

Report

Report to:	Performance and Review Scrutiny Forum
Date of Meeting:	8 December 2020
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Council Plan Connect 2017 to 2022 - Quarter 2 Progress Report 2020/2021
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Council Plan Connect Quarter 2 Progress Report 2020/2021, for the period 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020

2. Recommendations

2.1. The Forum is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the Connect Quarter 2 Progress Report 2020/2021 summarised at paragraph 4.5 and attached as Appendix 1 of this report, be noted;
- (2) that the key achievements, as detailed in paragraph 4.6 and 4.7 of this report be noted; and
- (3) that the additional scrutiny of reporting the updated status of those measures identified as 'report later' as at Quarter 4 2019/2020 as summarised at paragraph 4.8 and detailed at Appendix 2 of this report, be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Council Plan Connect covering the period 2017 to 2022 was approved by the Executive Committee on 8 November 2017 and by South Lanarkshire Council on 8 December 2017. The plan sets out the Council's vision, values, ambitions and priorities for the five year period.
- 3.2. As part of the performance reporting arrangements introduced in 2007, it was agreed that progress reports on the Council Plan would be provided at the mid-year point (Quarter 2) and at the end of the financial year (Quarter 4).
- 3.3. As the Forum is aware, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council was forced to suspend or reduce a number of services that could not be continued in full due to government advice, including adhering to physical distancing requirements for residents and for staff. The Council was also obliged to redirect resources so that it could deliver vital new services and supports for individuals, communities and businesses. There has been an inevitable impact on performance in some areas.

4. Quarter 2 Progress 2020/2021

- 4.1. The Council Plan offers flexibility, both at the Resource level and from one year to the next, in the choice of actions and measures required to deliver the Council's objectives. Alongside this flexibility, however, comes the requirement to ensure that the golden thread from Council Plan to Resource Plan remains unbroken.

- 4.2. The reporting framework for the Council Plan identifies key measures within Resource Plans which are taken and combined in a Connect report to provide a balanced picture of Council performance against Connect objectives.
- 4.3. A total of 237 measures have been identified from the 2020/2021 Resource Plans (presented to Committees in August/September 2020). Of those, 98 (41%) have been nominated as key measures for reporting progress against Connect.
- 4.4. Progress to date against all measures is contained in the Connect Quarter 2 Performance Report 2020/2021, attached as Appendix 1. This report has been produced from the Council's performance management reporting system IMPROVe, and uses a traffic light format with the following definitions to give a status report on each measure:

Status	Definition
Blue	Project complete
Green	The timescale or target has been met as per expectations
Amber	There has been minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target
Red	There has been major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target
Report later	The information is not yet available to allow us to say whether the target has been reached or not. This will be reported when available
Contextual	Included for 'information only', to set performance information in context

- 4.5. To ensure adequate scrutiny of performance across all Resources, individual Resource Committees receive details of all 'red' measures relating to that Resource including management actions, where applicable. In addition, the Council's Performance and Review Scrutiny Forum may consider those measures across all Resources reporting a 'red' and/or 'amber' status.

The overall summary of Connect progress to date is as follows and performance should be considered in the context of the impact of responding to COVID-19:-

Status	Measures	
	Number	%
Blue	0	0 %
Green	64	66 %
Amber	11	11 %
Red	1	1 %
Report later/Contextual	22	22 %
Totals	98	100 %

(Data correct as at 10 November 2020)

- 4.6. Progress for the period ending Quarter 2, 2020/2021 on each of the four Connect Priorities and the related achievements have been summarised in the following tables:-

4.6.1.

Connect Priority	Promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and tackle disadvantage					
Number of measures	Blue	Green	Amber	Red	Report later	Total
	0	13	5	0	3	21
Achievements	Implemented a pan Lanarkshire local employability partnership to support the Lanarkshire Labour Market, particularly prevalent as the impact of COVID-19 affects our local economy. Designed to support those at risk of losing their job and those made redundant seeking new opportunities					
	Cycling network map is now online. Cyclists across South Lanarkshire can now access a mapping resource showing the cycle network across the area. The map also features associated cycle parking and storage shelters which will allow people to stay active and continue to build walking and cycling into their everyday journeys					
	The Economic Development Service assisted 719 businesses since lockdown on 23 March 2020. This was in relation to the COVID-19 Business Support Grant, Newly Self Employed and Bed and Breakfast Hardship Fund. The Service also assisted 55 businesses with property support and paid 298 Newly Self Employed Hardship Fund applications and 3 Bed and Breakfast hardship fund applications					
	Hamilton Grammar School received two awards for the work of young people in the Young Enterprise Scotland Awards, namely- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ People's Choice Award ◆ Social Impact Award 					
	The Money Matters Advice Service has continued to deliver support to service users; to date 1,214 new cases have been awarded benefits, backdated benefits, and/or assisted with debt					

4.6.2.

