

# Report

# 16

Report to:	<b>Executive Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>14 December 2011</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Gauging Recovery Impact Monitoring (GRIM) - Quarter 2 Summary Report</b>
----------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------

## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide a summary of GRIM indicators used to monitor the state of the Recovery in South Lanarkshire
- ◆ highlight the range of intervention/actions implemented by the Council and/or our Community Planning Partners to reduce the impact of the recession within the South Lanarkshire area

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the summary results across the set of GRIM indicators be noted; and
- (2) that the range of interventions/actions that help to reduce the impact of the recession in South Lanarkshire be noted.

## 3. Background

3.1. The Council and its partners have identified a series of measures to help improve understanding of the impact of the recession – and the recovery – in South Lanarkshire. It looks at the social, business, labour market and community impact as well as the impact on the Council's revenue streams.

3.2. The Gauging Recovery Impact Monitoring (GRIM) system collates information from various Council services and partners – and officially published information - together into a module developed as part of the Partnership's IMPROVe performance monitoring and management system. The information comes in a variety of time periods – some is monthly, some quarterly and some in financial reporting periods. At present, there are 59 indicators.

- 3.3. Table 2 shows the breakdown of the indicator set across the spread of impacts themes.

*Table 2: GRIM indicators by impact*

	<b>IMPACT THEME</b>	<b>NOS. OF INDICATORS</b>
<b>A</b>	Council Revenue impact	13
<b>B</b>	Social Impact	23
<b>C</b>	Labour Market impact	6
<b>D</b>	Business impact	9
<b>E</b>	Community impact	8
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59</b>

- 3.4. A more comprehensive report on the situation on each of these indicators is available on a regular basis – showing the detailed figures, graphical representations of the trends and an explanation of these trends.
- 3.5. This report summarises the overall situation and also provides details of the actions being taken by the Council and its partners in South Lanarkshire to aid the recovery of the area.
- 3.6. The responses and intervention information detailed in section 5 of this report have been supplied by relevant officials in Council Resources and in partner organisations.

#### **4. Summary of the Present Situation**

- 4.1. The change factors are based on the change in the indicator in the current period against the immediately preceding period. So monthly data will show the change from the previous month, quarterly data from the previous quarter and period data from the immediately preceding period. The net balance table outlined in para 4.3 below provides a summary of the 59 indicators for the last 5 quarters
- 4.2. In Q2 2011/12 the GRIM indicators show a net balance of +10 (that is, there were 10 more indicators showing a positive trend than showing a negative one). This is an improvement from a negative balance of -20 in Q1 2011/12 and a slight drop (-2) from a net balance of +12 in Q2 2010/11.
- 4.3. It is possible to look at the Net balance figures for each individual impact theme and Table 3 shows the Net balance figure for each theme against the previous quarter position from Q2 2011/12 and its position against the same period the previous year.

*Table 3: Net balance of GRIM indicators by Impact theme*

<b>IMPACT THEME</b>	<b>Q2 2010/2011</b>	<b>Q3 2010/2011</b>	<b>Q4 2010/2011</b>	<b>Q1 2011/2012</b>	<b>Q2 2011/2012</b>
Council Revenue impact	1	-7	3	-9	2
Social Impact	0	1	3	-10	14
Labour Market impact	3	-3	-1	-1	2
Business impact	2	1	-1	-2	-7
Community impact	6	2	0	-2	-1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-20</b>	<b>10</b>

- 4.4. As this table shows, in Q2 2011/12 there were only two impact themes with a negative position; Business Impact (-7) and Community Impact (-1). However, in the previous Quarter all impact themes were in negative balance resulting in an overall net balance of -20. Analysis of this shows a similar seasonal pattern to Q1 2010/11 when the overall negative balance was -13 with Council Revenue impact at -7 and Social Impact at -6. These indicators subsequently improve the following quarter.
- 4.5. It is important to remember that these net balances come from looking at 59 indicators. In the case of the Q2 2011/12 analysis, 33 indicators improved (including 18 social impact indicators and 7 Council revenue impact indicators) and 23 worsened (including 8 Business Impact and 5 Council Revenue ones).

