

## WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

### Report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

Council: 27 April 2011

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**Subject: Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership - Economic Development Strategy 2011-2016**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for a new 5 year Economic Development Strategy for the Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership Area (Appendix 1).

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** In 2003, the Clyde Valley CPP launched a 10 year vision for the development of the Metropolitan Glasgow Region to cover the period 2003-2013. In 2008, this vision was reviewed and updated by the Clyde Valley Community Planning Partners. This resulted in a new strategic document being developed and endorsed, "Metropolitan Glasgow - Our Vision for the Glasgow City 2008-13".
- 2.2** In March 2009, the eight Councils from the Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership commissioned Sir John Arbuthnott, to conduct an independent strategic review of joint working and shared services throughout the Clyde Valley area.
- 2.3** Sir John Arbuthnott published his Clyde Valley report in December 2009. The report made recommendations in ten areas, including one relating to Economic Development. It stated, "the Clyde Valley Partnership grew from the eight Councils' commitment to addressing Economic Regeneration and Growth together. In the current recession and the challenges ahead, it is important that they retain this focus. I recommend that they revisit the approach to Economic Regeneration and develop a joint Economic Strategy for the Clyde Valley area."
- 2.4** Senior Economic Development Officers from the eight Councils, led by West Dunbartonshire Council, together with Officers from Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan Authority, Scottish Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland, Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Clydebank College, West of Scotland University and Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network have, over the past twelve months worked together to develop and produce a new refreshed Economic Development Strategy.

**2.5** All participating organisations have taken part in numerous meetings and a number of workshops in preparing this strategy. Each organisation has been given the opportunity to discuss the strategy internally within their own stakeholders.

**2.6** The Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership Economic Development Strategy was presented to the Clyde Valley Leadership and Chief Executives' Group on 1 April 2011. The Group endorsed the Strategy.

### **3. Main Issues**

**3.1** The development process for the new strategy began by reviewing the basis on which - "Metropolitan Glasgow - Our Vision for the Glasgow City Region 2008-13", was developed and the targets were set by the Strategy.

**3.2** The review concluded that the Metropolitan Glasgow 2008-2013:

- was developed ahead of the financial crisis of 2008 and the subsequent recession, and along with Scottish and UK economic policy did not anticipate their impact;
- had set a range of ambitious targets for that were predicated on continuing economic growth, including raising the rate of GVA growth across the Clyde Valley CPP area and increasing the employment rate;
- anticipated strong developer activity in private sector development markets, particularly in residential, retail and commercial markets; and
- was based on continuing strong investment from the public sector.

**3.3** In the two and a half years since the strategy was agreed however:

- the economy across Scotland contracted by 5.8% over the 18 months from the start of the recession - and the Clyde valley CPP area has not been immune from its effects;
- ILO Unemployment in the Clyde Valley CPP area increased by 23,000 between 2008 and 2010 and has grown at a faster rate than the rest of Scotland;
- levels of commercial and residential development have fallen sharply – largely as a result of a lack of available finance for development;
- local authorities and other public agencies have had to deal with unprecedented cuts to capital budgets as a result of the impact of the recession on public funding.

**3.4** The vision for the new strategy recognises the impact of the recession and the challenges it presents for the Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership but restates our ambition to see the Glasgow City Region grow faster than other comparator UK core cities.

**3.5** The Vision Statement is as follows:

“We want the Glasgow City Region to be one of the fastest growing city regions in the UK - a city region that is characterised by a strong growing core in Glasgow, yet exploits growth opportunities across the City Region. In pursuing growth we will also look to reduce economic inequality and disparities, between people and between places. We will be a City Region that is ideally positioned to meet the challenges of the next 20 years and we will become more outward looking and better connected with European and global markets. We will be characterised by a highly skilled and entrepreneurial workforce and we will ensure that all our residents have the skills and opportunity to engage with the labour market. We will be seen as one of Europe’s leading destinations of choice - for visitors, investors and people alike.”

**3.6** To progress toward achieving this vision over the next 5 years, the Strategy has identified a set of challenges, objectives and actions based on 4 main themes within the Strategy.

- stimulating economic growth and strengthening the Business Base;
- improving the skills of all our people and supporting them into work;
- creating a place where people choose to live, work and invest; and
- stronger partnership and new approaches to delivery.

**3.7** The new Strategy has highlighted four key headline targets which it will measure over the period 2011-2016.

- match the growth rate of the UK Economy over the period 2011-2016;
- reduce the gap in economic activity rates between the best and worst local authorities in the CVCPP area by half;
- maintain the CVCPP’s share of all known inward investment in Scotland at 50% of all projects; and
- extend partnership working and shared delivery between local authorities and partners in economic development.

**3.8** Once the new strategy is approved, a detailed Action Plan will be developed. It would be the intention to set up 3 Thematic Groups focusing on Business Growth, Skills and Place issues. The Thematic Groups will be expected to explore the opportunities for delivering joint working, sharing best practice and potential shared service delivery over the duration of the five year strategy. The implementation of this strategy and the Thematic Group approach will involve the engagement at different levels of the private and voluntary sectors and with the Community of the CVCPP area.

**3.9** In addition to the development of an Action Plan, it would be the intention to develop a detailed monitoring and evaluation framework. This would be used to report progress on an annual basis to the CVCPP Leaders Group and individual Councils and identify the longer term benefits of our approach and its contribution to the Clyde Valley Economy.

**3.10** Once approved, a quality production of the Strategy document will be produced with appropriate photographs and distributed to key partners and stakeholders, to assist in the promotion of the area.

#### **4. People Implications**

**4.1** Continued Senior Officer commitment of time is required as West Dunbartonshire Council leads this workstream.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

**5.1** A financial commitment of £3K per Council is required in year 1. The budget within Economic Development for 2011/12 will be able to provide this investment. This investment will allow for a quality production of the Strategy document, as well as a monitoring and evaluation framework to be developed for use throughout the 5 year strategy. It will also allow for the facilitation of the initial phase of designing the action plan and supporting the three new Thematic Groups.

#### **6. Risk Analysis**

**6.1** The consultation process with Partners has ensured that the Strategy is appropriate to assist with the continuing economic growth of the Clyde Valley Area. The achievement of the expected outcomes and targets within this strategy is reliant on the continued commitment and funding from both private and public sectors.

#### **7. Equalities, Health and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EIA)**

**7.1** The influence and impact of the Economic Development Strategy is wide ranging. An Equalities Impact Assessment will therefore require to be carried out for each area of project activity as appropriate.

#### **8. Conclusions and Recommendations**

**8.1** The new Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership's Economic Strategy has been developed by a wide range of partners taking account of the recession and challenges facing our area. This conforms with the recommendation regarding Economic Strategy made by Sir John Arbuthnott in his review of joint working and shared services throughout the Clyde Valley Area.

**8.2** The Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership Leaders' and Chief Executives' Forum have endorsed the Strategy.

**8.3** It is recommended that the Council:

- (i) approve the Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership's Economic Development Strategy 2011-2016; and

- (ii) approve the request of £3K Council contribution in year one to develop the Action Plan and design and implement a monitoring and evaluation framework and support the three new Thematic Groups.

**Elaine Melrose**  
**Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development**  
**Date: 8 April 2011**

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**Appendix:** Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership - A Refreshed Economic Strategy for the Glasgow City Region 2011-2016

**Background Papers:** None

**Wards Affected:** All