

# WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

## Report by Chief Executive

Corporate Services Committee : 28 March 2007

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**Subject: Inaugural 'Celebration of Learning' Event Update**

### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the recent inaugural 'Celebration of Learning' event which was developed by West Dunbartonshire Council in partnership with Learndirect Scotland, to corporately celebrate ICT learning within the Council.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1** ICT & Business Development has successfully maintained "A" status accredited European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) test centre for more than 5 years, and recently introduced an annual event which celebrates the commitment of the staff throughout the Council who have successfully achieved the ECDL qualification.
- 2.2** The European Computer Driving Licence is an internationally accepted qualification. It can simplify employment procedures and assure the employer those applicants and current staff have the necessary level of knowledge and competence to use common computer applications. The ECDL is a certificate of knowledge and proven competence and is based on a single agreed Syllabus.
- 2.3** The learning programme requires a commitment to study seven ICT subjects with a 45 minute examination at the end of each module. These examinations are taken in-house and are subject to strict national examination conditions.
- 2.4** ICT & Business Development has for sometime wished to corporately recognise the achievement of staff who have successfully gained their ECDL certificate, and this was achieved on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2007 in the Council Chambers at this event.

### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** ICT & Business Development has been a Learndirect Scotland branded Learning Centre for just over 1 year and at a recent meeting Learndirect Scotland were extremely interested in partnering us as a pathfinder for other learning centres.

**3.2** Due to the large number of successful candidates who have achieved the ECDL qualification within the Council, which is well over 450 now, it was only possible to recognise those who achieved their certification during the year 2006, those who had achieved Advanced ECDL and a random sample from each of the preceding years (2001 – 2005). There were 90 attendees at the event including Elected Members, Chief Executive, Chief Officers, Helen McNamara (Head of Learning Development from Learndirect Scotland) and Mike Chad (British Computer Society, the awarding body for the ECDL).

**3.3** The event was used to introduce the new skillnet opportunities offering learners access to over 500 new e-learning courses, which is currently being launched.

**4. Personnel Issues**

**4.1** There are no personnel issues.

**5. Financial Implications**

**5.1** ICT & Business Development worked closely with Learndirect Scotland to source the presentation material and they issued a grant of £2,000 to support the funding costs of this 'Celebration of Learning' event.

**5.2** This year West Dunbartonshire Council's contribution was minimum to cover light refreshments for the event.

**6. Risk Analysis**

**6.1** By hosting such an event we are encouraging staff to participate in the learning opportunities available to them to ensure enhanced ICT skills throughout the Council, therefore avoiding skills shortages in these areas.

**7. Conclusions**

**7.1** The Committee is asked to support the development of future 'Celebration of Learning' events which will help to boost staff morale and enable Council-wide networking at this event and encourage more interest in furthering ICT skills thereafter.

**8. Recommendation**

**8.1** **The Committee is invited to note this report.**

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**David McMillan**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Date: 15 March 2007**

**Person to Contact:** Angela Clements, Head of ICT & Business Development  
Telephone 01389 737574  
E-mail: [angela.clements@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:angela.clements@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

**Appendices:** None

**Background Papers:** Report submitted to the CMT dated 16<sup>th</sup> January 2007

**Wards Affected:** None