Comparison of the Q2 2010/11 and Q2 2011/12 figures shows improvements under 2 themes (Social Impact and Council Revenue Impact). The 3 other themes show a downward trend although in the case of Labour market Impact this is only by 1 point.

## **5. Responses and Interventions to Aid the Recovery**

### **5.1. Social Impact**

#### **5.1.1. Voluntary Sector Money Advice Services**

All four South Lanarkshire Citizens Advice Bureaux received funding to support individuals and families experiencing debt problems. This includes provision of outreach money advice services to support clients who would otherwise find it difficult to access mainline services. Funding was also used to provide essential administrative back up in relation to managing increasingly complex money advice caseloads.

In total the CABx dealt with 431 new money advice cases during this period.

#### **5.1.2. Credit Union Support, Improved financial Services and Affordable Credit**

Funding Support has been provided to enable Blantyre/South Lanarkshire to pilot a Secondary School programme which will involve pupils establishing their own Credit Union within their school. It is hoped that this will help pupils increase their financial capability and promote saving and money management. The scheme will be piloted in Calderside Academy and Cathkin High.

#### **5.1.3. Council In2Work Money Advice Project**

In the period April to end September, In2Work supported 193 people to make 203 claims for in work benefits resulting in weekly benefits awards of £3845, backdated awards of £26,537 and annual awards of £226,517.

The team has also delivered 28 presentations to vulnerable groups (including employability and financial inclusion projects on in work benefits).

#### **5.1.4 The Council Benefits Projects Team works in conjunction with the DWP to target vulnerable groups who traditionally under claim welfare benefits. The various campaigns from April 11 to September 2011 have generated £1,420,370 in additional benefits. This includes £444,804 for Pensioners and £239,470 for people affected by cancer (in partnership with McMillan).**

5.1.5 The Financial Education and Advice Team deliver two distinct services. Firstly, a preventative education programme, helping people improve financial knowledge, develop the skills and confidence to put financial theory into practice and encourage behaviour and skills for lifelong change. This builds the foundation for a more financially stable lifestyle. Service users include MCMC groups (Rathbone Group, Scottish Training Foundation, Youth Connect, Princes Trust, etc); offenders (SACRO, Criminal Justice Services, HMP Addiewell, HMP Polmont); and adults looking to enter/re-enter the job market (Remploy, Connect 2, Community Learning). Other vulnerable groups such as the elderly, homeless and those with mental health issues benefit from this service also. Furthermore, the school programme has provided sessions and interactive DVDs to pupils in four high schools and fourteen primary schools. A total of 499 have attended training sessions, of which 298 live in deprived datazones. 794 interactive DVDs have been distributed, along with 591 'Older & Wiser' handbooks.

The second, reactive service provides intensive one to one support to those facing immediate financial crisis, preventing the vulnerable entering a downward financial spiral that can deteriorate into over-indebtedness. This financial year there have been 65 vulnerable clients who have benefited from this support.

## 5.2. Labour Market Impact

A range of employability support programmes have been created or enhanced to aid the economic and social recovery of South Lanarkshire

### 5.2.1. Clyde Gateway

Recommendations from the Employability Study Action Plan have been taken forward by the Partnership who have been supported to identify training opportunities and skills needs in the area and then matching them to emerging opportunities linked to development work in the Clyde Gateway area. A Community Benefits Charter was developed and all procured activities include a community benefits clause.

### 5.2.2. Future Jobs Fund

September saw the end of this successful initiative. South Lanarkshire Council lodged a bid to deliver 1200 temporary jobs in an 18 month period. The jobs were delivered by the Council, other public sector partners, e.g. NHS Lanarkshire and the voluntary sector.

The jobs target was met and of the 1200 people recruited, many of whom had no work experience or had not worked in a considerable number of years, 48% sustained employment beyond the subsidy period.

### 5.2.3. European Funding Supported Programmes

An additional £3.7 million in European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund grant was approved to support the Partnership's core services aimed at improving employability and access to jobs for young people and adults, particularly those resident in the most disadvantaged communities. The Council has been awarded a further £2.7 million to continue the delivery of this support over the next two years.

