

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET - 20 FEBRUARY 2008**

### **SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT**

#### **Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Cabinet on progress in respect of the development of a Single Outcome Agreement for East Ayrshire.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Concordat developed by COSLA and the Scottish Government in November 2007, is said to 'set out a new relationship between the Scottish Government and Local Government based on mutual respect, trust and partnership'. In addition, it underpins the funding to be provided to local government over the period 2008/09 to 2010/11.
- 2.2 This new relationship is represented by a package of measures, which were endorsed by COSLA and the Scottish Government and which both parties believe will lead, over time, to significant benefits for users of local services across Scotland.
- 2.3 As a consequence of the above, and to ensure a more streamlined approach to external scrutiny and effective performance management, it is the Scottish Government's intention that a Single Outcome Agreement be developed between the Government and each local authority area. Each council will be required to submit a single report around the turn of the year, detailing progress against the national outcomes on the year just finished and plans for the year to come. The first Outcome Agreement must be submitted by the end of March 2008.
- 2.4 This agreement will be based on the Scottish Government's 5 strategic objectives (Wealthier & Fairer; Smarter; Healthier; Safer & Stronger; and Greener) and 15 key national outcomes set out in the Concordat, all within a wider framework encompassing a further 45 indicators of national achievement. These objectives, outcomes and indicators are listed and defined in the concordat document, 'Single Outcome Agreements - Guidance, Format & Indicators for Scottish Local Government (February 2008)', jointly supported by the Scottish Government, Audit Scotland, COSLA, SOLACE, and the Improvement Service. The full and detailed document has been placed in the Members' Information Point. This guidance is designed to provide information and assistance to councils on the development and

submission of their Single Outcome Agreement. The information in the guidance is intended to provide a straightforward and consistent approach by providing a common format for councils to follow when producing their Single Outcome Agreement.

- 2.5 It is the Scottish Government's intention that, by 2009/10, the Single Outcome Agreement will be developed between the Government and Community Planning Partnerships, rather than simply local councils. Within East Ayrshire, as a result of the status of the Community Plan – 'One Council, One Plan', Community Planning Partners have taken the view that we should immediately work towards the development of a Community Planning Single Outcome Agreement for the East Ayrshire Area, with effect from 1 April 2008. This approach was discussed and agreed by the East Ayrshire Community Planning Core Partners' Group, at their meeting of 11 December 2007.
- 2.6 The Government has also advised that it is their expectation that Community Planning Partnerships report on the outcomes associated with the new Fairer Scotland Fund through the Single Outcome Agreement.
- 2.7 In preparation for the development of the Single Outcome Agreement approach, the Improvement Service organised a consultation exercise, which allowed councils and other public sector organisations to present their views on a draft template that included the proposed menu of performance indicators. The Council's corporate response to the officer consultation was lodged on 15 January 2008 and the Improvement Service is expected to publish its report on the findings by end February 2008.

### **3. CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 Recognising the decision taken to move immediately to a Community Planning Single Outcome Agreement (as described in 2.5 above), lead responsibility for developing and co-ordinating the Community Planning Partnership Single Outcome Agreement sits with the Community Planning and Partnership Unit. The Head of Corporate Development and Communication will steer the Single Outcome Agreement process and the production of the final document through the Community Planning Research, Information and Performance Group.
- 3.2 As a first step to producing the Single Outcome Agreement, a half day workshop, chaired by the Head of Corporate Development and Communication, was held with the Group on 23 January 2008. A range of Council and Partner agency staff with Policy and Performance backgrounds attended the workshop to ensure that all required disciplines were involved in the process. Outputs from the workshop were submitted on 15 February 2008 and the Group reconvenes on 26 February 2008.

- 3.3 The Group is now tasked with reviewing both the range of current Community Planning indicators against the National Strategic Objectives, the Supporting Indicators and also partner agency reporting information. The combined information will then form the basis of the East Ayrshire Area Single Outcome Agreement.
- 3.4 The Council's Best Value and Performance Unit, supported by relevant departmental staff, will assume lead responsibility for collating the relevant data on behalf of the Council, to ensure the Council's core activity is reported effectively within the Single Outcome Agreement.
- 3.5 This work will be ongoing until late March 2008, with a final draft Single Outcome Agreement scheduled to be presented to Cabinet for discussion and approval on 19 March 2008. The final agreed document will be submitted to the Scottish Government by 31 March 2008.

#### **4. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTING SYSTEM**

- 4.1 As reported to the Governance and Scrutiny Committee on 26 October 2007, 'Best Value and Community Planning Improvement Agenda: Action Plan 2 - Performance Management', the Council has embarked on a procurement process that will result in the implementation of a web-based Performance Management framework.
- 4.2 Progressed by the Best Value and Performance Unit, representatives from departments have been involved in presentations from companies identified by the Council as possibly having the capability of providing the system required. Nominations from Council departments will take part in the tender process. It is expected that a contract will be awarded in April/May 2008, for system implementation by December 2008.
- 4.3 In all discussions with prospective suppliers, the Council has emphasised the importance of being able to report on the indicators that will populate the Single Outcome Agreement that is ultimately agreed with the Scottish Government. Systems that are under consideration will hold the Council's indicators, together with those of our Community Planning Partners through a secure portal that will be integral to the system.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There will be financial implications in the future arising from the procurement of a propriety ICT solution for capturing and reporting on performance information, using a web-based Performance Management Framework system. In this regard, a further report

including financial implications will be presented in due course to Cabinet, following review and consideration of presentations by interested companies.

- 5.2 Success in taking forward the East Ayrshire Area Single Outcome Agreement will assist in securing sustained Scottish Government funding needed to provide and improve services to our communities.

## **6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The implementation of a Single Outcome Agreement for the East Ayrshire Area will assist greatly in compiling our annual record of achievements and outcomes, as we take forward and publish our periodic Public Performance Reports on the six Community Plan thematic action plans.

## **7. LEGAL AUTHORITY / POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Scottish Spending Review 2007, and its associated Concordat agreement between COSLA and the Scottish Government, is a component part of the Council's General Services Draft Budget, 2008/09 – 2010/11, approved for consultation at Cabinet on 24 January 2008 and further considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 13 February 2008. In terms of the Council's approach to Best Value, the Single Outcome Agreement approach set out in this report will allow us to continue to operate in a way that drives continuous improvement across all our activities.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 Cabinet is asked to:
- i) note and endorse the progress in respect of the development of the Single Outcome Agreement; and
  - ii) request a further report on the matter at its meeting on 19 March 2008.

**Elizabeth Morton**  
**Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support**  
**12 February 2008**

JC/JF/GB/LR

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. The Concordat between the Scottish Government and Local Government – 14 November 2007.
2. Single Outcome Agreements - Guidance, Format & Indicators for Scottish Local Government (February 2008)', jointly supported by the Scottish Government, Audit Scotland, COSLA, SOLACE, and the Improvement Service.

Any person wishing to inspect the above background papers or to seek further information on this report should contact John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communication (Tel 01563 576165) or Gwen Barker, Community Planning and Partnership manager (Tel 01563 554602)

**Implementation Officer:** John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communication