

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 3 MAY 2005

ABSENCE MANAGEMENT REPORT QUARTER 1 (2005)

Report by Executive Director of Development and Property Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of absence rates for the Department of Development and Property Services for the quarterly period ending 31 March 2005.

2. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- 2.1 Historical data for this quarter last year and Quarter 4 of 2004 is detailed in Appendix A to assist Members in considering the absence rates.

3. ANALYSIS OF QUARTERLY ABSENCE RATES

- 3.1 The department's average absence rate over the period 1 January 2005 – 31 March 2005 was 4.82%. This consisted of 3.69% for APT&C employees, 8.89% for manual employees and 3.02% for craft employees. This compares to 3.45%, 10.14% and 2.14% for these groups respectively in the same quarter in 2004.

4. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

- 4.1 With regard to the absence levels reported for Quarter 1 the following points can be noted:
- 4.1.1 In relation to the high absence rate for manual employees, this is attributable to a small number of long term absences which are being dealt with in accordance with the Council's managing absence policy. Excluding these long term absences from the figures reduces the absence rate for manual workers to 2.20% for the period.
- 4.1.2 Stress related problems were the main reason for absence within Development & Property Services, accounting for 22.23% of the overall collective absence rate of 944.5 days. The absence information does not identify any common underlying reason at this time but all absences will be monitored on an ongoing basis with referrals to Occupational Health and/or Employee Counselling Service as appropriate.
- 4.1.3 11 absence reviews and 14 Follow-Up meetings had been held. There were 4 referrals to the Occupational Health Service.
- 4.1.4 A detailed review of individual record cards within each section has been carried out to ensure that the Council's Managing Absence Policy is being adhered to in terms of Absence Review Meetings.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS – COST OF ABSENCE

- 5.1 The current cost of absence requires to be met from within existing resources.

6. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Absence within Development Services is being managed in accordance with Council Policy and employment legislation.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

James Lavery

Executive Director of Development and Property Services

11 April 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Departmental Returns – Quarter 1, 2005
2. Departmental Returns – Quarter 4, 2004

Any member wishing further information should contact Robert Paton Head of Economic Development & Property (Telephone Number 01563 576142)/ Alan Neish, Head of Planning Development and Building Standards (Telephone Number 01563 576767)/ James Kane Head of Roads & Transportation

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 2 MAY 2005

ABSENCE MANAGEMENT REPORT QUARTER 1 (2005)

HISTORICAL DATA

APT&C EMPLOYEES

SECTION	Q1 2004 (01.01. 04 – 31.03.04)	Q1 2005 (01.01.05 – 31.03.05)	% INCREASE/ DECREASE
Economic Development & Property	5.38%	4.30%	-1.08%
Planning, Development & Building Standards	2.86%	2.22%	-0.64%
Roads & Transportation	2.96%	3.70%	+0.74%

SECTION	Q4 2004 (01.10. 04 – 31.12.04)	Q1 2005 (01.01.05 – 31.03.05)	% INCREASE/ DECREASE
Economic Development & Property	3.95%	4.30%	+0.35%
Planning, Development & Building Standards	2.12%	2.22%	+0.10%
Roads & Transportation	2.30%	3.70%	+1.40%

Council Target: 4%

MANUAL EMPLOYEES

SECTION	Q1 2004 (01.01. 04 – 31.03.04)	Q1 2005 (01.01.05 – 31.03.05)	% INCREASE/ DECREASE
Roads & Transportation	10.14%	8.89%	-1.25%

SECTION	Q4 2004 (01.10. 04 – 31.12.04)	Q1 2005 (01.01.05 – 31.03.05)	% INCREASE/ DECREASE
Roads & Transportation	6.27%	8.89%	+2.62 %

Council target: 5%

CRAFT EMPLOYEES

SECTION	Q1 2004 (01.01. 04 – 31.03.04)	Q1 2005 (01.01.05 – 31.03.05)	% INCREASE/ DECREASE
Roads & Transportation	2.14%	3.02%	+0.88%

SECTION	Q4 2004 (01.10. 04 – 31.12.04)	Q1 2005 (01.01.05 – 31.03.05)	% INCREASE/ DECREASE
Roads & Transportation	2.53%	3.02%	+0.49%

Council Target: 5%