A new European Social Fund (ESF) programme known as Priority 5 has been introduced by the Scottish Government. Enterprise Resources has led the Council's successful bid for funding of £2.7m for 2011/13 and will oversee the delivery of the programme which will implement a local Strategic Skills Pipeline, providing a range of measures which aim to help unemployed people from early engagement, skills development, through to securing employment and aftercare.

#### 5.2.4. More Choices, More Chances

South Lanarkshire has continued to support its young people through the More Choices More Chances partnership, the direct delivery of programmes and initiatives as well as ensuring staff, systems and processes are aligned to maximise opportunities and support available. This robust approach means that all school leavers receive targeted support. The School Leaver Destination Report for 2011 has yet to be published by Skills Development Scotland. The Partnership remains hopeful that the significant investment made locally will mitigate the worst effects of the stalled economic recovery.

#### 5.2.5 Youth Jobs Fund (YJF)

This South Lanarkshire Council initiative has proved popular with both young people and employers and is significantly oversubscribed and hugely effective; 100% of young people who completed the 50 week subsidy period have sustained employment.

The second phase of YJF commenced in August 2011. This phase will see over 200 local young people aged 16-17, supported into job opportunities with additional resources focussing on enhanced employer engagement.

#### 5.2.6 Graduate Jobs Programme

This is operating as a small scale pilot (20 places) offering a wage subsidy to recent graduates from South Lanarkshire who are experiencing difficulty in this challenging environment to secure a job. The programme currently offers a small subsidy to employers offering a graduate level opportunity.

This programme is currently under review and is intended to build on the experience gained to date.

#### 5.2.7 South Lanarkshire Works4U (SLW4U)

SLW4U represents the European Priority 5 local Strategic Skills pipeline and is well underway in delivering a range of employability skills and support to unemployed South Lanarkshire residents.

SLW4U is managed by the Council and delivered in conjunction with external partners including NHS, Skills Development Scotland, and the voluntary sector through VASLAN (Voluntary Sector South Lanarkshire) and Momentum. In addition a range of provision was procured through a Framework made up of 36 quality providers offering services across a range of categories including More Choices More Chances, Rebuilding, Inclusiveness and Job Brokerage.

The initiative provides a menu of employability skills and support to help support unemployed people back into work, further education or training. Progress to September 2011 has seen 1068 people engaged with 590 people entering employment and training.

#### 5.2.8 EK WORKS

The Council has identified funds to maintain the provision of this service in East Kilbride. In the coming months it will be rebranded SLW4U in line with the rest of the local employability offering.

EK Works delivered 500 jobs in 500 days and has established a significant employer network. These relationships will be built upon to maximise the opportunities for local people.

#### 5.2.9 New Developments

Significant investment and energy has gone in to ensure local people are equipped with the skills employers demand, however, the recovery is fragile and in most sectors demand for labour is very weak. To support a fuller understanding of the local dynamic within the wider Scottish, UK and European context, a piece of research is being undertaken to help advance understanding and gain key labour market intelligence on where demand will be over the coming months and years. This exercise will help inform how we best focus employability resources to help those disengaged from the labour market and best support business/employer needs.

Key developments will involve extensive employer engagement activity and working with key agencies such as Scottish Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland, Chamber of Commerce and Business Gateway.

The Council has also bid to Jobcentre Plus for Flexible Support Funds; these will be used to deliver a range of employability activity within a wider package of support. This wider funding support will include offering a wage subsidy primarily for the 18-24 age group who have not yet been identified to attend the work programme. This will offer a 26 week wage subsidy targeted to support local small businesses with recruitment needs.

5.2.10 Community Resources (Facilities, Land and Fleet Services) provided training placements for 113 long-term unemployed people during 2010/11. The team worked on garden projects at sheltered housing sites, sensory gardens at Rutherglen, Newton and Westburn, before it came to an end in August 2011. Of this number, however, 23 trainees have been successful in getting an extension through temporary seasonal work (a reduction in Community Resources' seasonal workforce reduced the capacity of the service to extend employment over the summer months).

