

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 29 NOVEMBER 2001

THE EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL PLAN (1999-2002) - UPDATE ON PROGRESS

Report by the Chief Executive

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To provide the Committee with an update on progress in the achievement of the challenging actions set out within the East Ayrshire Council Plan (1999-2002) and to seek the Committee's approval to publicise this information in line with the Council's Public Performance Reporting Framework.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The East Ayrshire Council Plan (1999-2002) was agreed by the Council in 1999. Through the Council's Corporate Level Performance Management and Planning Audit which was conducted by Audit Scotland in 2000/01 and in line with the Council's commitment to public performance reporting, an undertaking was given to provide a mid-term progress report in respect of the detailed actions contained within the Council Plan.

3. UPDATE ON PROGRESS

- 3.1** It was recognised within the Council Plan that the people of East Ayrshire have a right to assess the Council's performance and for that reason specific targets and timescales were given against each of the seven priorities of the Council Plan.
- 3.2** Progress against all of the commitments given in the Council Plan is set out within the appendix to this report. Lead Department responsibility has been allocated against all of the tasks and initiatives identified under each of the seven top priorities of the Council Plan.
- 3.3** The preparation of this mid-term report on the achievement of the actions contained within the Council Plan allows us to assess the extent to which the commitments contained within the Council Plan are on target for implementation. An assessment of progress to date confirms that the majority of the commitments given are on target to be delivered within the specified timescale, with a number of targets already met or exceeded.
- 3.4** An important element of the Council's approach to Public Performance Reporting is the need for open and transparent reporting of progress against standards and targets. It is, therefore, proposed that, once considered by Committee, the information contained within the appendix to this report be reformatted and made available to the general public.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The publication of the mid-term report on the implementation of the Council Plan is consistent with the Council's approach to Public Performance Reporting.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS - Nil.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Any costs associated with the publication of the mid-term report will be contained within existing budgets.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the progress to date against the actions contained within the East Ayrshire Council Plan (1999-2002) as set out within the appendix to the report;
- (ii) agree to the publication of the East Ayrshire Council Plan (1999-2002) mid-term report, with the detailed content and format to be agreed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise note the content of this report.

David Montgomery
Chief Executive

20 November 2001

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The East Ayrshire Council Plan (1999-2002).

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Martin O'Rourke, Principal Officer on 01563 576223. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources on 01563 576019..

THE EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL PLAN 1999-2002

Update on Progress

When we published the Council Plan we made a commitment to deliver specific actions across the Council's top seven priorities. Taken together, these actions are aimed at making a real difference to people's lives.

This update on progress allows us to check that we are delivering on our promises.

TACKLING UNEMPLOYMENT

In every community in East Ayrshire there is unemployment. In some communities this is substantial while in others it is not so acute. However, East Ayrshire as a whole has one of the worst unemployment rates in the whole of the UK and this cannot be tolerated. It will take a huge effort on behalf of the council and its partners to make the kind of impact that we would all like to see. We are determined to tackle unemployment head-on and that is why it is the council's number one priority.

Our overall aim is to reduce the unemployment rate within East Ayrshire to the Scottish average by the year 2010.

Working with Existing Businesses			
We will work with existing businesses to help them retain jobs and to help them expand			
Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
Where the council delivers direct financial support to existing businesses, we will ensure that for every £1 the council invests, a further £10 is levered into the business from other sources.	DS	ONGOING	The investment levered from other funding agencies into financial packages which the Council has supported with loan funding is currently at the rate of £15 for every £1 of investment, which is an increase of 50% over the target figure of £10.
We aim to secure the retention of 400 existing jobs and create 150 new jobs within existing businesses by the end of 2003.	DS	December 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Figures are on target. To date, we have supported the retention of 335 existing jobs and the creation of 103 new jobs. The effect of the anticipated economic downturn may influence our performance in the second six months, and in future years. ▪ PTF bid for 2002/2004 will improve accessibility to Kilmarnock Town Centre for workforce and will lead to potential inward investment and increased economic activity.
Together with the East Ayrshire Business Partnership, we aim to establish 50 new businesses and create a total of 150 new jobs in these businesses by 2003.	DS	March 2003	The Council's influence on this objective has diminished due to the demise of East Ayrshire Business Partnership (EABP). Our relationship with the Business Gateway (the national "badge" of the structure replacing EABP) is subject to future discussion and agreement. We will, however, continue to encourage business start ups and job creation through these new arrangements.

Attracting Inward Investment			
We will do all that we can to attract new employers into East Ayrshire			
Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
We aim to develop one strategic industrial site by 2003.	DS	March 2003	On target. Key consultants reports to support implementation of one strategic site is completed. Progress will initially be dependent on a favourable outcome following the Local Plan Public Local Inquiry.
We aim to work with partners to establish new rail terminals.	DS	March 2003	Part of the Local Transport Strategy to encourage movement of freight from road to rail. New terminal constructed at New Cumnock. Further terminal being considered at Cronberry.
As our infrastructure improves, we will develop a new marketing campaign for potential inward investors focused on the Internet and electronic communications.	DS	March 2003	On target. Discussions are ongoing with Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire in relation to the design of a marketing campaign.
We believe that we will be able to secure initial inquiries for up to ten new projects with three of these being realised in inward investment decisions.	DS	March 2003	The number of enquiries is on target. However the number that are converted to inward investment decisions, and the number of future enquiries, is expected to decrease in line with national and international economic forecasts following 11 September.
We will continue our close co-operation with the Scottish Executive to secure the completion of the M77 extension to Kilmarnock by the end of 2005.	DS	December 2005	On target. Compulsory purchase orders for scheme have been published. Ground investigation work complete. Consortia for construction of scheme being sought.
We believe that 500 new jobs can be created by 2005 rising to 800 by 2008.	DS	December 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The target figures have been substantially exceeded to date, with support having been given to the creation of 830 new jobs. The effect of the anticipated economic downturn may influence our performance in the second six months, and in future years. ▪ PTF bid for 2002/2004 will improve accessibility and economic activity in Kilmarnock Town Centre.
Equipping our People			
We will make sure that the people of East Ayrshire have access to the necessary training, particularly in information technology skills, to ensure that we have an available workforce that is attractive to potential new employers.			
Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
Through the Ayrshire Electronic Community and the CONDUIT programme we will secure a year on year increase in the ICT skills levels amongst the economically active population.	CRD .	ONGOING	<p>AEC has established local computer centres in libraries and community centres across East Ayrshire and has provided the ICT infrastructure to link these to each other, and the Internet. A total of 19,223 people have utilised these facilities to date, with over 90% of these accessing the Internet. AEC also promotes e-community development by offering support and initial training to staff, volunteers and local people within and outwith the centres and in conjunction with CONDUIT, YIPWORLD, and Employment Service over 50 people have gained employment and over 100 SMEs (Small Businesses) have benefited.</p> <p>The CONDUIT programme has been expanded from its existing base in Dalmellington to include Kilmarnock and New Cumnock bases which has extended the provision of training from 12 to 30 trainees per annum. These facilities will continue to be developed to meet clients need.</p>

