

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - 12 OCTOBER 2005

STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - RETURNS TO AUDIT SCOTLAND

Report by Executive Director Development and Property Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To inform the Committee of the statistical returns made to Audit Scotland on some aspects of the performance of particular services within the department.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Local Government Act 1992 requires the Accounts Commission, through Audit Scotland, to issue an annual Direction to local authorities to "publish such information relating to their activities in any financial year as will facilitate the making of appropriate comparisons between different authorities and in different financial years".

- 2.2** The areas within Development Services covered by the Direction for 2004/05 are:

- Development Promotion - planning applications, analysis of appeals, and Local Development Plan coverage.
- Roads and Lighting - carriageway condition, traffic lights repair times, street lights repair times, age of street lighting columns, categorisation of bridges.
- Economic Development and Property Services - public buildings accessible to disabled people (completed as a Corporate Management indicator).

- 2.3** The results of the indicators for 2004/05, including comparisons with the previous years where data exists, are contained in the annex to this report.

3 ISSUES FOR 2004/05

- 3.1** The Corporate Management Indicator 4 - accessibility of public buildings for people with a disability, has caused some concern in the current year. It has come to our attention that there is a lack of consistency across all councils as far as interpretation of Audit Scotland guidance is concerned.

- 3.2** Although clarification was sought from Audit Scotland, this was not forthcoming, and councils were left to interpret the guidance as they saw fit. The outcome is that many councils applied a standard much less stringent than that used by East Ayrshire Council, with the result that those councils will appear to have a better "result" than ourselves.

- 3.3** The Council remains convinced that the standards we applied are honest and robust, are a fair interpretation of the guidance, and meet the aims and objectives of the Disability Discrimination Act 2003. Our auditors, Price

Warehouse Coopers, assessed our production of the indicator as "A" rated - data reliable in all respects.

- 3.3** The Council has voiced its concerns to Audit Scotland and plans once again to seek clarification for reporting the indicator in 2005/06.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** There is no new policy implication arising from this report.

5 FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** There are no financial or legal implications.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of the report.

James Lavery
Executive Director of Development and Property Services

JL/JF
20/9/05

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Performance Information Return To The Accounts Commission

For further information on the contents of this report contact Jim Farrell. Tel 01563 576144.

Implementation Officer: Jim Farrell

**STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - 2004/05
DEVELOPMENT AND PROPERTY SERVICES**

Planning

Indicator 1 - The percentage of householder applications dealt with within the following times:

Time	2004/05 %	2003/04 %	2002/03 %	2001/02 %	2000/01 %
Up to 1 month	75.6	72.9	19.7	35.8	30.3
1-2 months			51.3	41.1	40.8
2-3 months		Indicator simplified this year- to "dealt with within 2 months"	16.1	12.0	14.1
> 3 months			12.9	11.0	14.8

Indicator 2 - The percentage of non-householder applications dealt with within the following times:

Time	2004/05 %	2003/04 %	2002/03 %	2001/02 %	2000/01 %
Up to 2 months	40.1	39.5	43.3	50.4	49.4
2-3 months		Ind simplified this year- "dealt with within 2 months"	17.6	20.8	20.4
> 3 months			39.1	28.8	30.2

Indicator 3 - Appeals (indicator changed 2002/03):

Detail	2004/05	2003/04	2002/03
a) No. of planning determinations by the Council	1067	1054	846
b) No. of determinations that went to appeal	10	12	13
c) The no. of appeals that were successful			
1. As a percentage of a)	0.5	0.4	0.59%
2. As a percentage of b)	50	33.3	38.46%

Indicator 4 - Development Plans:

Detail	2004/05	2003/04	2002/03	2001/02
% of population covered by a Local Plan adopted within the last 5 years	100	100	100	0

Building Standards

Indicator 1 - the average times for dealing with requests for building warrants and completion certificates (indicator changed 2002/03):

Detail	2004/05	2003/04	2002/03
a) Percentage of Building Warrants responded to within 15 days	25.3	32.32	39.39%
b) Percentage of Building Warrants issued within 6 days	89.3	86.56	91.81%
c) Average time taken to respond to a Completion Certificate	5 days	4 days	3.1 days
d) Percentage of Completion Certificates issued within 3 days	73.2	79.57	77.80%

Roads and Lighting

Indicator 1 - Carriageway Condition (new indicator 2003/04):

Detail	03/04	04/05
The % of the road network that should be considered for maintenance	53.8	49.2

Indicator 2 - Traffic lights failure, the percentage of repairs completed within 48 hours:

Detail	2000/01 %	2001/02 %	2002/03 %	2003/04 %	2004/05 %
Repairs completed within 48 hours	70.6	90	86	80	87

Indicator 3 - Street lights failure, the percentage of repairs completed within 7 days:

Detail	2000/01 %	2001/02 %	2002/03 %	2003/04 %	2004/05 %
Jobs completed within 7 days	97	94	98.3	97	96

Indicator 4 - The proportion of street lighting columns that are over 30 years old:

Detail	2004/05
Total no of street lighting columns	17,279
No of columns that are over 30 years old	3,531
Proportion over 30 years old	20.4%

Indicator 5 - Bridges failing to meet European standard of 40 tonnes or having weight or width restrictions placed on them (new indicator for 2004/05):

Detail	2004/05	
	No	%
Total no of assessed bridges	148	
No & % of bridges failing European standard	12	8.1
No & % of bridges with a weight or width restriction	2	1.4

Economic Development and Property

Indicator 4 (of Corporate Management Indicators) - The number of Council buildings from which the Council delivers services to the public and % of these in which all public areas are suitable for and accessible to disabled people:

Detail	2004/05
No of Council buildings from which the Council delivers services to the public	173
No of Council buildings from which the Council delivers services that are suitable for, and accessible to, disabled people	46
% of these in which all public areas are suitable for and accessible to disable people	27%