Connect Priority	Get it right for children and young people					
Number of measures	Blue	Green	Amber	Red	Report later	Total
	0	10	0	0	3	13
Achievements	The combination of adopting the Wellbeing Application and establishing a single point of contact within Education Resources, has provided the framework to review and improve existing processes and partnership arrangements. New guidance has been issued to support Additional Support Needs processes. The needs of approximately 600 children have been considered, with early evaluation indicating improvements in the quality of assessments contributing to more informed decision making					
	Trinity High School achieved an MB Quality Mark Award for their work in Nurture. They are the first Secondary School in Scotland and the UK to be re-accredited for this work and for the difference this is making to the lives of many young people					
	The Young Carers Service has adapted ways of working and continued service delivery throughout the pandemic. Staff have used a range of methods to keep in touch with young carers and their families.					

4.6.3.

Connect Priority	Improve health, care and wellbeing					
Number of measures	Blue	Green	Amber	Red	Report later	Total
	0	14	0	1	6	21
Achievements	<p>All applications for adaptations to Council homes were approved</p> <p>The Educational Psychology Service has developed guidance to support the promotion of positive health and wellbeing across educational establishments during the period of post COVID-19 recovery - <i>Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing through transition, reconnection and recovery: an attachment informed approach</i>. A short film can be accessed via this link: https://youtu.be/bhsJHUiRV8k</p>					

4.6.4.

Connect Priority	Ensure communities are safe, strong and sustainable					
Number of measures	Blue	Green	Amber	Red	Report later	Total
	0	23	5	0	7	35
Achievements	<p>Since reopening our Household Waste Recycling Centres in June there have been more than 190,000 visits to the sites with 6,000 tonnes of waste collected, 56% of which was recycled. Householders have also recycled more waste at home. Between April and August, we collected 7,590 tonnes of glass, cans and plastics from light grey recycling bins, which is 32% more than in the same period last year</p> <p>A total of 3,239 young people left school in South Lanarkshire in 2018/2019. The South Lanarkshire school leaver destination rate (SLDR) was 95.7% and this performance measure is above the national rate for the 5th consecutive year</p> <p>131 Primary Schools/nurseries completed to date</p>					

4.7. In addition to working towards the four Connect Priorities, the Council will continually aim to improve and ensure effective and efficient use of resources, and that business will be conducted with integrity and transparency and will operate to the highest standards. In order to monitor and report progress against these values, Resource Objectives have also been identified, under the heading Delivering the Plan and achieving Best Value. Progress on this and the related achievements have been summarised in the following table:-

Delivering the Plan and achieving Best Value						
Number of measures	Blue	Green	Amber	Red	Report later	Total
	0	4	1	0	3	8
Achievements	<p>A financial strategy has been agreed for 2021/2022 and paves the way for finalising a budget for members to approve before March 2021. The financial accounts 2019/2020 were finalised in line with the normal timetable, despite the challenges of different working approaches brought about by the pandemic. The audit of the accounts is progressing well, with a clean audit certificate expected for sign off by November. Throughout this financial year, support and advice has been provided by finance teams managing the impact and recovery from the pandemic.</p>					

	Woodhill Early Learning and Childcare in Kirkmuirhill opened its doors in September 2020. The nursery offers 63 places and is an important milestone in the expansion of early years capacity
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4.8. Report later

Measures in the quarterly progress reports which are not red, amber or green can be assigned a status of 'report later' or 'contextual'. Of the 15 measures identified in these categories at Quarter 4 2019/2020, 6 were contextual measures, for which figures were provided in the Q4 report. 3 are Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) indicators, for which the 2019/2020 results will not be published until February 2021. The updated status and explanatory narrative relating to the remaining 6 'report later' measures is detailed in Appendix 2.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. The priorities noted within the Council Plan inform the Resource Plans and in turn the Performance Appraisal process for individual employees.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. Provision for meeting the Council Plan's priorities is reflected in both the Revenue and Capital budgets, and longer term, within the framework of the Council's approved Financial Strategy.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. There are no climate change, sustainability or environmental implications arising from this report

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. The Community Plan 2017 to 2027 was agreed at the Community Planning Partnership Board on 11 October 2017. A significant element of the delivery of the outcomes in the Community Plan will come through the achievement of the actions contained within Connect.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken in line with the various actions within Connect as appropriate.
- 9.2. Many of the priorities, objectives and actions detailed within the plan reflect ongoing work programmes implemented to address local and national priorities. Extensive consultation, therefore, has already taken place in relation to a significant proportion of the priorities, objectives and actions outlined in the plan.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

12 November 2020

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ♦ The Council Plan 2017 to 2022 reflects the overarching vision of South Lanarkshire Council and details its values, priorities and objectives, including links to the Community Planning Partnership

Previous References

- ♦ Executive Committee 8 November 2017: approval of Council Plan Connect 2017 to 2022
- ♦ Executive Committee 24 June 2020: endorsement of mid-term review of Connect
- ♦ Performance and Review Scrutiny Forum - Council Plan Connect 2017 to 2022: 4 Progress Report 2019/2020

List of Background Papers

- ♦ Council Plan Connect 2017 to 2022

Contact for Further Information

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

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