

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Executive

Council Meeting : 25 June 2008

Subject: Single Outcome Agreements

1. Purpose

1.1 This report presents the West Dunbartonshire's Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) for 2008.

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.

2.2 The new initiative was introduced in the Concordat in November 2007. As a consequence the Council is required to produce an SOA based on the new National Outcomes showing local outcomes and local measures, targets and actions, which will show how the Council is contributing to national outcomes. The intention is that the SOA will help focus the Community Plan and the Council's corporate plans.

2.3 The defined timetable required us to produce a first draft 'Council' SOA by 31st March – which was achieved - and then integrate as much partner agreement as possible by end June 2008 thereafter re-submit a revised document. A full 'Community Planning Partnership' SOA is then required by March 2009.

2.4 A report on the SOA initiative was submitted to Council on 30th January and the 1st Draft SOA was submitted to Council on the 26th March. The SOA comprises an introduction section and 15 templates - one for each of the new National Outcomes. Appendix1 is the current version of the SOA.

2.5 It was agreed at the 26th March Council meeting that each Service Committee be involved in the consultation process as part of the development of the West Dunbartonshire SOA. Reports were subsequently submitted to each of the service committees as well as the Audit & Performance Review Committee and the Community Participation Committee in April/May/June.

2.6 Partner consultation events took place between 15th April -13th May. These involved policy/strategy/performance officers and mainly centred on indicator selection. A further series of departmental workshops with senior Council Officers also took place in early-mid May

- 2.7 Meetings with the Scottish Government took place on 17th April and 20th May and revisions have been made to the templates as a result. Their main comments on the first drafts were to improve the prioritisation and also to reduce the number of outcomes and indicators to improve the strategic focus of the document.
- 2.8 The Improvement Service has also been involved in sharing best practice amongst the 32 Councils which included a one-day seminar on the 15th May.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 Targets have been provisionally set for many of the indicators but more remain to be proposed and then agreed. Some further research is still required into baseline data, sources and benchmarks. Some indicators require further development and others require further work by the responsible agency to disaggregate the data to local authority level.
- 3.2 This version of the SOA was due to be submitted to the CPP Board on 23rd June and a verbal update will be provided at the Council Meeting.
- 3.3 The national outcomes and national indicators have been recently published on the Scottish Government's website [Scotland Performs](#). Members are encouraged to view this site.
- 3.4 Further work will take place on the refining the 2009 version of the SOA in the period to March 2009. It will be set-up on the Covalent Performance Management system.
- 3.5 Some Elected Member events will be set-up during this period – details will be provided when available. The intention is that the 2009 SOA will include local outcomes and targets which all partners will have agreed and signed up to.

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 March 2009. This could have implications for the next funding settlement.
- 6.2 The SOA will undergo a risk assessment during 2008.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1** The latest version of the SOA has been edited following the Scottish Governments comments on prioritisation and its strategic nature.
- 7.2** Any further comments from Elected Members, officers and partners at this stage will be incorporated into the document and it will then be submitted to the Scottish Government on 30th June.
- 7.3** Further work is required to allow a final CPP document to be agreed by all partners and submitted by March 2009.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1** Members are requested to provide any further comments on the SOA by 29th June 2008.
- 8.2** Members are requested to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to submit the revised SOA to the Scottish Government on 30th June.

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David McMillan
Chief Executive
Date: 18 June 2008

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Appendix 1 : Single Outcome Agreement for West Dunbartonshire

Background Papers: Reports to Council on SOA 30 January 2008 and 26 March 2008

Wards Affected: All