

Report

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Report to:	Performance and Review Scrutiny Forum
Date of Meeting:	22 March 2011
Report by:	Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Gauging Recovery Impact Monitoring (GRIM) - Quarter 3 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 Performance and Review Scrutiny Forum 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 monthly, some quarterly and some in financial reporting periods. At present there are 64 indicators though these are being kept under review.

- 3.3. Table 1 shows the breakdown of these indicators across the spread of impacts identified by the partnership.

Table 1: GRIM indicators by impact

	IMPACT THEME	NOS. OF INDICATORS
A	Social Impact	15
B	Labour Market impact	24
C	Business impact	7
D	Community impact	10
E	Council Revenue impact	8
	TOTAL	64

- 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. The system can also be interrogated for user specified time periods.
- 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. Monthly data will therefore show the change from the previous month, quarterly data from the previous quarter and period data from the immediately preceding period.
- 4.2. In Q3 2010/11 the GRIM indicators show a net balance of +3 (that is, there were 3 more indicators showing a positive trend than showing a negative one). This dropped from a positive balance of +16 in Q2 2010/11. However, in Q3 2009/10 the net balance was -13.
- 4.3. It is possible to look at the Net balance figures for each individual impact theme and Table 2 shows the Net balance figure for each theme against the previous quarter position from Q3 2010/11 and its position against the same period the previous year.

Table 2: Net balance of GRIM indicators by Impact theme

IMPACT THEME	Q3 2009/2010	Q4 2009/2010	Q1 2010/2011	Q2 2010/2011	Q3 2010/2011
Social	-3	-9	-6	6	1
Labour market	-7	5	3	3	0
Council revenue	-3	0	-3	-1	2
Business	-5	-4	-4	2	-3
Community	5	-2	-2	6	3
Total	-13	-10	-12	16	3

- 4.4. As this table shows, the only overall negative net position in Q3 2010/11 was in relation to Business Impact which had a net balance of -3 down 5 from the Q2 2010/11 position but shows an improving position from the Q3 last year when the net balance was -5. The labour market impact net balance went positive in Q4 2009/10 and remained positive until Q3 2010/11 when it had a net balance of 0 this is a difference of +7 on the same quarter (Q3) last year.
- 4.5. The Council revenue impact theme has been improving in the last two quarters and was +2 in Q3 2010/11 the best situation recorded. Social impact has also improved in the last two quarters and was + 1 in Q3 2010/11 this is +4 of a difference from Q3 2009/10.
- 4.6. It is important to remember that these net balances come from looking at 64 indicators – in the case of the Q3 2010/11 analysis, 30 indicators improved (including 11 social impact indicators and 8 Council revenue impact indicators) and 27 worsened (including 10 Social Impact and 8 Council Revenue ones).

Comparison of the Q3 2010/11 and Q3 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 -5 to -3.

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 have received funding to support individuals and families experiencing debt problems. This includes 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 has also been 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 to November 2010, the In2Work Service has provided money 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 covering in work benefits).

- 5.1.4. The Financial Education and Advice team is funded by the Fairer Scotland Fund and work in partnership with other Council services and external organisations to provide a programme of preventative education plus a reactive service delivered at point of need:

In the year to 31 March 2010, the team carried out 840 training sessions, these sessions included 1290 people living in deprived datazones.

In the year to 31 March 2010, the team provided training to almost 10,000 school students.

An advice handbook for older people was produced and joint working between Social work, Seniors Together and Lanarkshire Links amongst others has ensured that this has been distributed to 1300 individuals to date.

Work with the Scottish Prison Service, Social Work and Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority to provide South Lanarkshire residents in HMP Addiewell and young offenders in HMP Polmont with pre-release financial training to assist return to the community, and the provision of similar services to those with a community based sentence. In the year to 31 March 2010, 210 people benefited from this assistance.

- 5.1.5. The Council Benefits Team works in conjunction with the DWP to target vulnerable groups who traditionally under claim welfare benefits. The various campaigns from April to November 2010 have generated £2,525,187 in additional benefits. This includes £929,688 for Pensioners and £357,931 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 aims 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 1,044 jobs have been filled to January 2011. 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.

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.

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, SOLVE, 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.

Additional funding of £1.45 million 2009-11, provided by the Scottish Government assists in the delivery of Activity Agreements. The programme targets the most vulnerable young people, providing bespoke programmes to assist their route into more formal learning or employment opportunities.

16+ Learning Choices - 16+ processes were fully implemented for all 2010 S4 summer leavers. This included young people from all mainstream and ASN secondary schools, young people educated in specialist provision and young people educated at home. This winter 16+ will be rolled out to all leavers across all year groups from all learning environments, including GRFW leavers and those leaving short term college places. All schools recently took part in a planning session to focus on the roll out of 16+ to all leavers in summer 2011.

