

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 7 FEBRUARY 2007

STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (SPIs) 2007/2008 - DIRECTION 2006

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the Publication of Information (Standards of Performance) Direction 2006 by the Accounts Commission.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In accordance with the Local Government Act 1992, the Accounts Commission gives such Direction as it thinks fit to local authorities to publish information relating to their activities.
- 2.2 The Accounts Commission issued a consultation paper in June 2006 inviting local authorities to comment on their proposals for the financial year 2007/2008.
- 2.3 In this consultation the Commission proposed no changes to the previous year's indicators. They advise that in view of the early work of a Scottish Executive led Group in identifying issues for taking forward performance management in Local Government, and recognising the potential significant impact that the outcome of this Group's work may have on Statutory Performance Indicators and the overall approach to performance reporting, the Commission has taken the view that imposing new requirements in the 2006 Direction would be inappropriate.
- 2.4 The final Direction 2006 has now been issued and, in relation to Council services, there are no new or changed indicators proposed for 2007/08.
- 2.5 For financial year 2007/2008 the Direction 2006 contains 57 indicators, the same as the previous year's Direction 2005.

3. DIRECTION 2006 AND ACCOMPANYING GUIDE FOR 2007/08

- 3.1 The 2006 Direction indicates that there are no new or substantially changed indicators for 2007/08. As such, departments have reviewed the guidance on all indicators and have indicated that they do not anticipate any difficulties in implementing this.
- 3.2 Although there are no changes to the indicators as noted above, nevertheless the Best Value & Performance Unit will consider the need for trial runs where necessary.

4. FUTURE PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The Scottish Executive, in partnership with key stakeholders including CoSLA, SOLACE and the Improvement Service, is currently developing a broader national performance framework for Scottish councils.
- 4.2 The new framework being developed is likely to shape the future direction of Statutory Performance Indicators and indeed, overall performance management in local government.

5. LEGAL, FINANCIAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Publication of SPI information is a statutory requirement. The collection and publication of the data enhances the Council's accountability arrangements and facilitates comparisons between the standards of performance achieved by our Council in different financial years and with other appropriate comparator councils.
- 5.2 There are no implications for the East Ayrshire Community Plan arising from this report.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Although the 2006 Direction indicates that there are no new or substantially changed indicators for 2007/08, departments have reviewed the guidance on all indicators to ensure that their systems are adequately equipped to produce the required information for publication during 2007/2008.
- 6.2 In line with this ongoing requirement, all departments have also now reviewed the information required for reporting on the 2006/2007 indicators contained in Direction 2005. Departments have, where appropriate, conducted trial runs for new and amended indicators, in order to ensure that they are in a position to report on these indicators for the current financial year.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Committee is asked to:-
- (i) note the publication by the Accounts Commission of the Direction 2006;
 - (ii) note developments taking place at a national level aimed at developing a new performance management framework for councils, and the likely impact on Statutory Performance Indicators; and
 - (iii) note the completion of trial runs on new and amended performance indicators for 2006/2007 contained within Direction 2005.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources
17 January 2007

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Accounts Commission – Statutory Performance Indicators:
Direction 2005 for 2006/07 Performance Indicators; and
Direction 2006 for 2007/08 Performance Indicators.

Any person wishing to inspect the above background papers or seeking further information on this report should contact John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communication (Tel: 01563 576165).

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