

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Corporate & Efficient Governance Committee: 28 May 2008

Subject: Sustainable Development Strategy

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide information on the Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan for 2008-2009.

2. Background

- 2.1** The duty of Best Value in the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 requires that 'the local authority shall discharge its duties under this section in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development'.
- 2.2** The Audit Scotland Report (February 2007) stated that the Council had made limited progress in developing its approach to sustainable development and could not monitor and evaluate the impact of operations in respect of social, economic and environmental sustainability.
- 2.3** The Audit Scotland Report also highlighted that the Council planned to develop performance measures and Quality of Life indicators to measure and assess the Council's impact with regard to sustainable development.
- 2.4** As part of the Best Value Improvement Plan, the Council made a commitment to producing a Sustainable Development Strategy.
- 2.5** A Sustainable Development Working Group has been in operation since September 2005 and a Sustainable Development Officer has been in post since April 2007.
- 2.6** A draft of the Sustainable Development Strategy was submitted to the Corporate & Efficient Governance Committee in September 2007 for comment.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** A Sustainable Development Strategy has been produced which examines sustainable development work in West Dunbartonshire. It considers sustainability in the current and planned work of the Council and sets out objectives for future measures required to consolidate sustainable development in West Dunbartonshire.

3.2 A draft Action Plan covering the period 2008-2009 has been produced for consultation. The actions in the Action Plan will be undertaken by the responsible service. As departmental service planning is still being finalised, this will influence the final Action Plan. It is intended to submit an update of the Action Plan to the Corporate & Efficient Governance Committee in October 2008.

3.3 In keeping with the principles of sustainability and with a view to reducing paper waste as a result of publishing numerous copies of the Strategy and Action Plan document, this document (an appendix to this report) will be published on CMIS and made available on disc and via email so it may still be printed by those who require a paper copy but will save on paper and printing where copies are not required.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 If the Sustainable Development Strategy is not approved, West Dunbartonshire Council could be subject to negative appraisal in the follow-up Audit of Best Value and Community Planning in terms of its approach to Sustainable Development.

7. Conclusions

7.1 The Council made a commitment to improving sustainable development as part of the Best Value Improvement Plan.

7.2 A Sustainable Development Strategy has now been produced and the accompanying Action Plan for 2008-2009 is now available for consultation among Members and relevant Council officers and the wider community.

8. Recommendations

8.1 It is recommended the Committee:-

- (a) approve the Sustainable Development Strategy 2008-2012; and
- (b) consider the consultative draft Action Plan for 2008-2009 and agree that an updated Action Plan be submitted in October 2008.

.....
David McMillan
Chief Executive
Date: 12 May 2008

Person to Contact: Cheryl Gallacher
Sustainable Development Officer
Policy Unit, 3rd Floor, Garshake
01389 73 7855
cheryl.gallacher@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendices: Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan 2008-2009.

With a view to reducing paper waste, the Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan 2008-2009 is available to download from CMIS as a word document or pdf document. Copies via email or on disc are also available upon request from the Policy Unit, 01389 737 231.

Background Papers: Sustainable Development Strategy. Corporate & Efficient Governance Committee, 26 September 2007.

Wards Affected: All wards.