

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE	Subject: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES OPERATIONAL PLAN 2007-08
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT	
Date: 28 March 2007	Ref: PG

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To note and agree the main contents and key features of the Operational Plan for Planning and Development Services for 2007-08.

2. Background

- 2.1 It is an important part of the Corporate Planning cycle that Departmental Service Improvement Plans are reported to Service Committees. In line with Best Value, it is now policy that Operational Plans are also reported.

- 2.2 Operational Plans serve a number of significant purposes.

- They indicate in more detail how the Departmental Service Improvement Plan actions will be taken forward by the particular services. This includes physical project work, for example on Ravenscraig and Town Centres; the Local Plan Programme and other strategic activity and service improvement actions such as Building Standards Audit and electronic delivery of services (e-planning).
- Unlike Service Improvement Plans they also incorporate the ongoing statutory services such as Building Standards, Development Control and enforcement, together with everyday management and administrative tasks.
- They highlight the Service Priorities – the areas of activity that are central to meeting statutory requirements and the Council's strategic objectives.
- They provide the framework for the Service Teams on priorities and performance measures, as well as indicating areas for focussing staff training and development.
- In final form they will also incorporate a summary of the relevant capital and revenue budgets to indicate the resources available for delivery of services.

3. Priorities

- 3.1 The achievements for 2006-07 include the following:

Awards :

Kilsyth Town Centre, one of 5 towns in UK. short listed for BCSC Award for town centre regeneration.

Core Activities

Over 2000 planning applications dealt with. Performance significantly improved , with targets now exceeded.

Over 2500 building warrants and 2300 completion certificates issued

(This represents more than £ 250 million investment in North Lanarkshire)

Service Improvement:

Service Improvement Action Plan approved by SMT

Building Standards Agency Audit carried out

E-Planning Project – funding secured from efficient government fund Project Team in place and data preparation in progress

Risk assessment of projects carried out

Strategy and Policy

Ongoing delivery of 6 Town Centre Action Plans

Approval of Delivery Plan for Local Development Programme (i.e. the overarching delivery mechanism for small community, community regeneration, and estate based Council initiatives, and for external partner programmes of the North Lanarkshire Partnership)

Approval of process to develop Strategic Area Regeneration (STAR) Priorities (i.e. area regeneration initiatives developed with the national context and based around major spatial and physical regeneration sites, locations and corridors)

Approval in principle of Gowkthrapple Regeneration Masterplan

Southern Area Local Plan prepared for adoption

North Lanarkshire Local Plan- consultative draft submitted to P and E Committee

"Designing North Lanarkshire" - published

Production of footprint reduction report (first in Scotland)

Projects (delivered or supported)

£5.3million investment in Town Centres across North Lanarkshire

£3.1million investment in Regeneration, Community Safety and Environmental Improvement Projects at over 100 locations across North Lanarkshire through Small Communities Budget as part of the Corporate Local Development Programme

£6million of infrastructure, remediation and environmental contracts through the Scottish Executives Vacant & Derelict Land Fund

£400,000 investment in delivering improvements to a range of Neighbourhood Centres in Regeneration DataZones

Ravenscraig : commencement of Ravenscraig Limited's major contract for infrastructure and re-profiling works

3.2 Priorities for 2007-08 will be:

- **Preparation of a Finalised North Lanarkshire Local Plan**
- **Preparation of supplementary design guidance**
- **Delivering £5million of investment in Town Centres;**
- **Progress Wishaw Regeneration Initiative and develop similar Regeneration Initiatives across North Lanarkshire to ensure efficient use of investment and resources;**
- **Progress £2.3million investment through Local Development Programme and secure additional external funding to maximise benefits;**
- **Progress delivery of Strategic Area Regeneration (STAR) Priorities;**
- **Progress Gowkthrapple Regeneration Masterplan**
- **Assist in Delivery of £6million investment in Vacant & Derelict Land as part of Scottish Executive's Cities Review Agenda**
- **Delivering Small Communities and environmental regeneration projects**
- **Ravenscraig Project, including Area Development Briefs, Reserved Matters applications, preparatory work for Railway Station, Sports Facility, M'well College, STAG appraisal and land acquisition**
- **Co-ordinating corporate sustainable development work**
- **Service Improvement Action Plan**
- **ISO for Development Control**
- **Revised Building Standards Balanced Scorecard Actions**
- **Charter Mark submission for Building Standards**
- **Extending electronic service delivery and deriving operating efficiencies through the ePlanning Project**

- **Maintaining quality services to all stakeholders**
- **Customer focus in development control**
- **Continue to achieve targets in processing planning applications**

During 2007-08 the Council will be subject to a Best Value Audit. All services will be required to prepare a **Best Value Action Plan** in line with guidelines from the Chief Executive

There is also a requirement on all services to continue to carry out a **Risk Assessment** this year and to prepare a **Risk Register**, and an **Action Plan** for managing residual risk.

4. Monitoring

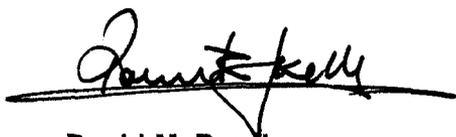
- 4.1 The Operational Plan specifies a wide range of measures for monitoring service performance, some of which are statutory performance indicators, while others monitor particular aspects which are key to corporate or service objectives.
- 4.2 Should any major problems occur in service delivery or any major changes required, for whatever reason, these will be reported to Committee.

5. Corporate considerations

The Operational plan has been prepared in the context of the Departmental Service Improvement Plan approved by Committee and raises no new corporate or financial issues.

6. Recommendation

That Committee notes the contents of this report and approves the priorities of the Operational Plan for Planning and Development Services 2007-08.



~ **David M. Porch**
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Members seeking further information on the contents of this report should contact Phil Gaunt, on 01236 616252.