

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 20 December 2017 at 5.06 p.m.

Present: Provost William Hendrie, Bailie Denis Agnew and Councillors Jim Bolla, Jim Brown, Gail Casey, Karen Conaghan, Ian Dickson, Diane Docherty, Jim Finn, Daniel Lennie, Caroline McAllister, Douglas McAllister, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Iain McLaren, Marie McNair, John Millar*, John Mooney, Lawrence O'Neill, Sally Page, Martin Rooney and Brian Walker.

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

* arrived later in the meeting

Provost William Hendrie in the Chair

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS LIBRARY CONSULTATION

Councillor McBride advised that he wished to submit an emergency motion on the above, acknowledging that his request was out with the 2 hour time limit recently added to the Council's Standing Order 8, and accordingly he requested that the Council agree to suspend the Standing Order in this instance to allow the matter to be considered.

Having heard Provost Hendrie confirm that he was prepared to allow this late request in view of the recentness of the change, the Council agreed to suspend Standing Order 8 and that the item be considered at the end of the business on the agenda.

MINUTE OF SILENCE

The Council observed a two minute silence as a mark of respect for the loss of 3 crew members of the Flying Phantom tug boat which sank in the River Clyde on 19 December 2007; for the loss of 3 family members from Dumbarton in the Glasgow bin lorry accident on 22 December 2014 and for the loss of Mr Richard Dyson and Mr Simon Midgley who tragically died as a result of the fire at Cameron House Hotel, Loch Lomond on Monday 18 December 2017.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 25 October and reconvened on 30 October 2017 were submitted and approved as correct records.

OPEN FORUM

The Council noted that no open forum questions had been submitted by members of the public.

REQUEST FOR DEPUTATION

JOINT TRADE UNIONS – ANTI AUSTERITY CAMPAIGN AND BUDGET CUTS

In accordance with Standing Order 18 the Council agreed to receive a deputation from the joint Trade Unions in connection with the above.

The Provost invited the delegation forward to speak to the meeting. Val Jennings, Unison and Charlie McDonald, Unite were then heard in support of the anti-austerity campaign, urging the Members present to support the 'Drop the Debt' campaign and to set a 'no cuts' budget that would protect jobs and services within West Dunbartonshire.

Councillor McColl, seconded by Bailie Agnew moved:-

Council thanks the joint Trade Unions for their delegation and wholeheartedly supports their calls for an end to austerity, and for Councils to do everything possible to protect jobs and services.

Council agrees that Austerity has failed, with successive Conservative Chancellors being forced to admit that growth is lower than forecast and deficits continue to rise.

With this in mind, Council agrees that the Leader of the Council should write to the Chancellor, The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP, expressing our view that investment, not cuts is the key to boosting the economy, increasing productivity and reducing the deficit in a way that does not harm our citizens.

The goal will be to draft a letter that can be agreed and signed jointly by the Leader of the Council, Leader of the Opposition, Trade Union Conveners, our MP, our two Constituency MSPs and the Conveners (or other nominated office bearer) from every Community Council across West Dunbartonshire; as far as Council is aware, this will be the first such joint letter from a Council in Scotland to formally include such wide-ranging support.

While the law prohibits the use of Council resources for political campaigns, there is nothing stopping individual Councillors from taking action. Therefore, Council asks all elected members to promote on their Social Media and in their communities, any protest/campaign activity taking place to challenge austerity.

Furthermore, Council requests that officers investigate, and brief elected members and the joint trade unions regarding the possibility of implementing the following actions to help Council protect jobs and services in the face of on-going austerity (reports for decisions to be drawn up as appropriate):

1. Look at refinancing/buyout options for our PPP and other debts.
2. Consider raising finance through the issuing of bonds.
3. Carry out an options appraisal, with a view to bringing a report, on Cllr Dickson's plan to raise revenue through building and selling/renting housing as part of the General Fund.
4. Continue examination of the Administration's wish to seek new and innovative ways of raising revenue, including the possibility of increasing skills capacity and staffing to allow the Council to bid for private and public-sector work within and out with West Dunbartonshire.

To further advance point four above, the budget consultation should include a question inviting suggestions for areas where the Council could generate additional income.

This Council recognises the importance of our voluntary sector partners and will work to minimise the impact of Austerity on the services they provide to our constituents. Given the high levels of domestic violence in West Dunbartonshire, we reaffirm our commitment to maintain levels of funding for our two Women's Aid organisations.

