

# **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Report by the Chief Executive**

**Council - Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2006**

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**Subject: West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership – Key Developments**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** This report provides members with an update on key developments within West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership, (CPP). Progress and key issues are reported to West Dunbartonshire Council on a quarterly basis – following CPP board meetings.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1** West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership was established in its current form at the beginning of 2005. The CPP is funded primarily by the Scottish Executive's Community Regeneration Fund (CRF), which is £13.3 million, on a tapering basis, over the 3 years from 2005/06 to 2007/08. The greatest proportion (80%), of the CRF is allocated to projects which deliver services in the most disadvantaged areas of West Dunbartonshire, (approximately the worst 17% as defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation – SIMD). The detail of this was set out in the Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA). There is currently no information about funding beyond 2007/08, but there could be a significant reduction in the funding available to West Dunbartonshire from April 2008 onwards.
- 2.2** The new CPP is now working on a range of issues which will be of relevance to Council, and which are outlined in paragraph 3.

### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1.** *Structure:* - The 3 main tiers of the CPP structure are established, although some elements are continuing to evolve to meet both national and local requirements. The 1<sup>st</sup> tier, the Board, is almost complete, although a space remains for a young person. The 2<sup>nd</sup> tier, the Partnership Development Group (previously the Partnership Regeneration Group) has the responsibility for driving the core Board agendas such as the development of the new Community Plan, (see paragraph 3.2), the ongoing sustainability of the CPP (see paragraph 3.3), and co-ordinating the overall approach to worklessness, (see paragraph 3.4). The 3<sup>rd</sup> tier, the Thematic Groups, which deliver on the agreed objectives, are at different stages of development. These groups involve all stakeholders in their work.

- Communities: This is established with a full agenda. It will address the issue of membership on an ongoing basis
- Safe, Attractive Communities: Currently the Community Safety Partnership addresses these issues in a Community Planning context. There remains a need to address the issue of Housing and its fit within this theme. Structures are being discussed with the Council and Communities Scotland.
- Health Improvement: This is established and focusing on developing its role aligned to the ROA. The group has carried out a review of its role, remit & membership in light of all developments over the past year and this has also looked at relationships between Community Planning and the Community Health Partnership. *The findings of this review are available in a separate paper.*
- Youth Strategy: This group is well established. It is focusing on service delivery issues, co-ordination of services and developing an Outcome Agreement for Young People. A Youth Outcome Agreement Framework has been designed and is currently being populated with information by partners. A sub-group is being formed to focus specifically on the Youth Strategy Employment theme and will also work with the Business Growth & Employability Strategy Group to help take forward the Partnership's worklessness theme in relation to young people. The Youth Trust will play a key role in this, to ensure that young people are central to the development of effective, innovative and user-led facilities across West Dunbartonshire. The new Trust's co-ordinator is now in post.
- Business Growth and Employability Strategy - Getting People Back Into Work: A new Thematic Group has been formed to take this theme forward. The 'Business Growth and Employability Strategy Group' had its first meeting on the 1st June and will link to the Dunbartonshire-wide Local Economic Forum and other local structures. Membership includes representatives from key partners such as the Council's Social Work and Economic Development Services, Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire, Job Centre Plus, and Careers Scotland. This group will play a central role in taking forward the priorities contained within the Scottish Executive's Employability Framework and NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Strategy, which were launched in mid-June. (A sub group led by Education will focus on the NEET developments.) The group will also oversee the review of partners' mainstream activity contributing to tackling worklessness and progressing the Closing the Opportunity Gap Target A. It is anticipated that the Business Growth and Employability Strategy Group will have a strong relationship with the Partnership Development Group, which oversees thematic strategy groups' activity to ensure reducing worklessness is taken forward as a cross-cutting Community Planning theme.
- Transport Forum: This group is exploring ways of supporting and developing transport within the structure to support other themes, mainly health, worklessness and Safe, Attractive Communities.
- In addition to the main groups outlined above, there are a number of sub groups which are part of the structure. Many of these were in existence prior to these new arrangements, but the aim is to ensure that all relevant groupings now have a clear role within the new structures.

