

Excerpt of Minutes of Meeting of the Audit &
Performance Review Committee
held on 12 November 2008

STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR CONSULTATION

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive presenting responses to Audit Scotland's consultation on the Statutory Performance Indicators (SPIs) for 2009-10 and requesting comment on the proposals.

It was noted that the deadline date for consultation responses of 14 December 2008 stated in the report was incorrect and that the actual date should read 14 November 2008.

After discussion and having heard the Section Head (Performance Management) and the Chief Executive in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to remit the report to the Council meeting in November for consideration;
- (2) that officers be requested to give a holding response to Audit Scotland in the interim period;
and
- (3) that Members be requested to send any comments they had meantime to the Section Head (Performance Management) for inclusion in the Council's draft response on this matter, to be approved by Council at its meeting on 26 November 2008.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Executive

Council Meeting : 26 November 2008

Subject: - Statutory Performance Indicator Consultation

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The report presents responses to Audit Scotland's consultation on the Statutory Performance Indicators (SPIs) for 2009-10 and requests Elected Member comments on the proposals.

2. Background

- 2.1 Each year Audit Scotland issue a consultation document setting out their proposals for the future year's SPIs. Responses were due by 14th November.
- 2.2 The document has been widely circulated amongst officers and comments on the proposals have been duly received.
- 2.3 The document was also submitted to the Audit and Performance Review Committee on 12th November who requested it be submitted to Council for further Elected Member consideration prior to a response being sent to Audit Scotland.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 The proposals have taken account of the significant changes taking place in local government, including the Scottish Government's concordat and the Crerar review on scrutiny.
- 3.2 The new Single Outcome Agreements will lead to more performance information being used and reported on but Audit Scotland think that these agreements do not replace the Best Value performance reporting duties as a way of publicly providing information about the quality, accessibility and value for money of services.
- 3.3 Audit Scotland would like Councils to take a more robust approach to performance management and demonstrate to our local communities in our public performance reporting that we are providing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of services.
- 3.4 The main aims are to reduce the reporting burden of the SPIs whilst at the same time encouraging us to include other performance indicators (eg from corporate plans, Single Outcome Agreements, other national frameworks (eg Community Care) etc in our overall internal and public performance reporting.

- 3.5 Audit Scotland note that too many Councils rely almost exclusively on SPIs to assess and report performance. They also acknowledge that they themselves rely heavily on the SPIs for their own performance assessments.
- 3.6 The proposal by Audit Scotland is quite far reaching –they are proposing a reduction of the number of SPIs from the 113 that are currently monitored to 44. In general those proposed to be retained are commonly acknowledged to be the more strategic of the current SPIs.
- 3.7 Three new indicators are proposed relating to efficiency measurement (unit costs of the Human Resource and Accountancy functions and asset maintenance).
- 3.8 Overall, the response from officers has been favourable – particularly in terms of reducing the reporting burden. There are some SPIs in the current 2008/09 Guidance that are not included in the new list that we should recommend retaining –namely the three Criminal Justice indicators (ASW 6,7,8), Cleanliness Index (WM4), Void rent loss (HS3), Void re-let times (HS4) and overall Housing repairs response rate (HS1). Some existing SPIs are still useful local indicators and Departments are reviewing these to ascertain which could remain as such. The Trading Standards team has some specific comments relating to the definitions surrounding the SPI on Consumer Complaints

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1 There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no immediate financial implications.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1 None required at this stage

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 Members are invited to comment on the proposals for the SPIs.

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David McMillan
Chief Executive
Date: 17 November 2008

Wards Affected: All

Appendix 1: Audit Scotland Consultation on 2009-10 Statutory Performance Indicators

Background Papers: Statutory Performance Indicators Guidance 2008/09

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