

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU

18 September 2007

MEETING: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

**WEDNESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2007
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CLYDEBANK TOWN HALL
DUMBARTON ROAD
CLYDEBANK**

Dear Member,

Please attend a Meeting of **West Dunbartonshire Council** to be held in the **Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank, on Wednesday, 26 September 2007 at 7.00 p.m.**

The business is as shown on the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

DAVID MCMILLAN

Chief Executive

Distribution:-

All Members of West Dunbartonshire Council.

Chief Executive

Executive Director of Educational Services

Executive Director of Social Work and Health

Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environment & Economic Development
(Housing & Regeneration Services)

Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environment & Economic Development (Land
and Environment)

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2007

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. OPEN FORUM

The Council is asked that to note that no open forum questions have been received from members of the public.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Submit, for approval as a correct record, the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 29 August 2007.

4. MINUTES OF THE RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE

Submit for information, and where necessary ratification, the Minutes of Meeting of the Recruitment Committee held on 13 August 2007.

5. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

Submit for information, and where necessary ratification, the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held on 22 August 2007.

6. MINUTES OF THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE FORUM

Submit for information, and where necessary ratification, the Minutes of Meeting of the Joint Consultative Forum held on 6 September 2007.

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7. AFFILIATIONS

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council on 29 August 2007, the Council is asked to note that further information has been requested from the relevant organisations but that to date only two responses have been received and therefore a report will be submitted to the Council as soon as all the information is available.

8. REVIEW OF AUDIT & PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council on 29 August 2007, submit report by the Chief Executive informing the Council about the conclusions of the review of scrutiny and the role of the Audit & Performance Review Committee and proposing a revised role and remit for the Committee.

Note: Members are asked to note that the Audit and Performance Review Committee has recommended that the quorum of the Committee should be 5. As the Council agreed, at its last meeting, that the quorum should be 3 (2 of which should be Opposition Members), the Council is required to suspend Standing Order No 16 in order to consider this recommendation.

9. CORPORATE PLAN 2008-2012 (Copy to follow)

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council on 29 August 2007, submit report by the Chief Executive seeking Council's approval of the final draft of the Council's new Corporate Plan 2008 - 2012.

10. THE IMPACT OF REDUCING WEEKEND OPENING HOURS AT THE PLAY DROME, CLYDEBANK

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council on 29 August 2007, submit report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environment and Economic Development (Land & Environment) advising of the impact that reducing weekend opening hours at the Play Drome has had on the service, staff and customers.

11. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

Submit report by the Chief Executive advising of the requirement to conduct a review of polling districts and places within its area and outlining the timetable and processes for carrying out this review.

12. INTERIM MANAGEMENT REPORT 2006/07 (Copy to follow)

Submit report by the Chief Executive presenting to the Council the KPMG LLP's findings in relation to their interim audit fieldwork for 2006/07.

13. POST OFFICE NETWORK CHANGE PROGRAMME

Submit report by the Chief Executive providing Members with information on the proposed programme of post office closures in West Dunbartonshire and making recommendations thereon.

14. LIVE AT LOCH LOMOND FESTIVAL 2007

Submit report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environment and Economic Development (Land and Environment):-

- (a) providing information on the outcome of the Live at Loch Lomond Festival staged at Balloch Castle Country Park on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 August 2007; and
- (b) seeking approval for officers to enter negotiations with the promoter to develop this event with a view to staging the event in 2008 and 2009.

15. ALTERNATIVE FUNDING STRUCTURES FOR MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

Submit report by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing an overview of the financing structures available for major capital projects such as the rebuilding of schools.

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16. QUESTIONS

In accordance with the terms of Standing Order No 9 (b), the undernoted questions have been submitted:-

(a) Question by Councillor David McBride to Councillor Iain Robertson, Leader of the Council - Council Tax

This Council agreed in June to seek an urgent meeting with John Swinney, MSP, to discuss concerns that the Executive may set a zero percent increase in the Council Tax without a compensatory increase in grant funding. Can the Leader of the Council inform me when the Council will meet with his SNP ministerial colleague?

(b) Question by Councillor Patrick McGlinchey to Councillor Iain Robertson, Leader of the Council – Schools PPP Regeneration Project

Given the recent conflicting articles and letters in the press regarding the SNP's confusion over its stance on the schools PPP regeneration project, what assurance will the Leader of the Council give to the public, that his administration will deliver the Council's current policy on schools regeneration?

