

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Audit & Performance Review Committee: 14 March 2007

Subject: Review of Audit & Performance Review Committee (A&PRC)

1. Purpose

- 1.1** This report informs Committee of the progress on the review of the A&PRC.

2. Background

- 2.1** At a meeting of Council on 28 June 2006, a report was submitted by the Chief Executive on issues relating to the remit of the Audit and Performance Review Committee in order to meet the requirements identified in the Council's draft Best Value Improvement Plan.
- 2.2** At the same meeting, Council instructed the Chief Executive to work out a programme of consultation on the role of scrutiny and wider involvement in that scrutiny, and report back to a future meeting of the Council.
- 2.3** The review of the A&PRC is part of the wider process of consultation on the role of scrutiny.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** A survey questionnaire has been developed to assess the views of elected members and senior officers on a range of options for arrangements for the A&PRC, with a view to increasing scrutiny and improving the quality of that scrutiny.
- 3.2** The survey questionnaire will issued towards the end of February/beginning of March.
- 3.3** Hexagon Research and Consulting has been commissioned to follow up the survey questionnaire with focus groups. The focus groups will provide the opportunity to tease out options and discuss any areas which need further clarification.
- 3.4** The preferred options will be reported to the first appropriate Council meeting thereafter.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** A sum of £2,200 has been approved from the Best Value Improvement Plan budget, to run the focus groups.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** There is a risk that the currently large agendas of the A&PRC limit the level of scrutiny. There is therefore a risk in not undertaking a review of the current operation.
- 6.2** There is also a risk of not achieving the participation of non-administration elected members in the committee.
- 6.3** These factors indicate a risk of not meeting the requirements of the Best Value Improvement plan on increasing scrutiny.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1** The review of the A&PRC will be most effective if all Elected Members and relevant senior officers participate fully in it.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1** Committee is invited to note the contents of this report.
- 8.2** Elected Members are encouraged to participate fully in responding to the questionnaire and taking part in the focus groups and encouraging their colleagues to do so.

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David McMillan
Chief Executive
Date: 1 March 2007

Person to Contact: Anne Clegg, Policy Officer, ext 7177

Background Papers: Remit of the Audit and Performance Review Committee, A&PRC, 08-03-06
Remit, Timetable and Membership - Audit and Performance Review Committee, A&PRC, 21-06-06

Wards Affected: All wards