

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 11 OCTOBER 2006

STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – RETURNS TO AUDIT SCOTLAND

Report by the Executive Director of 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 and Property Services covered by the Direction for 2005/06 are:

- Development Promotion – planning applications, analysis of appeals and Local Development Plan coverage
- Roads and Lighting – carriageway condition, traffic light repairs times, street lights repair times, age of street lighting columns and 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 2005/06, including comparisons with the previous years, where data exists, are contained in the appendix to this report.

3. ANALYSIS OF INDICATORS

3.1 Development Services (Planning):

3.1.1 Householder Applications

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

Time	2005/06 %	2004/05 %	2003/04 %	2002/03 %	2001/02 %
Up to 1 month	70.1	75.6	72.9	19.7	35.8
1-2 months	Indicator simplified in 03/04 to “dealt with within 2 months”			51.3	41.1
2-3 months				16.1	12.0
>3 months				12.9	11.0

Indicator 1 (cont'd) – The percentage of non-householder applications dealt with within the following times:

Time	2005/06 %	2004/05 %	2003/04 %	2002/03 %	2001/02 %
Up to 2 months	33.2	40.1	39.5	43.3	50.4
2-3 months	Indicator simplified in 03/04 to "dealt with within 2 months"			17.6	20.8
>3 months				39.1	28.8

In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, 16.5% of applications during 2005/06 were placed before Committee. This figure is only marginally higher than that for the previous year (15.8%) despite a further increase in the numbers of planning applications received:

- 2005/06 – 1110
- 2004/05 – 1067; and for information
- 2000/01 - 799

3.1.2 Appeals

Indicator 2 – The number of appeals that were successful (indicator changed 02/03)

Detail	2005/06	2004/05	2003/04	2002/03
No of planning determinations made by the Council	1110	1067	1054	846
No of determinations that went to appeal	15	10	12	13
a) as a % of the no of planning determinations made by the Council	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.6
b) as a % of the no of determinations that went to appeal	53.3	50	33.3	38.46

The number of planning determinations has increased by a figure of 264 for the period 2002/03 – 2005/06. For the same period, the number of planning determinations that went to appeal rose by a figure of 2 (13 to 15).

3.1.3 Development Plans

Indicator 3 – The percentage of the population covered by a Local Plan which has been adopted or finalised within the last five years

Detail	2005/06 %	2004/05 %	2003/04 %	2002/03 %	2001/02 %
% of population covered by a Local Plan which has been adopted or finalised within the last 5 years	100	100	100	100	0

The submitted figure for this indicator is either 0% or 100%. East Ayrshire Local Plan, which covers the entire area, was adopted by the Council in April 2003, within the 5 year timeline.

3.2 Roads and Lighting:

3.2.1 Carriageway Condition

Indicator 1 – Carriageway Condition (new indicator 2003/04)

Detail	2005/06 %	2004/05 %	2003/04 %
% of the road network that should be considered for maintenance treatment	42.7	49.2	53.8

The objective of this indicator is to identify the condition of carriageways within each Council area through a national survey and provide an indication of need for maintenance. Information for this indicator is produced from the Multifunction Road Monitor survey provided by an independent contractor appointed by the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS). Each Council is notified by SCOTS of the results of this survey for reporting purposes to Audit Scotland.

As the survey is still in the process of development the results may be prone to sampling errors although these are being reduced. The results of the Condition Surveys are weighted across the Council's total roads network length. Until the network has been surveyed over the course of the 4 year survey contract, the trend in improvement or otherwise will not be fully quantified.

Each year, different parts of the Councils road network are surveyed; previous year's condition results are used in the determination of the annual roads maintenance programme.

3.2.2 Traffic Light Repairs

Indicator 2 – Traffic Light Repairs

Detail	2005/06 %	2004/05 %	2003/04 %	2002/03 %	2001/02 %
% of repairs completed within 48 hours	92	87	80	86	90

In October 2005 a new repairs contract commenced. From this date Sunday is included as a contracted working day and the only public holidays specified are Christmas and New Years Day. This has reduced notification to repair times which span these days. The option of a 24 hour/7 day standby was considered and rejected as being non cost effective.

