

Report

Report to:	Performance and Review Scrutiny Forum
Date of Meeting:	5 December 2023
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Council Plan Connect 2022/2027: Quarter 2 Progress Report 2023/2024
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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 2023/2024, for the period 1 April to 30 September 2023

2. Recommendations

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

- (1) that the Connect Quarter 2 Progress Report 2023/2024 summarised at paragraph 4.5 and attached as Appendix 1 of this report, be noted;
- (2) that the key achievements, as detailed at paragraph 4.6 of this report, be noted; and
- (3) that the additional scrutiny of reporting the updated status of those measures identified as 'report later' at Quarter 4 2022/2023, as summarised in paragraph 4.7 and detailed at Appendix 2 of this report, be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Council Plan Connect covering the period 2022 to 2027 was approved by South Lanarkshire Council at its meeting on 15 June 2022. The Plan sets out the Council's vision, values, priorities and outcomes 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, from March 2020 onwards, at times, the Council was forced to suspend or reduce a number of services that could not be continued in full due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Council was also obliged to redirect resources so that it could deliver vital new services and supports for individuals, communities and businesses. Despite the return of services through the Council's Recovery Plan, there is a Covid-19 legacy in terms of a residual impact on some services and a significant build-up of demand, as a result of which there remains an inevitable impact on performance in some areas.

4. Quarter 2 Progress 2023/2024

- 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 outcomes. 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 outcomes.
- 4.3. A total of 272 measures have been identified from the 2023/2024 Resource Plans. Of those, 68 (25%) have been nominated as key strategic measures for reporting progress against Connect.
- 4.4. Progress to date against these measures is contained in the Connect Quarter 2 Performance Report 2023/2024, 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 Forum may consider those measures across all Resource Plans 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 continuing impact of Covid-19:-

Status	Measures			
	Statistical	Project	Total	%
Blue	N/A	3	3	4 %
Green	21	23	44	65 %
Amber	6	2	8	12 %
Red	1	0	1	1 %
Report later/Contextual	9	3	12	18 %
Totals	37	31	68	100 %

Data correct as at 16 October 2023

- 4.6. Key achievements to date against each of the 6 Connect Outcomes and the related achievements have been summarised in the following tables:-

4.6.1.

Connect Outcome	Communities and Environment					
Number of measures	Blue	Green	Amber	Red	Report later	Total
	0	11	5	0	2	18
Achievements	The percentage of properties with Full Fibre Connection has exceeded the 2023/2024 target by 1.5%. Investment in Full Fibre connection to households continues within urban areas with 34.5% of properties now connected.					

	Consultation on the draft Carers Strategy has included a number of focus groups with service users and carers which assisted with the strategic priorities for carers.
	Works are complete for the Office for Zero Emissions Vehicles (OZEC) Project that consists of the installation of 13 dual on-street electric chargers in various residential streets.
	A new allotment site at Chatelherault Country Park is now fully operational and all plots are now let.
	Various cycling and walking projects are progressing including the East Kilbride Cycle Network which is 90% complete and it is anticipated that works will be completed in November. The works involve development of a segregated cycle network of enhanced pedestrian facilities in East Kilbride, linking West Mains Road to Cornwall Street and towards the trunk road network on the A726.
	The Community Wish List allows local communities to make specific requests for support from council suppliers or contractors that will benefit their local community, their projects and causes. The first Wish was received on 27 February 2023 and by 27 October 2023 a total of 83 had come in. 12 wishes have been answered so far including a light installed by Block Architects to illuminate a defibrillator available at Blantyre Old Parish Church. Other wishes are being progressed.

4.6.2.

Connect Outcome	Education and Learning					
Number of measures	Blue	Green	Amber	Red	Report later	Total
	1	3	0	0	8	12
Achievements	The combined attainment in literacy for session 2021/2022 was 71.3%, an improvement of 1% on session 2020/2021.					
	The combined attainment in numeracy for session 2021/2022 is 79%, an improvement of 1% on session 2020/2021.					
	13 South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) establishments were inspected with 100% receiving grades of good or above which is above the rate for comparator authorities. Feedback provided to schools as part of the process was very positive.					
	At the national Scottish Education Awards held on 7 June 2023, South Lanarkshire Education Resources had five finalists with Fiona Mullen, Head Teacher of St Andrew's and St Bride's High School, winning the highly prestigious 'Head Teacher of the Year Award'.					
	389 young people achieved Duke of Edinburgh Award accreditation; 3 Gold, 20 Silver and 243 Bronze awards with 123 receiving Certificates of Achievement.					

4.6.3.

Connect Outcome	Health and Wellbeing					
Number of measures	Blue	Green	Amber	Red	Report later	Total
	1	6	0	1	0	8
Achievements	Of the 58 new homes completed to date, all have been built to 'Housing for Varying Needs' standards and are easily adaptable to accommodate tenant's changing needs over time. Located in Larkhall and Strathaven, the new homes comprise a mix of terraced, semi-detached and flatted properties alongside larger family homes. 24% of the new homes are also suitable for those who use wheelchairs or with mobility difficulties, with fully accessible wet rooms and step free access. The homes are located close to existing services, amenities and transport links allowing tenants to easily connect with the existing community.					

