

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Children's Services Committee held within the Lesser Town Hall, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 17 March 2004 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Denis Agnew, Dennis Brogan, Gail Casey, Jack Duffy, James Flynn, James McCallum, Duncan McDonald, Craig McLaughlin, Martin Rooney and Andy White and Ms Olean Allison, Ms Jan Cleife, Ms Lynda Hamilton, Miss Ellen McBride, Miss Sheila Rennie and Miss Margaret Wallace.

Attending: Ian McMurdo, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Alexis Jay, Director of Social Work and Housing Services; Neil McKechnie, Head of Service; Frank Newall, Head of Service; Lynn Townsend, Head of Service; Anne Ritchie, Head of Social Work (Operations); Alan Douglas, Manager of Best Value and Special Projects and Lorraine Beveridge, Administrative Assistant, Legal and Administrative Services.

Also Attending: Terry Lanagan, Head Teacher, Vale of Leven Academy.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Provost Alistair Macdonald and Councillor Connie O'Sullivan.

Councillor James McCallum in the Chair

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2120 The Minutes of Meeting of the Children's Services Committee held on 21 January 2004 were submitted and approved as a correct record.
- 2121 After hearing the Director of Education and Cultural Services, the Committee noted that a final report on the role of pupil representation in relation to the business of the Committee would be submitted to the next meeting of the Children's Services Committee.

LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS

- 2122 There was submitted and approved the Minutes of Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held on 20 February 2004.

2123 After hearing Ms Cleife, it was agreed that the item under the heading
‘Continuing Professional Development: Arrangements for Professional Review
and Development’ paragraph 2(3), be amended to read as follows:-

2124 “that with reference to the Appendix to the report, the sentence “(See
Appendix 1 – Proposal by the Teachers’ Side for the LNCT)” be
removed from the end of the first paragraph entitled ‘Identification of
Reviewers’ and the sentence ‘In order to allow this to take place a total
of 2 hours be allocated each to the reviewer and reviewee.’, be
inserted.”

THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF MILTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

(a) The Results of the Consultative Process

2125 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Children’s Services
Committee held on 21 January 2004 (pages 493/494, paragraph 1619(5)
refers), a report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural
Services on the results of the consultative process in relation to the proposed
closure of Milton Primary School and making recommendations thereon.

(b) Deputation

2126 In terms of Standing Order 14(a), the Committee agreed to receive a
presentation from Ms Jayne Egan, Clerk to Milton Primary School Board in
connection with the proposed closure of Milton Primary School.

2127 Thereafter, Ms Egan gave a presentation to the Committee on behalf of Milton
Primary School Board. In so doing Ms Egan summarised the reasons why
the School Board and the community in Milton were strongly opposed to West
Dunbartonshire Council’s proposal to close Milton Primary School.

2128 After hearing Ms Egan, the Convener, on behalf of the Committee, thanked
her for her contribution and advised that the Committee would take the School
Board’s views into account when considering the proposal.

2129 After discussion, the Committee agreed that Councillor Young be permitted to
address the Committee. Thereafter, Councillor Young summarised his
reasons in support of the School Board’s opposition to the proposal to close
Milton Primary School.

2130 After discussion and having heard the Director of Education and Cultural
Services in further explanation and in answer to Members’ questions,
Councillor McCallum, seconded by Councillor Rooney moved:-

- 2131 That the following recommendations contained within the
aforementioned report be approved:-
- (1) that Milton Primary School be closed from 25 June 2004 with
pupils in its current delineated area being transferred to
Knoxland Primary School. Pupils would transfer from 23 August
2004; and
 - (2) that the Milton Primary School buildings and site be declared
surplus to the requirements of the Education and Cultural
Services Department.
- 2132 After further discussion and having heard the Director of Education and
Cultural Services in answer to Members' questions, there was submitted
(tabled) by Councillor McLaughlin a letter from Historic Scotland, which
confirmed that a proposal to list and draft list description would be sent to
West Dunbartonshire Council for comment.
- 2133 After hearing Mr Douglas in clarification of the procedures to be followed by
West Dunbartonshire Council in relation to its responsibility for a listed
building, Councillor McLaughlin having failed to find a seconder for his
proposed amendment, requested that his dissent be recorded.
- 2134 As an amendment, Councillor Brogan, seconded by Ms Cleife, moved
- 2135 To suspend the closure of Milton Primary School until the
implementation of the Outline Business Case report, has reached the
practical stage.
- 2136 Thereafter, the Committee agreed to proceed by way of a Roll Call Vote.
- 2137 On the vote being taken, 4 Members voted for the amendment (namely
Councillors McLaughlin and Brogan, Ms Cleife and Ms Allison) and 10 for the
motion (namely Councillors McCallum, Agnew, Rooney, McDonald, Flynn,
Duffy, White and Casey and Miss Rennie and Ms Wallace), which was
accordingly declared carried. It was noted that Miss McBride abstained.

