

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held within the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Clydebank on Wednesday 26 August 1998.

Present: Provost George Cairney (LAB), James McElhill (SNP), Mary Campbell (LAB), Daniel McCafferty (LAB), John Syme (LAB), Andrew White (LAB), Anthony Devine (LAB), Alistair Macdonald (LAB), Patricia Rice (LAB), John McCutcheon (SNP), David Logan (SNP), James McCallum (LAB & CO-OP), Geoffrey Calvert (LAB & CO-OP), William McKechnie (SNP), Duncan Mills (LAB), Craig McLaughlin (SNP), Ronald McColl (SNP), Margaret McGregor (SNP), James Flynn (LAB) and James Chirrey (SNP).

Attending: Michael Watters, Chief Executive, Ian Leitch, Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council, Ian McMurdo, Director of Education and Leisure Services, Tim Huntingford, Director of Social Work and Housing, Ian Fernie, Director of Economic; Planning and Environmental Services, Patrick Cleary, Director of Roads and Technical Services, John Bak, Head of Personnel and Training, Mary Cullen, Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations, Angela Clements, Head of Information Services, Vincent Gardiner, Manager of Exchequer, George Paul, Manager of Audit and Alan Summers, Manager of Construction Operations.

Apologies for absence: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor John Wailes (SNP).

Provost George Cairney in the Chair

DEATH OF DR. ALLAN MACARTNEY M.E.P. BOMBING IN OMAGH

The Provost expressed sorrow on behalf of the Council at the sudden death of the Deputy Leader of the SNP, Dr. Allan Macartney M.E.P.. He also spoke of the tragic circumstances of the recent bombing in Omagh and expressed a hope for peace in Northern Ireland. The Council then stood to observe a minute's silence in remembrance.

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

The Provost, in terms of Section 50B(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as inserted by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, decided that an item on a grant application by Carman Centre (Renton over 65's) be considered as the last item on the agenda as a matter of urgency on the grounds that the action to be taken required early consideration.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT BY-ELECTION: WARD 12 - DUMBARTON WEST

There was submitted report by the Returning Officer on the results of the Local Government By-Election held in Ward 12: Dumbarton West on Thursday 13 August 1998 as follows:

Martin Hollern	A Hard Worker in the Community	46
David Logan	Scottish National Party (SNP)	611
Kenneth Shepherd	Scottish Liberal Democrat	90
Alexander Tuach	The Labour Party Candidate	588
Brian Vosper	Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party	<u>33</u>
Total number of votes cast		1368

It was noted that David Logan had been duly elected to serve as the Councillor for the ward.

Councillor White, as Leader of the Council, welcomed Councillor Logan as the elected member for Dumbarton West and expressed the hope that Councillor Logan would enjoy his time as a member of the Council.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 24 June and of the Special Meeting held on 6 August were submitted and approved on the motion of Provost Cairney, seconded by Councillor White.

Overtoun House - Angel Rooms

With reference to the above item in the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 June (**Volume page 3619 refers**), the Council, having heard Councillor Macdonald, noted that Historic Scotland had been commissioned by the Director of Roads and Technical Services to investigate the likely costs of remedial works to the rooms and to report back to Council at the earliest opportunity.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

The Minutes of the following Committees were submitted for information: -

Tendering Committee held on 23 June 1998

Special Environmental Protection and Leisure Services Committee held on 23 June 1998 Social Work Committee held on 5 August 1998

Housing Committee held on 5 August 1998

Grievance Committee held on 5 August 1998

Special Planning and Economic Development Committee held on 5 August 1998

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NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor McColl sought and obtained authorisation from the Council to withdraw his Notice of Motion, having regard to the matters which were the subject of the minute's silence.

NOTICE OF MOTION

A Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Andrew White and an addition to that Motion was tabled. The Motion so amended read as follows: -

"This Council reaffirms that it requires an Authority which is efficient, effective and responsive to the community and provides best value to the residents and taxpayers of West Dunbartonshire.

This Council believes that it is right and proper that -

Council Tax increases should be kept to a minimum;

front-line services and in particular services to our elderly, disabled and vulnerable, should be protected and where possible expanded;

every area of Council expenditure should be examined for savings.

