



Report by the Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability

Community Alliance

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019

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**Subject: Community Empowerment Strategy**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to provide Alliance members with information on the development of a Community Empowerment Strategy and Action plan for West Dunbartonshire.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1** Community Alliance members are asked to note the content of the report and give consideration to the role of the Alliance in the development and implementation of the Strategy and Action plan.

**3. Background**

- 3.1** A partnership steering group was established to co-ordinate the development a Strategy and SCDC were appointed to lead on the consultation to develop the Strategy.
- 3.2** The Strategy and Action Plan will aim to transform the way the Council (and their partners) work with communities. It will support communities to be more resilient and take more control over the issues that matter to them, and set out the key things that need to be done in communities and by local services to make this happen. It will also support implementation of the Community Empowerment Act 2015, which is designed to make it easier for communities to influence how local services are delivered and how to make direct use of resources, like buildings, which Councils and other agencies own.

**4. Main Issues**

- 4.1** A series of consultation events were held including eight informal discussion events and three larger Shaping the Strategy events, also focus groups with staff and elected members. A first draft was developed in March 2018 for input from partners and a summarised version of the Strategy for further

consultation with key stakeholders. A newsletter was sent out widely in July to update on progress. A further round of public consultation will be held in August/ September 2019 before the Strategy and action plan are finalised for approval by Council and Community Planning Management Group.

- 4.2 The next round of consultation will consist of three further events, in Alexandria, Dumbarton and Clydebank. There will also be an online method for residents to give their views. A focus group will be set up to review the draft before it is finalised for approval by Council and Community Planning Management Group in November 2019.
- 4.3 The Community Alliance will have a key role in leading on the implementation of the Community Empowerment Strategy and Action plan which will have a transformative effect on citizens in West Dunbartonshire in building resilience and enabling residents to take steps to make their communities a better place to live.

## **5. People Implications**

- 5.1 There are no implications at this time.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 There are not anticipated financial implications at this time, however as it is an ambitious Strategy there could potentially be implications.

## **7. Risk Analysis**

- 7.1 There is an increasing drive nationally for community planning partners to work at an increased pace to deliver outcomes for communities and opportunities for resident involvement. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 sets a clear direction for involvement of communities in the design and delivery of services.
- 7.2 The strategy and action plan will promote empowerment and build capacity and resilience allowing local groups to contribute and become more active and involved across West Dunbartonshire.
- 7.3 There is a risk if the Strategy is not implemented of failure to comply with the Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015.

## **8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

- 8.1 An EIA is currently underway as part of the development of the Strategy. EIAs on any further aspects of the action plan will be carried out as required.

## **9 Consultation**

**9.1** A comprehensive consultation process has been carried out as part of the development of the strategy and further consultation is planned before it is finalised..

## **10. Strategic Assessment**

**10.1** Progressing work as outlined in this report ensures CPWD can deliver on the outcomes set in the Local Outcome improvement Plan.

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**Appendices:** None

**Background Papers:** None

**Wards Affected:** All