Furthermore, we also reaffirm our commitment and agree to the requests from our Women's Aid organisations, West Dunbartonshire Citizens' Advice and the Independent Resource Centre to provide security and allow them to properly plan their services by confirming three years of funding levels when the Council sets its budget in February.

Finally, while Council recognises that the Scottish Government's draft budget proposes a better settlement that we had been planning for, we note that the officer's report further down this agenda indicates we still need to make savings or generate additional income of approximately £1.1m to balance the 2018/19 Council budget; this is on top of a potential £1.6m reduction HSCP funding from the Council.

This has the potential to have a significant impact on everyone in our communities and as is often the case, may end up hitting those who are most vulnerable the hardest.

Council therefore mandates the Leader of the Council to continue to lobby the Scottish Government both individually and through COSLA for an increased local government settlement.

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

Happy to support Councillor McColl's motion with the deletion of points (3), (4) and the words *'Finally, while Council recognises that the Scottish Government's draft budget proposes a better settlement than we had been planning for'* in the third last paragraph.

On a vote being taken 7 Members voted for the amendment and 11 for the motion which was accordingly carried.

GLASGOW CITY REGION CITY DEAL – UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Strategic Director – Regeneration, Environment & Growth on the progress with the implementation of the Glasgow City Region City Deal and Council's City Deal project.

Following discussion and having heard officers in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed to note the progress of the Glasgow City Region City Deal and the Council's project for the Exxon site.

Councillor Bollan, having failed to obtain a seconder for a proposed motion, asked that his dissent be recorded.

ENDING PERIOD POVERTY PROPOSAL

A report was submitted by the Strategic Director – Regeneration, Environment & Growth providing an estimated costed proposal for the Council to implement the provision of free sanitary products for female school pupils across West Dunbartonshire Council (aged 8 and over).

The Council agreed:-

- (1) that the provision of free sanitary products be put in place in all primary, secondary and ASN establishments;
- (2) to note the estimated cost of this standard of provision, as detailed at section 6 of the report;
- (3) that the costs of this provision that lie within financial year 2017/18 be funded from current General Fund reserves; and
- (4) to note that the cost of the provision in future financial years 2018/19 will be built into ongoing budget projections.

GENERAL SERVICES – BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 31 OCTOBER 2017 (PERIOD 7)

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources on the progress of both the General Services revenue budget 2017/18 and the approved capital programme for the period to 31 October 2017.

After discussion and having heard officers in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note that the revenue account currently shows a projected annual favourable variance of £0.110m (0.05% of the total budget);
- (2) to note that the capital account shows a projected annual favourable variance of £33.013m (35.19% of the budget) and a projected project life adverse variance of £0.762m (0.25% of project life budget); and
- (3) to approve the capital virement request as noted in Appendix 10 to the report.

Note:- Councillor Millar arrived during consideration of the above item.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) – BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 31 OCTOBER 2017 (PERIOD 7)

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Housing and Employability providing an update on the financial performance of the HRA revenue and capital budgets.

The Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the projected favourable revenue variance of £0.209m (0.5%); and
- (2) to note the position advised in relation to the capital budget which is currently projecting an in-year favourable variance of £9.558m (31.2%), of which

£8.415m (27.5%) relates to project re-phasing and an in-year underspend of £1.143m (3.7%).

GENERAL SERVICES BUDGET PREPARATION 2018/19 TO 2020/21 – BUDGET UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources on the above.

Councillor Dickson, seconded by Councillor McColl moved:-

Council notes the current projected budget settlement and appended draft budget from the Administration and agrees that the draft budget, and full list from appendix 1 of the papers will go out for consultation for a period of 4 weeks, from 8th Jan to 5th Feb.

Council agrees that the consultation will include the online questionnaire, focus groups and public drop in sessions at Alexandria, Dumbarton and Clydebank libraries.

Council notes that the Administration intend to use one off reserves for service investments and spend to save projects, and while we have and are developing our own ideas, we invite staff, trade unions, Councillors and the public to bring their ideas forward during the consultation.

Council notes that as the Scottish Parliament will not set their budget until 21st Feb 2018, we require to move our own budget setting meeting to ensure we have the true final settlement figure.

Council agrees that the budget setting meeting will take place on Monday 5th March 2018 from 2pm in Clydebank Town Hall.

Council further notes that after complaining for 9 years that they could not raise Council Tax, Labour failed to do so last year when the Scottish Government funded freeze came to an end. This political decision coupled with their choice to raid the reserves to balance the revenue budget, has put more than £3 million of extra pressure on Council services this year.