5.2.11 Eddlewood Catering Academy run by Community Resources has now trained 135 unemployed people. All 135 gained R.E.H.I.S. food and nutrition certification, 104 gained S.V.Q. catering level one, 86 have gained the nationally recognised food handlers qualification and 105 gained manual handling certification. 33 candidates gained employment with the Council and a further six gained employment elsewhere in the private sector. 128 primary school pupils and 44 parents have also received non-certificated training in healthy eating and basic cooking skills at the Eddlewood Catering Academy.

## 5.3 **Business Impact**

### 5.3.1 Tourism

The Council, with partners, launched the Tourism Action Plan in 2009 and continues to progress individual actions plans.

Through the implementation of integrated marketing campaigns and initiatives, potential visitors to Lanarkshire are encouraged to log onto the area's tourism web portal: [www.visitlanarkshire.com](http://www.visitlanarkshire.com). In the past calendar year, [Visitlanarkshire.com](http://Visitlanarkshire.com) has recorded over 1 million page views from 330,000+ visitors (representing a 62% increase compared to the previous year). The VisitLanarkshire Facebook site and Twitter accounts both also continue to increase in popularity.

Working with attraction and accommodation providers, this year's spring campaign generated £130,000+ of direct spend in the Lanarkshire economy. We await final results from the autumn campaign which ended on the 31 October.

The Council and its partners continue to offer facilitation support to the Lanarkshire Visitors Attractions Association and Lanarkshire Accommodation Association. Both associations continue to grow in strength with projected membership this year likely to be at its highest level since their inception with over 70 businesses projected to be paid membership this year.

The Council and its partners continue to work closely with businesses to help them develop their product and core skills and activity has included: familiarisation trips for operators to learn from their peers; social media workshops and the launch of a pilot scheme to encourage more businesses to join VisitScotland Quality Assurance scheme.

Final 2010 Scottish Tourism Economic Activity Monitor (STEAM) figures for Lanarkshire show that visitor revenue is showing a 0% increase in growth however the effects of the recession were mitigated by campaigns focussing on capitalising on the 'staycation trend' which resulted in an increased number of visitors coming to Lanarkshire and a 2% increase in employment in the tourism sector in South Lanarkshire.

### 5.3.2 Business Support

Through the Council's business support programmes, 60 companies have received assistance since April 2011, generating estimated additional sales of £10.3M million. These programmes have also helped to create or safeguard 707 jobs over the same period. We also advised 304 businesses and/or individuals of available commercial, industrial or retail property in South Lanarkshire.

The Clyde Windfarm Fund was launched during the period and the Development Fund element can now provide up to £25,000 grant support to businesses based in South Lanarkshire that have eligible capital projects that meet funding priorities laid out in the guidelines. Initial discussions and applications to the fund are very positive and the deal flow is likely to increase over the coming few months. It is clear that this is likely to be a major source of financial support for businesses in South Lanarkshire in the coming years given the term of the funding available.

The annual Lanarkshire Business Excellence Awards are now open for applications until the 25 November. The event will be held on 2 March (venue TBC) and will celebrate successful businesses operating in Lanarkshire under the current economic climate. Consideration is being given to hosting a Lanarkshire Business Week in the week running up to the Awards event on Friday 2 March. This would

provide a comprehensive opportunity to assist businesses via a range of events and workshops on current themes, and the breadth and depth of assistance available.

South Lanarkshire Council co-sponsored the Lanarkshire stand at the Good Food Show which took place at the SECC in Glasgow from 21-23 October. This gave 8 local food and drink producers the opportunity to showcase their produce to members of the general public. Companies from SLC attending were Strathaven Ales, Peter Equi & Sons, Blackmount Organics and Simple Simon Pies. Feedback from the event to date has been very positive and a follow up evaluation will happen in due course.

Discussions are underway regarding the shape of the new Business Gateway contract to run from September 2012. This is likely to have a national and a local element which will be designed to meet local business needs. More information will be available on this in due course.