Total number of repairs to be completed:

- 2004/05 – 471; 411 repaired within 48 hours (60 outwith timeline)
- 2005/06 – 222; 204 repaired within 48 hours (18 outwith timeline)

3.2.3 Street Lighting

Indicator 3 – Street Lights Failure

Detail	2005/06 %	2004/05 %	2003/04 %	2002/03 %	2001/02 %
% of repairs completed within 7 days	97	96	97	98.3	94

This indicator captures the full range of activity, from notification of the fault to completion of the repair. By default, if a contractor is carrying out the work, it is the contractor's performance that is, in part, being measured.

Total number of street lighting repairs to be completed:

- 2004/05 – 8,331; 7,964 repaired within 7 days (367 outwith timeline)
Average time to repair a fault = 3.2 days
- 2005/06 – 8,312; 8,095 repaired within 7 days (217 outwith timeline)
Average time to repair a fault = 2.4 days

3.2.4 Street Lighting Columns (new 2004/05)

Indicator 4 – Street Lighting Columns (new indicator 2004/05)

Detail	2005/06	2004/05
Total no of street lighting columns	18,062	17,279
No of columns that are over 30 years old	3,300	3,531
The proportion of street lighting columns that are over 30 years old	18.3%	20.4%

An inspection of all street lighting columns within the Council area was undertaken for 2004/05 to ascertain the total number of lighting columns and the number of these estimated to be greater than 30 years old. Hereafter, the 04/05 total number of columns will be used as the baseline figure in conjunction with the annual column replacement figure to obtain the outstanding number of columns meeting the definition of this SPI. As staff resources are finite a full inspection survey will be carried out every 3 to 5 years

- 2004/05 – total no of columns > 30 years old = 3,531
- 2005/06 – total no of columns > 30 years old = 3,531 less 160 columns replaced during the year = 3,371

71 columns within the baseline figure for the 05/06 return were identified as “duplicates” and were extracted from this year's calculation resulting in the submitted figure of 3,300.

3.2.5 Bridges -Road Network Restrictions (new 2004/05)

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

Detail	2005/06		2004/05	
	No	%	No	%
Total no of assessed bridges	151	-	148	-
No & % of bridges failing European standard	11	7.3	12	8.1
No & % of bridges with a weight or width restriction	2	1.3	2	1.4

This indicator shows the percentage of bridges, both Council and private, that have failed to achieve the 40 tonne standard and the percentage of bridges that have a weight or width restriction placed on them.

There is little difference in the submitted figures for the 2 years of this indicator:

- 2004/05 – 8.1% failed Euro standard; 1.4% had a restriction imposed
- 2005/06 – 7.3% failed Euro standard; 1.3% had a restriction imposed

Council bridges performance remained the same as the previous year. A report was submitted to Policy and Resources Committee (18 September 2005) requesting additional funding through budgetary allocation to allow for completion of the bridge assessment programme and implementation of a planned programme of strengthening works on bridge assessment failures.

3.3 Corporate Management Indicator 4 – Public Access (new 2004/05)

Indicator 4 – Accessibility of public buildings for people with a disability

Detail	2005/06	2004/05
No of Council buildings from which the Council delivers services to the public	165	173
No of Council buildings from which the Council delivers services that are suitable for and accessible to disabled people	67	46
% of these in which all public areas are suitable for and accessible to disabled people	41	27

The percentage of Council buildings categorised as meeting the requirements of this SPI definition has risen from 27% last year to 41% this year. This increase is the result of:

- 9 properties being deleted from the audit list (sold/demolished or leased)
- 10 properties transferring from the non-compliant list to compliant (1 new property added to the non-compliant list)

This year's indicator statistics continues to be based on the stringent standard previously applied and meets the aims and objectives of the Disability Discrimination Act 2003.

4. POLICY / FINANCIAL / LEGAL / COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil.

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Notes the contents of the report.

James Lavery
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JL/KM - FV
21 September 2006

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Performance Information Return To The Accounts Commission

For further information on the contents of this report contact Jim Farrell. Telephone 01563 (57)6144.

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