- 3.2.** *A revised Community Plan* – The original Community Plan was agreed in 1999/2000, and now requires review. The target for completion of this process is December 2006. The Community Plan will cover the whole of West Dunbartonshire, (rather than just the priority regeneration areas which are the target of the ROA). An initial meeting to set the direction for the new Community Plan was held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2006. There will be opportunities throughout the rest of the year for all partners, (including elected members), and community representatives, to contribute to the Community Plan development. The development of the new Community Plan is being led by the Council and will be overseen by the 2<sup>nd</sup> tier of the CPP structure, the Partnership Development Group (PDG). The final timetable for the development of the new Community Plan was agreed by the CPP Board 14.8.06.
- 3.3.** *Sustainability of the Partnership* - The sustainability of the CPP beyond the current period of CRF is a major concern. The Partnership Board has agreed to look at models which might address this issue, and in particular has agreed to investigate a 'Regeneration Trust' model. Again the PDG has been given a specific responsibility to consider the options and report back to the Board. This investigation will take place over the summer/early autumn and a report will be made to a special Board meeting at the end of October.
- 3.4** *Tackling worklessness* – A main focus for the CPP is reducing the number of people not in work. Very specific targets have been set by the Scottish Executive. The review of CRF-funded projects contributing to worklessness has now been completed. A full report submitted and approved at the April Board meeting. The report brought forward proposals for realigning CRF-funded activity to deliver better, more joined-up services. A small working group has been formed to take these forward, including the launch of a major new initiative, 'Building Better Futures' which will develop a more streamlined delivery vehicle to help deliver on CtOG Target A of reducing Worklessness. The working group has also started to progress stage 3 of the review process, which considers partners' mainstream activity and will bring forward recommendations to improve the employability infrastructure in West Dunbartonshire. This programme of action has anticipated the requirements placed upon Community Planning by 'Workforce Plus', the Scottish Executive's national Employability Framework, which was launched on 12<sup>th</sup> June in West Dunbartonshire.
- Following the launch of 'Workforce Plus', the Executive announced its accompanying strategy, which focuses on CtOG Target B, to reduce the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) by 2008. Titled 'More Choices, More Chances', the strategy sets out the national and local partnership actions required to ensure young people receive the right support, both at pre and post 16, to ensure they do not go on to become part of the NEET group.
- The newly formed Business Growth and Employability Strategy Group, (see paragraph 3.1), will meet the Workforce Plus requirement to develop appropriate local partnership structures, and will also provide a mechanism to oversee progress towards the Employability Framework and NEET Strategy

priorities. The additional resources attached to these initiatives, amount to £820,000 per annum for the next two years (£400,000 per annum will support the NEET Strategy and £420,000 the Employability Framework). *Further detail is available in the report to the Community Planning Board 14.8.06.*

**3.5** *Financial Inclusion* - A total of £1.2 million has been allocated to West Dunbartonshire for 2006/07 and 07/08 to tackle financial exclusion across the area. This work is being developed by a working group of partners and agencies involved in the finance/information and advice sector, and is chaired by the Leader of the Council. The group has undertaken research which will establish a 'financial exclusion baseline' and generate performance management information for partners. Following work with partners and agencies involved in the finance/information and advice sector, proposals were submitted to the CPP Board and then to the Executive. Approval has now been received from the Executive which has enabled progress with establishing the initiative. Three strands of activity will deliver information and advice, awareness raising and education services, plus a Credit Union development pilot. Recruitment of staff is underway and the initiative will represent a key delivery strand under the umbrella of the Building Better Futures worklessness project. Full details on Financial Inclusion can be viewed on the Executive's website ([www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/people/social-inclusion/financial-inclusion](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/people/social-inclusion/financial-inclusion)).

**3.6** *ROA* - The ROA is continuing to develop, and most recently, attention has focused on the annual reporting cycle which required an annual report to be submitted to Communities Scotland at the end June 2006. Three key elements of performance were reported;

- CRF project outputs
- Partnership Development activity, and,
- Mainstreaming Equalities.

*Both the ROA and the Annual Report are available on request.* The document will be subject to regular updates as the Monitoring Framework evolves.

