

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration & Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services)

Community Safety & Environmental Services Committee: 13 June 2007

Subject: Environmental Capital Budget 2007-2008

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee on the proposed programme of access and environmental projects in 2007/2008 and to seek authority for the allocation of funds to undertake the projects listed.

2. Background

- 2.1** The Council has produced the West Dunbartonshire Access Strategy Review (2007) and the Vale of Leven Access Action Plan (2002). The Clydebank to Bowling Access Action Plan was produced in 2004 and the Dumbarton Participatory Appraisal (2006) informs Core Path Planning priorities. Work has also commenced on preparing a Nature Conservation Strategy for West Dunbartonshire, and the preparation of an Open Space Strategy is being taken forward.
- 2.2** In accordance with developing and implementing these strategies a programme of capital projects is proposed. These works will ensure maximum benefit for the community, and it is expected additional funding will be forthcoming from the Council's partners. A capital allocation of £110,000 has been agreed for environmental projects throughout West Dunbartonshire in the current financial year, whilst there remains £36,000 in committed funds from last year's budget.
- 2.3** Additional funding is being sought from external sources, particularly Scottish Natural Heritage, who currently support the work of the Council with regard to access, the West Dunbartonshire Ranger Service and West Dunbartonshire Greenspace.

3. Main Issues

<u>Access & Environmental Improvements</u>	<u>£66,000</u>
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- 3.1** Projects, including those identified by the Vale of Leven and Clydebank to Bowling Access Action Plans and the Dumbarton Participatory Appraisal, will be developed and implemented maximising matched funding opportunities. The Council also has a statutory responsibility to prepare a Core Path Plan

and this will be taken forward this year. Environmental improvements enhance the appearance of West Dunbartonshire and it is intended to continue with such projects together with a number of the Council's key partners. In particular it is intended to build upon the success of the recently created Duntocher Village Green project, which, through joint working, has brought an area of derelict land back into productive public use, and a similar project is being considered for this year

<u>Enviro Squad</u>	<u>£20,000</u>
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- 3.2** The Enviro Squad is a valuable training resource for local people and contributes to the enhancement of the environment of West Dunbartonshire through focused environmental improvement projects.

<u>Greenspace & Environmental Education</u>	<u>£40,000</u>
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- 3.3** The West Dunbartonshire Greenspace Project continues to be successful in developing and implementing environmental improvement projects throughout West Dunbartonshire. It is proposed to continue to support the valuable work carried out by the project.

<u>Woodland Management</u>	<u>£20,000</u>
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- 3.4** The Council's award winning Pappert Well Community Woodland continues to be developed and managed to provide an important resource for West Dunbartonshire. Management operations are also proposed for Auchentoshan Woodland and funding from the Forestry Commission for Woodland in and Around Towns is also being pursued.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no known personnel issues.

5. Financial Issues

- 5.1** Provision has been made for these projects within the approved General Services capital programme.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** There are no known risks.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1** The proposed programme of access and environmental improvements set out the project priorities that will ensure maximum benefit for the community. It is

also intended that external sources of funding will be secured further assisting this process of improvement and enhancement.

8. Recommendation:

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee agree to support the proposed programme of capital projects through the following;

- £66,000 for Access & Environmental Improvements
- £20,000 for the Enviro Squad
- £40,000 for Greenspace and Environmental Education, and
- £20,000 for Woodland Management.

Irving Hodgson

**Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services
(Housing & Regeneration Services)**

Date : 18 May 2007

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Appendices : None

Background Papers: West Dunbartonshire Access Strategy
Vale of Leven Access Action Plan
Clydebank to Bowling Access Action Plan
Dumbarton Participatory Appraisal
West Dunbartonshire Greenspace Annual Report

Wards : All