

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - 26 SEPTEMBER 2000

STATISTICAL RETURNS TO THE ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

Report by Director of Development Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the audited statistical returns made to the Accounts Commission on some aspects of the performance of particular services within the department.
- 1.2 To inform the Committee of changes made to the indicators reported from previous years.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Local Government Act 1992 requires the Accounts Commission 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 are:
 - Development Promotion
 - Building Control
 - Roads and Lighting
- 2.3 As part of the exercise consolidating Key Performance Indicators as required by the Scotland Office, and Statutory Performance Indicators as required by the Accounts Commission, some indicators have been discontinued, others have changed, and new indicators have been introduced. Details can be found in Annex A.
- 2.4 In future, one set of indicators will be collected and reported to the Accounts Commission. These will retain their description of Statutory Performance Indicators.

3 PLANNING - DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

3.1 INDICATOR 1 - HOUSEHOLDER APPLICATIONS

- 3.1.1 The percentage of householder applications determined within 2 months out-turned at 88% in 99/00. A significant improvement was achieved compared to 98/99. This was a result of improved staffing levels within the relevant unit, the introduction of new IT and administrative procedures, and the introduction of a

more frequent committee cycle. Continued achievement of this level of performance will depend on maintaining a full staff establishment within the unit (within a small unit of eight professional staff significant fluctuations in the level of staffing are unavoidable).

3.1.2 One indicator has been discontinued, two have been changed, and two new indicators have been introduced.

3.2 INDICATOR 2 - NON-HOUSEHOLDER APPLICATIONS

3.2.1 The percentage of non-householder applications determined within 2 months was 57% in 99/00. Similar considerations apply as to householder applications. A further increase of 5% is projected between 01/02 and 02/03.

3.2.2 One indicator has been discontinued, one has been changed, and two new indicators have been introduced.

3.3 INDICATOR 3 - APPEALS

3.3.1 The 1.1% out-turn for "planning applications that went to appeal" represents only nine in number, with four successful. There is some indication of a trend increase in the proportion of applications refused and reversed on appeal. Appeal outcomes will be the subject of a fuller report to Committee.

3.3.2 There have been no changes to this indicator.

3.4 INDICATOR 4 - DEVELOPMENT PLANS

3.4.1 The Council's area is covered by two Finalised Plans from the previous authorities, which have been subject to Public Inquiries, a Finalised Plan for the whole area which has recently been approved, and a new Adopted Structure Plan. The Council did not proceed to adoption of the two inherited local plans because it was considered that a new harmonised plan for the whole area would provide a better reference framework for planning decisions. This policy framework forms a sound and up-to-date basis for planning application decisions, which is not reflected in the indicator.

3.4.2 There have been no changes to this indicator.

4 BUILDING CONTROL

4.1 INDICATOR 1 - BUILDING CONTROL WARRANTS AND COMPLETION CERTIFICATES

4.1.1 Out-turns for all elements of this indicator have either improved on previous years, or remained the same. The results for warrants are based on a reduction of 14% in throughput of warrants, and an increase of 43% in certificates.

4.1.2 There have been no changes to this indicator.

5 ROADS AND LIGHTING

5.1 INDICATOR 1 - MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE

5.1.1 The increase in expenditure in routine maintenance was mainly due to the increase in essential patching and pothole repairs caused by the deterioration of the road network. Winter maintenance expenditure is determined by weather conditions over that period.

5.1.2 There have been no changes to this indicator.

5.2 INDICATOR 2 - NETWORK MAINTENANCE

5.2.1 The figures for 1996/97 and 97/98 included extensive lengths of thin screeding on minor, narrow, rural roads at the end of the year, in preparation for the surface dressing programme the following year.

5.2.2 Due to the increased expenditure on Winter Maintenance in 98/99, funds were not available for this activity to be repeated, hence the reduction in carriageway lengths treated.

5.2.3 This pattern continued into 1999/00, and was exacerbated by increased materials costs for all types of surfacing.

5.2.4 There have been no changes to this indicator.

5.3 INDICATOR 3 - REPAIRS RESPONSE TRAFFIC LIGHTS

5.3.1 The percentage of traffic light repairs completed within 48 hours was 54% in 99/00. The Council has recognised that its current contracting arrangements are providing an unsatisfactory level of service for all repairs other than the highest priority, (which are generally carried out within 6 hours). A new contract will be let during the current year. On this basis, out-turns of 90% are expected for future years.