To be clear, if Labour had acted responsibly when setting their budget, a budget they failed to consult anyone on, the current projected budget gap would be zero; in fact we would have approximately £2 million extra to spend on Council services.

Council recognises that the current settlement offer is far better than we were projecting within the current economic context, and we agree with COSLA's budget statement where they said,

“Local Government has faced really difficult times over the last few years and these will remain into the future despite a more measured approach by the

Scottish Government in delivering the local government settlement for next year.”

Councillor Gail Macgregor (Conservatives), COSLA Finance Spokesperson added: “The discussions in relation to this year’s settlement between COSLA and Scottish Government have been both positive and constructive.”

COSLA President Councillor Alison Evison (Labour) concluded the statement on behalf of COSLA adding: “COSLA has been engaging with all political parties across the Parliament throughout this process and, as this is a draft budget, we will continue to defend essential services over the coming weeks.”

Council notes that the Leader of the Council will continue to lobby the Scottish Government, both personally and through COSLA, with a view to getting a better settlement for Local Government.

Num	Title	Description	Potential 2018/19	Potential 2019/20	Potential 2020/21	One off Costs (reserves)	Taken 2018/19	Taken 2019/20	Taken 2020/21
1	Reduce the Curriculum for Excellence budget	The Curriculum for Excellence budget was put in place to support joint projects being delivered through local learning communities (comprising a secondary school with associated primary schools and Early Learning & Childcare Centres) as part of our strategy to raise attainment. Since these joint projects are now well established and part of the normal running of each learning community they require less intervention so a saving could be made. In addition Scottish Government funding for standardised assessment removes the requirement for specific Council funding for this.	£42,000	£42,000	£42,000		£42,000	£42,000	£42,000
2a	Review devolved school budgets	Reduce by 5%. This would see the devolved budgets which school head teachers have available to them reduce by 5%. Currently secondary school head teachers have £679,000 per year, while primary school head teachers have £696,000. Under the proposals this would change to £654,000 for secondary and £671,000 for primary by 2019/20.	£42,000	£50,000	£50,000				
2b	Review devolved school budgets	Reduce by 10%. This would see the devolved budgets which school head teachers have available to them reduce by 10%. Currently secondary school head teachers have £679,000 per year, while primary school head teachers have £696,000. Under the proposals this would change to £629,000 for secondary and £646,000 for primary by 2019/20.	£84,000	£100,000	£100,000		£84,000	£100,000	£100,000
3	Reduce central spend on recreational activity	Currently the Education service pays £18,000 a year for swimming lessons for primary school pupils. Under this proposal the cost would no longer be met by the central education service, and instead each school would decide whether to provide this service through the use of their individual funds.	£18,000	£18,000	£18,000		£18,000	£18,000	£18,000

4	Reduce payments to Parent Councils	The Council currently provide a higher than national average level of funding to support primary school Parent Councils across West Dunbartonshire, as well as a range of other supports. This takes the form of a £10 per pupil top up to the standard allocation. This proposal would reduce the funding meaning primary school Parent Councils received a share of £12,000. Secondary school Parent Councils would access a share of £3,000 in addition to Curriculum for Excellence funding.	£75,000	£75,000	£75,000	£75,000	£75,000	£75,000
5	Remove Additional Educational Maintenance Payments	Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to eligible (depending on financial circumstances) 16-19 year olds who decide to stay in education. It is available for both academic and vocational courses. The standard rate for EMA in Scotland is £30. West Dunbartonshire Council's rate is currently double this at £60. Under this proposal the rate would return to the Scottish standard of £30.	£164,000	£164,000	£164,000			
6	Remove clothing grant top-up	All Councils make provision for the clothing of pupils who may not otherwise have access to school uniform/clothing. At present West Dunbartonshire Council has one of the highest clothing grants in Scotland at £100 per child. This proposal would bring the grant provided by West Dunbartonshire Council more in line with national averages at £50 per young person.	£240,000	£240,000	£240,000			
7	Introduce pre-packaged meals into school lunches	This proposal would see all school meals change from 2019 onwards following a pilot in 2018/19; with hot and cold prepackaged meals provided in schools as a replacement to the preparation of ingredients onsite.	£10,000	£140,000	£200,000			
8	Provide a sandwich lunch on Fridays	The Council currently provides hot school meals 5 days per week. This proposal involves replacing the hot meal option on a Friday with a healthy sandwich meal including salad/fruit.	£75,000	£100,000	£120,000			

