

Report

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Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	6 July 2011
Report by:	Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Gauging Recovery Impact Monitoring (GRIM) - Quarter 4 Summary Report
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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
- (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 which is a reduction of five indicators since the last report. The Indicators removed/replaced are outlined below with a brief explanation of why.

Table 1: Summary of revised/removed indicators

THEME	INDICATOR	REASON FOR REMOVAL
Council Revenue impact	Cultural Services income	These four indicators have been replaced by two new ones that combine both Culture and Leisure income and Culture and Leisure attendance numbers. This was done following the creation of the new Leisure and Culture Trust.
	Cultural Services visitor numbers	
	Leisure Services income	
	Leisure Services attendance numbers	
Social Impact	Number of prescriptions for anxiety and depression	Information provided by NHS Information Services Division - unable to provide 'real time' information.
Labour Market impact	Number of notified redundancies (over 20)	Information provided by Skills Development Scotland - Issues arose around commercial confidentiality concerns
Business impact	Number of enquires for business start-ups	Real time information currently unavailable from Business Gateway.

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

Table 2: GRIM indicators by impact

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

- 3.4. A detailed 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 intervention and responses information has 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 period in relation to 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 has been adjusted to reflect the revised set of 59 indicators for the last 4 quarters to ensure the trend information is comparable.

- 4.2. In Q4 2010/11 the GRIM indicators show a net balance of +4 (that is, there were 4 more indicators showing a positive trend than showing a negative one). This is an improvement from a negative balance of 0 in Q3 2010/11 and a net balance of -15 in Q4 2009/10.
- 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 Q4 2010/11 and it's position against the same period the previous year.

Table 3: Net balance of GRIM indicators by Impact theme

IMPACT THEME	Q4 2009/2010	Q1 2010/2011	Q2 2010/2011	Q3 2010/2011	Q4 2010/2011
Council Revenue impact	-3	2	1	1	3
Social Impact	-9	0	0	1	3
Labour Market impact	3	4	3	0	-1
Business impact	-4	-4	2	-3	-1
Community impact	-2	0	6	1	0
Total	-15	2	12	0	4

- 4.4. As this table shows, in Q4 2010/11 there was only two impact themes with a negative position; Labour Market Impact (-1) and Business Impact (-1). Social impact and Community impact moved into a positive net balance in Q1 2009/2010 and have remained positive since then. Council Revenue impact has been positive since Q1 2010/11 and has remained positive since then.
- 4.5. It is important to remember that these net balances come from looking at 59 indicators. In the case of the Q4 2010/11 analysis, 31 indicators improved (including 13 social impact indicators and 8 Council revenue impact indicators) and 27 worsened (including 10 Social Impact and 5 Council Revenue ones).

Comparison of the Q4 2010/11 and Q4 2009/10 figures shows positive improvements under all themes. Only one theme remained negative in both quarters (the Business impact) and there the balance changed from -4 to -1.

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 included the provision of outreach money advice services to support clients who would otherwise find it difficult to access mainline services, in addition to money advice services within main CAB offices. Funding was also used to provide essential administrative back up in relation to managing increasingly complex money advice caseloads.

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

Blantyre/South Lanarkshire (BSL) Credit Union has been supported to further establish and develop services in the Clydesdale area. BSL has also been successful in accessing DWP Growth Funding for the 'G' postcode areas within South Lanarkshire for the provision of low cost loans to people requiring immediate

financial support. In addition DWP funding was also secured for the provision of financial support/advice to people about to return to the workplace.

In conjunction with DWP and the Clydesdale Bank research has been completed into the need for affordable credit within South Lanarkshire in view of potential access to DWP Growth funding for the full local authority area.

Rutherglen Credit Union is being supported to develop and implement a marketing strategy specifically targeting residents in deprived datazone areas in relation to increasing access to affordable loans, savings and insurance services.

5.1.3. Council In2Work Money Advice Project

In the period April 2010 to March 2011, the In2Work Service has provided advice to 1297 people on the financial effects of returning to the workplace and helped 283 people claim annual benefit awards of £286,351.

The team have also delivered 48 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 10 to March 2011 has generated £3,581,992 in additional benefits. This includes £2,539,612 for Pensioners and £479,686 for people affected by cancer (in partnership with McMillan)

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 supported to identify training opportunities and skills needs in the area match 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

The Future Job Fund (FJF) was introduced by the previous UK Government as part of a series of measures to support the Young Persons Guarantee. FJF aimed to create jobs primarily in the public and voluntary sectors for unemployed young people and others who face significant disadvantage in the labour market. The Council, on behalf of the Community Planning Partners, submitted a bid to support 1,200 young people over an 18 month period (October 2009 - March 2011). A total of 1,200 jobs have been filled over the contract period. An evaluation of its impact in terms of positive job outcomes following these placements is underway. Jobcentre Plus performance statistics show South Lanarkshire Council continues to operate at 100% performance. A range of jobs have been secured to fulfil the balance of those allocated under DWP's contract.

