

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - 27 AUGUST 2002

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING AUDIT FOLLOW-UP 2001/2002 ROADS CONTRACTS AND OPERATIONS

Report by Director of Development Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To advise the Committee of the outcome of the 2001/2002 Performance Management and Planning (PMP) Follow-up Audit for Roads Contracts and Operations.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The 18 December 2001 meeting of this Committee considered a report that advised of the findings of the 2000/01 external PMP Audit of Roads Contracts and Operations.
- 2.2** The final audit report included a PMP Improvement Action Plan, which was agreed with the auditors. Work has continued over the last year on implementing the agreed actions, and the 2001/02 audit by PricewaterhouseCoopers has included a review of progress against this action plan.
- 2.3** For 2001/02, the guidance has required the service to amalgamate all existing action plans from, for example, EFQM, Service Review, to produce a single comprehensive list of actions for the service.
- 2.4** The review is a two stage process:
- A self-assessment by senior staff within the division of our progress against the new Action Plan which resulted in the production of an Improvement Action Progress Report (IAPR), and the production of a Best Value Achievement Report (BVAR), highlighting key performance achievements.
 - An audit of the IAPR and the BVAR by our external auditors.
- 2.5** This report presents the findings of the PMP Follow-up Audit undertaken by the Council's external auditors in relation to Roads Contracts and Operations.

3. THE ROADS CONTRACTS AND OPERATIONS FOLLOW-UP AUDIT

- 3.1** The PMP Audit is intended to provide the external auditor with an indication of a Council's progress in achieving Best Value and securing continuous improvement. The overall conclusions from the main PMP Roads Contracts and Operations Audit conducted during 2000/2001 were positive, with the Auditor noting that:

"In broad terms, it is concluded that the Service can demonstrate good commitment and progress in implementing the PMP framework."

- 3.2 In examining the progress made by the Council in achieving the improvement actions that were identified during the course of the first audit, the auditors overall conclusion is that:

"...the service has made significant progress on implementing most of the previously agreed improvement actions, and shows a clear commitment to taking further action as required."

- 3.3 Twenty-three improvement actions were identified in the new Action Plan. The Auditor's findings were as follows:

- In fourteen of these actions, the auditors found that: ***"The council manager can demonstrate that implementation has progressed as planned in the original improvement action template i.e. action complete or planned milestones met and on target."***
- In the remaining nine: ***"Progress is less than intended in the original improvement action template. However the council manager can demonstrate they have plans in place to complete the action."***

- 3.4 A full copy of the Action Plan and assessment is available as a Background Paper. A second and final follow-up audit on the IAPR will take place in 2002/03.

4. FINANCIAL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Committee is asked to note the positive outcome of the 2001/02 PMP Follow-up Audit for Roads Contracts and Operations;

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

JF
7 August 2002

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. **Action Plan Progress Assessment Summary**
2. **Accounts Commission Performance Management and Planning Audit Guide 2001/2002.**
3. **East Ayrshire Council PMP (2) Audit Submission 2000/2001 Follow-up for Roads Contracts and Operations.**
4. **East Ayrshire Council PMP (2) Audit Report 2000/2001 Follow-up for Roads Contracts and Operations.**

For further information on this report, please contact Jim Kane, Head of Roads and Transportation on telephone number 01563 576310.

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AGENDA