

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Executive

Council : 27 August 2008

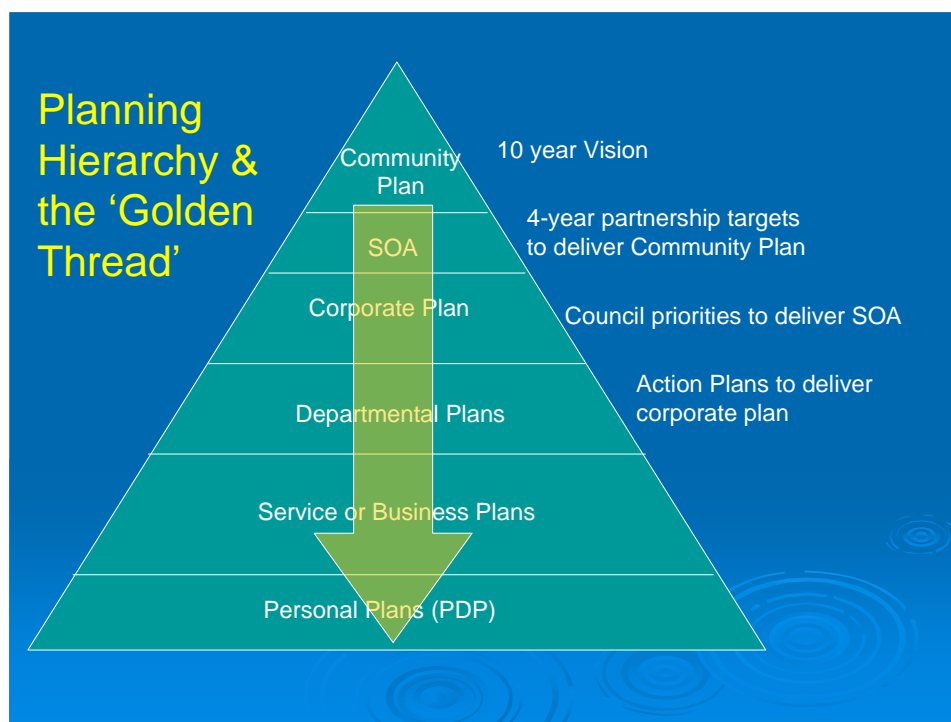
Subject: Development of the 2009-13 Corporate Plan

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek agreement on the themes, priorities and objectives for the 2009-13 Corporate Plan.

2. Background

- 2.1** The Council's strategic planning and budget process (agreed in 2003 and set out in the 'red book') requires the corporate plan to be reviewed, revised, and rolled forward each year, following a major revision every four years coinciding with the election of a new administration. The 'ideal' timetable and process is shown in Table 1.
- 2.2** The current 2008-12 Plan was the last major revision and was developed during the summer of 2007 building on the new administration's manifesto with external facilitation from K3 Consultants. In principle, this year's revision should have required only a small amount of review.
- 2.3** This year the development of the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) has radically altered the planning landscape and the new corporate plan now needs a significant revision to reflect the part the Council will play in delivering the outcomes articulated in the SOA.
- 2.4** Once completed, the revised four-year corporate plan will be incorporated in Joint Planning & Budget Guidance (JP&BG) and issued to directorates each year in early September to inform the development of Departmental Service Plans (DSP) and budgets. The JP&BG also provides a basis for demonstrating an integration of budgeting with strategic planning – a process that is becoming ever more important with the removal of ring-fencing. The JP&BG is due to go to the CMT for approval on 2 September.
- 2.5** Departmental Service Plans set out how departments will meet the corporate objectives. Individual Service/Business Plans (where appropriate) complement the DSPs and inform individual personal plans which can be incorporated in Personal Development plans (PDP) – thus completing the 'Golden Thread'. Figure 1 (below) illustrates how the various levels of planning are related.



2.6 A preliminary report on the revised corporate objectives was submitted to the CMT on 5th August and a further a special extended CMT session was held on 19th August which included further input from senior policy and strategy officers from each Department

3. Issues

3.1 The themes, priorities and objectives for the 2009-13 Corporate Plan must be agreed by the Council prior to distributing the Joint Planning & Budget Guidance for the 2009/13 period in early September 2008.

3.2 Table 2 cross-references the current corporate objectives with the outcomes in the SOA and makes recommendations for inclusion in the 2009-13 Corporate Plan. Those objectives which should remain substantially unchanged are shown as 'U', those proposed to be added are shown as 'A', those retained but significantly changed to reflect the SOA better as 'C', and those which are not reflected in the SOA and are more appropriate for Departmental Service Plans as 'S'. Those proposed to be deleted are marked as 'D'

3.3 Theme 6 (An Improving Council) has been rationalised somewhat to have a more explicit link with the Best Value Audit (BVA) Improvement Plan. The 11 immediate priorities are marked as I1 to I11 and the three medium-term priorities as M1-M3.

3.4 The 08-12 Plan contained 79 objectives, the proposals in Table 2 recommend that overall this decreases slightly to 77 with 20 additions and 22 moved to service plan level or deleted.

- 3.5 Following agreement on the Corporate Plan objectives for 2009-13, performance indicators will need to be agreed to measure progress towards these objectives and targets set for the four years covered by the Plan. The performance indicators and targets require to be set and agreed for the 2009-13 Corporate Plan before implementation from 1st April 2009.
- 3.6 SOLACE consultants will be undertaking a 'Golden Thread' Health check in March 2009 to assess the linkages between Community Plan, SOA, Corporate Plan, Departmental Service Plans, Individual Service Plans and PDPs.
- 3.7 The full partnership SOA which will be in place next year will represent another opportunity to align further next year's version of the corporate plan and there will be an opportunity to include in it any further political aspirations and commitments.

4. Personnel Implications

- 4.1 There are no personnel implications at this stage

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications at this stage

6. Risk assessment

- 6.1 If the Corporate Plan is not properly agreed, there is a significant risk that Audit Scotland will report limited progress in their BV audit work planned for summer 2009.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The CMT and Senior Policy staff have reviewed the current corporate plan and made recommendations for the new 2009-13 version in the light of the SOA and the BV Audit. These changes require discussion and agreement by the Members of the Council prior to inclusion in this year's guidance for departmental planning and budgeting

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 That the Members of the Council consider the proposals for modifying the Corporate Plan in the light of the Single Outcome Agreement and provide any feedback by 1 September 2008. Officer-facilitated discussion sessions can be arranged if requested.

.....
David McMillan
Chief Executive
Date: 22 August 2008

Person to Contact: David Webster, Section Head – Performance Management Tel 01389 737143

E-mail: david.webster@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendices:

Table 1: Ideal Planning Process

Table 2: Recommendations for Corporate Plan
2009-13

Background Papers:

Corporate Plan 2008-12
Single Outcome Agreement June 2008

Wards Affected:

All Wards