# ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

## ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

## DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

## 6 JUNE 2019

# DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT FQ4 2018-19

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Planning and Performance Management Framework sets out the process for presentation of the council's quarterly performance reports.
- 1.2 This paper presents the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee with the Development and Infrastructure Services departmental performance report with associated scorecard for performance in FQ4 2018-19 (January 2019 to March 2019).

## 2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee reviews the scorecard as presented.

## 3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 The performance scorecard for Development and Infrastructure Services was extracted from the Council's Pyramid performance management system and is comprised of key performance indicators incorporating the services that make up Development and Infrastructure Services.
- 3.2 Commentary on the indicators included within the scorecard can be interrogated via the Pyramid system. Some key points have been included below for ease.

## **Management Information**

- 3.3 Completion of Performance Review Development (PRD's) have increased this quarter to 93%. This is a marked improvement from the previous quarter (81%). This also represents a marked long term improvement trend since FQ4 16/17. The Department will continue to focus on this area to ensure the target is maintained going forward.
- 3.4 Sickness absence has seen a slight improvement in performance from FQ3

to FQ4 with 3.13 days lost against a target of 2.98 days per employee. Work is ongoing within the Department to focus on the non-office based staff where figures are 5.26 days lost per employee. The HR Assistant for Attendance will work alongside Managers to ensure the sickness absence procedures are being applied and adhered to appropriately.

## **Business Outcomes**

- 3.5 BO05 Information and Support are Available for Everyone In FQ4 the percentage of clients who were satisfied that they were able to deal with their financial problems following our support and intervention remained at 100%. The debt work has been redesigned to focus solely on particularly vulnerable clients and the new arrangements which have been piloted over FQ4 are working well.
- 3.6 BO23 Economic Growth is Supported Achieve an above national average level of application approval rates Planning application approval rate was above target of 95% for the 23<sup>rd</sup> consecutive quarter at 97.9%. The approval rate demonstrates that we are open for business.

# 4.0 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 4.2 4.3 4.4 4.5	Policy Financial Legal HR Equalities/Fairer Scotland Duty	None None The Council has a duty to deliver best value under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 None None
4.6	Risk	Ensuring performance is effectively scrutinised by
4.7	Customer Service	members None

For further information contact: Pippa Milne, Tel 01546 604076

# APPENDICES

Appendix 1	FQ4 2018/19 score cards – Development and Infrastructure Services
Appendix 2	FQ4 2018/19 performance report – Development and Infrastructure Services

Departmental Performance Report for: Development and Infrastructure	Period:

Period: FQ4 18/19

#### **Key Successes**

#### Planning, Housing and Regulatory Services (PHRS)

## Business Outcome 5 – Information and Support are Available to All

1. In response to the outcome of the EU Referendum, in 2017 the Council established the Industry and Regional Development Sounding Board which has been active in developing an initial understanding of risks and opportunities. The Chief Executive subsequently established a tactical level working group to support preparedness for the UK Withdrawal from EU from a Council and Health and Social Care Partnership perspective. Through the work of the Tactical Group, and using Scottish Government planning assumptions for a "no deal", the risk were fully evaluated, assessed, and an Action Plan was agreed. The Council/HSCP fully engaged in national groups which considered a range of issues including the areas of highest risk for export of food to EU countries, food insecurity, economy, medicines and civil contingencies, and rurality. Work continues to deliver the Action Plan although this has slowed due to the extension agreed by the EU. Notwithstanding this, this work undertake has ensured that there are adequate arrangements in place for business continuity and contingency planning with the Council /HSCP and that they meet COSLA's assessment criteria of "ready", (the highest level) in a very short timescale.

## Business Outcome 13 – Our Built Environment is Safe and Improved

 Extended our commercialisation to East Lothian, Inverclyde and East Dunbartonshire Councils which enabled us to return an end of year budget surplus of £215k. We will continue to monitor Building Standards income and expenditure tightly and retain our verifier contract(s) with Babcocks and other Local Authorities which provide additional income generation streams.

## Business Outcome 23 – Economic Growth is Supported

1. Planning application approval rate was above target (95%) for the 23rd consecutive quarter (97.9%).

## Economic Development and Strategic Transportation (EDST)

## Business Outcome 23 – Economic Growth is Supported

1. On 7th March 2019 the EDI Committee approved the use of all the WSLF match (£150k) for Business Gateway (BG) Local Growth Accelerator Programme (LGAP) Phase Two. This will now require to be signed off by the full Argyll and Bute Council meeting on 18th April 2019. By gaining Scottish Government approval to add Phase Two activity to our original programme, the Council has now secured a total of £855,239 for LGAP, levering in £524,220 of ERDF funding.