This Council therefore reaffirms its decision to have an independent review of its management structure. This Council proposes that the review should be undertaken by appropriately qualified consultants appointed by Cosla.

The Council proposes that the terms of reference should be to review the Council's management structure having regard to the structure of comparable Councils and to identify where management can be rationalised and streamlined, and savings achieved.

The Council proposes that we set a benchmark for the review of £300,000.

Furthermore, Council believes that this action is necessary to achieve our objective of establishing a best value culture within the Authority, while keeping the Council Tax to a minimum."

Council notes that the consultants chosen by COSLA will be contracted to the Council.

Furthermore, this Council recognises the value of trade union consultation, therefore the Head of Personnel and Training is requested to arrange a meeting with trade union representatives within the next two weeks. Councillors White and Devine will be in attendance at that meeting, for the purpose of explaining the Council's decision.

Council also requests the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations to liaise with the Leader of the Council with regard to the inclusion of an article in a prominent position in the next employee newsletter, explaining the Council's decision."

As an amendment, Councillor Mackechnie, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, moved as follows:-

“This Council agrees that this item be continued to the September meeting of fix Council to allow answers to be obtained to the following questions: -

- (1) What is the definition of management as used in the Motion?
- (2) Does it include posts in any or all of the Bands used in the Joint Staffing Watch distributed by COSLA?
- (3) What are the criteria to be used to choose comparable Councils? Are any or all of the following to be used - population, poverty, geography or a combination thereof?
- (4) Reference is made to Financial Regulation C 1, namely that "no expenditure shall be incurred unless included in the annual estimates or covered by a supplementary estimate approved by the Finance Committee after the submission of a report thereon." What is the estimated expenditure and where is the report?
- (5) Reference is made to Financial Regulation 1 (5) "Value for Money". Does this Motion satisfy the requirements of Value for Money?
- (6) Clarification is sought on the competence of the proposed procedure. Does COSLA's constitution permit it to appoint consultants who will then be contracted to the Council?
- (7) What will the cost of the exercise be?
- (8) Have the Trade Unions been consulted on the terms of reference and the benchmark figure to apply? It is clear from the terms of the Motion that the administration intends that the trade unions will be informed not consulted.
- (9) What is the real reason for the Labour administration pushing ahead with this review when six months ago it had a completely different position as contained in page 3078 of the Minutes?

The SNP is not opposed to achieving Best Value in the authority. We are opposed to the way in which this is being done. Satisfactory answers are required to the above questions before agreement can be reached."

On a vote being taken, 8 Members voted for the Amendment and 12 for the Motion which was accordingly carried.

MATTERS ARISING OUTWITH DELEGATED POWERS FOR RATIFICATION

Housing Committee - 5 August 1998

(a) Housing Revenue Account Surplus 1997/198 (volume page 3656 refers)

The following decision of the Committee was submitted and approved;

"West Dunbartonshire Council supports the proposals for additional expenditure contained in the report from the Director of Social Work and Housing. In particular, the extra investment on repairs and additional staffing will make a further contribution to tackling the problems of void houses.

The policy of the Council has been to reduce rent increases to the minimum and the Housing Committee welcomes the proposals that rent increases for the next year be further reduced. This Committee therefore agrees that the target will be a nil increase. Furthermore the Council, while supporting prudent management of the HRA, believe that more should be done to find additional resources for improvement to the quality of life of our tenants, especially for measures that improve the safety and security of vulnerable people.

The Committee therefore instructs the Director of Social Work and Housing to update the financial position at the September Committee, to look for additional savings, and to bring forward draft proposals for further expenditure targeted at the following priorities:-

Security lighting (targeted programme for elderly, disabled and vulnerable tenants).

Fencing (increase to current budget provision).

Security chains and spy holes (targeted programme for elderly, disabled and vulnerable tenants).

Aids and adaptations (increase to current budget provision for elderly and disabled tenants."

