

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Community Participation Committee - Wednesday 7 December, 2005

Subject: WDC Draft Consultation Strategy

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides information about the Council's Draft Consultation Strategy.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, places duties on Local Authorities in respect of Community Planning and Best Value. In this context, community involvement and consultation have a key role to play. We also have a number of statutory obligations to consult, for example through our Decentralisation Scheme and through Housing legislation.
- 2.2 Responsiveness and Consultation is one of the characteristics of Best Value arrangements. Service delivery and policy development should be informed by a sound knowledge of what our stakeholders need and want. Consultation is an important tool in achieving this knowledge.
- 2.3 Following the Senior Management Network on Community Involvement and Consultation which took place in May 2005, a number developments are being taken forward in relation to consultation.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 The Council has identified the following areas for improvement in relation to consultation:
 - Better co-ordination of consultation activity – to help forward planning.
 - Better recording of consultation activity – and sharing of information gained.
 - Supporting employees to consult effectively by promoting good practice and awareness of training opportunities.

- 3.2 An officer's consultation network has been set up with the following remit:
- Developing electronic recording of consultation activity – initially via an intranet system.
 - Developing systems to improve and better co-ordinate consultation activity.
 - Providing an information link to services.
 - Liaising with the Citizens' Panel Steering Group.
 - Promoting and sharing good practice.
- 3.3 The attached Draft Consultation Strategy (Appendix 1) sets out the approaches to achieving the improvements referred to at 3.1

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Members of the committee are asked to note the above information.
- 4.2 Members of the committee are invited to comment on the content of the Draft Consultation Strategy and in particular on the Role of Community Participation Committee in relation to consultation (page 12 of the Draft Strategy).

Tim Huntingford
Chief Executive

Person to contact: Anne Clegg, Policy Officer, Community & Consultation, tel. 737177

Background papers: Community Participation Committee - Wednesday 17 August, 2005: Feedback on Senior Management Network on Community Involvement and Consultation and Proposed Action