(c) Question by Councillor Patrick McGlinchey to Councillor Jim McElhill, Depute Leader of the Council – Schools PPP Regeneration Project

Given the recent conflicting articles and letters in the press regarding the SNP's confusion over its stance on the schools PPP regeneration project, what assurance will the Depute Leader of the Council give to his constituents in Clydebanks, that the SNP administration will deliver the Council's current policy on schools regeneration?

17. NOTICES OF MOTION

The Council is requested to consider the undernoted motions which have been submitted in accordance with Standing order No. 8:-

(a) Councillor Jim Bolla - Families United Support Group

This Council agrees to provide a grant of £1,500 to Families United Support Group who are based in St Augustine's Church, Dumbarton to enable the group to commission a business plan required by WDC addiction services before the group can apply for match funding of £23,000 which has been secured from the Robertson Trust to employ a full time dedicated drugs worker for the project.

Families United Support Group is run by volunteers who are predominately parents of a child or other family member who is misusing drugs.

The service provided by this group is different from but complements the work being undertaken by Alternatives.

The employment of this worker would also enable the much needed drop in service which closed recently to be re-opened for self and agency referral.

(b) Councillor Jonathan McColl – Amnesty International

West Dunbartonshire Council reaffirms its support for the local branch of Amnesty International.

Amnesty International's "Protect the Human" week runs from 13th to 19th October this year and it is appropriate at this time that the Council supports the local branch in their efforts to secure the release of Ma Khin Khin Leh.

Since December 2003, Ma Khin Khin Leh has been the adopted prisoner of conscience of West Dunbartonshire Council and it is disappointing that efforts to secure her release have not succeeded to date.

Council instructs the Leader of the Council to write to the local branch of Amnesty International, pledging our support and offering assistance.

(c) Councillor Martin Rooney – Visit to Argenteuil

This Council recognises the importance of maintaining cultural links with our twin town of Argenteuil in France.

At the previous Council meeting it was agreed that Provost Agnew along with another elected member will represent West Dunbartonshire Council at the next visit to Argenteuil.

Council notes that for the first time ever a total of twenty senior citizens from West Dunbartonshire are involved in the visit and will be acting as ambassadors for our area. (Ten pensioner ambassadors from Clydebank; four pensioner ambassadors from Dumbarton; and six pensioner ambassadors from the Vale of Leven).

However due to the late booking of flights the cost of the trip for the pensioners has increased significantly from £2,251.40 to £4,031.40. This means that each pensioner ambassador will need to find an extra £89 each to cover for the increased cost of the flights.

Council therefore agrees to pay the additional £1,780 cost of the trip from an appropriate budget to remove the financial burden from our pensioner ambassadors.

(d) Councillor Jim Bollan – Housing Benefit

This Council currently “diverts” housing benefit, which should legitimately be paid to lodgers to pay for their housing costs, to enable the amount to be deducted from the lodgers’ landlords’ council tax/poll tax arrears.

This has the effect of instantly putting an innocent party, the lodger, into rent arrears and in danger of being made homeless.

This is an immoral practice which intentionally puts innocent third party lodgers into debt which is completely unacceptable.

This Council agrees that this unjustifiable practice should be stopped immediately.

This Council also agrees that any monies gathered previously in this manner should be returned to the lodger who has a right in law to receive this benefit to enable them to pay their housing costs.

(e) Councillor Geoff Calvert - Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies in Scotland

This Council notes with concern the fact that the Minister for Environment was reported to the Scottish Parliament for failing to comply with the requirements of the Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies in Scotland.

The Code was set out in order to ensure that ministerial appointments are made fairly and openly. Ten of the ministerial appointments to LL&TNPA are by statutory nomination and these include the two nominations from West Dunbartonshire Council. The Code specifies a particular procedure in respect of statutory nominations. Part of that procedure includes that each position is to have at least two nominations for each position from their respective local authority.

Council is deeply disappointed that there has been a complete lack of independent scrutiny, openness and transparency which means that the recent appointments are not regarded as the result of a fair and open process. The Commissioner herself describes the lack of scrutiny, openness and transparency as ‘themselves sufficient to qualify this breach of the Code’s principles as material.’

Given the Council's Commitment to scrutiny, openness and transparency, this Council agrees that all future statutory nominations will fully comply with the Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments and Public Bodies etc. (Scotland) Act 2003.

For information on the above agenda please contact George Hawthorn, Legal and Administrative Services, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, G82 3PU on Tel: (01389) 737204 or e-mail: [**george.hawthorn@west-dunbarton.gov.uk**](mailto:george.hawthorn@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)