 Notification from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) that the Lochgilphead Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) bid has been successful with an award of £969,700 of HES funding with £386,000 in Council funding, and estimated contributions from building owners of £250,000 - bringing a projected total budget of £1.6m. The project commences in April 2019 and will run for 5 years.

#### Business Outcome 27 – Infrastructure and assets are fit for purpose

1. Helensburgh Waterfront Development – Marine Scotland granted a Marine Construction Licence on 14th January 2019. The Helensburgh Waterfront Development obtained planning approval on 23rd January 2019.

#### **Roads and Amenity Services (RAS)**

#### Business Outcome 14 – Our transport infrastructure is safe and fit for purpose

- 1. Kirk Road is now in use. The new alignment is providing better access for vehicles and pedestrians into the new development. There are some minor remedial works yet to be carried out but these are in hand.
- 2. Successful delivery and progress in relation to an extended and increased Roads Capital Budget/Programme. Works delivered through mixed economy models are having a positive impact in improving the roads network within Argyll and Bute. This is seeing a general improvement to the overall road condition as evidenced by the Road Condition Index (RCI).
- 3. R&A Depots Contract awarded for Oban Depot on a design and build basis following the feasibility work and outline plans having been completed in house. A similar approach is being progressed with Lochgilphead Depot. This approach provides design experience for our Graduate Engineers which will help progress individuals towards professional qualification as part of our Growing Our Own initiative.
- 4. Environmental Land Management (ELM) system has now been rolled out across the areas for scheduled and reactive works. Training and follow up training has been undertaken in all areas. All areas will go live on 1st April 2019 for both scheduled and reactive works. Much of the roll out has been progressed by one of the area supervisors (Larry Malone) and Chargehand (Roderick Frame) who had been the advocates of the system and have effectively got colleagues on board. ELM will streamline the process of issuing works orders which through the system will be received by the teams on mobile devices. This will also result in a benefit to Members queries which will be able to be resolved more directly through the use of the system.
- 5. There has been a steady improvement in the Councillor Casebook performance during this quarter. The number of open cases has dropped from over 500 in summer 2018 to fewer than 200 at present. The percentage of enquiries being closed off in the desired timescale has increased from around 20% to over 50%. Anecdotal feedback from Members has been positive so far with many commenting on the improvements in timeliness and quality of responses.

#### Business Outcome 15 – Argyll and Bute is Open for Business

1. Transfer of staff who operate the Jura ferry has now been concluded. This means that the staff work directly for Argyll and Bute Council and that the contract with ASP Ship Management has now come to a natural end. This brings some cashable savings which were a requirement of the 2018 budget process.

2. Works are now complete to stabilise the harbour wall and car park surface at North Pier, Oban. This was necessary due to the long term effect of wave action washing out fine material within the pier structure.

#### Business Outcome 24 – Waste is disposed of sustainably

1. Joint procurement with West Dunbartonshire Council and Inverclyde Council - the shared service focuses on residual and bulky waste to provide a long term compliant solution for the aforementioned material within the Helensburgh and Lomond area. The ultimate focus being compliance with the looming ban on Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) being sent to landfill. Tender responses are due within May 2019. Evaluation will take place thereafter by officers from all 3 authorities.

#### Key Challenges and Actions Completed In Previous Quarter

## (EDST)

## Business Outcome 27 – Infrastructure and assets are fit for purpose

Challenge - Helensburgh Waterfront Development Project - Securing planning permission for the project.
 Action - The project team undertook significant work to remodel the flood risk and wave overtopping scenarios for the project following the publication of the UK Climate Change Predictions in 2019, and to address the technical objections raised. This required the distillation of what was very complex and specialist technical information into a format that could be readily understood and evaluated by those considering the planning application.

# (RAS)

## Business Outcome 14 – Our transport infrastructure is safe and fit for purpose

1. **Challenge** - The Council operates 5 link spans at main ferry ports – Craignure, Port Askaig, Campbeltown, Rothesay and Dunoon. A review and inspection of all these assets has now commenced with a view to setting up new maintenance and management contracts. A plan will also be produced with costs and timescales indicating any major works required to be carried out. An engineer has been seconded to Marine Services from Royal Haskoning.

