

**REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
20 DECEMBER 2004**

**REPORT ON: RESTRUCTURING OF THE LOCAL AGENDA 21 WORKING
GROUPS**

**REPORT BY: ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY PLANNING)
HEAD OF WASTE MANAGEMENT**

REPORT No.: 798-2004

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To gain committee approval for the restructuring and renaming of the Local Agenda 21 Working Groups.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that this committee:

- a) approves the restructuring of the Local Agenda 21 'Dundee 21' Working Group (Elected Member led) and renaming of the group to become the Sustainability Policy Review Group. The elected member composition will remain unchanged.
- b) approves the restructuring of the Local Agenda 21 Core Officer Group and renaming of the group to become the Sustainability Policy Implementation Group
- c) remits the Sustainability Policy Implementation Group to draft a Sustainability Policy for Dundee City Council.
- d) remits the Sustainability Policy Review Group to meet annually and review the sustainability policy and actions.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications.

4. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The restructured Sustainability Policy Implementation and Review Groups will continue to consider sustainability issues for Dundee and the City Council.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6. BACKGROUND

6.1 In 1996 the Policy and Resources Committee agreed to develop a structure which delivered Local Agenda 21. This resulted in the Local Agenda 21 'Dundee 21' Working Group (Elected Member led) and the Local Agenda 21 Core Officer Group.

Whilst these groups have been effective at developing a Local Agenda 21 and implementing projects, since their formation a number of sustainability challenges and drivers for change have emerged, which the groups should be taking on board.

6.2 These challenges are summarised below:



6.3 It is considered that Community Planning, as the keynote of Best Value, and the Power to Advance Wellbeing have the greatest impact on sustainability within the Council.

6.4 Nationally, the Scottish Executive has also realigned Local Agenda 21 towards Community Planning. The Scottish Executive are also in the early stages of drafting a Sustainable Development Strategy which will reflect the direction of the UK's Sustainable Development Strategy; 'Taking It On'.

6.5 In the light of these new challenges and the formation of the Environmental Services and Sustainability Committee, the Local Agenda 21 Member / Officer Working Group felt it appropriate and timely to undertake a review of the Council's Local Agenda 21 activity and examine how sustainable development was being taken forward by the Council.

6.6 A report was therefore submitted to the Local Agenda 21 Member / Officer Working Group by the Council's Environmental Strategy Officer in September 2004. The Group agreed a set of recommendations which have been endorsed by the Council's Management Team.

6.7 Management Team agreed to the following actions, subject to the approval of the Environmental Services & Sustainability Committee:

6.7.1 Local Agenda 21, Agenda 21 and LA21 be updated to reflect current Council and national activities and programmes. Whilst absorbing the lessons of LA21, Dundee City Council should, in future, refer to sustainable development and sustainability policy, which are more accurate and understandable terms for focusing development.

6.7.2 as the Council takes its sustainability efforts forward within Dundee, it should re-frame its current external LA21 activity to be promoted under the banner

of the Dundee Partnership for the Environment (DPE) within the Community Planning Process. This would allow the Council to contribute to the sustainability theme of the Community Plan through the key strategic partner for Dundee's environment.

6.7.3 the current LA21 activity carried out within the Council be reframed and promoted through the implementation of a single Sustainability Policy for the Council. This realignment of current practice will bring together existing 'disparate' sustainability policy work to provide a coherent approach to in-house environmental improvement and reporting of progress.

6.7.4 the Council develops and adopts its own Sustainability Policy, the aims and values of which would be delivered by building on existing, key mechanisms and separate internal environmental policy work, including:

- The work of the LA21 Officer/Member and Officer Working Groups (inc. Corporate & Departmental Priorities)
- The Council's Performance Management and Reporting Framework and ongoing departmental programmes and activities.

The Sustainability Policy will also link directly into the wider Community Planning partnership and represent the Council's corporate commitment to the work of the DPE.

6.7.5 the Local Agenda 21 Member / Officer Working Group be renamed as the Sustainability Policy Review Group and the Local Agenda 21 Core Officer Group be renamed as the Sustainability Policy Implementation Group.

6.7.6 the Sustainability Policy Review Group meet annually to initially agree a draft sustainability policy for Dundee City Council and consider reports from officers on the implementation of the sustainability policy. The Sustainability Policy Implementation Group will meet 4 times a year to progress Dundee's sustainability policy and report to the Sustainability Policy Review Group.

7. CONSULTATION

Chief Executive
Depute Chief Executive (Finance)
Depute Chief Executive (Support Services)

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Environmental Action and Local Agenda 21 (1996)

Chris Ward
Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) 5 December 2004

Jim Laing
Head of Waste Management 5 December 2004