

EXECUTIVE

At a meeting of the Executive, held within Committee Room 2, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday 13 December 2000 at 10.45 am.

Present: Councillors Andrew White, Daniel McCafferty, Anthony Devine, Duncan McDonald, James Flynn and Connie O'Sullivan.

Attending: Tim Huntingford, Chief Executive; Ian McMurdo, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Eric Walker, Director of Corporate Services; Dan Henderson, Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services; Alexis Jay, Director of Social Work and Housing Services; David McMillan, Director of Commercial and Technical Services and Stephen Brown, Head of Legal and Administrative Services.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor John Trainer.
for absence

Councillor Andrew White in the Chair

Prior to the commencement of business, Councillor White indicated that the Director of Corporate Services would provide a verbal report on the recently announced financial settlement for local government. The Convener also indicated that an item on Clydebank Shopping Centre would also be raised at the end of the Agenda.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive held on 22 November 2000 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

The Executive noted that two items discussed at the meeting had been called-in for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee - namely Housing Revenue Account Budgetary Position and General Services Budgetary Control Report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT THREE YEAR FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT

The Director of Corporate Services addressed the Committee on the recent announcement from the Local Government Finance Minister on the draft three year Local Government Settlement insofar as it affected West Dunbartonshire Council. It was noted that the figures, as announced, would form the basis for discussions between Scottish Executive Ministers and representatives from COSLA.

The Director of Corporate Services gave some details on the allocations within the draft settlement and reported his intention to provide a more detailed report to the full Council meeting to be held on 20 December.

Following discussions, it was agreed that letters be sent to the two constituency MSPs asking them to attend the next meeting of the full Council, failing which, a meeting to which all Councillors should be invited, to discuss the proposed settlement. It was also agreed that a letter be sent to the Local Government Minister expressing the Council's extreme disappointment at the proposed settlement and requesting a meeting to discuss the Council's concerns.

SALE OF TIED HOUSE - CARLEITH PRIMARY SCHOOL, DUNTOCHER

An extract Minute from the Meeting of the Education Executive held on 22 November 2000 was submitted recommending disposal of the above named schoolhouse to the sitting tenant.

The Executive approved the recommendation.

CORPORATE ISSUES

ACCOUNTS COMMISSION PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 1999/2000

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive advising of the final figures for the Accounts Commission Performance Indicators for 1999/2000 and providing comparisons with previous years' figures where applicable.

After discussion, the Executive noted the report.

MONITORING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive on the outcome of monitoring equal opportunities at a departmental/service level within the Council.

After discussion, the Executive noted the report.

MONITORING PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing a corporate overview of complaints and complaints processing for the period 1 April 2000 to 30 September 2000 and providing comparative data for previous six-month periods.

After discussion, the Executive agreed that further reports be submitted to future meetings of the Executive outlining proposals which would give more meaningful information to members on the nature of complaints and actions taken by departments to resolve same. Otherwise, the contents of the report were noted.

MONITORING SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE STATUTORY RETURNS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive on the results of monitoring Scottish Executive Statutory Returns for the period 1 April to 30 September 2000.

After discussion, the Executive noted the report and agreed that the results of this monitoring exercise be reported annually at the end of the financial year, replacing the current bi-annual report.

SOCIAL WORK AND HOUSING ISSUES

COSLA CONSULTATION ON "DRAFT GUIDANCE ON CHARGING FOR SERVICES THAT ENABLE PEOPLE TO REMAIN IN THEIR OWN HOMES"

A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services seeking approval of the response sent by West Dunbartonshire on the above Guidance, a copy of which response was contained in Appendix 2 of the report.

The Executive noted that the response was required by 30 November 2000 and had been submitted subject to approval.

After discussion, the Executive approved the terms of the response to COSLA and agreed the proposals for a programme of review of charging set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

TAGGING OFFENDERS: THE ROLE OF ELECTRONIC MONITORING IN THE SCOTTISH CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services on the content of the above consultation report and seeking approval of a response, a copy of which was appended to the Director's report.

After discussion, the Executive noted that overall, electronic monitoring appears to have the potential to be a useful sentencing option, particularly where used in conjunction with Social Work supervision. The Executive approved the proposed response to the Scottish Executive, as contained in the Appendix to the report.