9a	School Crossing Patrols	Identify and train community groups to undertake the provision of school crossing patrols on all 37 crossings, affecting 40 posts as some patrols are covered by two post holders. This would involve replacing current post holders with community volunteers, dependent on capacity and training for community groups.	£160,000	£160,000	£160,000				
9b	School Crossing Patrols	This proposal would see the Council bring the service in line with national guidance by withdrawing patrols from 12 locations where there are controlled pedestrian crossings in place. National guidance states that school crossing patrollers should not be deployed at junctions where pedestrian crossings already exist because this duplication can be confusing for motorists.	£25,000	£25,000	£25,000		£25,000	£25,000	£25,000
10a	Close Dalmeir Golf Club	This option would see Dalmeir Municipal Golf Course close completely.	£200,000	£200,000	£200,000				
10b	Increase Membership Fees	This option would see membership charges increase by 30% from the current season ticket charge of £280 per annum to £364. This would allow an amount of additional income to be generated to support the ongoing costs of running the Golf Course. Increasing costs may have an impact on current levels of membership.	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000		£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
10c	Reduce to 9 Holes	This option would see the course reduced in size and this would reduce costs for maintenance and running of the golf course while maintaining a municipal golf course for residents.	£60,000	£60,000	£60,000				
11	Review Council's grass cutting service	This proposal would reduce all current weekly grass cutting to fortnightly, and all current fortnightly grass cutting to three weekly. It would also see the Council stop cutting banked areas, and increase the number of uncut biodiversity areas (grass areas left uncut and allowed to develop wild growth).	£136,000	£136,000	£136,000				
12	Remove summer bedding displays	This proposal would see the Council convert existing annual flower beds into a mixture of grass and perennial beds that are less expensive to maintain.	£80,000	£80,000	£80,000		£80,000	£80,000	£80,000

13	Review the provision of Christmas trees	Reduce the number of Council provided Christmas Trees across West Dunbartonshire to focus on one location in Clydebank, Dumbarton and Alexandria	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000				
14	Cease providing festive lighting	This proposal would see the Council stop directly providing festive lighting on several local roads in West Dunbartonshire. Officers would instead engage with local community and business groups to establish self-funding and management of the lighting provision.	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000				
15a	Reduction in street cleaning	This would see sweeping and litter picking reduced across all areas with fewer sweeper vehicles and provision. Litter picking and collection of public bins will move to 3 times per week instead of daily. Street sweeping will be fortnightly or three weekly	£300,000	£300,000	£300,000				
15b	Reduction in street cleaning	Regular sweeping in Town Centres and areas of heavy footfall would remain at current levels. There would be a reduction in the frequency of sweeping on trunk roads, rural roads and within housing schemes.	£35,000	£35,000	£35,000				
16	Reduction in cemetery maintenance	Reduce weekly grass cutting regimes in cemeteries from weekly to fortnightly. The area around headstones will be covered in weed kill to remove requirement for weed removal. This may result in a small impact on the appearance of landscaped areas within cemeteries.	£120,000	£120,000	£120,000		£120,000	£120,000	£120,000
17	Reduction in park maintenance	Reduce amount of formal summer bedding, which will be replaced with grass. Weekly grass cutting will be reduced to fortnightly and litter picking will reduce from daily to three times per week.	£150,000	£150,000	£150,000		£150,000	£150,000	£150,000
18	Identify areas in parks and open spaces for biodiversity	Appropriate areas in parks and public spaces will be created as biodiversity sites.	£180,000	£180,000	£180,000				

