

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 8 FEBRUARY 2005**

#### **STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2005/2006 - DIRECTION 2004**

##### **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 2004 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 inviting local authorities to comment on their proposals for the financial year 2005/2006. A report on this consultation process was considered by the Policy and Resources Committee on 30 September 2004, at which time, the terms of a Council response were agreed.
- 2.3 The final Direction 2004 has now been issued and, in relation to Council services, this contains 1 new indicator; 10 indicators have been deleted, 5 current indicators have been simplified and 7 indicators have been changed, some of them in ways that do not facilitate the use of trend information.
- 2.4 For financial year 2005/2006 the Direction 2004 contains 56 indicators which is a reduction of 9 indicators for councils from Direction 2003.

### **3. NEW INDICATOR IN THE 2004 DIRECTION**

- 3.1 The following is the description of the one new indicator which has been added. The Department of Educational and Social Services has now had the opportunity to review the guidance on this new indicator and do not anticipate any major difficulties in implementing this. In accordance with previous practice, a trial run will be carried out in October 2005 for this indicator and any other indicators with significant changes.

#### **3.2 Adult Social Work – Community Care Services**

The average time taken to provide community care services from first identification of need to first service provision.

#### **4. DELETED INDICATORS**

- 4.1 As proposed in the consultation and supported by the Council in its response, the transitional indicator for community care assessments has been deleted. This indicator has been replaced by the new indicator described in paragraph 3.2 above.
- 4.2 Within the suite of Children's Services indicators, three indicators have been deleted despite a request from this Council for their retention; these indicators are on Primary Class Sizes, Special Educational Needs and Child Protection. The Council was in agreement with the deletion of the indicator on Placements for Looked after Children.
- 4.3 The indicator on time taken to satisfy library book requests has been deleted. The Council supported this proposal. The Museums indicator, proposed for deletion, has been retained.
- 4.4 The indicator on Building Warrant and Completion Certificates has been deleted in anticipation of the Scottish Building Standards Agency introducing a set of indicators.
- 4.5 As proposed in the consultation and supported by the Council, the indicators on Workplace Safety Inspections, Pest Control and Special Uplifts have been deleted.

#### **5. CHANGES TO CURRENT INDICATORS**

- 5.1 As stated previously, 7 of the existing indicators have been changed and the amendments are relatively minor to all but one of them. The indicator on Housing Voids has been changed and, in response to the views of Councils, further work is required to clarify the original guidance for this indicator.
- 5.2 Departments have now had the opportunity to review the amendments to the existing indicators and no potential difficulties have been identified in gathering the necessary information.

#### **6. FUTURE PROPOSALS**

- 6.1 The Accounts Commission have confirmed that they intend to review the selection criteria for the Statutory Performance Indicators and they will consult with stakeholders early in 2005.

#### **7. LEGAL, FINANCIAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Publication of this information is a legal requirement. The collection and publication of this data enhances the Council's accountability and facilitates comparisons between the standards of performance achieved by this Council in different financial years and with other appropriate comparators.

## **8. CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.1 The inclusion of the new indicator and the amendments to existing indicators have required departments throughout the Council to review their systems in order to ensure that these are adequate to produce the required information for publication during 2005/2006.
- 8.2 In line with this ongoing requirement, all departments have also now reviewed the information required for reporting on the 2004/2005 indicators contained in Direction 2003. 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.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 The Committee is asked to:-
- (i) note the publication by the Accounts Commission of the Direction 2004;
  - (ii) note the completion of trial runs on new and amended performance indicators for 2004/2005 contained within Direction 2003; and
  - (iii) note the planned trial run for new and amended 2005/2006 indicators in the Direction 2004.

**Elizabeth Morton**  
**Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources**  
**12 January 2005**

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Accounts Commission – Statutory Performance Indicators:  
Direction 2003 for 2004/05 Performance Indicators; and  
Direction 2004 for 2005/06 Performance Indicators.

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