

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Social Justice Committee: 8 November 2006

Subject: Disability Equality Scheme

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The report presents a draft West Dunbartonshire Council Disability Equality Scheme (DES) 2006–9 for consideration by Committee. This includes the West Dunbartonshire Education Authority DES 2006-9.

2. Background

- 2.1** The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 requires councils to publish a Disability Equality Scheme 2006-9 by December 4, 2006. Education authorities are also required to publish a scheme, but this may be presented as a recognisable section of a council scheme.
- 2.2** Authorities are required to involve disabled people in the formulation of the scheme and to use it to show how they will address potential disability discrimination in the way that services are provided and promote equality of opportunity for disabled people. They should promote positive attitudes toward disabled people, encourage their participation in public life, and seek to eliminate the harassment that they can experience. These responsibilities should be underpinned by a willingness to treat disabled people more favourably than others if this is required to achieve equality of outcomes.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The West Dunbartonshire scheme is based on the Council's current Disability Equality Strategy and the Education service's Staged Intervention process and Accessibility Strategy. It is one of a group of strategies that the Council is developing to address equalities issues such as race, disability, gender and age, and which form the overarching Equality and Diversity Strategy.
- 3.2** The scheme addresses all of the elements required by statutory guidance and codes of practice, and identifies where action will be taken in areas that are most critical for disabled people. These include access to buildings, communication and employment. In education, they include identification, access to an appropriate curriculum and parental and pupil involvement.
- 3.3** An action plan is attached, summarising the measures that will be taken under the scheme and indicating their timescale, the resources they will require, and sections of the Council that will have responsibility for their progress.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** The scheme is intended to have a significant impact on Council personnel, particularly in regard to training for the awareness and skills required for services to be effective for disabled people.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** The scheme has a number of financial implications but these will be addressed through separate reports to Committee. The access improvement programme is included in the capital bidding process. Employee monitoring will be part of the development of a management information system. Employee training will be brought to Committee as an individual item.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1** Committee is asked to agree the West Dunbartonshire Council Disability Equality Scheme 2006-9.

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01 November 2006

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Background Papers: **Appendices (not attached with report)**

- A Disability Discrimination Legislation
- B Disability in West Dunbartonshire
- C Decision-making Structure
- D Impact Assessment Process
- E Staged Intervention in Education
- F Pupil Participation
- G Glossary of Terms

Wards Affected: All Council wards are affected.