19	Removal of Care of Gardens	Currently the Council provides free garden maintenance to all pensioners in West Dunbartonshire, and to those who are infirm and disabled. In total they receive seven grass cuts between April and November, two hedge cuts and all pathways swept clear and cuttings removed. From 2018 summer season, the service will only be provided free of charge to all residents in receipt of a disability related benefit or a service from the HSCP. Under this new proposal, the scheme would cease completely from Summer 2018	£375,000	£375,000	£375,000				
20	Removal of weekend litter squad	This proposal would see the Council stop collecting litter at weekends. This would reduce the number of times that the Council removes dog fouling and litter. Instead campaigns would continue to convince the small minority of residents to change their littering behaviour to avoid a negative impact on the environment.	£140,000	£140,000	£140,000		£140,000	£140,000	£140,000
21	Review the charges for special uplifts	This proposal would see the existing Council charge of £17.54 per uplift increase to a rate of £35.00 per uplift from 1 April, 2018. At present most Councils (23) charge for this service, with an average charge of £28.87 per uplift. Residents can avoid any charges by disposing of bulky household waste at the Council's household waste recycling centres free of charge.	£25,000	£25,000	£25,000				
22	Operate a single household waste recycling centre for West Dunbartonshire	The Council currently operates two household waste recycling centres, one at Dalmoak, in Alexandria, and another in Old Kilpatrick. This proposal would see the Council centralise all household waste recycling at Dalmoak and close the centre at Old Kilpatrick. This single service would be complemented by the 125 recycle points across West Dunbartonshire for glass, excess blue bin recyclable material and, in some cases, clothes, textiles, shoes, books, CDs and DVDs.	£19,500	£39,000	£39,000				

23	Cease gritting of priority footways during winter	This proposal would see the removal of treatment of priority footways – such as in town centres – during periods of extreme weather. The impact of this change could be mitigated by extending the provision of grit bins, and increasing individually and community resilience to grit their local footways. There are over 420 grit bins across the area which are well used.	£115,000	£115,000	£115,000				
24	Review of waste services	Currently West Dunbartonshire residents recycle 47% of waste and this is increasing every year. The Scottish Government has set a target for 70% of all waste to be recycled by 2025. A review would be undertaken to ensure the Council meets this target and operates services in the most efficient way. This could include altering the frequency that grey and green waste bins are uplifted from the current fortnightly collection schedule. A one-off investment of £140,000 would be required to facilitate this change.	£125,000	£250,000	£250,000	£140,000	£125,000	£250,000	£250,000
25	Undertake a review of Community Facilities operated by WDLT	West Dunbartonshire has a high number of community centres and other facilities compared to other Councils on a per-head basis. These place a considerable burden on local taxpayers to fund year-round opening by staff members at subsidised rates to the community. A review of the 11 premises would be undertaken to identify those least in demand. Those deemed surplus to requirements by the Council could be passed through Community Asset Transfer to local community groups or simply closed. Reducing the number of facilities in operation will mean that some current centre users have to move facilities. There would be no issue accommodating them elsewhere as occupancy levels within centres are low.	£40,000	£130,000	£130,000				

26	Centralise Registration Services in Dumbarton	This proposal would see the Council offer all registrar appointments in Dumbarton. Currently appointments are also offered 4-days-a-week in Clydebank and these would cease. As births and deaths no longer need to be registered within the Council area that they occur, residents could use services in whichever areas were most suitable to them.	£18,000	£18,000	£18,000				
27	Cease all events	This proposal would remove the Council's existing event programme over a phased two-year period. (Events: Golf Pro-Am, Loch Lomond Highland Games, Scottish Pipe Band Championships, Two Firework Displays, Two Xmas Light Switch ons)	£40,000	£150,000	£150,000				
28	Stop providing Nightzone during the festive season	Nightzone is a safety initiative designed to keep local people safe during the festive season by reducing the harmful effects of alcohol, drugs and alcohol fuelled antisocial behaviour or disorder throughout the area. This includes taxi marshals on duty in Clydebank, Dumbarton and Alexandria, as well as high visibility police patrols and support from charities. This proposal would see the Nightzone campaign ended.	£0	£12,000	£12,000				

29	Transfer cash payments by residents to the Post Office and PayPoint shops and stores. (Not taking this option would add £140,000 to the budget gap)	The Council currently collects cash and debit/credit card payments in its three One Stop Shop locations. To do this requires large electronic Scancoin machines, regular cash collection by security firms and a significant staffing presence. The cost per year to support this activity is approximately £147,500. Delivering this service also means staff in the One Stop Shop often use their time to assist visitors with basic payments when they could be helping the most vulnerable. In total only 3% of the Council's income from residents and businesses is paid in the One Stop Shops. The vast majority comes from using Direct Debit, Standing Order, online payments, telephone payments and cash payments at Post Offices and PayPoint shops and stores. This proposal would see the remaining cash payments transfer from the three One Stop Shops to the 13 Post Offices and 72 PayPoint shops and stores across West Dunbartonshire. These venues are open more days, longer hours and are located closer to residents. Cash-paying residents are already familiar with using these services for utility bills, TV licences, pay-as-you-go phone payments and other media. The move would also be good for local businesses	£7,500	£7,500	£7,500	£7,500	£7,500	£7,500
30	Reduce the number of paid Trade Union Convenor posts	Currently there are 3.4 full-time Trade Union Convenors in West Dunbartonshire paid for by the Council. This exceeds what most other Scottish Councils have in place for their employees. This proposal would reduce that to 1 full-time paid Convenor post. The other extensive trade union supports and representation - including time-off and stewards throughout the workforce - would remain in place.	£90,000	£90,000	£90,000			