(b) Void Feasibility Studies (volume page 3657 refers)

The following recommendations were submitted and approved:

- (1) To approve the use of up to £50,000 additional revenue money for the appointment of 3 Estate Caretakers and 2 Housing Officers and external training agencies where appropriate.
- (2) To suspend housing allocations in blocks which are to be considered for future demolition.,
- (3) To agree to the expenditure of some capital money under the Void House/Miscellaneous Budget on work identified by the Estate Action Groups, and
- (4) To note that further reports would be submitted to future meetings of the Housing Committee.

(c) Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme 1998/99 - August 1998 Update (volume page 3658 refers)

The following decision of the Committee was submitted and approved:

"To approve the recommendations detailed within the report by the Director of Social Work and Housing shown as the Appendix to the Minutes of the Housing Committee of 5 August 1998."

ACCEPTANCE OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL FROM GEORGIA AT DOUNREAY

There was submitted report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council on the outcome of the Inquiry undertaken by the Department of Trade and Industry into the acceptance of nuclear material from Georgia at the Dounreay site. Having heard Councillor Macdonald, the Council noted the outcome of the Inquiry and agreed that if further action proved necessary, the matter be brought back to Council for consideration.

A NEW ETHICAL FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SCOTLAND

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 June 1998, **(volume page 3610 refers)** the Council gave consideration to the remit and membership of the Standards Committee and the implementation of a Code of Conduct for officers based on national procedures.

The Council approved the joint statement by Councillors White and Mackechnie as follows.

"In accordance with the decision of Council on 24 June, Councillors White and Mackechnie have met with the Chief Executive and Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council.

Agreement has been reached that the Standards Committee will have at least 2 independent persons of recognised standing in the community as members. Such persons will not have any known political affiliation. The political composition of the Committee will broadly reflect the balance of membership of the Council as a whole.

It is anticipated that the Committee will be given an investigative role covering all matters concerning the conduct of elected Members except those areas where other statutory procedures are appropriate, for example, investigations by the Ombudsman, Accounts Commission etc. In addition it is anticipated that the Committee will be given the power to recommend disciplinary action within the existing legal framework.

The Council's Monitoring Officer will ensure that the investigations are carried out on behalf of the Council. Given the importance of the Committee, the Chief Executive will be the principal adviser to the Committee.

The remit and the processes and procedures of the Committee are such that further meetings will be necessary to deal with all of these important issues. A Code of Conduct for all employees has already been drafted by the Chief Executive and is under consideration and will be the subject of consultation shortly. This Code will be implemented as soon as possible.

It is expected that a full report with detailed proposals on the Standards Committee and the procedures and processes for its operation should be available to the September Council meeting.

The Council is asked to note the position and the progress made meantime."

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 June 1998 (**volume page 3610 refers**) submit updated report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council in respect of vacancies remaining to be filled following the death of Provost Patrick O'Neill. The Council dealt with the vacancies as follows:-

"B" Group

"D" Group

The Council agreed that an SNP Councillor be appointed to both groups and that the SNP advise the Chief Executive of their nominee in early course.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ad-hoc Committee on CCT

It was agreed that this Committee be abolished.

Appeals Committee (Grievance/Disciplinary/etc.)

It was noted that in terms of Standing Order 27, this vacancy would be filled by the Convener of the Council.

Appeals Committee (Education)

It was agreed that an SNP Councillor be appointed to this vacancy and that the SNP would advise the Chief Executive of their nominee as soon as possible.

SUB-COMMITTEES

Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee

It was agreed to appoint Councillor Devine to this vacancy.

Civic Hospitality Sub-Committee

It was agreed to appoint Councillor Mills to this vacancy.

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Appointments to Outside Bodies

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 June 1998 (**volume page 3610 refers**), the Council approved the following appointments to outside bodies:

Dumbarton Senior Citizens' Committee	1 SNP Member (to be advised)
Law Centre, Dumbarton - Management Committee	Councillor McCallum
Leven Valley Enterprise Centre	Councillor McCallum
Leven Valley Workspace Ltd. – Board	1 SNP Member (to be advised)
Leven Valley Initiative Steering Group	1 SNP Member (to be advised)
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs Joint Steering Committee	1 SNP Member (to be advised)
Scottish Maritime Museum - Board of Trustees	1 SNP Member (to be advised)

West Dunbartonshire Sports Council
West Dunbartonshire Soccer Council
Loch Lomond Park Authority

1 SNP Member (to be advised)
Councillor Rice
Councillor Campbell

It was agreed to continue the appointment to the Maid of the Loch Trust Board until the next meeting.

