

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 19 FEBRUARY 2004

STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2004/2005 - DIRECTION 2003

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the Publication of Information (Standards of Performance) Direction 2003 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 2004/ 2005. A report on this consultation process was considered by this Committee on 2 October 2003, at which time, the terms of a Council response were agreed.
- 2.3 The Final Direction 2003 has now been issued and, in relation to Council services, this contains 3 new indicators, 2 indicators have been deleted, 1 current indicator has been simplified and 5 indicators have been changed in ways that do not facilitate the use of trend information.
- 2.4 For financial year 2004/2005 the Direction 2003 contains 65 indicators which is an increase of only 1 indicator for the Council from Direction 2002.

3. NEW INDICATORS IN THE 2003 DIRECTION

- 3.1 The following are details of the three new indicators that have been added. Departments have now had the opportunity to review the guidance on these new indicators and do not anticipate any major difficulties in implementing these. In accordance with previous practice, trial runs will be carried out in October 2004 for these indicators and any indicators with significant changes.

3.2 Corporate Management

Corporate Management – Indicator 4:Public Access

The number of Council buildings from which the Council delivers services to the public and the percentage of these in which all public areas are suitable for and accessible to disabled people.

3.3 **Roads & Lighting**

Roads and Lighting – Indicator 5: Bridges – Road Network Restrictions

As a percentage of the total number of assessed bridges, the number of council and private bridges that:

- (a) Fail to meet the European standard of 40 tonnes.
- (b) Have a weight or width restriction placed on them.

3.4 **Waste Management**

Waste Management – Indicator 5: Cleanliness

The cleanliness index achieved following inspection of a sample of streets and other relevant land.

4. **DELETED INDICATORS**

- 4.1 As proposed in the consultation and supported by the Council in its response, the transitional indicator showing expenditure on services for adults in community care client groups has been deleted. The Accounts Commission decided to delete this indicator since the information produced by it is available to analysts from other sources.
- 4.2 In addition, as a result of feedback received from the Scottish Executive during the consultation, the indicator on pre-school education experience has also been deleted. In this regard, the Scottish Executive is satisfied that the pre-schooling policy has now been adequately introduced and that the annual census will allow monitoring of participation rates.

5. **CHANGES TO CURRENT INDICATORS**

- 5.1 As stated previously, 5 of the existing indicators have been changed and the amendments are relatively minor.
- 5.2 Departments have now had the opportunity to review the amendments to the existing indicators and no potential difficulties in the gathering the necessary information have been identified.

6. **FUTURE PROPOSALS**

- 6.1 The Accounts Commission hopes to introduce an indicator examining the development of electronic service delivery (ESD) in a future Direction and will remain in contact with the Scottish Executive in attempt to develop an indicator for e-services.

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 indicators 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 2004/2005.
- 8.2 In line with this ongoing requirement, all departments have also now reviewed the information required for reporting on the 2003/2004 indicators contained in Direction 2002. 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 2003;
 - (ii) note the completion of trial runs on new and amended performance indicators for 2003/ 2004 contained within Direction 2002; and
 - (iii) note the planned trial run for new and amended 2004/2005 indicators in the Direction 2003.

Fiona Lees
Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources
5 February 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Accounts Commission – Statutory Performance Indicators:
Direction 2002 for 2003/04 Performance Indicators; and
Direction 2003 for 2004/05 Performance Indicators.

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