Action - Review of all Council link-spans progressing, initial assessments have been completed with any necessary maintenance work now being progressed to ensure that the link spans continue to be serviceable and fit for purpose.

2. **Challenge** - Responding to Weather conditions which would affect the roads network whilst preparing for winter standby and winter weather treatments.

Action - Despite a delay in getting gritting vehicles and issues with Gulliver's going into liquidation staff in operations and Fleet have worked tirelessly to ensure the 17 hired gritters remained within Argyll and Bute throughout the winter period. This displayed a real team effort and has mitigated against a public backlash had we lost the vehicles as was requested by the liquidators. We have continued to ensure gritting was carried out as per our standard operating procedures with no real time road closures and limited disruption to local communities.

3. **Challenge** - Creating a fit for purpose traffic management plan for parking in and around our towns, which will balance the local community's needs with tourist needs.

Action - Due to responding to objections and representations ahead of going to Area Committee, the Duck Bay and Mull traffic orders have not been delivered in this financial year. This will mean a loss of income of approx. £60,000.

#### **Short-term Operational Challenges**

#### <u>EDST</u>

1. Hermitage Park - Lot 1, the new Pavilion, is currently 32 weeks over the contracted date and is undergoing final snagging works. The Lot 2 landscape and conservation contractor will return in April 2019 to complete works around the pavilion. The anticipated completion date for the park of Summer 2019 is our target with a potential formal opening later in the year, August or September 2019, although our aim is to open the Pavilion café as soon as is possible. The team are continuing to manage budget pressures and apply for funding however the current projected budget position projects a shortfall. Final costs will be known after the end of both contracts, which terminate in June 2019. A final cost report will be prepared for 15th August P&R.

## <u>PHRS</u>

- 1. The average determination period of 'all local' applications increased during FQ4 from 10 weeks to 10.2 weeks and the average response time for pre-application enquiries during FQ4 decreased from 69% to 56.7%. Performance has been impacted by reduced resources in MAKI for an extended time period and has also been below expected levels in OLI as a result of a requirement to commit officer resources to a Judicial Review during FQ4. Performance has also been impacted by efforts during FQ4 to reduce the number of legacy files required to meet Planning Performance Framework targets. Performance is expected to return to target levels during FQ1 19/20.
- 2. Service Redesign has been implemented during the latter part of FQ3 resulting in changes to the management arrangements of the area teams. Whilst proposals are intended to deliver a seamless transition with appropriate handover periods for all staff involved there is potential for such significant change in the management structure and expected retirement of an experienced member of staff to have a short term negative impact upon performance relating to timeliness of determinations.
- 3. Operational capacity of the shared BS / DM Admin Support service remains depleted following the loss of one staff member on secondment from Jan 2019 and another on maternity leave from February 2019. Recruitment has been completed with new starts taking up post in March and April. Whilst workload is being shared amongst the wider BS / DM Admin Support team there is the potential that during periods of staff absence this could impact upon the speed of determination and delay in tasks being completed for both DM and BS.
- 4. Accelerate the delivery of the Food Control Improvement Plan, the Trading Standards Improvement Plan and deliver the Food Standards Scotland (FSS) Audit Action Plan. Work is ongoing in the delivery of these plans. Further evidence was provided to FSS to demonstrate progress however they have taken some time to respond. A further meeting is planned for May to clarify the position in terms of the Audit report.

#### RAS

<ul><li>This project is about providing infrastructurphase and meets the community's need.</li><li>2. Lack of long term commitment from Transcreates a challenge and cost pressure to the second secon</li></ul>	ure that will be fit for the next 60+ years, which sport Scotland regarding the transfer of ferry s he Council in terms of subsidy which is being a	oital projects the Council has undertaken in recent time. In allows for continuity of service during the construction services from the Council to Scottish Government. This applied to the lifeline services.
Key Challenges and Actions to address the Ch		
Business Outcome BO05 Information and support		
1. Challenge – To work towards delivering the re	•	g and governance arrangements are in place. Update to
be provided to the next Policy and Resources	•	is and governance an angements are in place. Opdate to
be provided to the next rolley and Resources	committee.	
Carried Forward From Previous Quarter – Y	Completion Due Date: Ongoing	Responsible Person: Regulatory Services Manager
engagement with the civil contingency fra	ed and met its remit. Risks have been fully ev	aluated, an Action Plan developed, there is strong nsure that the Council and HSCP are prepared for EU inster and the EU.
Carried Forward From Previous Quarter – Y	Completion Due Date: Ongoing	Responsible Person: Regulatory Services Manager
Key Challenges and Actions to address the Ch	nallenges	
Business Outcome 12 – High Standards of Public	-	
better direct its resources more effectivel Food Standard Scotland (FSS) audit. The	the plan within the agreed milestones. To red y to meet the statutory framework for food at development and training of new staff, and se	r improvement agenda esign the delivery of the environmental health service and uthorities, and to complete the actions required from the ecuring arrangements to recruit to vacant posts. Deliver for environmental health and trading standards.

