

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Director of Housing and Technical Services

Audit and Performance Review Committee: 8 March 2006

Subject: Follow Up Review of Housing Rents System

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the progress being made in addressing the issues raised by Audit Scotland in their audit of the Housing Rents System.

2. Background

- 2.1** At the Audit and Performance Review Committee held on 21 December 2005, a report by the Director of Housing and Technical Services entitled, "Follow up Review of Housing Rents System" was considered. The Committee agreed to note the progress made to date and that this item would remain on the agenda of the Audit and Performance Review Committee until such time as the one remaining outstanding issue had been resolved.
- 2.2** The Committee also instructed that the report be remitted to the next meeting of the Social Justice Committee in view of concerns raised in respect of the delay in completion of the interface to the financial ledger, the revised target date being 31 March 2006.
- 2.3** Accordingly an update report was presented to the 8 February 2006 Social Justice Committee and whilst noting the report, the Committee also agreed that this item remain on the agenda of the Social Justice Committee until this one remaining outstanding issue has been resolved.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The final outstanding recommendation is as follows:-
- i) The system interface currently being developed between the rents system and the financial ledger to allow the automatic transfer of data should be fully implemented. Until the interface is fully operational, transactions from the rents system should be manually input into the ledger and reconciled on a regular basis.
- 3.2** The main issue is the length of time that it is taking to have this last outstanding audit recommendation completed.

- 3.3 There have been a number of target dates agreed with the external auditor regarding the completion date of this last audit recommendation and the target date has now been revised to 31 March 2006, as previously reported to this Committee.
- 3.4 Although the interface has in fact been written, there have been a number of problems encountered during the testing process.
- 3.5 It is important to note that, although the system interface has not yet been fully achieved, the transactions from the rents system are now being journalised in full into the financial ledger, which achieves the same result as a system interface.
- 3.6 Officers of the Housing and Technical Services and the Information Services Division of the Corporate Services Departments are now having regular discussions with the software supplier and written updates are now being submitted to the Manager of Finance, who is responsible for ensuring that the audit recommendation is completed.
- 3.7 It is anticipated that the new target of 31 March 2006 will now be met, which will mean that the interface will be operational from the beginning of the new financial year.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Only one action point now remains outstanding and, although the system interface has not yet been fully achieved, the transactions from the rents system are now being journalised in full into the financial ledger, which achieves the same result as a system interface.
- 4.2 It is now anticipated that the target date for completing the interface to the financial ledger of 31 March 2006 will be achieved.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 **The Committee is asked to note the progress made to date and to agree that this item remain on the agenda of the Audit and Performance Review Committee until the one remaining outstanding issue has been resolved.**



David McMillan
Director of Housing and Technical Services
Date: 23 February 2006

Wards Affected: All

Appendix: None

Background Papers: Audit & Performance Review Committee - 26 November 2003
Audit & Performance Review Committee - 25 February 2004
Audit & Performance Review Committee - 26 May 2004
Audit & Performance Review Committee - 29 September 2004
Audit & Performance Review Committee - 22 December 2004
Audit & Performance Review Committee - 23 March 2005
Audit & Performance Review Committee - 29 June 2005
Audit & Performance Review Committee - 14 September 2005
Audit & Performance Review Committee - 21 December 2005
Social Justice Committee - 8 February 2006

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