

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability

Housing & Communities Committee: 1 May 2019

Subject: Community Empowerment and Development of the Community Alliance

1 Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to update members regarding a Council decision to invest in additional resources to deliver on Community Empowerment, and specifically the development of the Community Alliance.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that Committee notes the content of this report and that further progress updates can be provided as required.

3. Background

- 3.1** The Community Alliance has the potential to play a useful role in taking forward the Community Empowerment agenda. This includes supporting and facilitating the implementation of the emerging Community Empowerment Strategy and Action plan. A review of the functioning of the Alliance has shown that it needs significant review so it can fulfil its full potential to play a more representative and dynamic role.

- 3.2** At the Council meeting on 27 March 2019 a proposal was approved to invest £64,000 over two years on a fixed term Community Project Worker post within the Communities Team, Housing and Employability.

4. Main Issues

Requirement for additional support

- 4.1** There is currently a limited resource to deliver on Community Empowerment and on the Your Community approach, and also provide the type of dedicated community development support the Community Alliance requires.
- 4.2** The new resource referred to in this paper will assist the Council to:
- Meet the requirements of the Community Empowerment Act 2015 and West Dunbartonshire Plan for Place 2017-27
 - Support the Community Alliance to transform its role, membership and approach

- 4.2** The additional Communities Project Worker post will form a key role as part of the Communities team, sitting within the Housing and Employability service area. This team leads on empowerment and community development for the Council.
- 4.3** Half of the remit will be dedicated to supporting the Community Alliance and the remainder to support the implementation of the Community Empowerment Strategy and action plan, and the Your Community initiative.
- 4.4** A strengthened and redeveloped Community Alliance will play a key role in taking forward the requirements of the Community Empowerment Act 2015. This is in line with national agendas on public sector reform, the Christie Commission and the move towards a focus on place.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** A two year fixed term post is being established

6. Financial & Procurement Implications

- 6.1** The funding awarded for this post will be managed by the Communities team.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** There is a risk that insufficient resources may challenge the Council's ability to deliver on its responsibilities to create conditions for effective and sustainable Community Empowerment, and limit any development of the Community Alliance.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 8.1** No Equalities Impact Assessment is required. A full EIA of the Community Empowerment Strategy and Action plan will be carried out

9. Consultation

- 9.1** A wide ranging consultation is currently being carried out as part of the development of the Community Empowerment Strategy with SCDC commissioned to lead on this.

10 Strategic Assessment

- 10.1** This contributes to the strategic priority for Meaningful engagement with active, empowered and informed citizens who feel safe and engaged

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Date: 11 April 2019

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Appendix: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All