Carried Forward From Previous Quarter – N	Completion Due Date: 30/09/2019	Responsible Person: Regulatory Services Manager							
Key Challenges and Actions to address the C	Challenges	1							
Business Outcome 27 – Infrastructure and assets are fit for purpose									
1. Challenge - Maintain an LDP Less Than Five Years Old.									
	trategic decision has been taken to delay LDP2 s								
		Nembers & SMT (10 <sup>th</sup> June Seminar) prior to submission							
		document avoiding mistakes before Examination, and							
-		od outside holidays. Delay of LDP2 adoption till Jan 2021							
is not considered to pose any significant	risk to the Council given healthy housing land su	pply and the continuing relevance of the existing LDP.							
Carried Forward From Previous Quarter – Y	Completion Due Date: Jan 2021	Responsible Person: Senior Planning and Strategies Officer							
Key Challenges and Actions to address the C	Challenges	1							
Business Outcome 27 – Infrastructure and asset									
of the conservation officer who was on r workload pressure within the LDP work Conservation Area Appraisals means tha	naternity leave until January 2019. Cover arrang (as above) and the extended length of consultation t the planned timetable of work slipped. In addit	to deliver 2 conservation area appraisals in the absence gements had been planned within the LDP team, but on period that was required for the Slate Island ion it is now necessary for the Design and Conservation							
officer to support the development polic									
		roposed plan completed. As a twin track, consultants							
	now planned that these should all be reported to	n. This is in partnership with Economic Development and							
consultation process to be started.									
Carried Forward From Previous Quarter – Y Completion Due Date: FQ4 19/20 Responsible Person: Senior Planning and Strategies Officer									
Key Challenges and Actions to address the C	Challenges (EDST)								
Business Outcome 23 – Economic Growth is Sup									
I. Challenge - Secure a Rural Growth Deal I	Heads of Terms Agreement with the Scottish and	I UK Governments committing both governments to a							