RADCOM VOID HOUSE SECURITY

A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services providing an update on the Radcom Void House Security System and recommending a continuation of the scheme for six months.

After discussion, the Executive agreed to approve the extension of the existing contract for a further twenty-six weeks and to seek a further report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services to a future meeting detailing the impact of the scheme and recommending future arrangements.

**ARGYLL AND CLYDE ALCOHOL AND DRUG ACTION TEAM (ADAT)
STRATEGY - 2000-2001 - 2004-2005**

A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services on the implications of ADAT strategy for West Dunbartonshire, including arrangements to match the planning and joint working arrangements of the Strategy and the National Drugs Action Plan. A copy of the ADAT Strategy Document was appended to the report.

After discussion, the Executive approved the Argyll and Clyde Alcohol and Drugs Action Team Strategy and approved the proposals within the report as follows: -

- to identify Drugs and Alcohol as a key corporate theme;
- to place leadership and co-ordination responsibilities with the Director of Social Work and Housing Services;
- to nominate senior staff from all Council services to work with the West Dunbartonshire Council Alcohol and Drug Forum in preparing the Corporate Action Plan and
- to establish a new post (PO 2-5) and additional administrative support (0.5 GS3) within the Department of Social Work and Housing Services to meet planning requirements in addiction, Children's Services and the Community Plan (funding being available from the Children's Services Development Fund allocation).

**ACT TOGETHER CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION
(ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF HOUSING)
DUNDEE - 13 - 16 MARCH 2001**

Details of the above conference were submitted. The Executive agreed that Councillor Flynn, portfolio holder for Social Work and Housing Services, or substitute, be authorised to attend.

ECONOMIC, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ISSUES

STAFFING - ESTATES SECTION

A report was submitted by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services recommending an additional post of Estates Surveyor on a self-funding basis.

After discussion, and having noted that the existing staffing complement is unable to undertake all duties, and that a higher level of capital receipts generation could be achieved if additional staff resources were available (accordingly making an additional post self-funding, the Executive approved the additional post.

**DEVELOPMENT/REHABILITATION OF LAND
A82/KILBOWIE ROAD, CLYDEBANK**

A report was submitted by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services recommending development and rehabilitation of land at A82/Kilbowie Road, Clydebank.

After discussion and having heard the Director in explanation of site investigation, new legislation on contaminated land and the consideration of options, the Executive agreed the recommendations of the report as follows:-

- (a) that monitoring and site investigation work and appropriate liaison with other is extended and continued;
- (b) that consultation is undertaken with the local community on rehabilitation and possible development of part of the site;
- (c) that the marketing of the site is undertaken on a provisional basis; and
- (d) that a further report is presented to the Executive once matters have been progressed.

EU COMMUNITY INITIATIVE URBAN II PROGRAMME

A report was submitted by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services on the Scottish Executive's recently issued proposals on the European Union URBAN II Community Initiative Programme in Scotland.

The Executive noted that funding of approximately £3 million from the Programme is likely to be available for Clydebank South, but that partner organisations in the area will be required to provide match funding and that a draft Programme document is expected to be submitted to be submitted to the European Commission by the end of February 2001.

The Executive welcomed the Initiative and endorsed the development of an URBAN II programme for Clydebank South.

At this point in the business, the Convener, Councillor White, indicated his intention to deal with the following item:-

TRAINING FUND - KVAERNER, CLYDEBANK

A report was submitted by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services asking the Executive to endorse a Council contribution to a training fund being set up following the announcement of the closure of Kvaerner, Clydebank.

The Convener also tabled a letter which he had, together with the local MP and MSP, sent to Kvaerner voicing their concerns at the uncertainty over Kvaerner's actual position on the future of the yard.

The Executive noted that Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire had given a commitment to contribute £20,000 to the training fund and that Kvaerner had agreed to paid leave of absence to attend external training courses. It was further noted that, while there is limited funding in the Economic Development budget to make a contribution to the fund, this could be done by

virement from within the budgets of the Department of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services.

The Executive agreed that a contribution of £20,000 be made through the Economic Development budget by virement from the budgets of the Department of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services and that the Director of that Department undertake work in connection with the administration of the training fund.

COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES ISSUES

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS DURING DECEMBER 2000 - FEBRUARY 2001

A report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services on arrangements for processing tenders during December 2000 to February 2001. After discussion, the Executive noted that tenders for the following projects are provisionally due to be returned during December 2000 and February 2001:-

<u>Housing</u>	<u>Budget 2000/01 (£)</u>
1. Re-roof and re-rendering works (Phase 3) Clydebank	120,000
2. Whitecrook Lanes	150,000
3. CFCR - UPVC Doors to Houses, Clydebank	400,000
4. New Bonhill CCTV	130,000
<u>Non-Housing</u>	
1. Municipal Buildings - Ramp, Lift, Redecoration	115,000

The Executive further noted that Design and Quantity Surveying Services would be carried out in-house by CATS Building Services.

After discussion, the Executive agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Commercial and Technical Services in consultation with the appropriate Director and the Convener of the Executive to accept the lowest tender for the above projects. The Executive noted that, as the delegated power would require to be executed urgently, in accordance with Standing Order 36(c) this item would not be subject to call-in to the Scrutiny Committee.

EXTENSION TO EXISTING CONTRACT - MEASURED TERM CONTRACT FOR HOUSING AND OTHER PROPERTY MAINTENANCE - 1997 -2000

A report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services requesting an extension to the existing contract for the Measured Term Contract for Housing and Other Property Maintenance - 1997 - 2000.

The Executive noted that the contract was awarded to West Dunbartonshire Council, Contract Services in October 1997, following a competitive tendering exercise, that the contract period was for an initial three years, commencing on 1 December 1997, with the option to extend the contract for a further two years, to be reviewed annually at the Council's discretion, and that both the Housing DLO and the Property DLO had indicated their willingness to extend the contract.

After discussion, the Executive approved an extension of twelve months to the contract. It was also agreed that a report be submitted to the Void and Repairs Working Group on the general operation of the MTC and any improvements which could be made thereto.

STATEMENT OF TENDERS RECEIVED OUR LADY AND ST PATRICK'S HIGH SCHOOL, DUMBARTON OVERCLADDING AND WINDOWS

A report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services on tenders received for overcladding windows in Our Lady and St Patrick's High School, Dumbarton.

The Executive, having noted that the project cost compared favourably with the allowance of £1,500,000 in the Capital Plan, authorised acceptance of the lowest tender from John Dickie Construction Ltd in the sum of £1,487,876. 19.

CORPORATE SERVICES ISSUES

COUNCIL NEWSPAPER

A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services seeking approval in principle for a West Dunbartonshire Council newspaper.

The Executive noted that such a publication could include a wide range of information of benefit to the community, that the costs of producing and distributing an eight-page, colour Council newspaper would be between £10,000 and £12,000 per issue and that these could be offset within current budgets by seeking external advertising support, redirecting some of the Council's current advertising expenditure to the in-house newspaper and some of the money currently spent on Council publications, leaflets and brochures, particularly those delivered door to door.

After discussion, the Executive agreed in principle that the Council should produce a regular newspaper delivered to every household and that a further report be submitted to a future meeting providing further details including indicative costs and funding proposals.

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

THE LAW CENTRE, DUMBARTON

A letter was submitted from Councillor Craig McLaughlin with supporting papers drawing attention to the difficult financial circumstances facing the Law Centre, Dumbarton and asking the Executive to consider possible means of funding the service.

After discussion, and hearing from the Chief Executive, it was noted that the Social Inclusion Partnership should shortly be in a position to approve short term additional funding for the Law Centre, pending the outcome of the review which is currently underway into the provision of Community Legal Services in West Dunbartonshire. It was therefore agreed that no further action be required on this matter meantime but that the Chief Executive write to Councillor McLaughlin in appropriate terms.

CLYDEBANK SHOPPING CENTRE

Councillor Devine raised the issue of the non-operation of the escalators within the Shopping Centre. Councillor Devine expressed his concern that the escalators have been broken for some time and the Shopping Centre Manager appeared to be suggesting that the repairs would not be authorised pending the renovation of the Centre which may mean the escalators could be out of order for several months.

It was noted that Officers had already raised the issue with the Town Centre Manager and that Officers were also to meet with the Shopping Centre management tomorrow (Thursday) and the issue would be raised at this meeting and a report would be submitted back to Council.

The meeting closed at 12.55 pm.