SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Report

Report to:	**Corporate Resources Committee**
Date of Meeting:	**21 September 2005**
Report by:	**Executive Director (Corporate Resources)**

Subject:	**Corporate Resources' Resource Plan 2005/2006 Update**

1. Purpose of Report
1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

♦ Provide information about progress with regard to the key objectives outlined in the Corporate Resources Resource Plan for 2005/06.

2. Recommendation(s)
2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

(1) note the progress made in implementing the key objectives of the Corporate Resources Resource Plan for 2005/2006.

3. Background
3.1. The Executive Summary of the Corporate Resources Resource Plan for 2005/06 was submitted to the Corporate Resources Committee on 4 May 2005. The report included the commitment to provide a progress report to Committee later in the year.

4. Progress Report
4.1. The Resource Plan highlighted 20 headline priorities for Corporate Resources. The following progress is reported in respect of each of those headline priorities and categorised under the appropriate Council Plan theme.

5. Creating Successful Communities
5.1. **Development of the Council's Equalities Strategy**
The draft Race Equality scheme has been prepared, with a public consultation event on 30 August 2005. The Scheme includes assessment of progress towards level 3 of the equality strategy, ongoing action and proposals to deliver level 4 during 2005-2008. The Corporate Management Team approved guidance on race equality and procurement on 28 July and a pilot of training for managers on carrying out impact assessments is planned for 14 September.

5.2. **Co-ordination and overseeing of the implementation of the Council's access strategy and review/republication of Council's race equality scheme**
The Equal Opportunities Working Group is considering the approach to the preparation of the Disability Scheme, based on a format already used for the Race Equality Scheme. The initial meeting with disability groups was held on 29 August, to discuss the approach to develop the Council's Disability Scheme which has to be

published by 31 December 2006. The internal verification of the process for the calculation of the new Statutory Performance Indicator on access is completed.

6.   Learning in the Community

6.1.   **Extension of the Vocational Development Youth Strategy and widening of occupational areas**
The programme has been extended to include 460 pupils recruited for the mainstream programme in August 2005 (a rise of 320 from 140 pupils in 2004). New occupations covered are administration, finance, early years care and manufacturing (in addition to construction, hospitality and adult care).

7.   Living in the Community

7.1.   **Implementation of Election Arrangements and preparation for the introduction of the Single Transferable Vote**
The Council successfully co-ordinated elections and count arrangements for three Parliamentary Constituencies for the General Election held on 5 May 2005. Preparations are ongoing at local and national level for the introduction of the single transferable vote (STV). An initial briefing was provided to Council members, including feedback from STV Counts held in Northern Ireland in May. A Boundary Commission review of Council ward boundaries is also ongoing.

8.   Supporting our Communities

8.1.   **Review of the Council's procedure for responding to emergencies**
The self assessment of the Council's capability to comply with the Civil Contingencies Act and associated regulations is completed and analysed. On target to address the actions identified.

8.2.   **Implementation of the legislative proposals arising from the Nicholson Report**
The changes to the Licensing System, as a result of the Nicholson Review, are now scheduled to start in 2008 with an 18 month lead-in time to 2009/2010. A report will be submitted to Committee in early 2007, after the Regulations and Guidance have been published.

9.   Modernising Services

9.1.   **Development and implementation of the Council's Electronic Committee Administration System (ECAS)**
The system is now fully operational across all Council Committees. Continued development is ongoing in respect of links to the Intranet/Council web site.

9.2.   **Implementation of the Oracle electronic business system (Specifically e-learning)**
This system allows users across the Council to access a personal home page, giving them access to training events.   It includes Oracle Self Service which allows users to self service payslips, book holidays, submit travel claims, book training events and access their training record. On target for completion in April 2006. New software is available, and testing is now taking place. Project steering group has been established and the project is progressing in accordance with the projected timescales.