#### 5.3.3. Land and Property

Capital programme investment continues to focus on business and industrial development in South Lanarkshire through its derelict and contaminated land programme and the successful application for a range of other funding sources. Investment is being undertaken in refurbishing redundant property in Rutherglen, and in new industrial premises in Hamilton and Rutherglen to provide opportunities for new start ups and growing existing businesses to set up and expand. These are nearing completion and will be available for occupation early in 2012. Further opportunities are being appraised and projects developed in Biggar, Lanark and Larkhall. At the same time we are taking a flexible approach to managing our leasing portfolio, remaining both competitive and accessible to businesses by offering flexible lease lengths to enable companies to expand and contract as necessary, as well as ensuring our rental rates remains competitive.

#### 5.3.4 Town Centre Management

Regeneration, Roads and Planning service representatives, joined by colleague from Community and Housing and Technical Resources meet with local businesses and community groups to discuss Council activity in our town centres and obtain feedback from the business and wider community. We continue to support a range of events and marketing initiatives and, under the leadership of the Chamber of Commerce, supported by some key businesses and the Council, progress is being made in the campaign to promote a Business Investment District, (BID) for Hamilton town centre which will seek to gather support for a BID to generated revenue from businesses for investment in additional activities to increase footfall and boost the economy of the Hamilton BID area. Additional BIDs are also being considered, with the Carlisle Development Trust leading on a proposed BID for Carlisle and will continue to offer support to additional BIDs where local businesses wish to come together to develop a BID strategy.

#### 5.3.5 Environmental Services

South Lanarkshire's first Regulatory Forum for local businesses has now been established by Environmental Services. It provides a mechanism for cooperation between the Council's regulatory services and the business community to ease the burdens of regulatory legislation and protect consumers. The forum is backed by the Lanarkshire Federation of Small Businesses and the Lanarkshire Chamber of Commerce. This initiative is very much in line with the UK Government's 'Smarter Regulation' agenda and will help businesses to understand and comply with regulatory issues.



'Buy with Confidence' is one of the first schemes to be developed through the Regulatory Forum project. The scheme will be launched in December 2011 and is open to businesses of all types, but membership is subject to an approval process by Consumer and Trading Standards, and requires traders to sign up to a code of practice. The scheme will assist businesses by giving consumers greater confidence in products and services, which will be of particular benefit to new small businesses.

#### **5.4. Community Impact**

##### **5.4.1. Community Safety Strategy**

Through our joint problem solving approach antisocial behaviour in South Lanarkshire continues to fall with a further reduction of 7% being achieved between 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Some of the actions we have taken and improvements we have made over the last year include:

Bottle Marking initiatives carried out across South Lanarkshire with partners from Trading Standards, Land Services, Community Wardens and Police to assist in identifying licensed premises where alcohol was being purchased by, or for, underage youths. Community Police Officers targeted known hot spots within local areas focusing particularly on youth alcohol issues with enforcement action carried out against prolific offenders.

During 2010/11 around 250 pupils from 10 local primary schools in Larkhall and Stonehouse staged a showcase event at St Machan's church in Larkhall to celebrate their work in tackling sectarianism. The anti sectarianism initiative received funding from the local problem solving group and 'Sense over Sectarianism, and was also supported by a wide range of partners including Rangers' and Celtic football clubs and the project 'Nil by Mouth'. Anti-social behaviour has been identified by local residents as one of the key issues of concern within the Ashgill, Larkhall, Netherburn and Stonehouse areas at past and recent Positive Communities events. This year 2011/2012 the play will involve all local primary schools, Larkhall Academy and Holy Cross High School to tackle the negative impact sectarianism has on our communities.

Working in partnership to tackle alcohol related antisocial behaviour the Joint Problem Solving Unit along with a local theatre group, Arkeen, produced an interactive play which was delivered to S1 pupils in 11 secondary schools and 2 additional support needs schools across South Lanarkshire. The play 'Is this Me...?' named by young people at a showcase event, tackles the issues of alcohol consumption among young people and the antisocial behaviour that occurs as a result of this. From the evaluation 59% of pupils agreed the main message was the way alcohol affects behaviour; with 63% stating that peer pressure is hard to deal with; and 57% felt that carrying a weapon would make them feel unsafe. To continue to reinforce a more positive lifestyle message to young people the drama will be rolled out during 2011/12 to all secondary schools across South Lanarkshire.