We aim to ensure that there is public access to the Internet and council and business information on-line at all council service points.	CRD	March 2003	On target. The Council has eleven existing service points installed with installation of another eleven underway. These provide access to business and other information on the Council's web site and other partner web sites about the area.
We will install 3 terminals in council offices, we will work with private sector providers to secure further public access terminals in non-council locations, and we will work with the Ayrshire Electronic Community to deliver new learning and support centres.	CRD	March 2003	The service is on target to deliver 42 learning and support centres in co-operation with Ayrshire Electronic Community by December 2001. All possible opportunities for future partnership working will be pursued.
All community libraries will provide public ICT access by 2002	CS	March 2002	Target achieved. The Council now provides public ICT access ahead of the agreed target in all 23 libraries with four service points in the Dick Institute in Kilmarnock. This provides a strong foundation for e-community development and e-capacity. This was provided in co-operation with the Ayrshire Electronic Community. The service is now being updated using equipment and an improved telecommunications infrastructure jointly financed by the New Opportunities Fund and the Council. A total of £470,000 has been raised from external sources to fund this provision.

Improving Access and Opportunity

We want to remove any barriers that may prevent people from taking up employment opportunities.

Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
We recognise that East Ayrshire Council is one of the largest employers locally and we will continue to invest in training opportunities for our own workforce and in initiatives to secure a healthy working environment.	CRD	ONGOING	<p>The Council has been proactive in training and development to meet service department needs. Examples include – operational skills training in the Site Services Business Unit, management development programmes in HATS, Community Services and Site Services Business Unit. The Council is the first local authority to introduce Modern Apprenticeships in I.T. and has continued to promote the Modern Apprenticeship in Administration. In the year 2001/02 105 employees are pursuing personal development through a course of further education. The Council have achieved the Silver Award and is working towards the Gold Award with the HEBS scheme.</p> <p>Health promotion events in 2001 have related to Men's Health, Taking Care In The Sun and Oral Health. The second "Health Promotion Month" was run in October 2001 across a number of Council facilities.</p>
We will extend the range of childcare opportunities available in East Ayrshire through the Ayrshire Childcare Partnership. We aim to ensure that no one is prevented from gaining employment because of a lack of childcare.	ESSD	ONGOING	<p>On target. Information received from the Work Life Balance Team, Department for Education and Employment (Dfee) in connection with work life balance issues</p> <p>A total of 16 daycarers were assessed and approved by December 2000. 852 new and additional childcare places have been established through NOF as at 31/3/01</p>

<p>We will work through our Rough Sleepers Initiative to appoint two general support workers in 2000 to improve opportunities for young single homeless people to secure employment.</p>	<p>HATS</p>	<p>December 2000</p>	<p>Target achieved. Two support workers recruited providing support to tenants provided with accommodation in Kilmarnock.</p>
<p>We wish to expand the operation of the personal assistance scheme (PAS) to enable people with disabilities to employ staff and manage their own care need. We aim to have five additional employers operating their individual arrangements through PAS by 2002.</p>	<p>ESSD</p>	<p>March 2002</p>	<p>On target. Scheme under review at present time. Pilot currently ongoing. Implementation of enhanced Direct Payments scheme from April 2002 to be recommended to Council</p>
<p>In conjunction with our partner in Energy Advice/Home Security, we will secure the recruitment of 60 trainees in 2000/2001.</p>	<p>HATS</p>	<p>March 2001</p>	<p>Target achieved.</p>

FIGHTING POVERTY

Reducing unemployment doesn't automatically mean a reduction in poverty. Many factors cause or contribute to poverty. Through this Council Plan, we intend to tackle poverty, wherever it exists and however it is caused.

Our overall aim is to ensure that poverty levels in all East Ayrshire communities reduce year-on-year and are at or below the Scottish average by the year 2010.

Increasing Income			
We will delivery a co-ordinated approach to addressing many of the factors that contribute to poverty and we will help people to maximise their income.			
Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
We aim to secure an addition £5 million in additional benefit take up for local residents by 2002.	ESSD	March 2002	On target. The cumulative total of additional benefits secured for East Ayrshire citizens from the inception of the Council to 31 March 2001 stands at £12,753,993, an average annual gain over the period of £2,550,799. This would allow the target of £5m to be achieved over 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.
We will offer a full income maximisation assessment to all those people who are in receipt of home care services and we will work with our partners to provide information and support on maximising benefit take up throughout East Ayrshire.	ESSD	March 2003	On target. Further development and deployment of income maximisation skills by Money Advice/Debt Counselling staff within the Dept. of Educational and Social Services has resulted in service users being assisted to claim additional benefits to the value of £115,242. (1 April 2001 to date)
We will work with two major employers per year to promote benefit maximisation, in particular the Working Families Tax Credit.	ESSD	March 2003	On target. Being developed through Anti-Poverty Team.
Increasing Access and Opportunity			
We will always ensure that there is equal access to council services for everyone, regardless of levels of income.			
Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
The council offers a concessionary rate for fees and charges for a number of council services. We will continue to offer these concessionary rates and seek to extend the range of services subject to concessionary charges.	CS	ONGOING	Concessionary rates are available across a wide range of Leisure activities. In addition two new schemes have been introduced for 5 – 12 year olds:- RAD (Recreation Activity Discount Card) 94 Cards issued September to November 2001 RICK (Recreation Inclusion Card for Kids) 1147 cards issued since 1 st June 2000.

