

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chamber, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 31 August 2016 at 5.04 p.m.

Present: Provost Douglas McAllister and Councillors Denis Agnew, Jim Brown, Gail Casey, Jim Finn, William Hendrie, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Michelle McGinty, Patrick McGlinchey, Marie McNair, John Millar, John Mooney, Ian Murray, Lawrence O'Neill, Tommy Rainey, Gail Robertson, Martin Rooney, Kath Ryall and Hazel Sorrell.

Attending: Joyce White, Chief Executive; Angela Wilson, Strategic Director – Transformation and Public Service Reform; Keith Redpath, Chief Officer of the Health & Social Care Partnership; Richard Cairns, Strategic Director – Regeneration, Environment & Growth; Peter Hissett, Strategic Lead – Regulatory; Malcolm Bennie, Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture & Communities; Jim McAloon, Strategic Lead – Regeneration; Peter Barry, Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability; Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer; Ronnie Dinnie, Strategic Lead – Environment & Neighbourhood; Vicki Rogers, Strategic Lead – People & Technology; Gillian McNeilly, Finance Manager; Amanda Coulthard, Corporate & Community Planning Manager; and Christine McCaffary, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jim Bollan and on behalf of Councillor George Black.

Provost Douglas McAllister in the Chair

PROVOST'S REMARKS

Provost McAllister referred to Item 4 on the agenda, Request for Deputation on the Future of the Vale of Leven Hospital and to Item 14 - Notice of Motion – Protecting Services at the Vale of Leven Hospital.

Having heard the Provost further, the Council agreed that Item 14 be considered immediately after the deputation.

Having heard Councillor Agnew, and on behalf of the Council the Provost wished Councillor George Black a speedy recovery following his recent health issue.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 29 June 2016 were submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:-

- (1) That in relation to the urgent item of business considered, the words 'across the UK' be inserted after 'xenophobic incidents'; and
- (2) That the minute for Glasgow City Region City Deal – Update be amended to show that Councillor McColl's addendum, which was accepted by Councillor McGlinchey, replaced point (3).

FUTURE OF THE VALE OF LEVEN HOSPITAL - REQUEST FOR DEPUTATION

In accordance with Standing Order No.17, the Council agreed to hear a deputation on the above from Hospitalwatch.

Mr Jim Moohan, Chair of Hospitalwatch, thanked the Council for giving him the opportunity to be heard on behalf of the group. He spoke of concerns that the hospital would no longer be viable and urged all Members to come together as one and invite the Health Secretary to come to the area to discuss this urgent matter.

Provost McAllister thanked Mr Moohan and all other members of Hospitalwatch for their tireless contributions to this important cause.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion by Councillor Michelle McGinty – Protecting Services at the Vale of Leven Hospital

Councillor McGinty moved:-

This Council notes with concern that NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde is launching a consultation on proposals to transfer birthing services from the Vale of Leven Hospital Community Maternity Unit to the Royal Alexandra Hospital or the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.

Council understands that the proposal is included within the health board's Local Delivery Plan which also proposes the transfer of emergency paediatric services from the RAH to the QEUH as part of a package of savings to fill the health board's £69 million shortfall in 2016/2017.

This Council commends the Council's representative on the health board in supporting an amendment to reject the proposals but regrets that the amendment was not supported by the majority of the board.

This Council believes that restricting the choice of pregnant women in West Dunbartonshire runs contrary to the Vision for the Vale which committed to 'sustaining and promoting' the Community Maternity Unit.

The Council agrees to write to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde calling for the proposals to be rejected, and believes that the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport should intervene to ensure that all current services at the Vale of Leven Hospital are protected.

We consider that this is a further example that the vision for the Vale has not been met.

We invite the Cabinet Secretary to attend a specially convened meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council to specifically address the concerns of hospital and the wider community.

Councillors McColl asked Councillor McGinty if, as addendums, she would be willing to add the following paragraphs to her motion:-

When the consultation is launched, Council agrees to use its website and Social Media to encourage local people to take part and voice their concerns, sending a clear message to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde that they must continue to offer maternity services locally.

The local community value the services offered there, however there is an abundance of anecdotal evidence that suggests the services are not always being offered to local people.

Council therefore agrees to write to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde insisting that they ensure Consultants, Specialist Nursing Staff and others responsible for making patient referrals, are fully aware of the full range of services offered locally at the Vale of Leven Hospital and actively offer them to appropriate patients as a first option for treatment.

The Council further agrees to write to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde calling for the proposals to be rejected, and insisting that NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde develop a long-term plan for the wider Clyde area to ensure services are effectively organised for the benefit of patients in our community. Council asks the Scottish Government to confirm its commitment to the long-term future for the Vale of Leven Hospital and believes that the Health Board must stop treating the Clyde area as an unwanted add-on, and separately, Council does not believe writing to the Health Board alone will be fully effective, therefore, Council agrees to seek a meeting between the Council Leader, Spokesperson for Social Work & Health, Leader of the Opposition, mover of this motion and Cabinet Secretary for Health & Sport to discuss the issues raised in this motion.