Activity Agreement Pilot - to date 107 young people have progressed from an activity agreement into a positive destination and 76 young people are currently taking part in an Activity Agreement. Two additional Activity Agreement Advisers have recently been recruited from the Council's redeployment list for the remainder of the programme. In addition, the Cognisoft database has been procured and developed to allow more effective data sharing with SDS and young people from the programme have taken part in the national evaluation of the programme.

Youth Jobs Fund - Additional funding has been secured to increase the capacity of the programme. The programme will now support 242 young people with a 50 week wage subsidy with a local employer. To date 222 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.

Winter Leavers Programme - in order to meet the needs of young people across South Lanarkshire and respond to issues raised by schools, Corporate Resources' Winter Leavers programme has been rolled out from 8 schools to now include all secondary schools for 2010 winter leavers. 99 young people are currently engaging with the programme and are accessing vocational development opportunities in sectors including construction, hair and beauty, catering and joinery.

5.2.5. Community Resources (Facilities, Land and Fleet Services) has provided training placements for 100 long term unemployed people during 2010. To date 14 trainees have gained employment following training/work experience. The team has worked on garden projects at sheltered housing sites, sensory gardens at Rutherglen, Newton and Westburn. Eddlewood Catering Academy has trained 120 unemployed people, identified through Routes to Work all of whom gained the nationally recognised food handlers qualification. 32 candidates gained employment with the Council and a further 6 gained employment elsewhere in the private sector.

5.2.6. 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.

5.3 **Business Impact**

5.3.1 Tourism

The Council, with partners, launched the Tourism Action Plan in 2009 and continue to progress individual actions plans. In addition, promotion of the VisitLanarkshire.com website has been part of a wider marketing programme for Lanarkshire and in its first full year it attracted 155,000 visits with 577,000 page views. Tourism model figures for 2009 show that visitor revenue 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. In addition, employment for the tourism sector grew by 1%.

5.3.2 Business Support

Through the Council's business support programmes 207 companies have received assistance since April 2010, generating estimated additional sales of £15.1 million. These programmes have also helped to create or safeguard 1,262 jobs over the same period. We also advised 500 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, 3 supplier development workshops were held attracting 20 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.

South Lanarkshire Council will once again co-host the annual Lanarkshire Business Excellence Awards in March 2011.

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

The Council continues to invest in the business and industrial infrastructure in South Lanarkshire through its derelict and contaminated land programme and other funds. In 2010 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. We are progressing new developments in Rutherglen, Hamilton and Biggar and appraising further opportunities in Lanark and Larkhall. In tandem, in managing our leasing portfolio, we remain 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. In response to feedback from developers, we are increasing our marketing activity and will be receptive to innovative and flexible proposals from bidders for our surplus assets.

We are also reviewing assets of local community importance in order to develop 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.

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.

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 vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

Operation Sentinel (Rutherglen area) and Operation Wipe-out (Clydesdale area) are now complete. A new operation is currently ongoing in the Burnhill area, and has seen a number of problem solving partners working together to tackle issues with anti-social behaviour. Part of this in Burnhill has included consultation with the local

community to establish views and opinions about the area and how they feel it could be improved.

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

Supplementary work to complement the completion of the successful Operation Impact is presently ongoing in the Hamilton area. This additionality 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. Areas presently targeted are Greenhills, East Kilbride, Rigside and Douglas Water, Burnhill, Rutherglen and Overton, Cambuslang.

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.

Sectarianism Project - 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.

5.5. Council Revenue Impact

5.5.1. Council Tax Collection

The Council Tax collection rate is 87.14% as at the end of Q3 which is slightly below the position at the same time last year which was 87.2%. To date £2.2m in Council Tax Arrears has been collected. The Council continues to provide a range of ways to help people to pay Council Tax and intervenes as early as possible for people in arrears to make sure any Council Tax benefits and arrangements are put in place before arrears become major debts.

5.5.2. Rent Collection

The rent arrears as a percentage of net debit has increased slightly from the year end 3.7% to 3.9% at the end of Q3. The amount of rent arrears outstanding at the period end is £997,724. The percentage of tenants owing more than 13 weeks has remained static at 2.4%. 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 issues in terms of risk and sustainability.

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
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7 March 2011

Link(s) to Council Objectives

◆ Improvement Theme: Performance Management and Improvement

Previous References

◆ GRIM Quarter 4 Summary Report to CMT - 17th June 2010

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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