5.3.2 Four of the five indicators have been discontinued.

5.4 INDICATOR 4 - REPAIRS RESPONSE STREET LIGHTS

5.4.1 The out-turn for streetlights completed within 7 days for 99/00 was 95%.

5.4.2 Two of three indicators have been discontinued.

6 FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial or legal implications.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of the report.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services
11 September 2000

SC/JF

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Performance Information Return To The Accounts Commission

For further information on the contents of this report contact Jim Farrell, Economic Development, on 01563 576144.

STATISTICAL RETURNS TO THE ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

KEY

- * denotes changed indicator
- ** denotes new indicator
- *** denotes discontinued indicator (D/I)

A - PLANNING - DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

INDICATOR 1 - PROCESSING TIME HOUSEHOLDER APPLICATIONS

% OF HOUSEHOLDER APPLICATIONS DETERMINED IN THE FOLLOWING TIMESCALES	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00
a) Less than 4 weeks* <i>now up to 1 month</i>	31	35	36	53
b) 4 - 8 weeks* <i>now 1 month to 2 months</i>	50	48	38	35
c) More than 8 weeks***	19	17	26	D/I

% OF HOUSEHOLDER APPLICATIONS DETERMINED IN THE FOLLOWING TIMESCALES	99/00
c) <i>2 months to 3 months**</i>	6.8
d) <i>More than 3 months**</i>	5.9

INDICATOR 2 - PROCESSING TIME NON-HOUSEHOLDER APPLICATIONS

% OF NON-HOUSEHOLDER APPLICATIONS DETERMINED:	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00
a) Within 8 weeks* <i>now up to 2 months</i>	61	56	48	57
b) More than 8 weeks***	39	44	52	D/I

% OF NON-HOUSEHOLDER APPLICATIONS DETERMINED:	99/00
b) <i>2 to 3 months**</i>	15
c) <i>more than 3 months**</i>	28

INDICATOR 3 - APPEALS

APPEALS	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00
a) Percentage of planning applications which went to appeal	0.3	1.5	0.8	1.1
b) Percentage of the total number of planning applications which went to appeal and were successful	0.0	0.0	57.1	44

INDICATOR 4 - DEVELOPMENT PLANS

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION COVERED BY LOCAL PLANS ADOPTED WITHIN THE LAST 5 YEARS WHICH WERE:	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00
a) adopted within the last 5 years	22.0	11.3	0.0	0.0
b) finalised or adopted within the last 5 years***	100.0	100.0	100.0	D/I

B - BUILDING CONTROL**INDICATOR 1 - BUILDING CONTROL WARRANTS & COMPLETION CERTIFICATE APPLICATIONS**

BUILDING CONTROL & COMPLETION CERTIFICATE APPLICATIONS	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00
a) Average time taken to respond to a request for:				
i) a building warrant (working days)	n/a	11	12	8
ii) a completion certificate (working days)	n/a	3	2	2
b) Average time taken to issue:				
i) a building warrant (working days)	n/a	5	3	3
ii) a completion certificate (working days)	n/a	2	3	2
c) Number of building warrants issued				
	n/a	1074	1085	937
d) Number of completion certificates issued				
	n/a	671	980	1403

C - ROADS AND LIGHTING

INDICATOR 1 - MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE

MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00
a) Structural maintenance				
Expenditure per carriageway kilometre	£1,352	£1,226	£1,066	£1,123
b) Routine maintenance				
Expenditure per carriageway kilometre	£1,116	£1,339	£1,466	£1,586
c) Winter maintenance				
Expenditure per carriageway kilometre	£709	£561	£999	£1,113
d) Maintenance surveys and inspections				
Expenditure per carriageway kilometre	£30	£34	£36	£40
Total expenditure per carriageway kilometre	£3,207	£3,160	£3,567	£3,862

INDICATOR 2 - NETWORK MAINTENANCE

NETWORK MAINTENANCE	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00
a) Percentage of road network resurfaced	2	3	1	1
b) Percentage of road network surface dressed	3	3	2	1
c) Percentage of road network resurfaced or dressed (a+b)	5	6	3	2

INDICATOR 3 - REPAIRS RESPONSE - TRAFFIC LIGHTS

TRAFFIC LIGHT FAILURE	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00
a) Category 1				
i) Target repair time***	n/r	6	6	D/I
ii) Average repair time***	n/r	50	8	D/I
b) Category 2				
i) Local target time***	n/r	20	20	D/I
ii) Average repair time***	n/r	48	17	D/I
c) Percentage completed within 48 hours				
	n/r	86	68	54

INDICATOR 4 - REPAIRS RESPONSE - STREET LIGHTS

STREET LIGHTS FAILURE	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00
a) i) Target repair time***	n/r	4	4	D/I
ii) Average repair time***	n/r	3	3	D/I
b) Percentage completed within 7 days				
	n/r	95	98	96

AGENDA