Councillor McBride then asked Councillor McGinty if she was willing to accept the following addendum to her motion:-

Council also agrees that the mover of the motion and a delegation from Hospitalwatch be invited to attend this meeting.

Councillor McGinty confirmed that she was willing to accept both members' addendums and the following motion was agreed by Council:-

This Council notes with concern that NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde is launching a consultation on proposals to transfer birthing services from the Vale of Leven Hospital Community Maternity Unit to the Royal Alexandra Hospital or the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.

Council understands that the proposal is included within the health board's Local Delivery Plan which also proposes the transfer of emergency paediatric services from the RAH to the QEUH as part of a package of savings to fill the health board's £69 million shortfall in 2016/17.

This Council commends the Council's representative on the health board in supporting an amendment to reject the proposals but regrets that the amendment was not supported by the majority of the board.

This Council believes that restricting the choice of pregnant women in West Dunbartonshire runs contrary to the Vision for the Vale which committed to 'sustaining and promoting' the Community Maternity Unit.

When the consultation is launched, Council agrees to use its website and Social Media to encourage local people to take part and voice their concerns, sending a clear message to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde that they must continue to offer maternity services locally.

Council notes that the Scottish Government has repeatedly voiced their support for the Vale of Leven Hospital and that the local community value the services offered there, however there is an abundance of anecdotal evidence that suggests the services are not always being offered to local people.

The Council agrees to write to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde calling for the proposals to be rejected, and believes that the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport should intervene to ensure that all current services at the Vale of Leven Hospital are protected.

We consider that this is a further example that the vision for the Vale has not been met.

We invite the Cabinet Secretary to attend a specially convened meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council to specifically address the concerns of hospital and the wider community.

Council therefore agrees to write to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde insisting that they ensure Consultants, Specialist Nursing Staff and others responsible for making patient referrals, are fully aware of the full range of services offered locally at the Vale of Leven Hospital and actively offer them to appropriate patients as a first option for treatment.

The Council further agrees to write to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde calling for the proposals to be rejected, and insisting that NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde develop a long-term plan for the wider Clyde area to ensure services are effectively organised for the benefit of patients in our community. Council asks the Scottish Government to confirm its commitment to the long-term future for the Vale of Leven Hospital and believes that the Health Board must stop treating the Clyde area as an unwanted add-on, and separately, Council does not believe writing to the Health Board alone will be fully effective, therefore, Council agrees to seek a meeting between the Council Leader, Spokesperson for Social Work & Health, Leader of the Opposition, mover of this motion and Cabinet Secretary for Health & Sport to discuss the issues raised in this motion, and to invite a delegation from Hospitalwatch to the meeting.

Mr Moohan and other members of Hospitalwatch left the meeting at this point.

UNCERTAINTY OF PREMISES FOR TWO YOUTH PROJECTS, BALLOCH – REQUEST FOR DEPUTATION

In accordance with Standing Order No.17, the Council agreed to hear a deputation on the above from Haldane Youth Services.

Ms Claire Davis, Project Co-ordinator, thanked the Council for the opportunity to be heard. She advised that positive discussions were ongoing with the Council's Chief Education Officer and then proceeded to provide Members with an overview of the services provided by the youth group.

Following Ms Davis' presentation, Members were heard in support of the group's valuable work and the Provost thanked Ms Davis for her interesting presentation.

Ms Davis and other members of the group left the meeting at this point.

OPEN FORUM

Provost McAllister advised that an open forum question had been received from Mr Edward Grant.

Mr Grant read out his question regarding Chalmers Street Bus Stance:-

What can be done to improve the situation at the Chalmers Street Bus stance?

The request I have for the council is that something must be done about Chalmers Street Bus Stances. I know I speak for many when I say it's a shambles. The problem is that you have ONE bus stop for up to SIX buses at one time. So you have queue of buses sitting waiting to get in and then they sometimes just drive by.

You also have OAPs and the disabled having to run past several buses to get on and I have seen them getting on with the buses double parked. You have TAXIS doing U-Turns and nearly hitting the passengers. The worst problem is Health & Safety where the bus driver LOITER at the ONE stop say reading a paper or book and in one case the driver got off his bus with the engine still running to speak to a pal and as a result you have FUMES pouring into to the bus shelters.

I have brought the matter up with the SPT but they say it is your remit.

This morning I saw a fight between a passenger and two First Bus operatives. You have notices on lamp posts saying it is an offence to leave an engine running but you do not apply this to buses and I know that buses are allowed to sit for a time but this must change and when the passengers are on board they should leave at once in other words MOVE ALONG.