The UK government will introduce the Work Programme from summer 2011. This is the centrepiece of its plans to reform welfare to work provision in the UK. The Council will adapt its employability programme activity to reflect the specific terms of the new programme once this becomes clear with Enterprise resources having a lead role in these developments

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 Pipelines, 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 is currently taking forward the delivery of the Scottish Government 16+ Learning Choices programme. An established, inclusive MCMC partnership structure led by Enterprise Resources and including Education Resources' Integrated Children's Services (ICS), Social Work, Corporate and Housing and Technical Resources, VASLAN, Skills Development Scotland, Jobcentre Plus, NHS Lanarkshire and both Motherwell and South Lanarkshire Colleges are responsible for the implementation of the 16+ Learning Choices programme.

The Activity Agreement programme, which was successfully delivered in South Lanarkshire in 2009-11 on a pilot basis, has been extended to all local authorities. The council has received significantly reduced funding to deliver the programme in 2011/2012 of £218,157. The programme will target the most vulnerable young people, providing bespoke programmes to assist their route into more formal learning or employment opportunities. In order to maximise the resources available to the programme, the role of the trusted professional will be carried out using the Scottish government grant and by existing members of staff from Enterprise and Corporate Resources with support from Skills Development Scotland. The H20 programme, delivered by Youth Learning services, will continue to play a key role in the provision accessed by young people completing activity agreements and has secured ESF funding. In addition a new employability focused programme, CO3 has been developed.

During the pilot 331 young people received support and took part in provision through an activity agreement with 129 progressing to a positive destination and 143 continuing to receive support beyond the end of the financial year

16+ Learning Choices - 16+ processes were fully implemented for all 2010 S4 summer leavers and for all S5 winter leavers. This included young people from all mainstream and ASN secondary schools, young people educated in specialist provision and young people educated at home. 16+ will be rolled out to all summer leavers across all year groups from all learning environments, including GRFW leavers and those leaving short term college places. .

Youth Jobs Fund - Additional funding has been secured to increase the capacity of the programme. The contract has been extended to September 2012 with the capacity to support up to 400 young people with a 50 week wage subsidy with a local employer. To date 242 young people have accessed employment.

Youth Connect - the programme has been developed to support young people into a career in care, learning from the good practice developed through the Connect 2 programme. The programme supports school leavers and care leavers through a pre-vocational programme followed by a paid work placement leading to a SVQ level 2 in Social Care or Childcare. 31 young people commenced the course with 24 progressing to paid work placements. A new Youth Connect programme will be delivered this summer.

5.2.5. Community Resources (Facilities, Land and Fleet Services) has provided training placements for 113 long-term unemployed people during 2010/11. The team has worked on garden projects at sheltered housing sites, sensory gardens at Rutherglen, Newton and Westburn. The programme comes to an end in August. To date 14 trainees have gained employment following training/work experience. A 50% reduction in Community Resources' seasonal workforce has however reduced the capacity of the service to extend employment over the summer months.

5.2.6 Eddlewood Catering Academy run by Community Resources has now trained 120 unemployed people, identified through Routes to Work. 86 have gained the nationally recognised food handlers qualification, 56 gained R.E.H.I.S. food and nutrition certification and manual handling certification. 42 gained S.V.Q. catering level 1. 32 candidates gained employment with the Council and a further 6 gained employment elsewhere in the private sector. 120 primary school pupils and 36 parents have also received non-certificated training in healthy eating and basic cooking skills at the Eddlewood Catering Academy.

5.2.7 Labour market lobbying activities

The Council has successfully lobbied for additional resources to combat the effects of the recessions as demonstrated in the items above. We have directly contributed to ongoing work with the UK and Scottish Governments producing a quarterly Economic Monitor and prompted support within the Scottish Government for additional national resources through Skills Development Scotland.

5.2.8 Children's Games Lanarkshire – supported employment

South and North Lanarkshire Council took a decision to sustain inclusive job opportunities for disabled people by buying beds, furniture and bedding required for the Lanarkshire 2011 Children's Games from Royal Strathclyde Blindcraft Industries (RSBi). The order worth £340,000 was critical to the continuation of this social enterprise first founded as the Glasgow Blind Asylum in 1804, at a time of very difficult market conditions. The business provides supported employment for people whose disabilities make it difficult to find employment in open industry and who are far removed from the job market. It works in partnership with Help for Heroes, Poppy

Scotland and Combat Stress by ring-fenced jobs for returning vulnerable and disabled ex-servicemen and women and now employs six individuals. All products are manufactured to an exceptionally high standard and furniture is FISP (Furniture Industry Sustainability Programme) and FIRA (Furniture Industry Research Association) approved. After the Games the furniture will be allocated to a number of community projects in the Lanarkshire area.