31	Increase Food Export Certificate Charges	The Council provides food export certificates to companies exporting food/drink to certain countries. Local Councils are not obliged to provide this service but West Dunbartonshire Council is keen to assist business wherever possible. To allow it to continue to offer this service the Council is proposing to increase Food Export Certificate charges by £85 per certificate over two years.	£25,000	£45,000	£45,000		£25,000	£45,000	£45,000
32a	Discretionary rates relief for charities	Removal. This proposal would remove 20% discretionary rates relief for shops operated by charities as they are competing against other businesses which cannot access this relief.	£7,000	£7,000	£7,000				
32b	Discretionary rates relief for charities	Reduction. This proposal would bring discretionary rates relief down from 20% to 10% for all charitable organisations, including those solely operating within West Dunbartonshire.	£43,000	£43,000	£43,000		£43,000	£43,000	£43,000
32c	Discretionary rates relief for charities	Full rates for National Charities. This proposal would see the Council apply full rates to all national charities that do not operate solely for the residents of West Dunbartonshire. This would allow the Council to focus our existing resources in support of local charities.	£12,000	£12,000	£12,000				
33a	Elderly Welfare Grant	Remove £15 per resident payment. Historically every resident aged 63 or over who lives in West Dunbartonshire has been eligible for the annual Elderly Welfare Grant (currently £15). This proposal would see the Council remove the annual payment to registered individuals.	£80,000	£80,000	£80,000				
33b	Elderly Welfare Grant	Remove the £15 Elderly Welfare Grant payment to groups. Some residents who are eligible for the £15 Elderly Welfare Grant have registered for their payment to go directly to local voluntary groups for the elderly. This proposal would see the Council also cease to provide these payments to groups.	£70,000	£70,000	£70,000				

34	Review grants to voluntary organisations	The budget for grants to voluntary organisations is managed by West Dunbartonshire Community Volunteer Service (WDCVS) and was set for 2016/17 at £200,000. In previous years not all of the funding available has been allocated, with around £35,000 unallocated. This proposal would remove the unallocated amount plus a small additional amount to provide a total budget of £150,000 available for future grant use in West Dunbartonshire.	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000
35	Reduce funding to strategic partner organisations	A total of £1.2million is currently provided to external organisations through strategic partnership funding arrangements from the Council. This proposal would see the Council reduce funding provided to strategic partner organisations by an average of 12%. The exact amounts would be decided on a strategic partner by strategic partner basis. Historically these organisations have been protected from the sort of funding reductions Council services have typically faced.	£150,000	£150,000	£150,000	£104,500	£104,500	£104,500
Original Budget Gap		£1,099,000						
Savings Taken (2018/19)		£1,099,000						
Remaining Gap		£0						

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Having heard the Strategic Lead – Regulatory, the Council agreed to suspend Standing Order 20 to allow the motion to be considered in full.

As an amendment, Councillor McBride seconded by Councillor O'Neill moved:-

This Council notes that according to the Scottish Governments data contained in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016, West Dunbartonshire Council is one of the most economically deprived areas of Scotland.

The attached data from Scottish Government, HMRC, Child Poverty Action Group and from West Dunbartonshire Council itself shows the negative impact of poverty on our citizens.

West Dunbartonshire Council has seen its budget for local services being cut year on year by the Scottish Government, with additional burdens and costs placed on the Council by both the Scottish Government and the UK Government.

We have also seen cuts to social care services with another £1.56m planned each of the next three years resulting in a cut of £4.58m.

This year the cuts have included:

- Slashing the Councils successful Care of Garden Scheme;
- Deleting customer service posts from our one-stop-shops, reducing library hours and closing the Social Work office in Alexandria; and
- Cutting free school milk at lunchtime in our schools.

This decade of cuts by the SNP must end.

