

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

**Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee:
8 December 2010**

Subject: Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee - Forward Plan

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The mid year performance review for Housing, Environment and Economic Development provides Members with an up to date position as to progress on key actions/projects. The purpose of this report is to highlight for Members those issues that will come to the Committee for decision over the course of the next six months.

2. Background

- 2.1** The departmental plan for the Housing, Environmental and Economic Development department was approved by Committee in June 2010. The plan covers 2010/14 and specifically those actions that require to be taken during 2010/11 to progress the priorities the plan identified.
- 2.2** The performance management framework results in plans being monitored through departmental senior management teams and reported formally to Members twice yearly. The mid year progress report on the Housing, Environmental and Economic Development departmental plan is presented to Committee on 8 December 2010.
- 2.3** The review of the plan shows that a significant number of issues have been moved forward positively with matters within the remit of the Committee being brought to Committee for decision in accordance with the Councils' Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegation to officers.
- 2.4** To assist officers in improving their planning and support Members in highlighting issues for early engagement and likely decision making over the next six months, a forward plan for each service Committee is being developed. This plan is not intended to be exhaustive but will provide clarity for Members on key issues likely to be explored and presented for decision over the next six to twelve months.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The key departmental objectives set out in the 2010/14 plan are:

1. Regenerate in a properly planned, co-ordinated, inclusive and sustainable manner.
2. Reduce unemployment and benefit dependency
3. Attract and support the development of new and emerging business and support the sustainability and growth of existing businesses.
4. Improve the mix, quantity, quality, location, access, equality and affordability in West Dunbartonshire.
5. Contribute to health and well being within the community.
6. Improve the quality and enjoyment of West Dunbartonshire's environment.
7. Improve overall service performance, self awareness, people management and cost effectiveness of services.
8. Improve asset management.

3.2 The key actions contained within the service plan are designed to support these departmental objectives which are complimentary to the Councils' overall Corporate Objectives providing a focus for officers within the service. The last six months has seen the Committee consider and make decisions on a number of key areas which support these actions and as a consequence the Councils' Corporate Objectives moving forward including:

June

- Sale of Play Drome Site and New Leisure Centre at Queens Quay, Clydebank
- Competitiveness Review
- Service Plan 2010 - 2014

August

- Public Service Improvement Framework (PSIF) Improvement Plan
- Housing Inspection Improvement Plan

October

- Alternative Weekly Waste Collection System - Phase 1: Implementation Appraisal and Phase 2 Implementation Plan
- Winter Maintenance Strategy 2010/11
- Achieving the Abolition of Priority Need Target
- Tenants' Communication Strategy
- Leisure Trust Options
- Stock Transfer Packages

3.3 Over the course of the coming seven months the following items will require to be considered by this Committee to support the strategic agenda moving forward. The list below is not intended to be exhaustive but to bring to the attention of Members the most significant issues that will arise for decision over the coming period. These matters will include:

- Economic Development Strategy
- Stock Transfer selection of bidders
- New leisure facility - Clydebank
- Rationalisation of Community facilities/Pricing Structure
- Governance arrangements for Leisure Trust
- Review of Sustainable Development Strategy
- Progress on the Carbon Management Plan
- Departmental Financial Strategy
- CCTV in West Dunbartonshire
- Implementation of Phase 2 Alternative Week Collection
- Housing Maintenance DLO - Financial Performance/Use of Surplus
- Housing Improvement Plan - Progress Report
- Strategic Housing Investment Plan
- Local Housing Strategy

Members will note that the above issues in the main represent those strategic issues which support the delivery of wider Council objectives. In addition, reports will be submitted for consideration which allow Members to fulfil their scrutiny role particularly in relation to service performance and financial management.

4. People Implications

4.1 People implications arising from the reports referred to above will be considered and incorporated within the content of the relevant documents and where appropriate will be the subject of consultation with the Trade Unions.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Financial Implications of specific issues will be outlined in the relevant reports.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 Improved planning and performance management alongside early engagement of Members is considered key activity in improving the Councils performance overall. It is anticipated that highlighting these key issues for Members will assist in providing clarity over the issues that will come to Members for decision and give Members an early opportunity to seek information in relation to these matters should this be necessary.

- 6.2** In advance of reports coming to Members for decision it will be incumbent on officers to provide opportunities for Members to engage early with these issues consistent with previous commitments.

7. Equalities Impact

- 7.1** None.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 8.1** The departmental plan 2010/14 for Housing, Environmental and Economic Development department approved by Members in June 2010 sets out clearly the actions and priorities for the service in contributing to the Council's wider corporate objectives. This forward plan for Committee seeks to highlight those issues that Members can expect to be presented for decision over the coming months in an effort to further improve forward planning and performance management.
- 8.2** It is recommended that the Committee agree that the items outlined in paragraph 3.3 come to Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee for decision by no later than June 2011.

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Date: 29 November 2010

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Appendix: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All