(b) The Gaul Trust

There was submitted report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council in respect of the Council's representation on the Gaul Trust. The Council noted that the membership of the Trust comprised the Provost and the Depute Provost and accordingly agreed that Provost Cairney and Councillor Mills serve on the Trust.

MR J. BROWN, 34 DUMBUIE AVENUE, DUMBARTON

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 April 1998 (**Volume page 3373 refers**), there was submitted for consideration report by the Chief Executive on a complaint received from Mr Brown of Dumbuie Avenue. After discussion, the Council approved the recommendations of the report as follows:

- (1) that Mr Brown be offered an ex **gratia** payment of £100 in respect of the remedial work carried out in the garden following the pipe replacement work;
- (2) with regard to the boundary fence, as the Council now has no involvement, that no further action be taken; and
- (3) that a further payment of £100 be made in respect of the difficulties experienced with grant assistance.

SHERIFF COURT, DUMBARTON

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 April 1998 (**Volume page 3370 refers**), there was submitted report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council about the siting of the Sheriff Court.

After discussion, the Council welcomed the report and approved the recommendations contained therein as follows:

- (1) to utilise the Municipal Buildings, Dumbarton for short term let purposes only until a decision on the site of the Sheriff Court is made;
- (2) to hold on reserve the Crosslet House site (excluding the house and immediate environs) as a possible site for the Sheriff Court;
- (3) to remit to Corporate Policy and Public Relations the task of preparing a consultation exercise with regard to public preference with regard to site; and
- (4) to advise the Scottish Courts Service of the foregoing.

It was further agreed that the Scottish Courts Service be advised that the Council's preferred option is the existing Court site and that it be emphasised that a start date should be made on the Court within two years.

TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 1999

There was submitted and approved report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council on the proposed timetable of meetings for 1999. A copy of the timetable forms the Appendix to this Minute.

In respect of the timetable for 1998, Councillor White advised that the September, October and November meetings of full Council were scheduled for the third Wednesday in each month, rather than the last Wednesday which is the normal practice in terms of Standing Orders. The Council agreed to reschedule the meetings for the last Wednesday of each month, namely, 30 September, 28 October and 25 November.

It was further agreed that the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations advise community groups and organisations of the change in the programme for 1998.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance recommending the adoption of certain discretionary elements contained within the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 1998. The Council provisionally approved adoption of the recommendations contained in the report, as underrated, subject to satisfactory consultation with the relevant Trades Unions: -

- (1) No reduction or waiver of contributions for employees with 40 years' service;
- (2) Added years' service only be considered for ill-health retirements where no other augmentation is available;
- (3) Not to contribute to individual AVC'S;
- (4) The restriction of Widowers' Benefit for pre-1988 service is removed; and
- (5) Rule of 85 grounds for retirement be considered as part of the existing criteria for redundancy and efficiency retirements.

It was agreed that a report on the result of the Trades Union consultation be submitted to the next meeting of Council.

WEST OF SCOTLAND WATER - REVISION OF CHARGING STRUCTURE

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance updating the Council on proposed changes to the West of Scotland Water Authority's charging structure for non-domestic properties. The Council noted the consultation document issued by the West of Scotland Water Authority and agreed to make representations on inducements to promote water recycling and reduction in trade effluent discharge and that highway drainage remains part of the charge made to non-domestic properties.

COAT OF ARMS

There was submitted report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations on the use of West Dunbartonshire Council's Coat of Arms.