ADJOURNMENT

- 2138 At this point in the meeting, after hearing the Convener, the Committee
agreed to a short adjournment to allow those persons present in the public
gallery to leave, if they so wished. The meeting was adjourned at 11.10 a.m.
and reconvened at 11.30 a.m. with the same Members present as listed in the
sederunt.

BUILDING OUR FUTURE: THE REGENERATION OF THE SCHOOLS' ESTATE IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

- 2139 With reference to the Special Meeting of Council held on 8 March 2004 (pages 637/339, paragraphs 2091/2115 refer), there was submitted for information an excerpt Minute together with a report by the Chief Executive on the Regeneration of the whole of the schools' estate across West Dunbartonshire.
- 2140 After hearing the Convener in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to note Miss McBride's comment that it was vital that West Dunbartonshire Council should give serious consideration to the access road, traffic management and the safety of children in relation to the new proposed campus at St. Columba's High School; and
 - (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report and the decision taken by West Dunbartonshire Council on the Regeneration of the whole of the schools' estate across West Dunbartonshire.

SERVICE PLAN 2003 – 2007 INCORPORATING IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES

- 2141 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services containing information on progress in connection with the production of the Education and Cultural Services' Plan 2003-2007 and the incorporated Statement of Improvement Objectives.
- 2142 After hearing Mr McKechnie in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to approve the amended Service Plan for Education and Cultural Services for 2003-2007; and
 - (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2002/2003

- 2143 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services containing information on the publication of the Department of Education and Cultural Services' Standards and Quality Report for 2002/2003 and requesting approval for the proposals for the distribution of this report.

2144 After hearing Mr McKechnie in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the aforementioned report be distributed both within and outwith the Authority to a wide audience, including elected members, education establishments, School Boards, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education, Scottish Education Authorities, parents, staff and a number of partner agencies;
- (2) to note that the report would be produced in the form of a booklet; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

CHANGING CHILDREN'S SERVICES FUND

2145 A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services advising of West Dunbartonshire Council's proposal to the Scottish Executive Changing Children's Services Fund 2004-2006.

2146 After discussion and having heard Councillor Rooney in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that a report on the Scottish Executive's decision be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

2003-04 REVENUE ESTIMATES – BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER 2003

2147 There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing information on expenditure and income to date within the Education and Cultural Services' approved budget for 2003-04.

UPDATE OF CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUILDING PROGRAMME 2003/2004

2148 There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing up-to-date information on the status of Education Capital and Revenue Building Projects within the Education and Cultural Services Department and drawing attention to significant issues or problems with the progress of any particular project.

VALEDICTORY

- 2149 Councillor McCallum informed Members that this would be the last Meeting of the Children's Services Committee which Mr Ian McMurdo, Director of Education and Cultural Services, would attend as he was retiring from Council service on 30 April 2004. He then paid tribute to Mr McMurdo's dedication and commitment to education in West Dunbartonshire and expressed his gratitude for the excellent advice and assistance which he had received from him.
- 2150 Thereafter, Councillor McCallum, on behalf of the Committee, wished him a long and happy retirement.
- 2151 In response, Mr McMurdo thanked the Members for their kind remarks and stated that he was extremely grateful for the support he had received from the members of the Children's Services Committee and previous Education Committees and that he was glad to have been of service to them.

The meeting closed at 11.40 a.m.