

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee:
7 September 2011

Subject: Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee - Forward Plan

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to highlight for Members those issues that will come to the Committee for decision over the course of the next six months.

2. Background

2.1 The departmental plan for the Housing, Environmental and Economic Development department was approved by Committee in June 2011. The plan covers 2011/15 and specifically those actions that require to be taken during 2011/15 to progress the priorities the plan identified.

2.2 The performance management framework results in plans being monitored through departmental senior management teams and reported formally to Members twice yearly. The mid year progress report on the Housing, Environmental and Economic Development departmental plan will be presented to Committee in January 2011.

2.3 To assist officers in improving their planning and support Members in highlighting issues for early engagement and likely decision making over the next six months, a forward plan for each service Committee is being developed. This plan is not intended to be exhaustive but will provide clarity for Members on key issues likely to be explored and presented for decision over the next six to twelve months.

3. Main Issues

3.1 The key departmental objectives set out in the 2011/15 plan are:

1. Regenerate in a properly planned, co-ordinated, inclusive and sustainable manner.

2. Reduce unemployment and benefit dependency

3. Attract and support the development of new and emerging business and support the sustainability and growth of existing businesses.

4. Improve the mix, quantity, quality, location, access, equality and affordability in West Dunbartonshire.
5. Contribute to health and well being within the community.
6. Improve the quality and enjoyment of West Dunbartonshire's environment.
7. Improve overall service performance, self awareness, people management and cost effectiveness of services.
8. Improve asset management.

3.2 Over the course of the coming six months the following items will require to be considered by this Committee to support the strategic agenda moving forward. The list below is not intended to be exhaustive but to bring to the attention of Members the most significant issues that will arise for decision over the coming period. These matters will include:

- Roads and Lighting Asset Management Plan
- Winter Maintenance Strategy
- Fleet Asset Management Plan
- Open Space Asset Management Plan
- Outcome of Police Cleaning and Janitorial Contract
- Scottish Social Housing Charter
- Housing and Community Safety Benchmarking Performance Report
- Homelessness Strategy Mid Term Progress Report
- Common Scheme of Allocation/Common Housing Register
- Local Housing Strategy (SHIP)
- Department Service Plan
- Milton Visitor Centre Feasibility Report
- Economic Development Strategy Action Plan 2011-2016
- Stock Transfer - selection of preferred landlords
- Leisure Pricing Policy
- Review of Allocation Policy

Members will note that the above issues in the main represent those strategic issues which support the delivery of wider Council objectives. In addition, reports will be submitted for consideration which allow Members to fulfil their scrutiny role particularly in relation to service performance and financial management.

4. People Implications

4.1 People implications arising from the reports referred to above will be considered and incorporated within the content of the relevant documents and where appropriate will be the subject of consultation with the Trade Unions.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Financial Implications of specific issues will be outlined in the relevant reports.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 Improved planning and performance management alongside early engagement of Members is considered key activity in improving the Councils performance overall. It is anticipated that highlighting these key issues for Members will assist in providing clarity over the issues that will come to Members for decision and give Members an early opportunity to seek information in relation to these matters should this be necessary.

6.2 In advance of reports coming to Members for decision it will be incumbent on officers to provide opportunities for Members to engage early with these issues consistent with previous commitments.

7. Equalities, Health & Humans Rights Impact Assessment (EIA)

7.1 None.

8. Strategic Assessment

8.1 The overall aim of this report is to provide members with advance notice of these key issues with a strategic impact that are likely to come before Members for consideration. A strategic assessment will be undertaken on each issue and will be presented as part of reports to be considered.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

9.1 The departmental plan 2011/15 for Housing, Environmental and Economic Development department approved by Members in June 2011 sets out clearly the actions and priorities for the service in contributing to the Council's wider corporate objectives. This forward plan for Committee seeks to highlight those issues that Members can expect to be presented for decision over the coming months in an effort to further improve forward planning and performance management.

9.2 It is recommended that the Committee agree that the items outlined in paragraph 3.2 come to Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee for decision by no later than January 2012.

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Date: 17 August 2011

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Appendix: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All