

**POLICY AND RESOURCES (POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW)  
SUB – 24 September 1998**

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**Motherwell, 24 September 1998 at 2 pm.**

**A Meeting of the POLICY AND RESOURCES  
(POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW) SUB-COMMITTEE**

**PRESENT**

Councillor McCabe, Convener; Councillors Brooks, Craig, Griffin, Lyle and McCulloch.

**CHAIR**

Councillor McCabe (Convener) presided.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Core Services Officer; Assistant Chief Executive (Policy); Information and Research Manager, and Service Development and Review Manager (Sport), Leisure Services.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors Shaw and Wilson.

**BEST VALUE SERVICE REVIEW - PAYROLL**

1. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 13 August 1998, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 16 September 1998 by the Chief Executive (1) setting out and evaluating the results of the first of the service reviews to be undertaken which was in respect of Payroll Services; (2) enclosing an Interim Service Specification; (3) indicating that in view of the number of systems currently operated by the Payroll Service, market testing would be difficult to undertake at the present time and that meanwhile, a preliminary comparison would be undertaken with cost targets set for relevant parts of the service and reported to Committee in February 1999; (4) advising that the Finance Department had recently participated in a payroll benchmarking exercise for Scottish local authorities under the auspices of the Scottish Benchmarking Group and the Institute of Public Finance Ltd; (5) enclosing an Action Plan which had been prepared in light of the results of the benchmarking exercise, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report; (6) summarising the findings of the benchmarking exercise, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report, and (7) pointing out that additional investigations required to be undertaken and would be reported to this Committee in February 1999.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the departmental Action Plan detailed in Appendix 2.2 to the report be approved;
- (2) that a further report on additional investigations, as detailed at 7.3 of the report be submitted for consideration by the Sub-Committee at its meeting in February 1999;
- (3) that the report be referred to the Finance Committee for information, and
- (4) that the contents of the report and its conclusions be otherwise noted.

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**PUBLICATION OF STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 1997/98**

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 13 August 1998, there was submitted a report dated 24 September 1998 by the Chief Executive (1) advising that in terms of the Local Government Act 1992, the Accounts Commission for Scotland required all local authorities to publish specific performance information relating to their activities in any financial year; (2) indicating that the 1997/98 Statutory Performance Indicators required to be published in local newspapers by 30 September 1998; (3) reporting that the Council's Performance Indicators had been published the week commencing 7 September 1998, and (4) stating that, in accordance with the Council's Best Value Plan and the Accounts Commission's recommendation, Performance Indicators had been included in the latest edition of the North Lanarkshire News.

**Decided:**

- (1) that it be noted that the Council has complied within the deadline with its statutory duty to publish performance information, and
- (2) that it be noted that the Council has complied with the commitment in the Best Value Plan to circulate an Annual Performance Report to all households.

**COMPARISON OF STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 1996/97 AND 1997/98**

3. There was submitted a report dated 24 September 1998 by the Chief Executive (1) reporting on the statutory performance indicators for 1997/98 and making comparisons, where appropriate, with the figures for 1996/97; (2) advising that the Accounts Commission would be publishing a series of reports early in 1999 comparing the performance of all Scottish Councils for 1997/98 and that a further analysis would be carried out thereafter and a report submitted to a future meeting of this Sub-Committee, and (3) highlighting those indicators which showed a marked improvement or deterioration of performance between 1996/97 and 1997/98.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the changes in the statutory performance indicators between 1996/97 and 1997/98 be noted;
- (2) that those performance indicators for which a marked improvement was recorded between 1996/97 and 1997/98 be noted, and
- (3) that the underlying reasons for, and the action taken in respect of, those performance indicators where a drop in performance was recorded between 1996/97 and 1997/98 be noted.