

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held in the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings, Station Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 14 December 2005 at 10.03 a.m.

Present: Councillors Denis Agnew, Margaret Bootland, Dennis Brogan, Geoff Calvert, Tony Devine, Duncan MacDonald, Craig McLaughlin and Martin Rooney.

Attending: Gerry McNerney, Director of Corporate Services; Bill Clark, Acting Director of Social Work Services; Stephen Brown, Head of Legal and Administrative Services; David Connell, Head of Finance; Gillian Jump, Manager of Accounting; Andrea Gibson, Project Leader – Strategy; John Hepburn, Welfare Rights Development Officer; Lesley-Anne Haigh, Grants Administrator and Shona Barton, Administrative Officer.

Also

Attending: Mike O'Donnell, Manager – Community Planning Partnership.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Jim Bollan and Andy White.

Councillor Tony Devine in the Chair

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

7698 The Minutes of Meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held on 26 October 2005 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

7699 Councillor Calvert declared a financial interest in the following item of business and took no part in the discussion or deliberation thereof.

7700 Councillor Bootland declared a non-financial interest in the following item of business in relation to Clydebank Unemployed Workers Centre.

REVIEW OF INFORMATION AND ADVICE GIVING SERVICES

- 7701 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held on 26 October 2005 (Page 1981, paragraph 7335 refers), a report was resubmitted by the Acting Director of Social Work Services:-
- (i) providing information on the review of information and advice giving services within the West Dunbartonshire area; and
 - (ii) making recommendations regarding the ongoing funding provided by West Dunbartonshire Council and the West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership to the various information and advice giving services in the West Dunbartonshire area.
- 7702 Correspondence was also submitted from West Dunbartonshire Community Law Service.
- 7703 After extensive discussion, and having heard officers in answer to Members' questions, Councillor Devine seconded by Councillor Agnew, moved:-
- (1) that the existing funding for Clydebank Citizens Advice Bureau should continue until 31 March 2006, during which time discussions on the future provision of this service should continue with officers with a report being submitted to a future meeting of the Committee;
 - (2) that the existing funding for Dumbarton and District Citizens Advice Bureau should continue until 31 March 2006;
 - (3) that the existing funding for Clydebank Unemployed Workers Centre should continue until 31 March 2006, during which time discussions on the future provision of this service should continue with officers with a report being submitted to a future meeting of the Committee; and
 - (4) that the funding for the Law Centre should cease from 31 March 2006, but the existing funding should be maintained on a pro rata basis until that time.
- 7704 As an amendment Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Brogan, moved:-
- 7705 That a working group should be set up consisting of Councillors from this Committee and representatives from the affected groups to review advice giving services including funding streams. Following this a report should be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee and in the meantime the existing funding should continue.

- 7706 On a vote being taken 2 Members voted for the amendment and 5 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

ADJOURNMENT

- 7707 At this point in the meeting the Committee agreed to a short adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 10.55 a.m. and reconvened at 11.04 a.m. with all those on the sederunt being present with the exception of Councillors Dennis Brogan and Duncan McDonald.

CENSUS TEST AREA – WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

- 7708 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services informing of the area within West Dunbartonshire which will be used in a Census test on 23 April 2006.
- 7709 Having heard Councillor Devine, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

CULTURAL SERVICES

- 7710 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services seeking agreement for the transfer of management responsibility for Cultural Services to Corporate Services.
- 7711 After discussion, and having heard Councillor Agnew, Convener for Cultural Services in further explanation, the Committee agreed to approve the transfer of Cultural Services to Corporate Services, with a £125,000 budget resource, with effect from 4 January 2006.

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

- 7712 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing information on Corporate Services departmental performance standards.
- 7713 Having heard the Project Leader, Strategy in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

CORPORATE SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT : PERIOD 7 (2005/06)

- 7714 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services advising of the performance of the Corporate Services budget for the period to 15 November 2005.

7715 Having heard the Head of Finance, the Committee noted that the variance shown for Licensing (Civic Government and Taxis) in paragraph 3.2.1 of the report should read £0.051m.

7716 The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

NOTE: Councillor Brogan re-entered the meeting during discussion of the above item.

UPDATE ON FINANCE REVENUES COLLECTION

7717 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing an update on the collection of the local Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)

7718 The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the Council Tax and NNDR collection performance to date; and
- (2) to congratulate all staff involved on the improvements in increasing collection rates.

TREASURY TRANSACTIONS (1 APRIL 2005 – 15 NOVEMBER 2005)

7719 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services advising of the treasury transactions of the Council for the period from 1 April 2005 to 15 November 2005.

7720 The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

INTEREST RATES (1 APRIL 2005 – 1 DECEMBER 2005)

7721 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing information on interest rates during the period from 1 April 2005 to 1 December 2005.

7722 The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

DUMBARTON COMMON GOOD FUND – MONITORING REPORT TO 15 NOVEMBER 2005

7723 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing details of income and expenditure on the Common Good Fund to 15 November 2005.

- 7724 Having heard the Head of Finance in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

COSLA STAFFING WATCH SURVEY

- 7725 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services advising on the size of the Council's workforce as at 10 September 2005.
- 7726 The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

PIPE BANDS

- 7727 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing the details of grants provided to Pipe Band organisations within the Council's area.
- 7728 Having heard the Head of Finance in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
 - (2) that the applications for funding be dealt with as shown in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

- 7729 The Convener, in terms of Section 50 B (4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as inserted by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, requested that the Committee consider an additional item of business concerning a Local Grant Application submitted by the Faifley Monday Club.
- 7730 The Committee agreed that this item be considered as a matter of urgency on the grounds that the action to be taken required early consideration. It was noted that this item would be considered with the grant applications in the following item on the agenda.

LOCAL, GENERAL AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL GRANTS 2005/2006

- 7731 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing an update on the budget position of Local Grants, General Grants and Grants to Community Councils and providing details of grant applications for consideration.

7732 After discussion, Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Bootland, moved:-

7733 That the Local Grant Applications and the Community Council Grant application be dealt with as per the officer recommendations, and that the Faifley Monday Club be awarded the full grant requested of £522.60 to be funded from the Local Grants budget.

7734 As an amendment Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Brogan, moved:-

- (1) that a further report should be prepared providing information on the Clydebank Rugby Club;
- (2) that officers should refer the Brucehill Action Group to the Council's funding officer to seek other avenues for funding, and if no alternative funding can be found then the grant request should be resubmitted to this Committee;
- (3) that Alexandria Scottish Country Dance Club should be awarded the full grant requested of £687.38;
- (4) that the full grant requested of £1,599.25 should be awarded to Old Kilpatrick Community Council; and
- (5) that Faifley Monday Club should be awarded the full grant requested of £522.60.

7735 On a vote being taken 2 Members voted for the amendment and 5 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

7736 Thereafter it was agreed:-

- (1) to note the current budgetary position on Local, General and Community Council Grants as detailed in Appendix A to the report;
- (2) that the Local Grant applications for 2005/2006 be dealt with as shown in Appendix 2 to these Minutes;
- (3) that the Community Council Grant Applications for 2005/2006 be dealt with as shown in Appendix 3 to these Minutes; and
- (4) that the application from Faifley Monday Club be dealt with as shown in Appendix 4 to these Minutes.

The meeting closed at 11.53 a.m.