Preventing Poverty

We recognise how easy it can be for people to fall into the poverty trap. We will devise and deliver a range of support measures for people on the low incomes to prevent their position from worsening.

Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
We will help to establish credit unions throughout the whole of East Ayrshire with an initial target of securing a new credit union within the coalfield communities area in the year 2000/2001. Thereafter, we will target communities with the greatest need for new credit unions while continuing to support and promote existing unions	ESSD	March 2001	Target achieved. Credit Union now established in Cumnock. Further work is ongoing to expand this approach into other areas.
In the year 2000/2001, we will promote a one-stop approach to money advice and debt counselling. The skills and resources of our Social Inclusion Partnership teams, Consumer and Trading Standards section, and Welfare Rights Service, along with other specialist partners, will be maximised to secure a year-on-year increase in the uptake of advice/counselling sessions.	ESSD	March 2001	Target achieved. Additionally, further work is ongoing including the following: a series of public information roadshows aimed at highlighting problems with debt and raising public awareness of availability Money Advice/Debt Counselling assistance within East Ayrshire and where this can be accessed is currently underway (November 2001). Further development and deployment of income maximisation skills by Money Advice/Debt Counselling staff within the Dept. of Educational and Social Services has resulted in service users being assisted to claim additional benefits to the value of £115,242. (1 April 2001 to date)
We will secure improvements in the speed with which housing and council tax benefit applications are processed. We aim to ensure that East Ayrshire Council provides a service that is faster than the Scottish average by financial year 2001/2002 with a year-on-year increase thereafter.	F	March 2002	On target. Performance is improving in terms of speed and accuracy. We aim to improve processing times year on year without compromising accuracy rates. It is anticipated that our performance will compare well with other authorities in 2001/02, particularly on renewal claim processing. Continuing efforts will be made beyond the target date to improve performance.
We will integrate our council tax and housing benefit assessment arrangements with our assessments for free school meals and footwear and clothing grants to ensure that people have efficient access to all entitlements.	F	March 2003	Options for closer joined-up working to achieve this objective by the target date are being identified.

Rural Poverty

We know that poverty can be compounded by living in rural areas. We want to make sure that people are not more economically disadvantaged because they live away from our main towns or transport routes.

Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
We will support the voluntary sector to develop community transport initiatives and aim to have a pilot initiative in place in the coalfield communities by the end of 2001.	CRD	December 2001	Target achieved. The SIP has supported the Coalfield Communities Federation in securing £300,000 to establish a Community Transport scheme in the Coalfield Communities. It is anticipated that the transport scheme will be operational by the end of 2001.
We will work with Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive to secure a year-on-year increase in funding for uneconomic public transport routes in remote areas.	DS.	ONGOING	Included in the Local Transport Strategy. Increase in funding for rural transport routes obtained in current year.

BETTER HEALTH

People living in the West of Scotland are amongst the least healthy in Europe. There are a number of health issues that are directly linked to unemployment and poverty and we intend that our Council Plan will address many of these. We also want to launch specific initiatives, in conjunction with our partners, where we can make an impact on some of the most pressing problems in East Ayrshire.

Our overall aim is to improve the overall health of the local population by increasing the range of healthy lifestyle choices available to them.

Drug Abuse			
We will launch a new initiative to combat drug abuse in our community.			
Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
We will secure a 10% year-on-year increase in referrals to specialist addiction services to meet the needs of older people with drug or alcohol related problems throughout the whole of East Ayrshire.	ESSD	ONGOING	This action is being addressed through the ADAT action plan 1999-2000 section 6.
We will combine our support for existing drug users and their families with education initiatives to prevent further drug abuse in our communities.	ESSD .	ONGOING	To be addressed through ADAT action plan 1999-2000, section 1. Children's Change Fund posts (3) established alongside creation of dedicated social work posts (5) (Council approval-25/10/01)
In September 2000 we will develop a peer education group for young people aged 16-19 in Cumnock, Auchinleck and Dalmellington through our Coalfield Social Inclusion Partnership.	ESSD	September 2000	<p>Target achieved. Successfully implemented existing projects in the coalfields social inclusion area – Community Learning Opportunities Project, Young Parents, Peer Education , Forge Ahead</p> <p>Community Learning Opportunities Project delivered 8 family learning programmes in partnership with Primary Schools.</p> <p>Forge Ahead delivered 3 courses for parents in partnership with Logan Primary School.</p> <p>Delivered 12 learning opportunities for parents & young people as part of the Kilmarnock New Community Schools initiatives.</p> <p>Involved adults and young people in the development of three Pilot Community Learning Plans, in North Kilmarnock; Muirkirk and Darvel/Newmilns.</p>

Drug Abuse (cont)
 We will launch a new initiative to combat drug abuse in our community.

Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
We will target addiction support to lone parents in Cumnock, Auchinleck and Dalmellington by 2001.	ESSD	December 2001	On target. This action is being addressed through the ADAT action plan 1999-2001, section 5
We will launch a new initiative to combat drug abuse in our community.	ESSD	March 2003	On target. To be developed through ADAT
We will support the establishment of drugs helplines, initially within North West Kilmarnock.	ESSD .	March 2003	On target. To be developed through ADAT
We will develop annual drug awareness campaigns in conjunction with key partners with the involvement of young people, for young people.	ESSD .	March 2003	On target. To be developed through ADAT

Reducing Risk
 We will work with our health service partners to agree specific targets for reducing the overall death rate in East Ayrshire and to devise programmes for combating the worst of the area's health problems.

Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
We will work with our health service partners to agree specific targets for reducing the overall death rate in East Ayrshire and to devise programmes for combating the worst of the area's health problems.	CRD	March 2003	On target. Work is ongoing with community planning partners to ensure that the council's pivotal role in public health is reflected in health improvement programmes and the community plan which will link with the Ayrshire and Arran NHS Plan.
We will work with partners in the Health Board and Trusts to secure improved health services in communities. In the first instance we will improve services through co-location of council and health services in the Doon Valley.	CRD	March 2003	Target achieved. The Dalmellington Area Centre opened in June 2001 and work is progressing on the Drongan Resource Centre which is due for completion in Spring 2002. Work is continuing to promote similar initiatives across East Ayrshire.
We will launch a healthy living outreach team in 2000/2001. This will address specific health issues within communities and offer health promotion information and advice.	CS	March 2001	Target achieved. CHIP van scheme now in operation in 17 target communities. The project is supported by the New Opportunities Fund and the SIP.
We will agree an operational framework with the Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care NHS Trust in 2000 to guide increased co-operation and joint working towards improving the health and social care for East Ayrshire residents.	ESSD	December 2000	Target achieved. Being addressed in context of the East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership – Operational Framework completed.
Through our Rough Sleepers Initiative we will appoint two health workers in 2000 to provide health advice and assistance to young single homeless.	HATS .	December 2000	Target achieved. One health worker recruited plus one support worker appointed to work in Bowhouse Prison.

Providing Choice and Care for the Elderly

We want to ensure that elderly people can choose how they want to live. If they need care and they want to stay in their community, we are committed to providing the support that will allow them to do just that.

Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
We will improve the information available for older people to assist them to make informed choices about the services they wish to receive from the council.	ESSD	ONGOING	Range of public information leaflets address the issue. Revised general leaflet on Social Work services in preparation.
We aim to ensure that 50% of day care services for older people should meet registration standards in advance of 2002 when it becomes compulsory.	ESSD	March 2002	Work in progress. Anticipate achievement of target within timescale indicated.
We will continue to provide older people with alternatives to residential or nursing home care. We expect that a quarter of people who currently receive a home care service to receive more than 10 hours per week by 2002.	ESSD	December 2002	Home Care Review close to finalisation – currently being discussed with Trade Unions. Currently achieving target numbers for 10+ hours service.
We will provide support to increase the number of elderly forums operating within East Ayrshire by 2002.	ESSD	December 2002	On target. Incorporated within Joint Community Care Implementation Plan
We will launch a peer education programme in 2001 that promotes an understanding of the needs of older people amongst the young.	ESSD	March 2003	Target achieved. Joint young people's/older peoples seminar held in Stewarton Academy

IMPROVED HOUSING FOR ALL

Everyone is entitled to good quality housing. This is a basic right. There is a lot that the council can do direct to improve housing and, in partnership with other housing providers, we can extend the range of housing that is available in East Ayrshire.

Our overall aim is to ensure good quality homes for all.

Council Homes			
We will continue to invest in our council housing stock to ensure that, across the whole of East Ayrshire, our tenants can enjoy a quality home with modern amenities and excellent standards.			
Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
We will carry out a best value review of our repairs and maintenance service for council houses and public buildings by August 2000.	HATS .	August 2000	Best Value Service Review complete. New Repairs Service approved for introduction January 2002.
We will implement a new, single, needs based Allocation Policy to replace the two existing systems operated by the end of 2000.	HATS .	December 2000	In place.
We will invest in measures to counter dampness and condensation in over 400 council homes.	HATS	March 2001	Target achieved. More than 550 dwellings benefited from major building fabric repairs with 235 benefiting from chimney/re-roofing works
We will invest in major improvements and repairs to almost 2000 homes, including more than 1000 kitchen refurbishments and the rewiring of almost 500 homes.	HATS	March 2001	Target achieved. Major improvements carried out to approximately 4,000 homes including around 950 kitchen refurbishments and over 600 properties rewired.
We will secure improved safety in more than 300 homes by replacing lead pipes and removing asbestos.	HATS.	March 2001	Target revised to 160 to take account of tender prices.
Our Partners			
We will work tirelessly with housing associations and the private sector to ensure that the range of available housing within East Ayrshire is of a high quality and meets the needs of all our people.			
Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
We will introduce mandatory licensing of houses in multiple occupation by 2001.	CS	December 2000	Target achieved.
In Longpark, Kilmarnock, we will secure the construction of 62 houses for sale and 50 for rent by Cunninghame Housing Association.	HATS .	March 2002	On target. Project forms part of the Council's Joint Strategic Investment Strategy with Communities Scotland.
We will bring 35 houses back into use for rent through the Empty Homes Initiative.	HATS .	March 2002	On target. Funding obtained via successful bid to Scottish Executive and again, the Project comprises partnership working with Communities Scotland and other Registered Social Landlords.
In Newmilns we will secure 12 additional Houses for rent with Hanover Housing Association.	HATS .	March 2002	On target. Project forms part of the Council's Joint Strategic Investment Strategy with Communities Scotland.

We will secure, via West of Scotland Housing Association, the construction of 10 units of 'extra care' housing in Kilmarnock.	HATS .	March 2002	Target achieved. Project supports Care in the Community and the Hospital Discharge Programme
Thirteen new 'amenity' houses for rent will be available via Kirk Care Housing Association in Galston by October 2000.	HATS .	March 2002	Target achieved. Project provides supported accommodation for older people in the community.
We will invest £150,000 in Improvement and Repair grants to the private sector before the end of March 2002.	HATS .	March 2002	On target to invest more than £300,000 by the end of the current financial year.

Housing for People with Particular Needs

Many members of our community have requirements for particular types of housing. Sometimes this is housing that is linked to round-the-clock care or is adapted in a way that allows them to enjoy all the amenities that most of us take for granted. We will continue to examine every way of increasing the stock of special needs and amenity housing within East Ayrshire.

Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
During 2000, we will provide suitable housing with support for five people with severe physical disabilities who would otherwise be in long-term hospital care.	ESSD	December 2000	Target achieved. Kilmaurs development operational. Partnership model involving Council, NHS Ayrshire, Scottish Homes and Horizon housing. Provides 5 individual tenancies in Klmaurs for physically disabled adults.
We will provide appropriate housing with support for people with a learning disability leaving long-term hospital care. We aim to support 14 people within their own homes by 2002.	ESSD	March 2002	On target. Longpark development in preparation and anticipated to become operational by target date. This will provide 15 individual tenancies for adults with a learning disability. Partnership model, involving the Council, NHS Ayrshire, Scottish Homes, local housing association and voluntary sector care providers.
We will develop housing alternatives for people with learning disabilities who are currently living in residential care. The tenancies will be developed and houses allocated to new tenants by late 2002.	ESSD	December 2002	Longpark development on target (see above).
In 2000 we will launch an on-line property register of all public sector houses that have been adapted for people with disabilities.	HATS .	December 2000	Deferred pending completion of Repairs Service Action Plan.
We will provide housing for 20 individuals resettled from Ailsa Hospital before March 2001.	HATS .	March 2001	Target achieved. Individuals re-housed through Care Package Initiative in partnership with Social Work and Health Agencies.
We will invest more than £1million per year in aids and adaptations to council and private sector homes up to March 2002.	HATS	March 2002	On target. Social Work confirm continuing high demand for service and joint review of eligibility criteria to be carried out by Social Work and Homes during 2002 for report to Committee.
We will provide 4 furnished houses for homeless people through our Rough Sleepers Initiative Project.	HATS	March 2003	Target achieved. Four furnished flats leased to the Council's partner, Rowan Alba, in the Kilmarnock area.
We will compile and maintain a register of adapted properties to ensure that we can re-allocate them efficiently in the future.	HATS .	March 2003	On target – work on-going.

EXCELLENCE THROUGH EDUCATION

Education is at the centre of all that we do. We want to ensure that access to quality education provision is available to all who live and work in East Ayrshire.

Our overall aim is to develop excellence in education and improve opportunities for all through quality, equality, access, and partnership.

Increasing Qualifications			
We will continue to improve educational achievement in East Ayrshire.			
Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
We will secure a yearly percentage increase, from 2000, of accommodated children leaving school with English and maths qualifications.	ESSD	ONGOING	Action Plan devised in response to "Learning with Care" report to address issue. Council approval being sought in November/December 2001 cycle.
Our aim is that 94% of pupils should achieve a Standard Grade English and Maths by March 2001.	ESSD	March 2001	Targets have been set for all schools. All schools achieved over a 90% pass rate in English and Maths with one exception in English. Of the others the pass rate was 93% or higher.
We have set a target of ensuring that 23% of pupils achieve 3 or more Highers at grades A-C by March 2001.	ESSD	March 2001	2 schools have exceeded the 23% target and a further two have exceeded their individual targets.
We will ensure that the full range of courses within the Higher Still Programme (Advanced Higher, Higher, Intermediate1, Intermediate2, and Access Courses) is available in all secondary and special schools within East Ayrshire by 2002.	ESSD	March 2002	This target was achieved by 2001.
We will secure annual positive training outcomes for 215 young people.	ESSD	March 2003	<p>Promoted and delivered youth worker and crèche worker training courses</p> <p>Continued to offer a range of Local Collaborative Programmes mainly in new technology.</p> <p>Produced an Essential Skills Development Plan and commenced its implementation process.</p> <p>Extended advice and guidance to Adult Learners by increasing guidance staff through the existing ancillary staff budget.</p> <p>Partner in Ayrshire Builds Capacity project which developed training materials.</p> <p>Supported EFCA to deliver training at their Annual Conference.</p> <p>Delivered a capacity building Summer School during August 2000 for community activists</p>

Personal Development

We recognise that our schools have a vital role in the teaching and learning of life skills as well as in delivering academic achievements. We will deliver an all-round education service throughout the whole of our area.

Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
All teachers will have a Personal Development Plan by April 2001.	ESSD	April 2001	All teachers have accessed the programme of staff development and review
We will also work with parents and school boards to deliver at least one parental education project in all establishments by April 2001.	ESSD	April 2001	Computing for the terrified completed for 14 (crèche provision), in Parents group and drop-in operating in Hillhead Community School. Family learning opportunities in 11 Primary Schools in 2001 Forge Ahead delivered three courses for parents in Logan Primary.
For every pupil, we will have a Personal Learning Plan by March 2002.	ESSD	March 2002	Personal Learning Plans have been developed in 3 pilot clusters of schools. Early results are encouraging and the Authority is on target towards evaluating the options in relation to this target.
We aim to introduce personal development plans for young people and education service employees and promote development projects for parents and the community.	ESSD	March 2003	On Target. All young people in Kilmarnock Academy have a PLP. P5-P7 children in Hillhead Primary have a PLP. Review of existing PLPs to include P2-P3. Multi-disciplinary staff group in place to meet the needs identified in PLPs.

Community Focus

We will make sure that all of our educational establishments are at the heart of our communities and provide a channel through which these communities can work with the council.

Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
By the end of 2001, will be able to offer a nursery place to all three-year-olds whose parents wish one.	ESSD .	December 2001	On target. 70% of 3 year olds, whose parents wish a nursery place, have been allocated a place in either a local authority or partner provider centre. The Council is on target for 100%.
We will provide 70 new wraparound care places by the end of 2001.	ESSD .	December 2001	On target. As above.
We will increase the number of New Community School projects in East Ayrshire to 2 by March 2002.	ESSD .	March 2002	Target achieved. In addition to the project in Kilmarnock the Cumnock NCS is also now operational.

