

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 20 FEBRUARY 2003**

#### **STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2003/2004 – DIRECTION 2002**

##### **Report by Depute Chief Executive/ Director of Corporate Resources**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** To advise the Committee of the publication by the Accounts Commission of the Direction 2002, giving details of the Statutory Performance Indicators to be collected in 2003/04.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** In accordance with the Local Government Act 1992, the Accounts Commission gives such Direction as it thinks fit, requiring 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 2003/2004. A report on this consultation process was submitted to this Committee on 3 October 2002, at which time, the terms of a Council response were agreed and this response was subsequently sent to the Accounts Commission on 9 October 2002 for their consideration.
- 2.3** The Final Direction 2002 has now been issued and this contains three new indicators, ten amendments to existing indicators and twelve simplified indicators. Five indicators have been deleted. The performance indicators have been re-grouped to reflect the organisational structures which are common in many councils. This re-grouping has resulted in three of the current indicators being split to create six. The total number of indicators changes from 62 to 64. Due to the splitting of indicators, there is no additional reporting burden on councils.

### **3. NEW INDICATORS IN THE 2002 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 2003 for these indicators and any indicators with significant changes.

#### **3.2 Childrens' Services**

Childrens' panel liaison - Indicator 13: Social background reports

- a) The number of reports submitted to the Reporter during the year.
- b) The proportion of reports requested by the Reporter which were submitted within 20 days.

### **3.3 Childrens' Services**

Childrens' panel liaison - Indicator 14: Supervision

- a) The number of new supervision requirements made during the year.
- b) The proportion of children seen by a supervising officer within 15 days.

### **3.3 Roads and Lighting**

Indicator 1: Carriageway condition

The percentage of the road network that should be considered for maintenance treatment.

## **4. CHANGES TO CURRENT INDICATORS**

- 4.1** As stated previously, ten of the existing indicators have been changed to reflect the views expressed by councils and others involved in the consultation exercise.
- 4.2** Departments have now had the opportunity to review the amendments to the existing indicators and have confirmed that the appropriate information will be collated.

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

- 5.1** The Local Government in Scotland Bill, currently before the Scottish Parliament, contains a number of proposals relating to Statutory Performance Indicators. Among these is a relaxation of the publication requirement (statutory advertisement) under the 1992 legislation. The Bill contains proposals for greater diversity of local reporting. However, until any new legislation is introduced, the requirements of the 1992 Act remain in place and the 2002 Direction reflects the current legislation. An amendment to the Direction will be issued by the Accounts Commission if, and when, it becomes appropriate to do so.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1** The Accounts Commission intends to continue to work with the Commission for Racial Equality and others to develop indicators in relation to equalities issues which they may bring forward in a future Direction.
- 7.2** The inclusion of new indicators and the amendments to existing indicators has required Council departments to review their systems in order to ensure that these are adequate to produce the required information for publication in 2003/04, as contained in the Direction 2002.
- 7.3** In line with this ongoing requirement, all departments have also now further reviewed the information required for reporting on the 2002/03 indicators contained in Direction 2001. 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.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**8.1** The Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the publication by the Accounts Commission of the Direction 2002;
- (ii) note the completion of trial runs on new and amended performance indicators for 2002/03 contained within the Direction 2001
- (iii) note the planned trial run for new and amended 2003/04 indicators in the Direction 2002.

Fiona Lees  
**Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources**

CF/FF  
4 February 2003

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Accounts Commission for Scotland – Local Government Act 1992 – Consultation on the 2002 Direction
2. The Council's response, dated 9 October 2002, on the 2002 Direction
3. Local Government Act 1992 – the Publication of Information (Standards of Performance) Direction 2002 issued by the Accounts Commission in November 2002.

Members wishing further information should contact Carol Foote, Principal Officer on telephone (01563) 576159.