5.3 Business Impact

5.3.1 Tourism

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

Via 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. Since April 2010, Visitlanarkshire.com has recorded 793,000 page views from 235,000 visitors (a 108% increase over the previous year). 99 pieces of positive media coverage have also been achieved with an advertising equivalent value of £189,000.

Publications produced in the past year include Great Days Out (an attractions guide), Walking in Lanarkshire, Cycling in Lanarkshire and a Lanarkshire equestrian guide.

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 over 60 businesses paying membership fees in the past year.

Tourism model figures for interim 2010 results (Jan – Sep) show that visitor revenue and employment increased by 1% which is in line with national trends for the tourism sector but is particularly heartening in light of the disproportionate impact of the recession on Lanarkshire itself (day visitors increased by 12% with campaigns focussing on capitalising on the 'staycation' trend)

5.3.2 Business Support

Through the Council's business support programmes 382 companies have received assistance since April 2010, generating estimated additional sales of £8.9 million. These programmes have also helped to create or safeguard 1,842 jobs over the same period. We also advised 453 businesses and/or individuals of available commercial, industrial or retail property in South Lanarkshire.

Additional services were negotiated provided through the Small Business Gateway outwith the existing Scottish Enterprise contract. These have seen added services focused on businesses who do not fall within the parameters of SE contract. In conjunction with North Lanarkshire Council and Lanarkshire Enterprise Services we have been successful at securing funding from the European Regional Development Fund which will not only augment the services offered to the local business base but also greatly enhance the business support given to social economy organisations.

During the year, 7 supplier development workshops were held attracting 30 South Lanarkshire delegates. It is envisaged that our annual local Meet the Buyer event will take place later this year (Sep/Oct 2011). We also delivered an event (in conjunction with SLC procurement) which was aimed at initiating a dialogue between our Procurement Team and the local business base, this event will lead to a review of how SLC engages with local businesses in terms of procurement and tendering

for work, 39 members of the local business community attended this event. 5 further companies were referred to procurement support organisations with one local company submitting a tender for a major contract that is currently being considered. In the following year we will deliver events to engage local SME's with opportunities that will potentially arise from the next phase of the Schools Capital Programme

South Lanarkshire Council once again co-hosted the annual Lanarkshire Business Excellence Awards in March 2011, 6 of the winners at this event were South Lanarkshire companies

South Lanarkshire Council also co-sponsored the Lanarkshire stand at the Good Food Show which took place at the SECC in Glasgow. This gave 8 local food and drink producers the opportunity to showcase their produce to members of the general public.

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... In 2010-11 redundant properties in Rutherglen, Carluke and Lesmahagow have been refurbished to provide opportunities for new start ups and growing existing businesses to set up and expand. New developments in Rutherglen and Hamilton are coming along and will be available for occupation in the summer of 2011. 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 remain competitive.

Despite the continued downturn in property markets, we continue to rigorously scrutinise our property asset base in order to rationalise how we provide our services and identify opportunities for property disposals to, not only improve Council efficiency, but also to stimulate development activity which, in turn brings benefits to the local economy. We have increased marketing activity, producing an 'available and available soon' list which we are proactively distributing and will be receptive to innovative and flexible proposals from bidders for our surplus assets. Despite some sporadic success in marketing development opportunities and growing interest from prospective developers, there is evidence that confidence remains low, underlined by reduced and more restrictive development funding from the banking sector.

We have also reviewed our portfolio of community assets and where these are proving to be of local importance, are developing a new strategy where certain properties can be transferred into community ownership for the occupational and potential commercial benefits to the community. In addition, we will include appropriate support mechanisms including assistance with setting up properly constituted organisations and identifying funding sources which may be accessible to community organisations. Pilot opportunities have been identified for this new strategy and are being pursued with appropriate groups and partners.

We are acquiring housing on the open market, targeting specific types of property to add to the council house letting stock where there is the most pressing demand and are also completing necessary acquisitions of former council housing to enable the wholesale regeneration of particular areas in Rutherglen and Cambuslang. We have also negotiated the successful acquisition of the former fire station in Clydeford Road, Cambuslang on behalf of Housing Services who will seek appropriate

development and housing association partners to develop sheltered amenity housing on the site.