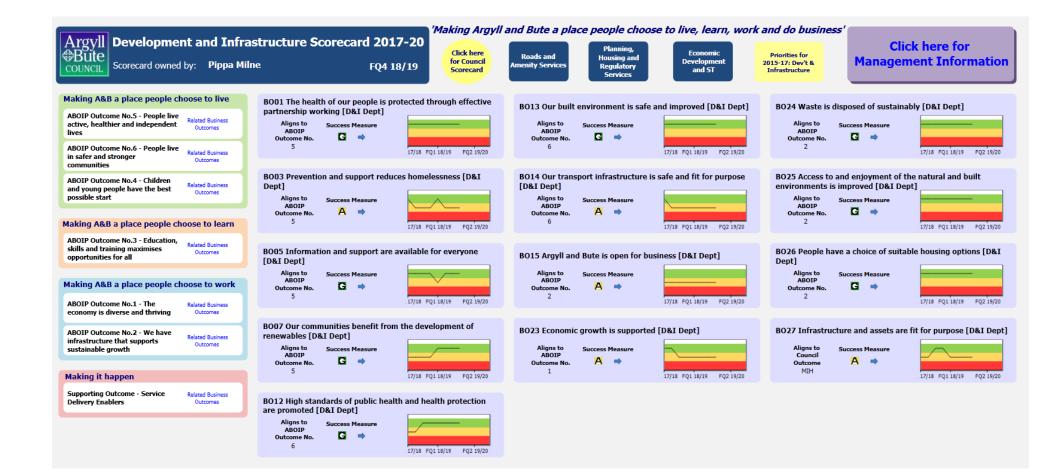
Infrastructure Team continue to liaise wit Terms Agreement in 2019. Site visits with also continue to investigate opportunities this is the work with Scottish Canals regar	h key civil servants in the Scottish and UK Gover the civil servants have been arranged for May to accelerate the delivery of Rural Deal project	ber 2018, staff from the Strategic Transportation and rnments and are committed to achieving a Heads of 2019 with ministerial visits proposed for June 2019. We s using alternative sources of funding. An example of ultural Heritage Fund to deliver improvements to Mid Argyll.
Carried Forward From Previous Quarter – Y	Completion Due Date: 2019	Responsible Person: Head of Service/Strategic Transportation and Infrastructure Manager
		Transportation and infrastructure Manager
Key Challenges and Actions to address the C	nallenges	
Business Outcome 23 – Economic Growth is Supp	ported	
markets and support economic growth as <b>Action</b> - The Strategic Transportation Tea support of priority transport intervention Scotland and their associated consultants	part of the National Transport Strategy (NTS2), m are currently liaising with key stakeholders ar s that the Council will lobby the Scottish Govern	ort infrastructure required to improve access to key / Strategic Transport Project Review (STPR) 2 process. Ind local businesses to compile a portfolio of evidence in Imment to include as part of the revised STPR. Transport a seminar on the 17th June 2019. This process also oposition.
Carried Forward From Previous Quarter – N	Completion Due Date: TBC	Responsible Person: Strategic Transportation and
		Infrastructure Manager
Key Challenges and Actions to address the Cl		
Key Challenges and Actions to address the C Business Outcome 23 – Economic Growth is Supp	nallenges ported	Infrastructure Manager
<ul> <li>Key Challenges and Actions to address the Cl</li> <li>Business Outcome 23 – Economic Growth is Supp</li> <li>Challenge - Secure a successful PSO air se continuation of PSO flights from Oban Air commencing in October 2019.</li> </ul>	nallenges ported rvices contract and work with potential operato port in the period between the existing contrac	Infrastructure Manager ors to establish interim air services which ensure the t finishing in May 2019 and the new contract
<ul> <li>Key Challenges and Actions to address the Cl</li> <li>Business Outcome 23 – Economic Growth is Supp</li> <li>Challenge - Secure a successful PSO air secontinuation of PSO flights from Oban Air commencing in October 2019.</li> <li>Action - The PSO air services contract is coriginal tender being abandoned. The recomes to an end on 15th May 2019 and the Transportation and Infrastructure Management</li> </ul>	hallenges ported rvices contract and work with potential operato port in the period between the existing contrac urrently out to tender following a non-complian -tender was published on 7th March 2019 and P he new contract following re-tender is not plan	Infrastructure Manager
<ul> <li>Key Challenges and Actions to address the Cl</li> <li>Business Outcome 23 – Economic Growth is Supp</li> <li>Challenge - Secure a successful PSO air secontinuation of PSO flights from Oban Air commencing in October 2019.</li> <li>Action - The PSO air services contract is coriginal tender being abandoned. The recomes to an end on 15th May 2019 and the Transportation and Infrastructure Management</li> </ul>	nallenges ported rvices contract and work with potential operato port in the period between the existing contrac urrently out to tender following a non-complian -tender was published on 7th March 2019 and P he new contract following re-tender is not plant er supported by colleagues in Procurement are	Infrastructure Manager brs to establish interim air services which ensure the t finishing in May 2019 and the new contract t submission by the incumbent operator resulting in the has a closing date of 2nd May 2019. The current contract hed to start until 16th October 2019 – The Strategic

Business Outcome 27 – Infrastructure and assets	are fit for purpose
---	---------------------

