

**SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT BY THE HEAD OF POLICY, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNICATION TO THE
DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT STANDING SCRUTINY PANEL OF 24 MAY 2011**

SUBJECT: PROGRESS AGAINST THE COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN TO 31 MARCH 2011

1 Purpose





- 1.1 To provide the Development and Environment Standing Scrutiny Panel with a performance report on the progress achieved to date against the Council Corporate Plan in relation to the directorate objectives and tasks which fall within its remit.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Panel scrutinises the progress achieved to date against the Council Corporate Plan, as detailed through the updates provided against the Directorate Plans to 31 March 2011 and highlights any concerns or issues prior to the overall performance report proceeding to the June Leadership Panel.**

3 Background

- 3.1 This report builds on the format that has been used over the last 12 months to report to Members on the Council's performance. It reflects progress over the last six months to 31 March, thereby providing a further update on what has achieved over the 18 months since the Corporate and Directorate Plans were first approved.
- 3.2 The report continues to use the Council's RAG (red, amber and green) convention to show progress against objectives and tasks. However, there has been some modification to the symbols used as the latest reports have been generated using the Council's new performance management system, Covalent. The following definitions now apply:

	Completed. i.e. the specific commitments detailed against the objective or task within the Directorate Plan have been undertaken.
	Good progress is being made and in line with delivery timescales set out in Directorate Plans, no significant issues or risks emerging.
	Some element of delivery as set out in the Directorate Plans is proving difficult or a new issue or risk has emerged which may impede delivery or which should otherwise be highlighted.
	Delivery against a timescale in the Directorate Plans is unlikely to be met and/or a significant new risk has emerged which requires to be addressed.

- 3.3 Alongside these assessments, Covalent has also allowed officers to assess the extent of the progress that they have achieved with the tasks that they are undertaking. This is a new discipline which is particularly helpful on project type tasks, rather than on-going commitments. Members should note that a number of tasks are shown at 67%, this reflecting guidance that has been given where officers are two years through a task set out over a three year period within their plan. However should the area of work be under or over performing, the % recorded will have been adjusted rather than pro-rated.
- 3.4 The commentary provided by officers essentially represents their statements on progress at the required reporting period of 31 March 2011. It may have been subject to change since then but by bringing this report as early in the new financial year we have minimised this possibility. The latest performance and outcome data will be reported in the August/September cycle, by which time all the data should have been collated and verified.

- 3.5 As in November 2010, the Standing Scrutiny Panels are each considering their detailed reports in advance of the Leadership Panel. Each is also having a preliminary workshop to look over the report to assess where they might wish to focus their scrutiny. The intention is that based on the scrutiny they undertake, any issues can be highlighted and reflected in the overall performance report which goes to the Leadership Panel in June.

4 Proposals

- 4.1 Overall progress against the Council Corporate Plan to 31 March 2011 shows a similar positive picture of achievement to that reported at 30 September 2010. All 80 directorate objectives are assessed as being on target. The performance of 17 tasks out of 370 in total is rated as amber. Nothing is rated as red.
- 4.2 The detail of those objectives and tasks that fall within the remit of this Panel is set out in [Appendix 1](#). Within this there are four tasks on amber as set out below.

Directorate Tasks:
DE01a01.04 Provide project development and funding advice to both internal and external public and private sector partners and clients (in relation to business creation and development).
DE01d01.01 Provide project development and funding advice to both internal and external public and private sector partners and clients (in relation to enhancing South Ayrshire's positive image).
DE01d01.03 Raise the profile of South Ayrshire and the Council to maximise tourism and economic growth through developing a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of promotional activity
DE12b01.02: Preserve and enhance public access to the countryside by developing, maintaining and promoting access network for pedestrian, cycle, equestrian and other appropriate users.

- 4.3 The assessment as to why these tasks are on amber and some of the issues and reasons impacting on the progress to date are set out within the appendix.
- 4.4 Importantly, the appendix also sets out the progress achieved to date against the other 80 directorate tasks assessed as being on green status, 31 of which are assessed as having been completed.
- 4.5 This picture equates to 95% of the tasks falling within the remit of this Panel as being completed. It is to be noted that turning our activity into effective outcomes takes time.

5. Resource Implications

Financial: None

Legal: None

Human Resources: None

6. Risk

- 6.1 **Risk implications of adopting the recommendations:** None
- 6.2 **Risk implications of rejecting the recommendations:** The Council is expected to undertake effective scrutiny of its plans and its performance against them, both as part of its own governance arrangements and in pursuit of Best Value, as set out within the Local Government Act (Scotland) 2003.

7. Equalities

- 7.1 This report is not proposing new services, policies, strategies, or plans (or significant changes to or reviews of them). It does not propose decisions about budgets, including budget cuts or service reductions. This report therefore has not been assessed for equalities impacts.

8. Sustainable Development Implications

- 8.1 This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

9. Options Appraisal

- 9.1 An options appraisal is not appropriate in relation to the subject matter of this report.

10. Link to Council's Priorities / Improvement Programme

- 10.1 The proposals in this report support the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan; and relate to Improvement Area 3: Strategy and Area 5: Performance Management.

11. Results of Consultation

- 11.1 There has been no public consultation on the contents of this report.

Background Papers: Progress against the Council Corporate Plan to 30 September 2010 – Report to the [Development and Environment Standing Scrutiny Panel](#) on 1 December 2010 and Report to the [Leadership Panel on 18 Jan 2011](#).

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