

REPORT TO POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 9 JUNE 2011

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2007-2011 PERFORMANCE REVIEW (ABERDEENSHIRE PERFORMS)

1 Recommendations

The committee is recommended to:-

- 1.1 Acknowledge the performance against the Strategic Priorities for the period 2007-2011;
- 1.2 Agree to the revised performance reporting framework;
- 1.3 Agree to retain the existing Strategic Priorities to 2012.

2 Discussion

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide committee with a performance review of the Strategic Priorities for the period 2007-2011.
- 2.2 The Strategic Priorities 2007-2011 outlined how the Council intended to achieve its goal of making Aberdeenshire the best area and the best council in Scotland. Reflecting the community planning themes with an additional council specific corporate improvement theme, 33 Strategic Priorities were identified with 86 key actions that would support achievement of the priorities (attached as Appendix 1).
- 2.3 On 10 January 2008 (minute item 1), this committee agreed that the monitoring of the Strategic Priorities should focus on the overarching outcomes of the council's Strategic Priorities in a narrative form. Committee also agreed the underlying principles that strategic monitoring would be based on – the use of existing performance information; no duplication of the role of policy committees who scrutinise the detail of services' performance; and only council activities will be monitored. It was also agreed that strategic monitoring would have a customer focus and consider what really matters to the residents of Aberdeenshire.
- 2.4 A baseline report setting out the situation to September 2007 was agreed at the committee meeting on 21 February 2008 (minute item 3). This baseline has been considered when determining whether performance in relation to the Strategic Priorities has improved since 2007.
- 2.5 This committee has received regular monitoring reports updating members on progress towards achieving the Strategic Priorities. The last monitoring report was a six-month update to the end of September 2011 (reported 13 January 2011).

Performance Review 2007-2011

2.6 The table below summarises the overall performance against the Strategic Priorities between April 2007 and March 2011 against the five main themes of the Community Plan and the Corporate Improvement theme. Appendix 2 provides a summary of performance for each individual Strategic Priority. In addition members can access the full review which provides the evidence used to determine overall performance via the Ward Pages library or in hard copy at Area Offices.

Key: ⬆ - Positive progress and improving performance
 ⬇ - Performance indicates no change
 ⬇ - Progress made but performance declining

Theme/Outcome	Since 2007, overall, have we achieved the outcome/are we making positive progress towards achieving the outcome?
Community Wellbeing - That people in Aberdeenshire enjoy the best quality of life in safe, friendly and lively communities.	↑
Jobs and the Economy - Aberdeenshire is the best area, where the council works with partners to create and sustain the best quality of life for all. We achieve this through an enterprising, adaptable economy, that is the location of choice for high value employment, for smaller expanding businesses and for social enterprise.	↑
Lifelong Learning - Aberdeenshire is the best area with its special environment and diverse culture. It is the best possible place to live and learn, work and play. It is the area where working together for the best quality of life for all is the norm.	↑
Sustainable Environment - Aberdeenshire is the best council always looking to the future, finding new and more efficient ways of doing things. We raise awareness in others to secure measurable behaviour change by individuals, communities, business and public sector partners. Aberdeenshire will be a sustainable and carbon neutral region in the medium term e.g. by the year 2030.	↑
Developing Our Partnerships - Aberdeenshire is the best council in Scotland, where the community planning framework and joint working with communities, private and voluntary sector partners ensures that people are involved, listened to and empowered and where excellent services are provided for all.	↑
Corporate Improvement - Aberdeenshire is the best council. It is a modern, effective organisation aiming to provide excellent services by finding new and more efficient ways of doing things. The focus is on continuous improvement of the quality, efficiency and levels of service provided for all.	↑

2.7 Considering all Strategic Priorities, summary performance over the four year period 2007-2011 and since the last annual monitoring is:

Status	Strategic Priorities Achieving Status 2007-2011	Strategic Priorities Achieving Status 2010/11
↑	31	29
↔	1	3
↓	1	1

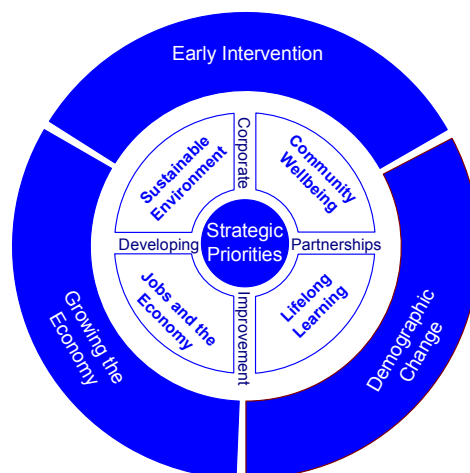
2.8 Action being taken to improve the Strategic Priorities with a status of ↔ or ↓ is summarised in Appendix 2.

2011-2012

2.9 In January 2011 committee agreed to a review of the Strategic Priorities which would consider the future of the Strategic Priorities beyond 2011. The review has focused on simplifying the performance monitoring framework for the Strategic Priorities and considered alignment to ‘Aberdeenshire Performs’. The following key monitoring principles are proposed:

- Performance monitoring of service plans will be used to monitor the performance of the Strategic Priorities. All key service objectives identified within the 2011-2014 Service Plans have been aligned with the strategic priorities;
- Performance monitoring will continue to reflect a narrative focusing on the overarching outcomes and supporting the three pillars of early intervention, demographic change and the economy;
- Performance monitoring will continue to be on a six monthly exception basis to this committee;
- An annual performance review, highlighting performance above or below expectations and the ‘customer focus’, will be reported to this committee.

2.10 It is suggested that the existing set of Strategic Priorities continues to outline the direction in which the council wishes to travel in order to become the best and support the three pillars. The priorities continue to support the community planning themes identified in the Aberdeenshire Community Plan 2011-2015.



It is therefore recommended that the existing Strategic Priorities are retained for a further year. During that year Members may wish to give consideration to the future focus of the Strategic Priorities beyond the local government elections in 2012.

3 Staffing and Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no specific staffing or financial implications arising from this report.

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