for materials and fuels rose by 4.7% in the engineering contractors and 82% of main the final quarter of 2017, with the expect price growth for both 2019 and 2020, in budget due to the delay in securing plan Action - The project team will continue to any there might be for Value Engineerin	he year through January 2018, and accordin in construction contractors reported higher ctation that 2018 would show a similar tren icreasing in the longer term to 1.5% in 2021 nning approval following community counci to monitor market data/trends during the p og options, should the tender prices be unab	procurement exercise, as well as considering what potential if ffordable.
Carried Forward From Previous Quarter – N	Completion Due Date: Aug 2019	Responsible Person: Helensburgh Waterfront Development Project Manager
Key Challenges and Actions to address the		
<ul> <li>Business Outcome 27 – Infrastructure and asser</li> <li>Challenge - Deliver the Helensburgh, Ca</li> <li>Action - Council Officers continue to eng</li> </ul>	rdross and Dumbarton Cycleway	1 of the route, with agreements to access necessary land
Committee and Council meetings in June for the route linking Cardross and Dumb that we require to undertake a further o consultation is to be undertaken as part any risk of delay to the delivery of phase	e. A design contract for phase 2 has been a barton by Spring 2020. SUSTRANS, one of the community consultation on phase 1 route b of the planned community consultation or a 1 of the cycleway.	se Order (CPO) recommendation is to be presented to the Area awarded to WSP Consultancy to complete the design required he main funding partners for the cycleway, have instructed before they will fund any further construction. This in the route of phase 2 in April/May 2019. This will minimise
Carried Forward From Previous Quarter – N	Completion Due Date: TBC	Responsible Person: Strategic Transportation and Infrastructure Manager
Key Challenges and Actions to address the	Challenges (RAS)	
<ul> <li>Business Outcome 14 - Our Infrastructure is Sa</li> <li>1. Challenge - Maintain assets to keep Arg Action - Roads and Amenity will allocate Management Plan (SAMP) and associate will need to be managed in a way that e revenue and capital budgets in a holistic</li> </ul>	fe and Fit for Purpose yll and Bute open for business. e the nominal capital resources in line with ed documents. This means that there will b ensures a good level of service provision is p	the various asset management plans, the Strategic Asset e backlog maintenance demands over most asset groups which provided. There will also be a focus on considering both the enue costs wherever possible. Many of these types of schemes ahead) for most asset groups is essential.

\_\_\_\_\_

Carried Forward From Previous Quarter – N	Completion Due Date: Ongoing	Responsible Person: Principal Engineer					
Key Challenges and Actions to address the C	hallenges						
Business Outcome 14 - Our Infrastructure is Saf							
<ol> <li>Challenge - Fleet Review - capital funds h and priority will be given to essential pur Action - Liaise with Finance team and He</li> </ol>	have been identified however the available fund chases only.	s are insufficient to fulfil a full replacement programme ed beyond the spend for the next two years ensuring purpose.					
Carried Forward From Previous Quarter – N	Completion Due Date: Ongoing	Responsible Person: Fleet, Waste and Infrastructure Manager					
Key Challenges and Actions to address the C	hallenges	·					
<ul> <li>Business Outcome 14 - Our Infrastructure is Safe and Fit for Purpose</li> <li>Challenge - RAS has recently been through a transformation with a Control Hub beginning operationally. Some very experienced staff have taken retirement and others are now being asked to do slightly different jobs as we amalgamate Road with Amenity Services. This has left some key areas where we are also having to recruit and will mean staff covering much larger areas until we have a full complement of trained staff. Action - Staff are being provided training where appropriate as well as appropriate levels of leadership support to enable staff to adjust in to the new positions. Staff are adjusting well with changing workloads and appropriate levels of support and leadership will continue to be provided.</li> <li>Carried Forward From Previous Quarter – Y</li> <li>Completion Due Date: Ongoing</li> <li>Responsible Person: Head of Service/Networks and Standards Manager</li> </ul>							
Key Challenges and Actions to address the C	hallenges						
Action - A draft Waste Strategy was appr	e Municipal Waste (BMW) landfill ban in January oved at EDI in March 2019. The completed stra						
Carried Forward From Previous Quarter – Y	Completion Due Date: July 2019	Responsible Person: Fleet, Waste and Infrastructure Manager					



Argyll Bute	
COUNCIL	

Development and Infrastructure Scorecard 2017-20 FQ4 18/19 Scorecard owned by: Pippa Milne

Click here for Full Scorecard

# **Management Information**

RESOURCES			- ·			
People		Benchmark	Target		Status	Trend
Sickness Absence DI			2.98 Days	3.13 Days	R	1
DI % of PRDs completed			90 %	93 %	G	1
Financial		Budge	et F	Forecast	Status	Trend
Finance Revenue totals DI		£K 33,0	70 <u>£</u>	K 32,301	R	1
Capital forecasts - current year DI						
Capital forecasts - total project DI						
Asset management red risks	6	On tra	ack	5	R	

IMPROVEMENT						Status	
Improvement Plan		Total No	Off track	On track	Complet	e	
Outcomes DI	Actions	27	1	16	10	A	⇒
			_			<i></i>	
DI Services Audit	R	Overdu	e Due	in future	Future	- off tar	get
Recommendations		2 🗖	• 17	1	0	-	
Customer Service D	[	C	ustomer sati	sfaction	96 %	G	Ŷ
Customer Charter		S	tage 1 Comp	laints	68 %	R	1
Number of consultations		Stage 2 Complaints		89 %	G	t	