

Community Participation Committee

1. Membership/Arrangements for Meetings

- 1.1 The membership of the Community Participation Committee is composed of 10 Members of the Council and representatives of local community based organisations. Community representation is by means of:-
- West Dunbartonshire Access Panel - 1 member.
 - West Dunbartonshire Community Council Forum – 2 members.
 - West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum (Health) – 1 member.
 - West Dunbartonshire Minority Ethnic Association – 1 member.
 - West Dunbartonshire Seniors' Association – 1 member.
 - Tenants & Residents Associations – 2 members (Currently Dalmuir Multi Storey Flats Tenants and Residents Group - 1 place currently vacant for the Dumbarton/Vale of Level Area).
 - West Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice Service (Money Advice/Poverty) - 1 member.
 - Gingerbread Scotland (Lone Parents) - 1 member.
 - Neighbourhood Forums – 2 members (Currently Bellsmyre and Faifley)
 - Community Forums (Clydebank, Dumbarton and Vale of Leven – 1 place each) – 3 places.
 - 2 places are available on a rotational basis for additional individual groups which express an interest in involvement. These places are rotated by ballot every 2 years.
- 1.2 The quorum of the Community Participation Committee will be 3 Elected Members.
- 1.3 In addition to the power to establish Sub-Committees, the Community Participation Committee will have the power to establish Working Groups to examine and report on specific issues.
- 1.4 Meetings will take place every three months. Community members of the committee can request that appropriate items are placed on the agenda of the Committee for consideration. In addition, agendas will include an Open Forum which will provide the opportunity for members of the public to raise issues for consideration by the Committee.

2. Role and Remit

2.1. General

The Community Participation Committee will be a central forum where the community can make its views known and influence Council decision making within the framework of the formal committee structure. All recommendations

of the Community Participation Committee will be considered by Council, or by the appropriate Committee.

The general remit of the Community Participation Committee will be:-

- To ensure that the Council maintains appropriate mechanisms to encourage and support the development of local community based organisations.
- To provide a forum for obtaining the views of community based organisations.
- To co-ordinate discussion and action on issues raised by community groups and forums.
- To consider comments and suggestions from community based organisations about Council services.
- To consider, promote, and monitor Council consultation arrangements, participation structures and policies and also wider public involvement structures and community engagement arrangements.
- To encourage Social Inclusion and Equality.
- To encourage Health Improvement.
- To co-ordinate community involvement in the ongoing development and review of the Council's Decentralisation Scheme – 'Involving Communities' - (in terms of the Local Government Etc. (Scotland) Act 1994, to monitor the progress of the Scheme, and to make recommendations to Council on the nature of decentralisation in West Dunbartonshire and on any delegation of power.
- To promote community involvement in partnership working and to consider matters relating to community involvement in partnership working in West Dunbartonshire.
- To consider matters relating to Community Councils.
- To consider matters relating to the Voluntary Sector.
- To receive information about Council services, policies and associated business.

The Committee may make recommendations to Council or Committees on any, or all, of the above.

2.2. Specific Issues Referred by Services

The Community Participation Committee will have a role in the consideration of some specific issues referred by the Chief Executive and Executive Directors responsible for the development and management of specific services. Such issues could include:

- Public facilities and events.
- Proposals for new or amended services.
- Equalities in all Council services.

Nevertheless, the Committees directly responsible for services will also be required to ensure there are opportunities for direct contact with the relevant service users. This will be the first responsibility, and appropriate

arrangements may or may not include the Community Participation Committee. (It is recognised that the Community Participation Committee would not have the capacity to provide comment on every issue requiring comment from service users.)

2.3. Delegated Powers

The Community Participation Committee does not have delegated powers and makes recommendations to Council or the appropriate Committee.