

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development (Housing and Regeneration Services)

Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee : 9 January 2008

Subject: Improvements to Dumbarton Quayside

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To advise the Committee of plans to improve the quayside area in Dumbarton town centre.

2. Background

- 2.1** Following a report to the Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee of 5 September 2007, entitled "Dumbarton Town Centre Projects 2007 – 2008," the Committee agreed to an allocation of £150,000 being divided between key projects at Riverside Lane (known as the quayside area) and Woodyard Road car park, from the Rediscovering Dumbarton budget within the approved General Services Capital Programme, 2007/2008.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** Since then, a working group has been established to progress the quayside project. This includes the involvement of Grounds Maintenance, Economic Development, Roads, West Dunbartonshire Greenspace, the Community Safety Partnership and the local police. An area of the riverside walkway stretching from Dumbarton Bridge in the north-west to the edge of the Carvill development site in the south-east (the former Allied Distillers site) would be covered by the works. A general scope of works has been agreed, including improvements to hard surfaces, new lighting, thinning out and crown-lifting of trees, replacement of street furniture, introducing interpretation and signage and informal spaces and addressing anti-social issues. In particular, the area would benefit from the removal of some trees to improve visibility between the back of the High Street and the walkway, to encourage more people to use the space. However, it should be noted that the works are deliberately limited in scope and expenditure, given the likely longer term changes that could happen in this area to address flooding within the town centre.

- 3.2** An allocation of £65,000 from the Rediscovering Dumbarton capital allocation is available for this project with the remainder of £85,000 being required for improvements to Woodyard Road Car Park. Additional contributions of £20,000 from the Environmental Improvement General Services Capital budget and £25,000 from Economic Development's Town Centre Management revenue budget, have increased the total budget available to £110,000.
- 3.3** Implementation of the works will be subject to establishing costs of the various elements but it is anticipated that most of the improvements mentioned in paragraph 3.1 could be covered within this budget. Initial discussions have indicated that part of the works could be undertaken by the Council through the Grounds Maintenance Section and West Dunbartonshire Greenspace. In terms of the hard landscaping works, it is not anticipated that the extent and costs of these works would require the Council to invite tenders. However progress would be confirmed by way of a future report to this Committee.
- 3.4** The first stage of the works will commence in January with works to 89 trees by the Council's Grounds Maintenance Section. This will include the removal of 24 trees, due to their poor condition, decay and/or close proximity to other trees. Remaining trees will have their crowns trimmed and lower branches removed. Local groups have been notified of the project, including the requirement for the removal of trees and comments are expected by 21 December. These will be relayed verbally to Committee.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** Provision has been made for this project within the approved General Services Capital Programme.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** There are no risks associated with this project.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1** The delivery of this project offers an opportunity to improve an important area of Dumbarton town centre.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 The Committee is invited to note the proposed way forward for the delivery of this project.**

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**Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environment
and Economic Development (Housing and Regeneration Services)**

Date: 17 December 2007

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Appendices : None

Background Papers : Report to Housing, Environment and Economic
Development Committee, 5 September 2007, entitled
Dumbarton Town Centre Projects 2007 - 2008

Wards Affected : 3