practice		Review progress against targets	BVPI 68 BVPI 66a BVPI 164	Reduce void allocation turnaround time from 42.1 to 25 days over the next five years.	

FOR LIVING
4. HEALTH IMPROVEMENT
CORPORATE SPONSOR - LAURA MCGILLVRAY
THEME LEADER - HILARY MITCHELL
PORTFOLIO HOLDER - COMMUNITY SERVICES

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		1 st Quarter April-June 2002	2 nd Quarter July – September 2002	3 rd Quarter October – December 2002	4 th Quarter January – March 2003			
4.1 Work with the Primary Care Trust to develop a local Health Improvement Plan and clearly identify the contribution the Council can make to it.	Laura McGillivray	Internal meeting to assess status; contacts with Primary Care Trust	Develop joint action plan	Develop joint action plan Report to Cabinet Portfolio holder	Prepare for implementation of new Health Improvement Plan Performance Management System in place	Health Improvement Plan in place; DBC action plan developed	Primary Care Trust and DBC health improvement plans consistent and implementable	Dacorum Health Improvement Plan in place; DBC action plan developed for 2003/4
4.2 Represent to health organisations the interests of local people in the forthcoming reviews of NHS Services	Hilary Mitchell	Respond to Acute Services Review	→	Report to Cabinet by 31/12/02		Meetings/ written reports to NHS consultation documents	NHS bodies aware of Dacorum Borough Council's position	

FOR LIVING
5. COMMUNITY SAFETY
CORPORATE SPONSOR - CHRISTINE FISHER
THEME LEADER - CATHERINE SYMES
PORTFOLIO HOLDER – COMMUNITY SERVICES

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5.1 Community Safety Strategy	David Loader	Launch the Community Safety Strategy	Progress report each quarter on delivering the objectives	—————→		BVPI 126 / 127 / 128 / 173 / 189	To ensure that performance and impact is measured against the Community Safety Strategy objectives	Conduct annual review of the impact of the Community Safety Strategy
5.2 Communications Plan	Christine Fisher	To establish and implement a communications action plan	—————→		Review impact of action plan	Communications Plan established	Regular crime and disorder messages are provided to the people of Dacorum	Communications Plan established and signed up to by DBC, the Police and Hertfordshire County Council
5.3 Mainstreaming Community Safety	Catherine Symes	To establish a Corporate Community Safety Group and develop a corporate mainstreaming plan	Monitor progress against the plan quarterly	—————→		Corporate Community Safety Group established containing representatives from each Directorate	Each Directorate undertaking work to reduce crime and disorder	Corporate Community Safety Group established containing representatives from each directorate
		Undertake a training session on the Crime and Disorder Act quarterly	—————→			Number of training sessions undertaken	To increase the number of people within Dacorum Borough Council aware of the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act	To undertake a training session on the Crime and Disorder Act every quarter

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5.4 Corporate Crime and Disorder Plan	Catherine Symes	Collate a list of the DBC responsibilities from the Community Safety Strategy Action Plans	Develop a Corporate Crime and Disorder Plan which includes the corporate mainstreaming plan	Monitor and report on progress quarterly against the Corporate Crime and Disorder Plan	→	Corporate Crime and Disorder Plan established	Increased knowledge across DBC of the work being undertaken to address community safety	Corporate Crime and Disorder Plan established
5.5 CCTV	Christine Fisher/ Gerda Round	Establish a CCTV Working Group to develop and take forward a CCTV Strategy by May 2002 CCTV Strategy in place by June 2002	Implement CCTV Action Plan	→	→	CCTV working group established CCTV Strategy in place	A co-ordinated well structured process in place to manage CCTV	CCTV Working Group established CCTV Strategy in place