To continue to engage with local communities seven 'Positive Communities' events were held between May and July 2011. The purpose of these annual events is to encourage as many local residents to come along and give their views on local services and provide information to the Council in relation to antisocial behaviour issues within their area. Various partners and services are available at these events to provide information and support local residents on the issues surrounding

antisocial behaviour. The feedback from the events helps set local priorities for each of the Problem Solving Groups for 2011/12.

'Move the Goalposts' (MTGP) continues to operate on a 4 nightly (Thursday to Sunday, 6pm-10pm) basis each week in hot spot locations targeting hard to reach young people. A 'Choose Life' Community League operates on a Tuesday evening (7pm-9pm) whereby teams from targeted areas attend to compete in a 7 a-side league competition (approximately 80 young people per night). Play-Offs recently took place whereby the top 6 league places were decided with Westburn winning the over 16's Championship and The Circuit winning the under 16's competition. All attendees were given medals and trophies. A new Community League has since recommenced in September 2011. 2 groups of 8 young people (10 females and 6 males) from The Circuit and Greenhills areas are participating in 6 week outward bounds courses assisted by Outdoor Resource Base and South Lanarkshire Community Safety Partnership. A link with Badminton Scotland has resulted in a badminton course for young people in Greenhills operating on a weekly basis from September - December with the opportunity to expand this activity into other targeted areas. 38 young people aged 16 and over from targeted areas throughout South Lanarkshire have successfully completed their Level 1 SFA Coaching qualifications as part of Suicide Prevention Week.

The South Lanarkshire Community Safety Partnership was successful in its bid to take forward a Scotland wide Participatory Budgeting Pilot with the Scottish Government and Cosla. The partnership chose the Overton area of Halfway, Cambuslang to build upon the problem solving approach which had been ongoing in the area and to increase resident participation in the community. The key aims of the pilot were to engage with local residents to prioritise the needs of their community and provide them with the power to spend public money to benefit their community. The pilot was designed and implemented according to the needs of area, and the views expressed by its residents. An evaluation report carried out by the Participatory Budgeting Unit on behalf of the Scottish Government highlights the successes achieved in reducing antisocial behaviour and increasing community cohesion with a strong sense of care for the community being established. Due to the success of the overarching principles and approach the pilot is being rolled out during 2011/12 to other communities across the six problem solving group areas.

## **5.5. Council Revenue Impact**

### **5.5.1. Council Tax Collection**

The annual Council Tax collection target for 2011/2012 has been set at 95%.

The current Council Tax collection rate is 58.28% against a target of 58.8%. This is a slight decrease from 58.68% at the same time last year, however it is expected to meet the target at the end of the year. This information is monitored on a regular basis and reported to internal management teams and Committee.

### **5.5.2. Rent collection**

The rent arrears as a percentage of net debit is currently 4.12% against a target of 3.8%, however is expected to meet the target at the end of the year. The amount of rent arrears outstanding at the period end is £1,155,270. The percentage of tenants owing more than 13 weeks is 2.3%. This information is monitored on a regular basis with managers and where necessary early intervention processes are put in place and contact with the Money Matters Advice Team encouraged for those who require benefits advice.

## **6. Employee Implications**

6.1. There are no employee implications.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1. There are no financial implications.

## **8. Other Implications**

8.1. There are no significant implications in terms of risk or sustainability relating to the recommendations made in this report

## **9. Equality Impact Assessment Consultation Arrangements**

9.1. There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.

9.2. There is no requirement to carry out any consultation in terms of the content of this report.

**Paul Manning**

**Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)**

10 November 2011

## **Link(s) to Council Values/Improvement Themes/Objectives**

Improvement Theme: Performance Management and Improvement

## **Previous References**

Executive Committee of 6 July 2011 (paragraph 18 refers)

## **List of Background Papers**

GRIM Detailed Analysis – Quarter 2, 2011-2012

## **Contact for Further Information**

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

Brian Sinclair, Research Adviser, Central Research Unit

Ext: 4054 (Tel: 01698 454054)

E-mail: [brian.sinclair@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:brian.sinclair@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)