5.3.4 Town Centre Management

The various Town Groups where 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. A range of events and marketing initiatives have been supported and, under the leadership of the Chamber of Commerce, supported by some key businesses and the Council, a campaign has been launched 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.

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 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. Joint Problem Solving

All of the 6 Problem Solving Groups across South Lanarkshire Council are continuing to work on action plans to reduce all related anti-social behaviour crimes.

The operation within the Burnhill area, whereby a number of problem solving partners worked together to tackle issues with anti-social behaviour is now complete. This included consultation with the local community to establish views and opinions about the area and how they feel it could be improved. This in turn allowed targeted interventions to take place.

To supplement much of the work already ongoing in Burnhill a bottle marking campaign has been successfully completed. This partnership project via the Rutherglen Cambuslang Problem Solving Group tackled agent purchasing and increase public reassurance in an area where alcohol and its associated anti- social behaviour have a negative impact on the community. Returns provided by Community Wardens and Police have proved very encouraging.

Operation Impact in the Fairhill area of Hamilton is now complete. This has led to the successful reduction in levels of ASB crimes affecting the area as well as having a positive effect on residents' perceptions. This is aimed at ensuring long term sustainable reductions in anti-social behaviour

Move the Goalposts continues to target 'hot spot areas' throughout South Lanarkshire with a full evaluation available for inspection in the near future. A total of 17 hot spot areas were targeted throughout 2010-11. Approx 40-45 young people attend nightly with youth related crimes and incidents being reduced on average by 45% in targeted areas. The initiative will relocate to new areas commencing on Thursday 020611 which will include Greenhills, Burnhill, Fernhill and Larkhall.

The Larkhall Problem Solving group is continuing to support the Fire Reach Project via the Machan Trust, this is currently targeting 20 young people in the area who have been involved in or are seen to have the potential to be involved in fire related anti-social behaviour.

The Larkhall Problem Solving Group is also supporting an Anti Sectarianism Project in the Larkhall area which will be rolled out to all secondary and primary school children. This will tackle the anti-social behaviour related to sectarianism. Over 250 children and young people will participate in a partnership project involving all 10 local primary schools, Larkhall Academy and Holy Cross High School with additional partnership funding coming from 'Sense over Sectarianism' – arrangements now in place for roll out to commence from Monday 21 February.

Trading Posts (Liber8) - The Trading Post Initiative is a targeted provision aimed at young people either directly consuming alcohol and or other substances, or for young people being indirectly affected by a significant others consumption/use. The young people are targeted on the streets by Liber8 street work staff. Between 6-12, targeted hard to reach young people will engage in a 12 week programme of support with trained staff and qualified support services to look at reducing consumption and harm. Trading posts are currently being carried out in Hamilton, Blantyre and the Larkhall areas.

7 'Positive Communities' public consultation events will take place throughout South Lanarkshire during May and June which will in turn direct the activities of each local PSG. New funding available to PSG's will assist in targeting these highlighted areas.

An Alcohol drama 'This is Me' is presently 'touring' all but 1 of the High Schools within South Lanarkshire targeting first year pupils. A 'Big Night In' event was held whereby local youths with a history of offending were given a preview of the drama. This allowed them to make comments on the contents and select the drama's title. Follow up sessions will be carried out by partners ensuring that the drama's messages are explored in more detail as part of the curriculum.

5.5. Council Revenue Impact

5.5.1. Council Tax Collection

The annual Council Tax collection target for 2010/2011 was set at 95%. Council Tax collection in 2010/2011 was 94.7%, below target by 0.3% and behind comparable performance in 2009/2010 by 0.2%. While collection performance up to December 2010 was broadly comparable to last year, collection between December 2010 and March 2011 reduced by 0.25%. One of the key factors contributing to the reduced collection performance was the change of Debt Collection and Sheriff Officer contractor's and with the new contract taking effect from 1 April 2011, there was a reduced level of activity in both contracts in the approach to the termination date. However, it should be noted that the service delivered a saving of £0.325m in debt collection and sheriff officer fees in 2010/2011 in comparison to the shortfall in collection performance of £0.215m.

5.5.2. Rent collection

The rent arrears as a percentage of net debit has increased slightly from last year's figure of 3.7% up to 3.8% at the end of Q4. The amount of rent arrears outstanding at the period end is £1,004,273. The percentage of tenants owing more than 13 weeks has reduced to 2.2%. 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 arising from 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.

Robert McIlwain
Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

17 June 2011

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

Improvement Theme: Performance Management and Improvement

Previous References

Performance and Review Scrutiny Forum – 22 March 2011

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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