

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Executive

Council Meeting: 26 March 2008

Subject: Single Outcome Agreements

1. Purpose

- 1.1** This report presents a first draft of the new Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) and notes the next steps required to finalise it.

2. Background

- 2.1** The Scottish Government is in the process of introducing Single Outcome Agreements. These will reflect an entirely new relationship between local and national government and they significantly change the way in which accountability will work – including the removal of ring-fencing and the signing up of the entirety of the public sector to a restricted set of national priorities.
- 3.1** The new initiative was introduced in the Concordat in November 2007. We are required to produce an SOA based on the new National Outcomes showing local outcomes and local measures, targets and actions which will show how we are contributing to national outcomes. The intention is that the SOA will help focus the Community Plan and the council's corporate plans. At this stage it is envisaged that the SOA will sit alongside the corporate plan and below the Community Plan and thus complement them.
- 2.2** The defined timetable requires us to produce a first draft 'Council' SOA by 31st March, and then integrate as much partner agreement as possible by end June 2008 and re-submit the revised document. A full 'Community Planning Partnership' SOA is then required by March 2009.
- 2.3** The Improvement Service have issued a number of guidance documents including a standardised template for submission, lists of possible local indicators and a self-assessment procedure. These are available from the Policy Unit on request.
- 2.4** A report on the SOA initiative was submitted to Council on 30th January.
- 2.5** The Corporate Policy Unit have been leading on the SOA development and have facilitated a number of themed workshops involving senior officers and CMT members. Appendix 1 shows the current version of the SOA template for West Dunbartonshire developed from this work.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 Members are requested to provide any immediate feedback and comments on the draft SOA to the Policy Unit by 28th March for incorporation into the submitted draft.
- 3.2 It is suggested that the Chief Executive agree and submit the draft version on the 1st April incorporating any further comments received from officers and Elected Members up to and including 28th March.
- 3.3 Members are asked to agree the most appropriate mechanisms for their involvement in the next steps in the finalisation of the draft over the period April-June 2008 and subsequent monitoring of progress.
- 3.4 It is intended that the next version be presented to Council for approval at the end of June 2008.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1 There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications at this stage

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1 The reputation of the Council will suffer if a draft Single Outcome Agreement for 2008/09 is not completed and agreed by the Council by June 2008. This could have implications for the next funding settlement.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 Members are requested to provide any comments on the SOA by 28th March and delegate authority to the Chief Executive to allow him to submit the revised SOA to the Scottish Government on 1st April.
- 8.2 Members are invited to consider how they would wish to be involved in the ongoing development, monitoring and agreement of the Single Outcome Agreement

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David McMillan
Chief Executive
Date: 18 March 2008

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Appendix: Draft Single Outcome Agreement

Background Papers: Report to Council on SOA January 2008

Wards Affected: All Wards