After discussion and having heard Councillor Macdonald, the Council agreed as follows: -

- (1) that the Coat of Arms be used on the headed notepaper of all elected members and for all civic functions, but on the understanding that supplies with the crest would not be introduced until existing supplies bearing the logo had been exhausted.,
- (2) that the Coat of Arms be incorporated in a Council flag, at a cost of between £200 and £300 per flag; and
- (3) that the flags be flown on all occasions except when the Saltire, the Union Flag or any alternative flag requires to be displayed.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

There was submitted report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations on the proposed production of a map of the West Dunbartonshire area. After discussion, the Council approved the production of a West Dunbartonshire map on the basis outlined in the report and that the work be awarded to McMillan-Scott PLC, a company which had already successfully produced two major publications for West Dunbartonshire Council.

CITIZENS' PANEL - "FRONTLINE 1000"

There was submitted report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations on the Citizens' Panel "Frontline 1000". After discussion, the Council noted the report and endorsed using Priority Search software for citizens' panel surveys.

The Head of Information Services agreed to prepare a report for the next meeting on the staffing implications for her Section of carrying out this work.

JOB EVALUATION - LOCAL AUTHORITIES CONSORTIUM

There was submitted report by the Head of Personnel and Training seeking approval for the Council's participation in a consortium of local authorities set up to develop an appropriate Job Evaluation survey. After discussion, and having heard the Head of Personnel and Training, the Council agreed to participate in the scheme on the basis of the costs outlined in the report.

FAIFLEY CENTRE FOR COMMUNM REGENERATION

There was submitted report by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services on progress in the conversion of the former Faifley Primary School. After discussion, the Council approved the recommendations contained in the report as follows: -

- (1) that the Department of Education and Leisure Services be the supervising department for the centre;
- (2) to approve the proposed management structure and the expedited procedure for the appointment of the Centre Manager, as detailed in the report;
- (3) to agree the proposed staffing structure;
- (4) that there should be elected member representation on the Management Committee, the representatives being the Councillors for the two electoral wards covering the area of the Centre;

- (5) that a separate budget heading be created for Faifley Regeneration Centre; and
- (6) otherwise to note the progress made to date on this project.

PROPOSALS BY CIS FOR REFURBISHMENT OF CLYDE REGIONAL SHOPPING CENTRE

There was submitted report by the Director of Economic; Planning and Environmental Services on progress made with CIS in the refurbishment of the Clyde Regional Shopping Centre. After discussion, the Council welcomed the report and approved the recommendations contained therein as follows:-

- (1) to agree in principle to make a contribution of a maximum of 23% of the redevelopment/refurbishment costs for Phase 1 and its relevant environs with a ceiling for this contribution being placed at £2.1 million or capital value thereto-,
- (2) on the basis of paragraph (1) above, to seek confirmation that rental levels will remain at 23% or thereabouts of the overall rental take, (other than where a specific rental reduction is negotiated as part of the capital contribution) thereby continuing to secure the Council's revenue income in real terms;
- (3) that as an integral part of the agreement governing the capital contribution, a revision of the current three head leases into one lease document take place which would maintain the current net income generation and would also incorporate transfers of any car parking areas and/or additional development sites as may be agreed as being an acceptable method of contribution and that the details and caveats attached to any such incorporation be reported back to Council for final approval;
- (4) to instruct officers to negotiate with CIS a method of contribution based on Option 3 outlined in the report, through the incorporation of the car parking areas into a new composite head lease together with a combination of an acceptance of a minimal reduction in the overall rental take, to which an agreed negotiated capital value would require to be attributed and a cash contribution from the General Services capital programme over a minimum of two financial years;
- (5) in parallel to these actions, to enter into discussions with British Waterways and Dunbartonshire Enterprise regarding further improvements relating to the Millennium Canal Link project and works on Kilbowie Road, which may be to the mutual benefit of all parties and that a further separate report on the outcome of these negotiations be submitted to Council in due course; and
- (6) to invite CIS and their representatives to make a formal presentation of their proposals to a special meeting of the Planning and Economic Development Committee in September to which all Members would be invited, together with the Board of West Dunbartonshire Town Centre Initiatives Limited.

The Council thanked the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council, the Director of Economic; Planning and Environmental Services and the other officers concerned for the hard work which they had invested in this matter.