9.3.   **Publication of South Lanarkshire editorial features**
The 96 page A-Z Guide has been successfully published and distributed to all residents in June. Discussions are on-going with the *Daily Record* and *The Herald* for a further series of editorial features in December 2005 and March 2006.

9.4. **Production of *Fourcast 2,* the second annual progress report on the Council's four year plan**
FourCast 2 , the progress report on the Council's Four Year Plan, has been published and delivered to all households during August.

9.5. **Continued development of public information campaign for schools modernisation programme and Housing modernisation programme**
A communications strategy agreed by the Corporate Resources Committee last year for the schools modernisation programmes continues to be implemented with good media coverage also being achieved.

9.6. **Development of Council's web site**
Content gathering and design work for Phase 1 of the Council website is now complete and a programme is being put in place for the ongoing development and maintenance of content. Development continues in partnership with IT Services for on-line transactions (scheduled for September) and staff in other Resources are currently being trained in the conversion of documents into a format appropriate for the web site. The Council's website has been raised from a 'P' rated site (promotional) to a 'C' site (rich content).

9.7. **Development of Electronic Photographic Library**
Initial development work has started on the construction of a database which will host the library, and the necessary administrative, management and editorial aspects are currently under consideration.

9.8. **Ongoing production of Thistle TV and The Edge radio weekly programmes**
A video cameraman/editor who started work with the Resource last August has enabled the Council to be self sufficient in terms of programme making for Thistle TV (January to May only – Thistle TV has now stopped broadcasting). Discussions are, however, on-going for the future broadcast of South Lanarkshire TV.

9.9. **Development of a Corporate Information Strategy**
A report was submitted to the Corporate Management Team in August regarding the development of a Corporate Information Strategy and its implementation across all Resources. This Strategy relates to how the Council manages all its information in a cohesive manner.

10. Managing Resources
10.1. **Implementation of internal review module to assess and maintain Investors in People Standard across the Council**
The Council is currently being reviewed by the Internal Review team on a phased basis. Three Resources have been reviewed as per the timetable (Corporate, Finance and IT and Enterprise). The remaining four Resources are on schedule. Education and Community will be reviewed in September, and Social Work and Housing and Technical Resources in October. Feedback to date suggests IIP Standard is being maintained.

10.2. **Extension of the Leadership Development Programme**
This programme is aimed at senior managers and service heads within the Council. Its objectives are to give individuals the opportunity to fulfil their potential; to enable senior service managers to contribute more widely to the organisation, and to create more effective corporate networking at a senior level. Phase 1 of the project is on

target for completion December 2005. Proposals for Phase 2 of the programme were considered by Corporate Management Team in August 2005.

10.3. **Completion of the Best Value Review of Graphic Design**
The inter-Resource review team continues to meet on a regular basis and the first draft report will be considered shortly. Positive outcomes are expected to ensure continuous improvement in the service. On course to be considered at the Best Value Review Forum in October 2005.

10.4. **Completion of the Revision and updating of the Council's Corporate Standards**
The Corporate Standards Working Group (CSWG) has examined a number of areas and many of the proposed updates and revisions have been drafted. Links have been established with the Leadership Development Group and the allocation of most tasks between the two groups has been agreed.

10.5. **Establishment of newly merged District Courts, Licensing and Registration Office in Cambuslang and relocation of District Court, Licensing and Registration Services to the newly refurbished Rutherglen Town Hall**
The move to the Cambuslang office is likely to take place February 2006. The move to Rutherglen Town Hall has now been completed.

11.   Employee Implications
11.1. None.

12.   Financial Implications
12.1. Any costs can be met from existing resources.

13.   Other Implications
13.1. None.

14.   Consultation
14.1. None.

Alan Cuthbertson
Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

18 August 2005

Link(s) to Council Objectives
♦ Creating successful Communities
♦ Learning in the Community
♦ Living in the Community
♦ Supporting our Communities
♦ Modernising Services
♦ Managing Resources

Previous References
♦ Corporate Resources Committee of 4 May 2005.

List of Background Papers
None

Contact for Further Information
If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-
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