**3.7** *Better Neighbourhood Services Fund (BNSF)* - In line with conditions of grant, the final BNSF report, based on the achievements of West Dunbartonshire's pathfinder through its 'Year 4' Local Outcome Agreement, has now been submitted to the Scottish Executive for approval. The report presents evidence that better services have been provided to children and young people at neighbourhood level. During 2005/06, the majority of BNSF projects received continued funding through the Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) once their BNSF allocations were depleted. Several BNSF projects continue to be funded through CRF from 1 April 2006; however this is subject to the ongoing CPP review of all projects and, in particular, the 'Worklessness Service' review. *A copy of the final BNSF report is available on request.*

**3.8** *External Funding:* At the Board meeting in on 14.8.06, the CPP welcomed the Council's commitment in principle to second 2 officers to an External Funding Unit. Partners agreed to add their support to this initiative, on a pilot basis until April 2008, and this will now be progressed.

**3.9** *Civic Forum & Citizens' Panel* - Community Planning partners use a number of methods to consult with local people, the Civic Forum and the Citizen's panel are two of the central planks of this approach. The Civic Forum has been developed as the mechanism by which the wider community can gather information and feed into the CPP structures. The Forum meets 4 times per year, with themed meetings. The third Civic Forum was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> May and was attended by over 70 community representatives. The meeting was chaired by the Leader of the Council and focused on Health Improvement, with input from a range of speakers. Participants were then involved in discussion around particular health themes and issues during facilitated workshops in the second part of the meeting. Community members were also able to test a new electronic system for gathering instant feedback. 'Option Finder' uses an electronic keypad system for audience members to respond to multiple choice questions, the results are instantly gathered and displayed, enabling the participants to gauge overall views immediately. The next Forum will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> September, and will focus on the development of the new Community Plan.

In addition, up to £39k per annum for the next 3 years is available from the Community Voices Fund to support the Citizen's Panel. This is a postal questionnaire which is sent 4 times a year to a mailing list of 1200 local residents who have volunteered to respond to questions set on a variety of issues. The next survey, focussing on health issues, is due to be issued in September.

**3.10** *Information Sessions:* The CPP has initiated a series of Information Sessions to support joint working and add to the wider knowledge base. An information session on City Region Planning took place on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2006 with presentations from Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire and Clydebank Rebuilt. Feedback received through evaluation forms was very positive. Partners attending the event considered both presentations to be very interesting and informative. A tour of some of West Dunbartonshire's regeneration areas took place on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2006. A number of partners volunteered to research one of West Dunbartonshire's regeneration areas and present the information at this session. Whitecrook, Dalmuir, Brucehill, Castlehill and Haldane were included in the tour. Again, the feedback received was extremely positive and provided partners with greater insight into these areas and prevalent issues. Additional tours are being planned to include other regeneration areas within West Dunbartonshire.

Future information sessions are detailed below: Any members interested in attending any of these events should contact the Policy Unit or the CPP.

**Information Sessions for West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partners (September/October 2006):**

<b>Session</b>	<b>Contributors</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation: Tour of WD ROA target datazones	- Social Inclusion Officers (WD Community Planning Partnership) - CP Board members	September 2006 (exact date to be confirmed)	Bus tour of regeneration areas and visit to key projects in West Dunbartonshire.
The Social Economy/ Social Firms	- Blyth Deans (Lennox Partnership) - David Lyon (Ask Clyde) - Selina Ross (WD CVS)	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2006	To be confirmed

**4. Personnel Issues**

4.1 There are no personnel issues.

**5. Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no financial implications.

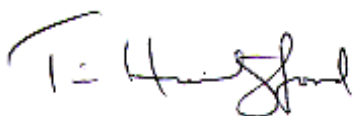
**6. Conclusions**

6.1 The CPP is continuing to develop on a number of fronts, details of the main issues are summarised in paragraph 3. The key issues include:

- The development of the new Community Plan
- The development of the approach to worklessness, including the Employability Framework and the NEET Strategy
- The longer term sustainability of the CPP

**7. Recommendations**

7.1 Members are requested to consider the information in this report, and to request further detail if required.




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**Background Papers:** Regeneration Outcome Agreement  
Minutes of CPP Board and PRG meetings  
BNSF Final Report – June 2006  
Review of Health Improvement Strategy Group, Item 11  
Board Papers 14.8.06  
Report on Worklessness, Item 5 Board Papers 14.8.06  
(All background papers are available from the CPP, the Policy Unit, or on the [Community Planning](#) pages of the Council's Intranet)

**Wards Affected:** All council Wards.