

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 13 JUNE 2002

**PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING AUDIT –
CORPORATE LEVEL FOLLOW-UP AUDIT**

Report by the Chief Executive

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To advise the Committee of the outcome of the 2001/2002 Performance Management and Planning (PMP) Corporate Level Follow-up Audit.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The 4 October 2001 meeting of this Committee considered a report which, among other things, advised of the requirements for the 2001/02 Performance Management and Planning Audit conducted by the Council's External Auditor.

- 2.2** The Committee may recall that the PMP Audit for 2001/2002 comprised 4 parts: -

- Follow-up of agreed improvement actions outstanding from the 1999/2000 and the 2000/2001 PMP Service Level Audits;
- Follow-up Audit of agreed Improvement Actions arising from the 2000/2001 Corporate Level PMP Audit;
- 2001/2002 PMP Audit of the Council's Economic Development (including Property) Service and Social Work Residential Services for the Elderly;
- A National Performance Audit of Trading Standard Services.

- 2.3** In reporting the conclusions of the various elements of the PMP Audit for 2001/2002, the Council's External Auditor has forwarded separate reports to each of the Directors whose services were the subject of either follow-up audit work or the main 2001/2002 Service Level Audits. The relevant Directors will report the detailed conclusions from these audits to their service committees, as appropriate, for consideration.

- 2.4** This report presents the findings of the PMP follow-up audit work undertaken by the Council's External Auditors in relation to the Corporate Level Audit.

3. THE CORPORATE LEVEL FOLLOW-UP AUDIT

- 3.1** The PMP Corporate Level Audit was initially conducted in 2000/2001. The follow-up audit is, therefore, in effect a check by the External Auditor one year on that the Council is making progress in addressing the areas for improvement which were agreed at the conclusion of the main audit.

- 3.2 The Committee will recall that the Corporate Level 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 Corporate Level Audit conducted during 2000/2001 were generally positive with the Auditor noting broadly that: -

“at a Corporate Level, the Council can demonstrate clear commitment and progress in implementing the PMP framework, is making progress on a number of fronts and is committed to taking further action as required.”

- 3.3 The follow-up audit examined the progress made by the Council in achieving the improvement actions that were identified during the course of the main Corporate Level Audit. The auditors overall conclusion is that: -

“in conclusion, the Council has made significant progress on implementing most of the previously agreed improvement actions, and it shows a clear commitment to taking further action as required.”

- 3.4 Of the eleven improvement actions which were identified, seven have been completed to the Auditor's satisfaction; two actions relating to public performance reporting within the Council were superseded by the commitment to publish the Council's annual Public Performance Report; and only two actions remain current. One of these actions relates to the development of a Corporate Best Value Manual, with the Auditor recognising that the main part of the manual had been completed with the production of the Council's Best Value Service Review Guidelines. The manual will be supplemented with further information on Best Value related topics during 2003. The remaining action concerns the roll out of EAGER across the Council, due to be completed by 2004/2005, as timetabled. Progress in these areas will continue to be monitored by the External Auditor through the further follow-up audit work planned over future years.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Committee is asked to: -

- (i) note the positive outcome of the 2001/02 PMP Corporate Level Follow-up Audit;
- (ii) note that relevant Directors will report the detailed conclusions from the 2001/02 Service Level Audits to their respective service committees for consideration; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

David Montgomery
Chief Executive
7 June 2002

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Accounts Commission Performance Management and Planning Audit Guide 2001/2002.
2. East Ayrshire Council PMP (2) Audit 2000/2001 – Corporate Report to the Chief Executive.

For further information on this report, please contact John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communication on telephone number 01563 576195.

AGENDA