

Report

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Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	11 May 2011
Report by:	Chief Executive

Subject:	Connect 2012 – Consultation Proposals
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Committee with proposals for the development of Connect 2012 - 2017, the Council Plan

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that proposals in terms of the structure and organisers contained in Connect 2012 are noted and that consideration of the detail of the plan should be taken forward by officers over the coming months
- (2) that consultation should be undertaken with key stakeholders
- (3) that a draft plan will be presented to Executive Committee early 2012

3. Background

- 3.1. In June 2009 the Committee approved the 2009 Mid Term Review of Connect which reflected updated priorities and extended the period of cover to 2012, to dovetail with the reviewed Local Government Election timetable.
- 3.2. Consideration is now being given by officers to the 2012 - 2017 Plan in order that it will be available for the new administration in May 2012.
- 3.3. This report advises members of the proposed structure of the Plan and consideration of Strategic Environmental Assessment requirements.
- 3.4. The proposed timescale and various stages of preparation for Connect 2012 are noted as an appendix.
- 3.5. Overall, the aim will be to keep faith as far as possible with the focus established at the 2009 Mid Term Review. This will ensure a degree of continuity and consequently make it easier for employees and other stakeholders to retain an understanding of the content and relevance of the Plan.

4. Proposed structure

- 4.1. The proposed structure for the new Plan is detailed at Table 1 below, including a brief explanation for each section. The Committee will recognise that this proposed structure is similar to that used for Resource Plans.

Table 1 – Proposed structure

Section
1. Introduction
2. Purpose of the plan
3. Where have we come from?
4. Where are we now?
5. Where do we want to be?
6. How do we get there?
7. How do we prioritise and resource the Plan?
8. How do we monitor progress?

5. Plan organisers, vision and values

- 5.1. Overall the aim is to ensure the plan is structured around organisers which will provide a level of continuity as well as retaining the ‘golden thread’ to Resource Plans.
- 5.2. It is proposed that the Council’s vision remains as the core of the Plan.
- 5.3. Council values are firmly embedded as representing how the Council operates, and are particularly relevant to support service employees in recognising how their roles and responsibilities contribute to the delivery of the vision. In order to maintain their visibility a short explanation will be included within the Council Plan ‘Purpose of Plan’.

Objectives and Improvement Themes

- 5.4. In order to simplify some of the terminology It is proposed that current objectives and improvement themes are referred to simply as objectives.
- 5.5. In order to develop a more strategic document the Plan would include objectives, but not actions or measures which would be introduced at Resource Plan level. The Committee is assured that the integrity of performance management and reporting will remain intact through the already established structure in place within IMPROVe.
- 5.6. Furthermore, officers will ensure a complete and accurate transition from the 2009 Mid Term Review of Connect to Connect 2012-2017.

6. Priorities

- 6.1. Historically, a number of objectives have been considered as being of priority to the Council, and this good practice will continue.
- 6.2. It is important to ensure that once identified, priorities are given the required status and level of commitment to ensure they are delivered. This must also be reiterated in performance reports and in public performance reporting.
- 6.3. In terms of future reporting arrangements consideration will be given to regularising specific reporting on priorities within the performance reporting framework.

7. Connect 2012 – organisers and objectives

- 7.1. As part of the initial preparatory work consideration has been given to the current version of Connect and to options for the future. Options considered were:
- retain status quo
 - align with Community Plan or local outcomes within Single Outcome Agreement
 - rationalise number and broad headings
- 7.2. The status quo option was not considered to provide the Council with sufficient flexibility for moving forward.
- 7.3. Aligning to the Community Plan has some benefits, but while the Community Plan is a major influence on the work of the Council, it is important that the Council has a plan which sets down that which it is wholly responsible for delivering. However, it is also important to remember the relevance of the 2010 refresh of the Community Plan and the South Lanarkshire Partnership's Single Outcome Agreement 'Connect 2 Success'.
- 7.4. The most appropriate option is considered to be a rationalisation of existing objectives and themes into a more manageable and relevant format. For Connect 2012 it is proposed that, in the main, the existing objectives are retained and grouped under simple strategic organisers which will easily inform the reader of the general subject and content.
- 7.5. These organisers will reflect anticipated Council outcomes and the impact they have on the community. This is particularly relevant since any future BV2 inspection will challenge the Council (and its Community Planning Partners) to demonstrate effective outcomes. The final detail of the organisers will be developed by officers over the next few months.
- 7.6. Work on organisers will reflect the following key principles:
- keep faith with existing approach
 - address the silo based nature of some objectives by grouping in a more corporate context under the strategic organisers
 - ensure the requirements of Best Value 2 are sufficiently reflected

8. Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 8.1. The Committee is advised that arrangements are in place to respond to requirements for a Strategic Environmental Assessment. The Screening Report was submitted to Scotland Gateway in February 2011 and the majority of the Consultation Authorities were in agreement that the Council Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects.
- 8.2. In order to ensure continued progress work will commence on the 'Scoping' stage of the SEA.

9. Next Steps

- 9.1. In order to progress work on Connect 2012 the Corporate Management Team and Heads of Service will participate in a workshop to consider the detail of Connect, including priorities and taking account of the impact of local and national outcomes.
- 9.2. The outcomes from the workshop will inform an initial draft Plan for consultation with stakeholders between July and September 2011 (as noted in appendix).

9.3. Thereafter, a further draft will be reviewed and refined by the Corporate Management Team to enable presentation to Committee early in 2012.

10. Employee Implications

10.1. There are no employee implications.

11. Financial Implications

11.1. There are no financial implications in the preparation of the Plan. The Plan will include a section on how it will be resourced (money, people and assets) this will reflect the Council's financial strategy and budget decisions.

12. Other Implications

12.1. Once completed the Plan will be considered in terms of risk management.

13. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

13.1. Consultation with a range of stakeholders is scheduled to take place by September 2011.

13.2. An Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out in due course.

Archibald Strang
Chief Executive

15 April 2011

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Improvement Themes/Values

◆ All Objectives, Improvement Themes and Values

Previous References

◆ Executive Committee report 10 June 2009 – **Connect – Mid Term Review**

List of Background Papers

◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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Connect 2012 – Timescale for preparation

Action	Timescale
CIU/CIAB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review of Connect structure and content 	Jan – March 2011 (CIAB 25 Jan/ 8 Mar 2011)
CMT/Heads of Service workshop (includes Resource consultation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review of outline for Connect 2012 	April – June 2011
Consultation with Community Planning Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider links from SOA 	July – Sept 2011
Consultation with public <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of Citizens Panel focus group(s) 	July – Sept 2011
Completion of Strategic Environmental Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • submission, review and completion of assessment through Scottish Government SEA Gateway 	Jan – Sept 2011
Draft Plan to Corporate Management Team	Dec 2011
Available for Resource Plan 2012/13 preparation	Dec 2011
Draft Plan to Executive Committee	Jan/Feb 2012