

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Council : 27 October 2010

Subject: Single Outcome Agreement Annual Report 2009/10 and Progress with the Community Planning Partnership

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper seeks Council approval for the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) Annual Report 2009/10 before it is submitted to the Scottish Government.

2. Background

2.1 The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 sets out a statutory duty for Councils to lead and facilitate Community Planning in its area. This duty has been informed by subsequent guidance and direction from the Scottish Government.

2.2 The SOA is a high end agreement between West Dunbartonshire CPP and the Scottish Government. It identifies areas for improvement and sets out how the CPP and its partners will drive forward public sector reform, and deliver better outcomes for the residents and communities of this area.

2.3 West Dunbartonshire CPP is required to submit a formal annual report on progress with delivery of the SOA for scrutiny by the Scottish Government for the period September 2009 - August 2010. Given the important role that Elected Members and Council officials play in the governance and management of community planning, it is felt appropriate that Council approval is sought before the final draft of the report is submitted.

2.4 At a recent meeting to consider an early draft of the SOA annual report, Senior Scottish Government officials expressed considerable support and praise for the progress and achievements delivered by the Community Planning Partnership in West Dunbartonshire.

3. Main Issues

3.1 The SOA report consists of a background section that provides detail on the completion of a Partnership Agreement, the completion of a European tender for new community engagement services, embedding equalities in community planning, performance management systems and financial controls, and the growing partnership with the Third Sector.

3.2 The SOA report then provides comprehensive details of progress with thematic programmes since their formal inception on 1 December 2009. As well as providing details of progress and achievements, the report specifically highlights some key programmes as case studies. These programme case studies were selected because of the particular and impressive impact they are having, or because they are innovative and offer new ways of delivering services. The programme case studies have also been submitted to the Improvement Service as part of a National review of SOA progress.

3.3 The final part of the SOA report is an extended template that captures progress and trends across all programmes and SOA National Outcomes with a narrative for each theme that provides a background to this progress and provides reasons for certain work being stopped or not being advanced as quickly as originally intended.

4. People Implications

4.1 There are no personnel issues associated with this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The attached SOA report evidences the benefit of the Council's significant investment in Community Planning.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 Given the financial and resource pressures facing the Council, allied to the expectations of scrutiny bodies such as Audit Scotland and the demands of meeting Best Value 2, it is more important than ever that Community Planning functions effectively. There is a risk that if appropriate skills, commitment and resources are not available to deliver this strategic function it will impact negatively on the Council's external reputation, it may increase costs to the Council in the longer term, and it will reduce the Council's ability to deliver its Corporate Plan.

7. Equalities Impact

7.1 Equalities issues are considered in the body of the SOA Annual Report. There are no additional equalities issues in this covering report.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1 West Dunbartonshire CPP has made significant progress towards its aims. It is delivering value for money and having a positive effect on Council services. Key examples of this are the establishment of CPP programmes, the Partnership Agreement, new ways of delivering community engagement, and the strong links developed between performance management and financial reporting. These links have allowed an early understanding of spending and performance patterns within programmes and reduced inefficient or unnecessary expenditure throughout the CPP.

- 8.2** On a more strategic level, this reflects increased standards of scrutiny and accountability, and new approaches to public sector service delivery that is efficient and effective. These approaches may be useful for wider Council services at a time of severe financial constraints and will contribute positively towards achieving the Council's Best Value Improvement Plan and Assurance and Improvement Plan.
- 8.3** Council is asked to note this report and approve the submission of the attached SOA Annual Report.

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Chief Executive
Date: 4 October 2010

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Appendix: West Dunbartonshire CPP Annual Progress Report 2009
- 2010

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All