

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 14 NOVEMBER 2006

STRATEGIC SELF-ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE – PROGRESS REPORT

Report by Chief Executive

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Committee with an update on progress in relation to the actions resulting from the Council-wide Strategic Self-Assessment of Performance, which was undertaken in connection with the 2006 Best Value and Community Planning Audit.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Committee will recall that the Corporate Management Team undertook a Strategic Self-Assessment of Performance as a key element of the Council's approach to the Audit of Best Value and Community Planning. An important element of this process was the identification of areas where improvements are required and these were taken forward into the Council's Audit Submission document, submitted to Audit Scotland on 26 January 2006.
- 2.2 One of the important conclusions to come from the Best Value and Community Planning Audit was that the Council is able to identify areas for improvement and is well placed to deliver on its Improvement Agenda. This report provides an update on the implementation of the areas for improvement identified through the Strategic Self-Assessment of Performance, demonstrating the Council's continued commitment to deliver on its Improvement Agenda.

3. PROGRESS UPDATE

- 3.1 Progress in relation to the implementation of the improvement actions identified through the Strategic Self-Assessment of Performance process has been monitored closely through the Corporate Management Team. Each of the improvement areas have been assigned, where appropriate, to relevant Executive Directors where those actions fall within their remit. Consideration of the Strategic Self-Assessment of Performance through the Corporate Management Team also enables wider, corporate or cross-cutting improvement areas to be progressed in a co-ordinated way.
- 3.2 The detailed document underpinning this report has been lodged in the Members' Information Point and is available to any Member on request. The document sets out the outcomes achieved in taking forward the range of improvement actions set out in the Strategic Self-Assessment of Performance as detailed in the Council's Audit Submission. Responsibility for progressing individual improvement areas has been assigned to relevant Officers and a progress update has been provided in the final column of the table.

3.3 Members will note from the update provided in the detailed document placed in the Members' Information Point, that excellent progress has been made across a wide range of service areas in implementing the actions identified through this process. By way of a short summary of key issues covered in the supporting document, we can see:

Full achievement on topics such as:

- publishing a Private Sector Housing Strategy
- implementing a Housing Business Plan
- implementing Best Practice Guidance as reported in Audit Scotland's Improving Customer Services Report, April 2005, as part of our 'Customer First' arrangements
- publishing a Good Practice Guide for Private Landlords
- encouraged more use of Council's website, and developed additional transactional functionality.

Excellent progress on topics such as:

- wider ownership of Community Plan and related Action Plans
- clearer linking of the Service Planning Framework and Budgetary Process
- taking forward the comprehensive review of spend priorities (SRRB)
- enhancing self evaluation at local level, as part of 'How Good is Our School', including improvement planning
- ongoing development of Business Continuity Plans across all services
- option appraisal linked to the 32 Building Standards Services verification process.

Good / Partial progress on topics such as:

- reviewing our Political Management Structures as part of our preparations for the 2007 local authority elections
- improving monitoring and reporting arrangements with Tenants' Groups
- improved performance management skills linked to EAGER
- the achievement of cost reductions through the application of modern procurement/purchasing arrangements
- further development of internal scrutiny of performance outcomes
- taking forward the Housing Stock Condition Surveys
- more structured use of benchmarked comparative financial data.

Not achieved on one topic:

- Publication of the East Ayrshire Cultural Strategy (due to delays in the publication of the Parliament's Cultural Bill/Act)

4. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial or community planning related implications arising from this report.
- 4.2 The drive towards securing continuous improvement in the delivery of council services is a key aspect of the requirements placed upon councils through the Local Government in Scotland Act, 2003. Progress in relation to the matters covered by this report demonstrates a continued commitment by the Council to delivering on this important agenda.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Committee is asked to:-
- (i) note the progress being made in the implementation of the improvement areas identified through the Strategic Self-Assessment of Performance;
 - (ii) note that the Corporate Management Team will continue to move forward in securing the remaining improvements identified through this process, until these are fully achieved; and
 - (iii) otherwise note the terms of this report.

Fiona Lees
Chief Executive
6 November 2006

Background Papers

1. The Council's Best Value/Community Planning Audit Submission document, January 2006.
2. East Ayrshire Council – The Audit of Best Value and Community Planning, prepared for the Accounts Commission by Audit Scotland, September 2006.
3. Detailed document underpinning this report has been lodged in the Members' Information Point, and is available by e-mail on request.

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: Head of Corporate Development and Communication