

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a Special Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Civic Space, Council Offices, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 29 October 2019 at 11.05 a.m.

Present: Provost William Hendrie, Bailie Denis Agnew and Councillors Jim Bollan, Jim Brown, Karen Conaghan, Ian Dickson, Diane Docherty, Daniel Lennie, Caroline McAllister, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Iain McLaren, Marie McNair, John Millar, John Mooney, Sally Page and Martin Rooney.

Attending: Joyce White, Chief Executive; Richard Cairns, Strategic Director – Regeneration & Growth; Angela Wilson, Strategic Director – Transformation & Public Service Reform; Beth Culshaw, Chief Officer, West Dunbartonshire Health & Social Care Partnership; Peter Hissett, Strategic Lead – Regulatory (Legal Officer); Jim McAloon, Strategic Lead – Regeneration; Stephen West, Strategic Lead – Resources; and Christine McCaffary, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Gail Casey, Jim Finn, Douglas McAllister, Lawrence O'Neill and Brian Walker.

Provost William Hendrie in the Chair

STATEMENT BY CHAIR – AUDIO STREAMING

The Provost advised that the meeting was being audio streamed and broadcast live to the internet and would be available for playback.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Councillor Bollan, seconded by Councillor Rooney, moved:-

That the Council does not agree to the exclusion of press and public during discussion of the item of business on the agenda.

As an amendment, Councillor McColl seconded by Bailie Agnew moved that Council agree:-

That under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

On a vote being taken 10 Members voted for the amendment and 7 for the motion. The amendment was therefore agreed and press and public were excluded from the meeting. Accordingly, the live broadcasting of the meeting was terminated at this point.

Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor Bollan, moved that the meeting be adjourned until tomorrow, 30 October, to be held at 11 a.m. in Clydebanks Town Hall.

On a vote being taken 6 Members voted to adjourn the meeting and 11 Members voted against the adjournment. The business of the meeting therefore resumed.

The Provost was then heard and advised that Item 5(a) – Project Costs and Item 5(b) – Commercial Agreement would be taken together.

DISTRICT HEAT NETWORK – QUEENS QUAY
(a) PROJECT COSTS and
(b) COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT

Reports were submitted by the Strategic Legal – Regeneration seeking the Council's agreement of issues relating to the project costs and commercial agreement for the above project.

Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor McLaren, moved:-

Council agrees the recommendations on both reports and instructs that officers ensure a legally binding contract is signed that protects the interests of the Council.

Council further agrees that when the project is completed, officers will review the project from start to finish and bring a report to a Council meeting explaining to elected members and the public how the costs of the project increased by so much, and what lessons have been learned for future capital projects.

As an amendment Councillor McBride, seconded by Councillor Rooney moved:-

This council is disappointed to learn that the capital cost of the District Heating System will increase from £15.1 million to £19.508 million which represents a 29.19% increase on the original costs.

Council is also disappointed to learn that the original costs of the commercial deal as outlined in item 5(b) will increase from £900,000 to £3.509 Million which represents a 289% increase on the original costs.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Furthermore, the Council is disappointed to learn that despite a letter of intent, Council officers could ¹not agree the commercial terms with Clydeside Regeneration.

Council notes that due to the significant increase in funding requirements, council officers initiated a review on 19th September 2019 which should be completed within 8 weeks. Circa 4th November.

Given the above, the Council agrees to take no further action until the result of the external construction expert, Turner and Townsend produce their findings.

At the request of Councillor McColl the Council proceeded by way of a roll call vote.

On a vote being taken, 6 members voted for the amendment, namely Councillors Bollan, Lennie, McBride, Millar, Mooney and Rooney and 11 members voted for the motion, namely Provost Hendrie, Bailie Agnew and Councillors Brown, Conaghan, Dickson, Docherty, Caroline McAllister, McColl, McLaren, McNair and Page. The motion was accordingly declared carried.

The meeting closed at 1.05 p.m.

¹ As corrected by West Dunbartonshire Council at its meeting on 27 November 2019.