

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Council: 29 February 2012

Subject: Proposed change to submission date for the Corporate Plan 2012-17

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for a proposed change of submission date for the Corporate Plan 2012-17 and associated Departmental Plans.

2. Background

- 2.1 An updated Corporate Plan is scheduled to be submitted annually to the council for approval in March each year. This plan summarises the longer term vision and priorities of the Council and the key activities that will be undertaken to achieve these over the next 12 months, together with the associated performance indicators. Individual Departmental plans are also produced which provide more detail on service specific activities that will be undertaken to support the Corporate Plan.
- 2.2 The Corporate Plan is a key document for the management of the Council, providing clarity for the public and staff on the Council's priorities for West Dunbartonshire and how service efficiency and effectiveness will be continually improved.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 Council elections take place on 3 May 2012 and a new Council Administration will be formed shortly afterwards. It is anticipated that the new Administration will wish to have its manifesto commitments and priorities reflected in the Council's Corporate and Departmental Plans.
- 3.2 If the existing timetable for approving the Corporate and Departmental plans for 2012-17 was maintained, then these documents would be submitted prior to the election and therefore not be able to accurately reflect the manifesto commitments and priorities of the incoming Administration. Delaying the submission of these plans until June or August 2012 would enable the Council Management Team to engage with the new Administration and produce a refreshed Corporate Plan covering the term of the Administration and which is fully aligned with its political priorities.
- 3.3 There has been significant change within the Council Management Team during 2011/12, with the appointment of a new Chief Executive and, a new Executive Director of Corporate Services. Following these changes, the Council Management Team considers it appropriate to review and refresh the

organisational improvement strategy for the period 2012-17. The Strategic Leadership Group, which comprises the Council Management Team and Heads of Service, will undertake this strategic review prior to the election in May. This will ensure that the Council Management is best informed when holding early strategic discussions with the incoming Administration.

3.4 The organisational review of the Chief Executive's Department currently being taken forward by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services, will bring forward proposals to ensure that appropriate corporate processes and structures are in place to support the effective implementation of the new Corporate and Departmental Plans.

3.5 The views of the Council's external auditors, Audit Scotland, was sought on these proposed changes to the corporate planning cycle. Audit Scotland have indicated that they regard the proposed delay in submission of the Council's Corporate Plan as appropriate, given the pending election and the changes to the Council Management Team referred to above.

4. People Implications

4.1 There are no people implications.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 By delaying the submission of the Councils Corporate Plan 2012-17 for approval by Council until after the new administration has been formed, the risk that the plan does not fully reflect the priorities of the new administration and the improvement strategy of the new Chief Executive and Council Management Team will be reduced.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

7.1 An equalities impact assessment is not required for this report, but the new Corporate Plan will be subject to an equalities impact assessment.

8. Strategic Assessment

8.1 The Council has identified four main strategic priorities, namely Social & Economic Regeneration, Financial Strategy, Asset Management Strategy; and Fit for Purpose Services.

8.2 The Corporate plan is aligned with these strategic priorities, and the proposed delay in generating the new Corporate Plan will ensure that it is aligned with the strategic and other priorities of the new Administration.

9. Conclusion and Recommendation

9.1 Delaying submission of the Council's Corporate Plan 2012-17 until after the new administration has been formed will ensure that the new plan is fully aligned with the priorities of the new Administration and the strategic organisational improvement plans of the Council Management Team.

9.2 It is recommended that the Council:

- agrees to a delay in submission of the Corporate Plan 2012-17 and associated Departmental plans until June or August 2012;
- notes that subsequent years plans for 2013-17 onwards will be submitted in March of each subsequent year, as per the normal timescale.

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Joyce White
Chief Executive
Date: 16 February 2012

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Appendix: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All