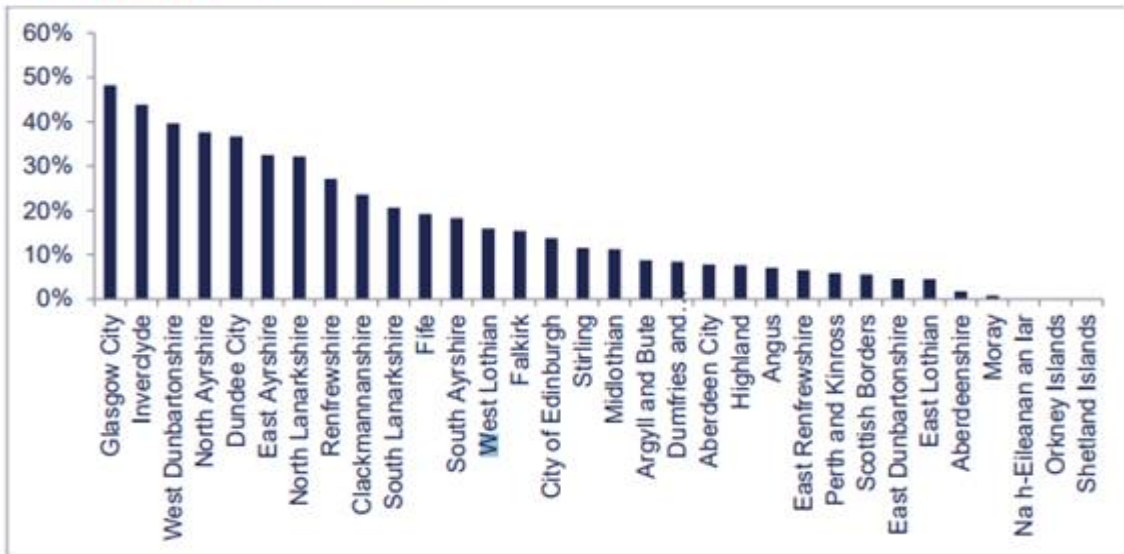
Therefore, this Council rejects further budget cuts and calls on the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition to write to the SNP Scottish Government demanding that they fully fund West Dunbartonshire Council in order to protect local services and to properly reward our staff.

The Council also agrees to copy the joint letter to both our constituency MSPs and the West of Scotland List MSPs calling on them to support our demands so that we can end SNP and Tory austerity in West Dunbartonshire.

Poverty levels and deprivation

West Dunbartonshire is ranked third in terms of multiple deprivation with 40% of local data zones counted among the 20% most deprived communities in Scotland.

Chart 1: Local share of DZs in each council area that are found in the 20% most deprived DZs in Scotland



Source: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2016

Life expectancy

West Dunbartonshire has life expectancy rates that are statistically significantly worse than the Scottish average, with the second lowest life expectancy at birth of all Scottish Local Authorities. Based on the most recent figures available (2013-2015) female life expectancy at birth (78.7 years) is greater than male life expectancy (74.8 years), but both were lower than the Scottish average. Source: West Dunbartonshire Council

Disability

The number of people in Scotland reporting a long-term activity limiting health problems or disabilities fell from 2001 to 2011 while rising in West Dunbartonshire. In West Dunbartonshire 23.1% of the population report having a long-term activity limiting health problems or disabilities as opposed to 22.7% in 2001. Source: West Dunbartonshire Council, census data

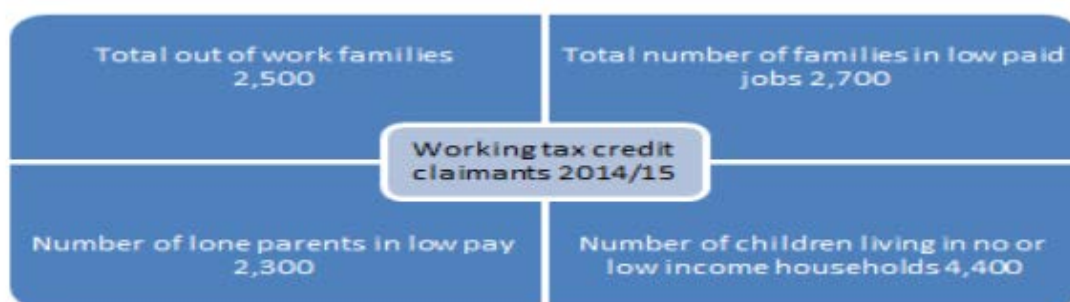
Child poverty

West Dunbartonshire is the seventh worst area in Scotland for the number of children living below the breadline, with 26.5 percent in poverty. Source: Child Poverty Action Group

Child and Working Tax Credits

The most recent information from HMRC shows that 7,300 families in West Dunbartonshire are in receipt of child and working tax credits. The breakdown below shows the numbers of families out of work, experiencing in-work

poverty, number of single parents with low-paid jobs and total number of children in out of work or low paid households.



