

# **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Report by the Chief Executive**

**Social Justice Committee: 13 June 2007**

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**Subject: Access Improvement Programme 2006/2007 and 2007/2008**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The report provides the Committee with an account of the access improvement programme for 2006/2007 and the proposed programme for 2007/2008.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1** Under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, service providers are required to make buildings accessible for disabled people, or provide them with service by a reasonable alternative method. In 2003/2004, the Council carried out access audits of all of its operational buildings as the basis for an access improvement programme.

- 2.2** The improvement programme focuses on the most frequently used Council buildings, elderly residential care homes, and other buildings which support local communities; specifically halls, centres and libraries. From within these categories, Council services and the disabled community are invited to identify access improvements which may:-

- Address specific access problems
- Impact on the greatest number of people
- Coincide with other improvements
- Support specific Council objectives
- Contribute to improvement to the statutory performance indicator

- 2.3** From 2004, councils have had to publish a statutory performance indicator (SPI) of the percentage of non-residential and non-school buildings which are reasonably accessible for disabled people. West Dunbartonshire has set an intentionally challenging set of criteria for this measure.

### **3. Main Issues**

#### Improvement programme 2006/2007

- 3.1** The access improvement programme for 2006/2007 was based on an allocation of £100,000 and consisted of the four main and two minor projects set out in the attached list. The programme resulted in significantly improved access to the buildings involved and to an increase from 28% to 34% for the SPI.

## Improvement programme 2007/2008

- 3.2** The proposed access improvement programme for 2007/2008 is based on an allocation of £200,000 and is set out in the attached list. The programme includes improved entrances in the two main Council offices, work on the reopening of the Dumbarton Burgh Hall, and improved facilities in a number of centres and libraries. It is estimated that the programme will increase the SPI to at least 39%. The proposals are subject to outline approval by Committee, prior to assessment of feasibility and cost.

## **4. Personnel Issues**

- 4.1** The programme will have a beneficial impact for Council personnel.

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1** The programme has agreed funding, with no further financial implications.

## **6. Risk Analysis**

- 6.1** No risk analysis is required.

## **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1** The report sets out the outcome of the 2006/2007 access improvement programme and outlines the projects proposed for the 2007/2008 programme.

## **8. Recommendations**

- 8.1** The Committee is asked to approve the outline proposals for the access improvement programme for 2007/2008.

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**David McMillan**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Date: 30 May 2007**

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<b>Appendix:</b>	Access Improvement Programme 2006/7 and 2007/8
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All wards are affected by the report.