	The Council's affordable housing supply programme continues to increase the supply of council homes across South Lanarkshire, with a focus on ensuring that the new homes provide for changing in peoples need over the course of time.
	Over 50% of children and young people that access counselling are from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1-4, and 7% are care experienced. Evidence is showing that there are positive outcomes for those that have completed counselling.
	All schools and educational settings, are now providing free and easy to collect period products as and when required.
	South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership and the Adult Protection Committee (APC) have collaborated with the national Right Decision Service provided by the Digital Health and Care Innovation Centre to deliver an Adult Support and Protection (ASP) Decision Support Web and Mobile App. The App, launched in February 2023, empowers partners across all sectors to quickly access and apply ASP guidance consistently and in a person-centred way. This is the first Public Protection App to be developed in Scotland and has received high praise and a lot of interest from partners across the country.
	As at 30 September 2023, there were a total of 723 Looked After Children, 75 (10%) of which were looked after in a residential setting including local authority houses, secure accommodation and residential schools. This position has been consistent since 1 April 2021 and reflects South Lanarkshire's commitment to shift the way care is delivered to Looked After Children, with continued support to children and young people within the community.
	Family Support Hubs are now open in Hamilton, East Kilbride, Lanark and Cambuslang. South Lanarkshire was chosen by the Scottish Government as a case study area and researchers met with staff and families in June 2023 to gather feedback on their experience of the new family support hubs.
	Justice Social Work Services was successful in its bid to secure Scottish Government drugs mission funding from The Corra Foundation in May 2023. This funding will be used to develop the Recovery Orientated Justice Social Work Team and deliver Structured Deferred Sentences to Hamilton Sheriff Court's Alcohol and Drug Problem Solving Court over a 2-year period.

4.6.4.

Connect Outcome	Children and Young People					
Number of measures	Blue	Green	Amber	Red	Report later	Total
	0	5	0	0	1	6
Achievements	100% of young care leavers provided with housing options discussion progressing to an individual housing plan.					
	Over 7,500 children and their families are benefitting from the Council's investment in early learning and childcare.					
	300 young people received a South Lanarkshire Achievement Award on 31 May 2023.					
	South Lanarkshire has had no under 18s in Polmont Young Offenders Institution since September 2021 and this reflects the success of the proactive Whole System Approach and use of secure care (where necessary) and robust multi agency community risk management plans.					

4.6.5.

Connect Outcome	Housing and Land					
Number of measures	Blue	Green	Amber	Red	Report later	Total
	1	8	2	0	1	12
Achievements	We continue to increase the supply of affordable housing with the delivery of 105 additional new houses provided to date. This includes 58 new build properties and 47 properties have been acquired through the market purchase scheme.					
	93% of tenancies were sustained for more than a year.					
	99% of reactive repairs were completed right first time.					
	Temporary accommodation was provided to all homelessness households where it was required.					

4.6.6.

Connect Outcome	Our Economy					
Number of measures	Blue	Green	Amber	Red	Report later	Total
	0	8	1	0	0	9
Achievements	380 jobs were created or sustained as a direct result of Economic Development intervention during the first 6 months of 2023/2024.					
	Economic development direct intervention increased the value of sales generated by businesses by £4.589m, well on the way to meeting the £5m target.					
	The Council champions the social enterprise sector and invests in start-up and growth of our local enterprise. A new Social Enterprise Strategy was developed and approved by the Council's Executive Committee in June 2023.					

4.6.7 In addition to working towards the 6 Connect Outcomes, 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 outcomes have also been identified, under the heading Delivering the Plan and achieving Best Value. Related achievements to date are summarised in the following table:-

Delivering the Plan and Achieving Best Value						
Number of measures	Blue	Green	Amber	Red	Report later	Total
	0	3	0	0	0	3
Achievements	During the period 1 July to 30 September 2023, SLC employees completed 43,505 eLearning modules. In the same period, 2,224 employees attended 290 classroom-based events and 490 employees attended 59 virtual online events.					

4.7. **Report Later**

Measures in the quarterly progress reports which are not blue, red, amber or green can be assigned a status of 'report later' or 'contextual'. A further analysis introduced to aid scrutiny of performance, is to follow up the measures in these categories from the previous year's Quarter 4 report. Of the 3 such measures identified in these categories at Quarter 4 2022/2023, 1 was a contextual measure for which figures and narrative were provided in the Q4 report. The updated status and explanatory narrative relating to the remaining 2 'report later' measures are detailed in Appendix 2.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. The outcomes noted within the Council Plan will 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 Outcomes 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.
- 7.2. The Council acknowledges the serious and immediate threat of climate change and is committed to accelerating the pace of action in response to the climate emergency and in Scotland's transition to a net-zero and climate resilient society and economy. All Resource Plans have recognised sustainable development and climate change as a key area of focus for 2023/2024.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. A significant element of the delivery of the outcomes in the Community Plan 2022 to 2032 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, outcomes 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 outcomes and actions outlined in the plan.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

9 November 2023

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ♦ The Council Plan 2022-27 reflects the overarching vision of South Lanarkshire Council and details its values, priorities and outcomes, including links to the Community Planning Partnership.

Previous References

- ♦ Connect Quarter 4 Progress Report 2022/2023

List of Background Papers

- ♦ Council Plan Connect 2022-27: approved by South Lanarkshire Council on 15 June 2022

Contact for Further Information

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

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