Source: West Dunbartonshire Council, 2014/15 HMRC data

Councillor Bollan, having failed to obtain a seconder for a second amendment, asked that his dissent be recorded.

On a vote being taken, 8 Members voted for the amendment and 13 for the motion, which was accordingly carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Provost Hendrie adjourned the meeting for a period of 10 minutes.

The meeting reconvened at 8.29 p.m. with all those Members noted in the sederunt in attendance.

SHARED SERVICES – ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

The Chief Executive advised that due to ongoing discussions with partner Councils the report on this matter had been withdrawn from the agenda at this time.

CONSTRUCTION CHARTER

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – People and Technology seeking Council endorsement for the Construction Charter.

Following discussion and having heard officers in answer to a Member's questions, the Council agreed to endorse the Construction Charter as shown as an appendix to the report.

Councillor Bollan, having failed to obtain a seconder for a proposed amendment, asked that his dissent be recorded.

UPDATE ON AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AED) CAMPAIGN

Councillor McNair moved:-

This Council notes the cross party support secured and the success to date of the AED campaign.

Council welcomes the contribution that our local communities, Heart Start Scotland and the Scottish Ambulance Service, have made to this campaign; which has been a significant factor in taking things forward.

Council agrees to take the campaign to the next stage by funding additional AED's in our council buildings.

Therefore Council agrees the recommendations in the report with the exception of "putting on hold further funding" and further agrees that officers, in consultation with Councillors McNair and Lennie, be authorised to use up to £50,000 from free reserves to ensure there is a good geographical spread of AEDs across West Dunbartonshire and to continue the momentum of the campaign.

From this funding, Council agrees that where there is no provision, there should be in the interests of community well-being/safety, AED's in Council run buildings, i.e. the school estate, care homes, leisure facilities including libraries and community centres.

Council also notes that any funding agreed in addition to this will be part of the 2018/19 budget setting.

The Council agreed the above motion.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

The Council agreed to suspend Standing Order 20 to allow consideration of Notice of Motion (a) by Councillor David McBride.

NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Motion by Councillor David McBride – Changes to Standing Orders

Council agrees that Standing Order 18(b) be amended by the removal of the stipulation that deputations under that Standing Order by tenants and residents groups require the agreement of the Convener of the West Dunbartonshire Tenants' & Residents' Organisation.

The Council agreed the above motion.

(b) Motion by Councillor Jim Bollan – Zero Hour Contracts / Sessional / Casual / Temporary Workers

Council agrees that it is desirable to afford all workers engaged by WDC including those on Zero Hour Contracts/Sessional/Casual/Temporary who have worked for at least 4 weeks for the Council, full rights regarding terms and conditions, on a pro rata basis in so far as the law allows and instructs senior officers to bring a report to Council detailing the financial implications were Council to agree to extend full employment rights to these employees. In addition Council agrees that these employees will have access to a grievance procedure and instructs the Strategic Lead – People and Technology to amend the grievance procedure to allow for such grievances including appeal rights, the revised procedure to be brought to a subsequent Corporate Services Committee.

This motion covers Council workers with the Health & Community Care Partnership (HCCP) and workers with West Dunbartonshire Leisure Trust and the Council encourages the HCCP to adopt the same practice for all workers engaged by them.

The Council agreed the above motion.

(3) Motion by Councillor John Mooney – Neighbourhood Networks

It was noted that this motion had been withdrawn from the agenda.

**URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS
LIBRARY CONSULTATION**

Councillor McBride moved:-

This Council is concerned about the short length of the consultation on library hours.

The consultation is taking place over the Christmas and New Year period when local residents' attention is on other matters.

In addition our libraries provide access to other services valued by our communities such as Macmillan Cancer Care Services and access to computers for unemployed residents.

In addition to the above the method of consultation means that there is a risk that many library users and community groups would not be consulted.

Therefore, this Council calls for an extension to the consultation on the library cuts and for Council Officers to ensure that efforts are made to include residents that don't have access to the internet.

The Council agreed the above motion.

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

Provost Hendrie wished everyone present a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.