

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services)

Planning Committee: 6 June 2007

Subject : National Planning Framework 2

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To advise the Committee of the preparation of the second National Planning Framework (NPF), and to seek nominations for two members of the Committee to attend a seminar to contribute to the process of preparing the second National Planning Framework.

2. Background

- 2.1** Scotland's first NPF was published in April 2004 and was subsequently reported to this Committee. The document is a statement of policy and is intended to guide the spatial development of Scotland to 2025. It set out a development strategy which includes promoting environmental quality to spread the benefits of economic activity, improving infrastructure and enabling disadvantaged communities to benefit from growth and opportunity.
- 2.2** In terms of the strategy impacting on West Dunbartonshire it identifies the Clyde Corridor as an Economic Development Zone and this very much follows the Metropolitan Flagship Initiative identified in the Glasgow & the Clyde Valley Joint Structure Plan. It recognises the role that the regeneration of the Clydebank Riverside can make to the economic and social renewal of this key strategic location through mixed-use development.
- 2.3** It also made reference to West Dunbartonshire in the spatial perspective for the Central Belt. It recognises the need to ensure West Dunbartonshire is fully integrated into the economy of the central belt and acknowledges that there are environmental, recreational and economic opportunities associated with the Forth and Clyde Canal. The role of the National Park in promoting a strong tourism and leisure economy is also indicated, with the importance of transport links to and through West Dunbartonshire being crucial in order to capitalise on this opportunity.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 puts the National Planning Framework on a statutory footing. Scottish Ministers intend to use the NPF to promote a national debate about Scotland's long-term development and to help deliver developments of national importance. It is therefore important that key development locations within West Dunbartonshire are recognised within the second NPF, and that both officers and Members play leading roles to ensure this occurs.
- 3.2** It is important that the Clyde Corridor continues to be recognised as being of national importance. Clydebank waterfront is a key component of this area, and its continued recognition as a national priority will ensure that funds continue to be allocated to the regeneration of this area.
- 3.3** The first NPF recognised the importance of ensuring West Dunbartonshire is properly integrated into the city region. With the National Park being a key leisure and tourism location, it is important that other parts of the Council area maximize the opportunities that the National Park offers. The Council has taken a lead in the creation of Strathleven Regeneration Company, the formation of Alexandria Regeneration Forum, the establishment of the Bowling Task Force and has taken forward projects to regenerate the town centre and related waterfront area of Dumbarton. It would be appropriate for these development locations to be recognised collectively under the banner of the Strathleven Corridor and supported through the second NPF.
- 3.4** It is important that the Council participates in helping to shape the strategy of the next NPF, which will set a context for future Development Plans. Officers have already been asked to make written representations on the next NPF. It would also be beneficial for the Committee to take up the offer for two representatives to attend the forthcoming NPF seminar at COSLA on 29 June 2007.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** There are no financial issues.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** There are no known risks.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1** With the NPF establishing the framework for development plans, establishing a long term spatial strategy for Scotland and guiding the delivery of national programmes on growth and regeneration, it is essential that West Dunbartonshire Council effectively engages in the process. The inclusion of projects under the Strathleven Corridor banner would highlight regeneration projects from Bowling to Dumbarton and the Vale of Leven as being of high priority, which may in turn assist with securing additional funding opportunities

8. Recommendations

8.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- **note the start of the process for preparing the second National Planning Framework; and**
- **nominate two Members of the Committee to attend the NPF Seminar at COSLA on 29 June 2007.**

Irving Hodgson

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Date : 21 May 2007

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Appendices: None

Background Papers: National Planning Framework 2004
Letter from Scottish Executive May 2007

Wards Affected: All