COMMEMORATION OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE NAMING OF A STREET OR SQUARE

There was submitted report by the Director of Economic; Planning and Environmental Services seeking the Council's agreement to naming an appropriate street/square in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Council of Europe.

After discussion, the Council agreed to designate the small pedestrianised urban "square" directly opposite Clydebank Town Hall as being suitable for this project. It was noted that the cc square" currently has a European link through its Polish commemorative plaque and it was agreed that it be renamed "Solidarity Plaza" to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Council of Europe.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AT WORK

There was submitted report by the Director of Education and Leisure Services on the implementation of EC Directive (94/33/EC) on the protection of young people at work and seeking approval for the revision of the relevant byelaws. After discussion, the Council welcomed the report and approved, in principle, the adoption of the model byelaw appended thereto for implementation in West Dunbartonshire Council following submission to the Secretary of State for confirmation after the necessary statutory consultation.

EXEMPTION FROM STANDING ORDERS IN RESPECT OF VEHICLE OPERATIONAL LEASING

There was submitted report by the Director of Contract Services on the exemption from Standing Orders for vehicle leasing. The Council, noting that this item required the suspension of Standing Orders, agreed so to do.

After discussion, the Council approved the report and agreed to grant exemption from Standing Orders 30, 31, 32 and 33 in respect of the Vehicle Operational Lease 1998 - 2003,

VEHICLE TESTING STATION, CLYDEBANK

There was submitted joint report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council and the Director of Contract Services on options for retention of the Vehicle Testing Unit. The Council noted that consideration of the item would require the Suspension of Standing Orders. However, it was agreed not to suspend Standing Orders in this case.

REVIEW OF WORLD WAR 1 EXECUTIONS

There was submitted letter from Wear Valley District Council requesting the Council to support their Resolution that the Government issue a "Millennium Pardon" to all soldiers executed for battlefield offences during the First World War.

After discussion, the Council agreed to support the Resolution.

STRATHCLYDE JOINT POLICE BOARD - FIXED PENALTY TRAFFIC OFFENCES

There was submitted letter from Strathclyde Joint Police Board, enclosing a report from the Clerk to the Board in relation to fixed penalty traffic offences. The Council agreed to support the motion proposed by the Board to the effect that all revenue from speeding offences be paid to Strathclyde Joint Police Board who would allocate 65% to the Chief Constable to improve Police Services and 35% to the twelve unitary authorities to improve their road and street systems and that other motoring offences dealt with by the fixed penalty/conditional offer scheme should also be included in this request.

SCOTTISH LOW PAY UNIT - NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE SEMINARS

There was submitted letter from the Scottish Low Pay Unit seeking assistance with the provision of accommodation in connection with the national minimum wage seminars. The Council unanimously agreed to the request and to host one of the seminar days.

COMUNN NA GAIDHLIG

There was submitted and noted a letter from Comunn na Gaidhghg on its progress report for 1998.

PRINCESS DIANA PLAYGROUND PROJECT

There was submitted letter from the Princess Diana Memorial Action Group seeking support for a nationwide network of children's playgrounds in towns and cities across the country, particularly in areas where the need is greatest.

The Council agreed to express support for the project and to agree in principle to the siting of a playground in Auchentoshan Estate at Kilpatrick School as part of the network, subject to the receipt of satisfactory further information on the project.

CONFERENCES/COURSES ETC

ADLO Scottish Region "The Future of DLOIDSO's in Scodand" - Seminar - 28 August 1998 – Glasgow

Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Devine, moved that Councillor Rice attend the seminar. As an amendment, Councillor Mackechnie, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, moved officer attendance only and that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Contract Services Policy Board. On a vote being taken, 8 Members voted for the Amendment and 12 for the Motion which was accordingly carried.

GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS CARMAN CENTRE

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance on an application for grant assistance by the Over 65's Section of the Carman Centre in Renton to assist with holiday expenses for ten members.

The Council agreed to make a grant in the sum of £500 for this project and asked that council officers pass on the Council's good wishes to the pensioners taking part in the visit.