

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Council : 29 June 2011

Subject: West Dunbartonshire Single Outcome Agreement 2011-14

1. Purpose

1.1 This report seeks Council approval for the West Dunbartonshire Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 2011-14.

2. Background

2.1 The SOA is a key high level document that sets out the priorities for West Dunbartonshire CPP. It was originally introduced in the Concordat in November 2007.

2.2 Community planning has progressed significantly since the initial SOA was submitted. Positive change and improvement has been achieved in terms of strategic direction and clarity; operating procedures; structures; performance management and financial controls. Currently, innovative and groundbreaking approaches to designing and delivering services are being developed.

3. Main Issues

3.1 The SOA is attached as appendix one. This is the third version of the SOA for West Dunbartonshire, which covers the period 2011-2014. It contributes to delivering the 10-year strategic vision and priorities contained in the West Dunbartonshire Community Plan that was launched in September 2007.

3.2 West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership's (CPP) vision is to "*promote partnership working that delivers public sector reform and improvements leading to a better quality of life for the residents and communities of West Dunbartonshire*". The SOA is the key vehicle for progressing this and it identifies areas for improvement, setting out how our Community Planning partners will deliver better outcomes for the people of West Dunbartonshire.

3.3 There has been extensive consultation throughout the process of producing this SOA, with all partners being fully committed. Through various mechanisms, community residents and the voluntary sector have played an influential role in shaping its content throughout. Key stakeholders were also involved in the process via SOA Writers Groups.

3.4 This SOA has been structured around three new strategic priorities for West Dunbartonshire CPP:-

- Work and Benefits
- Safe, Strong and Involved Communities
- Supporting Children and Families

All activities, programmes and outcomes in the SOA have been aligned to these three priorities. These priorities also influenced the Council's public consultation on its budget priorities 2011-2012.

3.5 This SOA will be considered for approval at a special meeting of the CPP Strategic Board on 14 June. However, as the Council is the "Accountable Body" and the lead organisation responsible for facilitating community planning, it is appropriate that this SOA is presented to Council for final approval.

4. People Implications

4.1 There are no immediate effects on Council employees.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no direct financial implications. Provision has already been made within the 2011-12 revenue budget to provide CPP investment as a contribution to the programmes aligned to the SOA.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 The reputation of the Council and the Community Planning Partnership will be damaged if the SOA is not completed and agreed. Potentially, this could have implications for the next funding settlement. Additionally, this could affect the Council's and community planning partners' capacity to deliver improvements in key re-designed services underpinning the SOA.

6.2 Any risks to the delivery of programmes aligned to the SOA are effectively monitored through the robust CPP performance and monitoring system, with remedial action taken when required.

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

7.1 The delivery of the programmes aligned to the SOA will have significant impact on equalities groups. All partners within the Community Planning Partnership have signed up to a Partnership Agreement, which, in relation to equalities, helps ensure they meet their collective responsibilities. Public partners, in carrying out their community planning function, are also subject to complying with their own organisation's Equalities Schemes.

7.2 Equalities issues are considered in the body of the SOA. A short-life working group has been established to complete an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) on the West Dunbartonshire SOA. The process will be based upon the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Scotland document, "Meeting the public sector equality duty in Scotland: Interim guidance for Scottish public authorities: assessing impact". However an overall Equalities Impact Assessment of the SOA does not dilute the direct responsibility for all individual partners to carry out EIAs on their respective service areas, and to monitor equalities issues going forward.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1 As set out above, the SOA (2011-14) is an important, key strategic document that will help to improve the quality of life for people who live and work in West Dunbartonshire. It will assist partners to work closely together to deliver key outcomes and strategic priorities for the area.

8.2 Council is asked to approve the draft Single Outcome Agreement 2011-2014.

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Chief Executive
Date: 31 May 2011

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Appendix: West Dunbartonshire Single Outcome Agreement
2011-14

Background Papers: Single Outcome Annual Report 2009/10 and progress
with the Community Planning Partnership – Council
Meeting, 28th October 2010 – Agenda Item 13.
<http://wdccmis.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/CMISWebPublic/Meeting.aspx?meetingID=1778>

Wards Affected: All Wards