Lifelong Learning

We will make sure that all of the facilities within our communities help to promote active citizenship, particularly for those marginalised and excluded, by delivering a life-long learning experience in East Ayrshire

Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
Our drive to deliver lifelong learning is detailed in our Community Learning Strategies. We will pilot this approach through Community Learning Plans in 3 communities by March 2001 before considering how the approach can be further extended across East Ayrshire.	ESSD	March 2001	<p>Target achieved.</p> <p>Continued to work with both colleges to offer a range of local collaborative courses in various communities.</p> <p>Three Community Learning Plans are now published and consideration of extending Plans to other areas will be considered through the East Ayrshire Community Learning Partnership. Partners involved in the preparation of the Plans included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Community• Schools• NHS Ayrshire & Arran• Libraries• Scottish Enterprise• SIP Board• Employment Services <p>Shortlees Community Learning Centre established in 2001 funded in partnership through NOF; East Ayrshire Council and Ayrshire Electronic Community.</p> <p>Extended advice and guidance to adult learners by increasing guidance staff through existing ancillary staff budgets</p> <p>Delivered 17 Guidance workshops, 60 one to one interviews and 89 group visits.</p> <p>Successfully secured additional funding from SWAP to deliver awareness raising sessions with adult learners.</p>
We will improve access to community learning for adults with disabilities.	ESSD	March 2003	<p>On target. Review of day services for adults with learning disabilities will address issue of enhanced access to mainstream educational opportunities. Phase 1 in implementation. Phase 2 in 2002 – 2003.</p>

A SAFE, STIMULATING AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

East Ayrshire's environment is rich and varied. We want people to be able to access it and enjoy it at all times and we will continue to strive for a quality environment throughout the area.

Our overall aim is to develop community based environmental action plans for all areas of East Ayrshire by 2002. The first of these will be launched in the coalfield areas in 2000.

Safe and Secure			
We will implement a range of community safety initiatives that help people feel more safe and secure in their home, their neighbourhoods, and throughout East Ayrshire.			
Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
We will revise and reissue our community safety strategy in 2000 and set achievable targets to improve community safety in East Ayrshire.	CS	December 2000	Target achieved.
We will introduce a voluntary proof of age card for young people by 2001.	CS	December 2001	Limited progress to date. However, alternative funding sources are currently being investigated.
Our overall aim is to develop community based environmental action plans for all areas of East Ayrshire by 2002. The first of these will be launched in the coalfield areas in 2000	CS	December 2002	Ongoing as part of the SIP's approach. Community based Environmental Action Plans have been finalised for the communities of Auchinleck and New Cumnock with draft plans prepared for Drongan, Muirkirk, Patna and Rankinston. Plans have also been prepared for Longpark and NW Kilmarnock.
We will extend our town centre CCTV monitoring schemes to a further four communities by the end of 2002.	CS	December 2002	The bids for funding for the four communities identified were rejected by the Scottish Executive in March 2001. Any further opportunities to secure the necessary funding will be explored as they arise.
We will introduce a new community safety award for individuals and groups.	CS	March 2003	Target achieved by August 2001
We will work with East Ayrshire licensing board to introduce a licensing scheme for door stewards.	CS	March 2003	On target. The Scottish Executive recently issued a consultation paper on this matter and the consultation period is due to end in December. It is likely that mandatory licensing of door stewards will be introduced in the near future by including this activity in the list of 'licensable' activities specified in the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.
To ensure a secure home environment for our tenants we will install 5-lever mortice locks, peep holes and external lighting, through our partners, The Wise Group, to 600 council homes before March 2001.	HATS	March 2001	Target achieved. Ongoing partnership programme with Wise Group will continue to target investment to home security.
We will introduce new services targeted specifically at addressing the behaviour of young people involved in serious and persistent offending.	ESSD .	ONGOING	Target achieved. Range of initiatives incorporated within Ayrshire Criminal Justice Partnership Strategic Plan 2002-2005. Work ongoing.
We will install door entry systems and security to over 150 homes, again by March 2001.	HATS .	March 2001	Target revised to 108 to take account of tender prices.

Transport Choices

In East Ayrshire, where many of our people live in rural communities, we need to ensure that they have good transport choices. They should be able to choose public or private transport and a method that suits them most. When people travel by road, they should be safe and pedestrians should be safe from them.

Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
We will promote the uptake of disability awareness training amongst taxi and private hire drivers to ensure that all drivers have completed this training by the end of 2002.	CS	December 2002	On target. This is now a condition on taxi drivers' licences and awareness training is being delivered by the Disability Forum.
We will ensure that, by 2004, all licensed vehicles are suitable for carrying people with disabilities.	CS.	December 2003	On target. This is now Council policy.
We will encourage SPT to commit funds in its rolling programme of station openings to construct a new railway station at Mauchline.	DS .	ONGOING	Included in Local Transport Strategy (LTS). Still under consideration by Strathclyde Passenger Transport (SPT).
We will press for increased capacity on the Kilmarnock to Dumfries rail line to increase the transfer of freight from road to rail.	DS .	ONGOING	Included in LTS. Part of Railtrack long term Strategy contained in their Network Management Statement.
We will endeavour to meet government targets of doubling cycling by 2002 and doubling it again by 2012.	DS .	December 2002	Encouraging use of cycling by use of PTF bids - Safer Routes to School and Cycling Walking and Safer Streets awards used to construct cycle routes.
We will prepare a local transport strategy that sets out transportation aims and objectives.	DS .	March 2003	Target achieved. The LTS published early in 2001 after extensive consultation, covers the period 2001/2004.
We will work closely with Strathclyde Passenger Transport, RailTrack and ScotRail, to have the Barrhead to Kilmarnock rail line improved to allow half-hourly services between Kilmarnock and Glasgow.	DS .	March 2003	This is included in the LTS. It is also part of Railtrack's long term strategy contained in their Network Management Statement.
We will campaign for improvements to rail service within the area and will invest £600,000 in improvements to bus stations in Cumnock and Kilmarnock.	DS .	March 2003	Target achieved. Both bus stations upgraded during 2000 at a cost of £590,000, as a result of a successful Public Transport Fund Bid.
We will continue our close co-operation with the Scottish Executive to secure the completion of the M77 extension to Kilmarnock by the end of 2005.	DS	December 2005	On target. Compulsory purchase orders for scheme have been published. Ground investigation work complete. Consortia for construction of scheme being sought.
We aim to secure a 50% reduction in the number of children killed or seriously injured in road accidents and a 40% reduction in the overall number of people killed or seriously injured in East Ayrshire. We aim to secure these reductions by the year 2010.	DS .	December 2010	New accident reduction targets form part of LTS. Safety schemes being introduced with aid of capital budget. Safer Routes to School funding and Cycling Walking Safer Street funding are being used to reduce the number of child casualties.

Leisure Opportunities
 We will ensure that our people have access to a modern range of leisure and recreation facilities.

Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
We will work with appropriate partners to secure the external funding necessary to implement development programmes for cultural and leisure activities. Dependent on the success of external funding bids, up to ten new activity programmes will be provided in 2000/01 and a further 15 in 2001/02.	CS	ONGOING	<p>New programmes have been launched across Sport, the Arts and Childrens Play. The following examples total over £1.6m (total external funding support shown in brackets).</p> <p>Local Authority Partnership (Arts) (£138,000) Crafts Development Officer (£124,000) Year of the Artist 2000 (£11,000) Dick Institute Audience development (£3,500)</p> <p>Curling Development Officer (£46,000) Girls and Women's Football Development Officer (£51,000) CHIP (Community Health Improvement Project) Van project (£513,000)</p> <p>Recreation Partnership Project (North) (£205,000) Recreation Partnership project (South) (£310,000) Nation TOPS Project (Sport) (£65,000) School Sports Co-ordinators (£118,000) Active Primary Schools Co-ordinator (£85,000)</p>
We will continue to co-ordinate the leisure development of Queens Drive in Kilmarnock and ensure that new and improved sports facilities are created in the area. One new sports pitch will be developed in 2001/02, further facilities will follow as funds become available.	DS	March 2002	Discussions continue with interested sports organisations on sites on both sides of the river. The speed at which any development is achieved will depend on external grant funding and the attracting of commercial developments, which has been slower than expected.
We will support the development of new indoor swimming facilities in Cumnock through working with the Cumnock Leisure Group with the aim of having new facilities opened by 2002.	CS	December 2002	Support for the Group is continuing. The Group is currently bidding for funds for the project and has provisionally secured over £1,000,000 towards the construction of the new pool.

Protecting our Environment
 We will make sure that the council and communities recognise the fragile environment that we live in and that our actions preserve or improve our surroundings.

Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
We will encourage the community to value and improve their environment with a range of promotional activities, including National Spring Clean and Lethal Litter campaigns	CS	ONGOING	National Spring Clean was re-branded as 'Just Bin It' in 2001. While there was evidence of continuing public commitment to the venture, the Foot & Mouth crisis effectively prevented a number of events which required access to the countryside. Other events were however, well-supported.

We will increase the amount of household waste that is recycled within East Ayrshire by 20% year-on year from the 1999 baseline.	CS	ONGOING	Annual target being met. Additional investment in the past 12 months has been targeted at reinforcing the infrastructure at the Material Recycling Facility to ensure the capability for processing recyclable material.
We will extend the kerbside collection service for recyclable waste by at least one additional community per year.	CS	ONGOING	On target. 2 communities are currently covered by this initiative. The development and extension of recycling initiatives will be largely dependant on the availability of resources.
We will develop and adopt a bio- diversity action plan by 2001.	CS	December 2001	Target achieved. The Council's own Environmental Strategy was revised and subsequently adopted in April 2001.
We will create new cycle paths and footpaths at the rate of at least 1 mile per year .	DS	ONGOING	A number of cycle routes are being constructed through Sustrans and as part of Public Transport Fund (PTF) bid for 2000/2001. Other cycleways being constructed as part of PTF bid for 2001/2002. This will give a total urban cycleway of various combinations e.g. dedicated cycle lanes, shared use paths, remote paths, of around 8 miles.
We will work with community groups and East Ayrshire Woodlands to develop a structured planting programme and the re-introduction of native species. Every year, we will ensure that at least 1,000 additional trees are planted.	DS	ONGOING	Through the work of East Ayrshire Woodlands (EAW), the Council is on target to meet its target. The Council is working with EAW in association with the Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) team to develop a number of projects. Three projects to be implemented in this financial year.
We will actively promote the use of Rights Of Way within East Ayrshire through a targeted information campaign in 2001.	DS	December 2001	Target achieved. 2 Access Officers have been employed (through Scottish National Heritage) to develop rights of way, following the publication of the Land Reform Bill. An Access Forum has been established involving all interested parties within East Ayrshire. The inaugural meeting took place last month. The results of a specially commissioned consultancy are currently out to consultation. The findings will be published at the end of 2001, and implemented in 2002, which becomes the new target date.
We will promote the redevelopment of 18 hectares of brownfield land for housing, industry or amenity by 2002.	DS .	December 2002	On target. Between 1 April 2000 and 31 March 2001, 64% of planning applications were for housing on brownfield land. This translates into 278 units. Estimated land take 11 hectares.
By March 2001 we will install UPVC doors and screens in almost 650 homes.	HATS	March 2001	Target exceeded with over 950 homes benefiting from this investment programme.
We will replace obsolete central heating systems in almost 700 homes and we will insulate more than 1100 homes.	HATS	March 2003	On target to complete over 850 central heating installations in current year and over 2000 house insulation works via the Intermediate Labour Market Scheme.
We will invest £180k in carrying out energy audits in public sector houses.	HATS .	March 2003	On target to achieve full spend in current financial year.

INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE

The involvement of the young people in the council's business is an investment in the future. Young people have a very important part to play in helping to deliver our vision for East Ayrshire. In acknowledging this, we recognise that the involvement of young people in the council's processes may mean that we have to change the way the council does business.

Consulting			
Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
We will host an annual youth conference.	ESSD	ONGOING	Successful Youth Conference held annually with over 100 young people attending. Youth forums established in the Irvine Valley, Kilmarnock and Cumnock & Doon Valley areas.
Through our partnership with Who Cares Scotland, we will involve children who are looked after by the authority in developing and evaluating the council services that affect them.	ESSD	ONGOING	Young people participated in preparation of Children's Service Plan There will be ongoing involvement in reviewing implementation of Plan annually Information diary and video produced for all looked after and accommodated young people
We will directly support and encourage the development of student councils in every secondary school. We believe that this can be achieved in the majority of schools by 2002.	ESSD	December 2002	Target achieved.
In addition, we will continue to develop local youth forums that offer young people the chance to become involved in the life and citizenship of their community. We aim to establish at least two new forums by 2002.	ESSD	December 2002	Target achieved. Successful Youth Conference held annually with over 100 young people attending. Youth forums established in the Irvine Valley, Kilmarnock and Cumnock & Doon Valley areas. Young people active in each Local Committee except Doon Valley. Youth Forum established, with involvement from Chair and Vice Chair of Education Committee.

