

EXECUTIVE

At a meeting of the Executive, held within the Municipal Buildings, Station Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 8 November 2000 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Andrew White, Daniel McCafferty, Anthony Devine, Duncan McDonald, John Trainer, 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.

Councillor Andrew White in the Chair

UNISON INDUSTRIAL ACTION

Prior to the commencement of the formal business of the Executive, the Chief Executive provided information on the effect which the selective industrial action was having on the Council's business. Mr Huntingford advised that fifty UNISON members are currently on indefinite strike action and an all-out strike day was planned for 16 November. Mr Huntingford informed the Executive that advertisements would be appearing in this week's local press providing essential information to members of the public on such matters as payment of rent and Council Tax.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Finance Minister of the Scottish Executive asking that further assistance be given to local authorities to meet the pay award in the current financial year.

CORPORATE ISSUES

POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive identifying issues to be considered as part of the new policy development processes and making recommendations on the establishment of Policy Development Forums. After discussion, the Executive agreed as follows:-

- (a) To establish an Anti-Poverty Forum and an Economic Development Forum.
- (b) To establish a short life forum to examine general issues relating to debt collection, with particular emphasis on Council Tax and rent collection.
- (c) That Portfolio holders consider the options for the formation of further forums for consideration at future meetings.

- (d) That a further report be submitted to the Executive providing information on the detailed remit and membership of the foregoing forums.

COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN 1999/2002 - ANNUAL UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive on progress made during 1999/2000 towards meeting objectives set out in the Corporate Plan and setting out specific targets for 2000/2001. After discussion it was agreed that portfolio holders should meet with relevant departmental Officers and report back on their findings to future Executive meetings, it being suggested that the first report should be made by the Economic Development portfolio holder.

SOCIAL WORK AND HOUSING SERVICES

SCOTTISH COMMISSION FOR THE REGULATION OF CARE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF FUNDING FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES

A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services advising on funding arrangements for the implementation of the new Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care which will take over local authority responsibility for registration and inspection of care services. A copy of the Scottish Executive paper on the transfer of funds was attached as an appendix to the report.

After discussion and having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing in explanation of the report, the Executive noted that the proposed new funding arrangements would result in an estimated shortfall of £28,000 for this authority. It was also noted, with concern, that the number of inspections of establishments will be reduced as a result of the new arrangements. It was agreed that the Council should raise the foregoing concerns by way of representations to appropriate bodies including the appropriate Minister and Committee of the Scottish Parliament, COSLA, ADSW and ADES.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIPS INVOLVING WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE, EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE AND ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCILS

A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services seeking approval for further development of proposals to enter a criminal justice social work partnership with East Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute Councils. The outline partnership proposal was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

After discussion, the Executive noted progress to date, homologated the outline submission forwarded to the Scottish Executive on 26 September 2000 and agreed to seek further reports on the development of the partnership arrangements.

It was also agreed that the Executive should send its condolences to Argyll and Bute Council following the death of Councillor Elspeth McTaggart, given the lead role which she had

played in the development of joint working in criminal justice social work between the three Councils.

STAFFING PROPOSALS

A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work and Housing seeking approval to expand the Anti-Social Investigation and Support Team (ASIST) on a temporary basis and to appoint a temporary Assistant Team Leader (Voids).

After discussion, the Executive noted that the cost implications of appointing three additional ASIST officers and a temporary post of Assistant Team Leader (Voids), initially for one year, could be met from the current budget and that provision would be made in the 2001/2002 budget for the continuation of the posts.

The Executive approved the temporary appointments as detailed in the report.

COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

LEISURE DSO BUSINESS PLAN 2000/2001

A report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services, together with the Leisure DSO business plan for 2000/2001. After discussion, it was agreed that this report be continued to the next meeting of the Executive.

DLO/DSO FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2000/2001 - TO PERIOD 5

A report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services on DLO/DSO financial performance 2000/2001 to Period 5. After discussion, it was agreed that this report be continued to the next meeting of the Executive.

CORPORATE SERVICES

COUNCIL TAX SETTING DAY

A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services advising that COSLA had recommended that all Councils seek to set their Council Tax levels on Thursday 15 February 2001.

After discussion, the Executive agreed to recommend to the meeting of Council to be held on 20 December 2000, that 15 February 2001 be approved as Council Tax Setting Day, subject to the relevant information on the 2001/2 settlement being received within the required timescale. It was noted that special meetings of the Executive and Council may be required on 15 February 2001, or such other date as may be agreed.

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

ST ANDREW'S DAY MARCH AND RALLY AGAINST RACISM AND FASCISM, SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2000

A letter was submitted from the STUC advising that the St Andrew's Day March and Rally against Racism and Fascism would be held on Saturday 25 November, 2000 and giving details of a programme of mobilising meetings for the event, together with a checklist for action in support of the march and rally.

After discussion, the Executive expressed its continuing support for the principles of the event and agreed to support the event by writing in appropriate terms to the STUC, also enclosing a contribution from the Council in the sum of £100.

LOCATION AND TIMING OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Executive gave consideration to the location and timing of its future meetings. After discussion, it was agreed that the Citizens' Panel should be requested to suggest when and where the Executive should meet but meantime, the Executive meetings should continue to be convened at 10.00 a.m. and alternate between Clydebank (Rosebery Place) and Dumbarton (Garshake Road, given the proposed works to the Municipal Buildings).

The meeting closed at 11.30 a. m.