Working

Through the development of innovative youth projects and initiatives which offer exciting opportunities, both within and outwith their own communities, young people will be supported in their personal development.

Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
We will establish two outreach centres for the Youth Theatre by 2001.	CS	December 2001	Work on the development of this initiative is ongoing into 2002
We will build on the successful Peer Education and Young Parents projects in Drongan, the North West Youth Project in Kilmarnock and yipworld.com in Cumnock by encouraging more young people to become involved in the development and ongoing management of projects and initiatives.	ESSD	ONGOING	<p>Young people have been actively involved in the decision making processes in all named youth groups.</p> <p>Young people involved in the development of all aspects of Peer Education Programmes.</p> <p>The DAIRY Project in Newmilns has been developed and is managed by young people supported by officers of the Council.</p>

Listening

Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
We will establish focus groups of young people to discuss issues that are identified by both young people themselves and by the council. We aim to hold at least one youth focus group discussion per year.	ESSD	ONGOING	<p>Successful Youth Conference held annually with over 100 young people attending. Planned and programmed by young people.</p> <p>Youth forums established in the Irvine Valley, Kilmarnock and Cumnock & Doon Valley areas.</p> <p>Youth Forum representatives met to discuss the issues of importance in the Children's Service Plan – these issues have been incorporated into the Plan.</p>
We will work with young people to create a website by the end of 2001 that young people can access to engage in dialogue with the council.	ESSD	December 2001	Progress will now be developed within the context of the Children and Young Person's Service Plan.

Access Learning

The council is committed to the development of lifelong learning opportunities. Through established links with the careers service and by providing guidance opportunities, we will ensure that equality of opportunity is available for young people across the council area, including rural areas.

Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
The development of links co-ordinated through Community Learning Plans will improve access to all learning including sports, higher education, community-based learning and the arts.	ESSD	ONGOING	<p>Continue to work with Ayr and Kilmarnock colleges to offer a range of community based courses in various communities.</p> <p>Colleges played an active role in the Community Learning Plan process. Kilmarnock College have committed 0.5 tutors to Shortlees Community Learning Centre.</p> <p>Kilmarnock College was one of the key partners in the development of Darvel IT Suite</p> <p>Facilitated AEC's involvement in the Community Learning Planning Process.</p> <p>Shortlees Community Learning Centre established in 2001 funded in partnership through NOF; East Ayrshire Council and Ayrshire Electronic Community.</p> <p>Principal Officer participated in the AEC Steering Group</p> <p>Successful implementation of the Community Learning Opportunities Project</p> <p>Extended advice and guidance to adult learners by increasing guidance staff through existing ancillary staff budgets</p> <p>Delivered 17 Guidance workshops, 60 one to one interviews and 89 group visits.</p> <p>Community Learning Strategy produced.</p> <p>3 Pilot Community Learning Planning groups established with Support to Communities as lead agency</p> <p>Three Community Learning Plans produced. Process included access to a range of training opportunities.</p> <p>Successfully secured additional funding from SWAP to deliver awareness raising sessions with adult learners.</p> <p>Information & advice was made available to adult learners through part-time guidance staff.</p>

Identifying Needs
 By working in partnership with other agencies, including the voluntary sector, health services and the police, East Ayrshire supports young people to identify their needs. Improved links help to facilitate young people's access to the decision-making process.

Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
By working in partnership with other agencies, including the voluntary sector, health services and the police, East Ayrshire supports young people to identify their needs. Improved links help to facilitate young people's access to the decision-making process.	ESSD	ONGOING	<p>The Peer Education & Young Parents Project and Community Learning Opportunities projects made a significant contribution to promoting healthier lifestyles with young people. This included Virtual Baby Initiative and 2 Mental Health For All projects.</p> <p>Development of the Children's Service Plan which included consultation with agencies, young people and the community sector has resulted in the development of an inclusive Plan for future service delivery tailored to the identified needs of children and young people.</p>

Healthy Lifestyles

Task	Lead Department	Target Date	Progress
We will launch a promotional campaign in 2001 that highlights the range of initiatives that are available to support young athletes and talented young sportspeople to reach their full potential.	CS	December 2001	Target achieved. Advice now being given to athletes regarding the Talented Athletes Programme – five East Ayrshire athletes now receiving financial support.
We will encourage young people to choose healthy lifestyles by providing them with information and support, particularly in relation to teenage pregnancy, drug abuse, smoking, and drinking issues.	ESSD	ONGOING	<p>All secondary schools have Personal and Social Education programmes which address these topics. Links have been established with health and other agencies to enhance provision in this area.</p> <p>Progressed the development of Doon Valley Swimming Pool, Newmilns Dry Ski Slope and Craigmalloch Outdoor Centre.</p> <p>Provided opportunities for adults to participate in a range of community based health related courses.</p> <p>Provided support to self help groups.</p> <p>Provided educational support to North West Drugs Forum.</p> <p>The Peer Education & Young Parents Project and Community Learning Opportunities projects made a significant contribution to promoting healthier lifestyles with young people. This included Virtual Baby Initiative and 2 Mental Health For All projects.</p>

		<p>Achievements awarded in skiing (BASI and NC Module).</p> <p>Outdoor Education organised for all three Youth Strategy Bases.</p> <p>Achievements awarded in canoeing (Scottish Canoe Association).</p> <p>Outdoor Education staff involved in the planning and review of IEPs for Youth Strategy young people which include targets for Outdoor Learning.</p> <p>Initial discussion held regarding developing programmes leading to national accreditation.</p> <p>Personal and Social Education pack produced by Outdoor Learning for following up work in schools/Youth Strategy.</p> <p>Presentation made by Outdoor Learning staff to Head Teachers regarding the development of a programme for young people at risk of exclusion.</p> <p>Schools have identified potential groups of young people for involvement in the programme.</p> <p>Links have been established between Outdoor Learning and Venture Scotland regarding the development of programmes for young people at risk of exclusion from school</p>
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AGENDA