Without prejudice
Edward Grant C.I.R,

P.S. You STILL have unauthorised vehicles using the bus route and NO officers to put a hand up and stop them as obviously the SIGNs are not working.

Councillor McGlinchey provided the following response:-

Firstly, can I thank Mr. Grant for his question and for raising this important matter; which, I think, all bus users in Clydebanks have experienced.

The local authority recognises the need to upgrade facilities and, in partnership with SPT, is currently developing plans to invest in transport infrastructure in central Clydebanks.

Funding has been committed for an initial conceptual study which is due to take place early next year at the latest. This study will identify the best design for Chalmers Street but it is anticipated that any upgrades will include:

Improvements to the existing bus interchange with better waiting areas for passengers and better management of the traffic flow. This is likely to include an additional four bus stances developed along the length of Chalmers Street in a SawTooth arrangement.

The upgrades will also see new linkages from the town centre to Queens Quay developed, to integrate both parts of the town.

In terms of current actions, the council has sought SPT's assistance in managing the current traffic and people flow around the bus stance. We have also contacted Police Scotland, who are responsible for enforcing the existing traffic orders, requesting that they monitor and action illegal movements within Chalmers Street, Clydebank.

As a supplementary question, Mr Grant asked if the Council could create bye-laws that would help improve the current situation.

Councillor McGlinchey advised that the Council would consider if this was possible and provide Mr Grant with a written response in due course.

The Provost thanked Mr Grant for his contribution, and Mr Grant left the meeting.

GLASGOW CITY REGION CITY DEAL – UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Regeneration providing an update on the progress with the implementation of the Glasgow City Region City Deal.

Having heard Councillor McGlinchey provide an update from the Cabinet meeting he had attended earlier in the month, the Council agreed to note the progress with the implementation of the Glasgow City Region City Deal.

REGISTERED CHARITABLE TRUSTS

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources providing an update on the current status of registered charitable trusts and seeking approval of the actions required to finalise the governance changes to allow the Trusts to operate in line with the guidance laid down by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

Following discussion and having heard Councillors Rainey and McColl, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to formally adopt the governance documents appended to the report for the following charities, these governance documents having been approved by OSCR:-
 - (i) Alexander Cross Cameron Bequest (SCO25070)
 - (ii) War Memorial Dumbarton (SCO25070)
 - (iii) Halkett Memorial (SCO25070)
 - (iv) Dr AK Glen Fund for the benefit of the people of Dumbarton, to assist and relieve those in need by reason of age (SCO18701)¹ and
 - (v) Vale of Leven Fund (SCO25070)

¹ As corrected by West Dunbartonshire Council at its meeting on 26 October 2016

- (2) the actions identified at 3.7 of the report for the use of the Trust funds;
- (3) to create committees of West Dunbartonshire Council for those shown at (i) (ii) (iv) and (v) above, and as detailed in the appendix to these minutes;
- (4) that the Halkett Memorial Trust be delegated to the Corporate Services Committee;
- (5) to the delegation of trusteeship to the committees as described in the appendix to these minutes;
- (6) that the membership of the newly created committees be as shown in the appendix to these minutes;
- (7) that a minimum of 2 Members shall constitute the quorum for the aforementioned committees;
- (8) to authorise the Strategic Lead - Resources the power to sign on behalf of the Trustees:
 - (a) the Trusts new replacement constitutions;
 - (b) an extract of the minutes of this Council meeting thereby adopting the replacement constitutions; and
 - (c) the Notification of Changes Made Form to OSCR, on behalf of the Council as Trustees; and
- (9) to authorise the Strategic Lead - Regulatory to make any consequent changes required to the Council's Standing Orders.

GENERAL SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL ACCOUNT

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources advising on the progress of both the General Services revenue budget 2016/17 and the approved capital programme for the period to 31 July 2016.

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 £0.013m (0.01% of the total budget);
- (2) to note that the capital account shows a projected annual favourable variance of £12.374m (11.68% of the budget) and a projected project life adverse variance of £2.502m (0.79% of project life budget);

- (3) to approve the proposed acceleration of £0.100m from the 2017/18 vehicle replacement budget required to fund essential safety enhancements as highlighted in section 4.9 of the report; and
- (4) to approve a capital spend of £1.400m on vehicles currently on long term hire as highlighted in section 4.10 of the report.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources providing an update on the financial performance to 31 July 2016 (Period 4) of the HRA revenue and capital budgets.

Following discussion, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the projected favourable revenue variance of £0.491m (1.1%) and
- (2) to note the position advised in relation to the capital budget which is currently projecting an in-year favourable variance of £4.123m (14.2%), of which £4.144m (14.3%) relates to project re-phasing and an in-year overspend of £0.021M

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture & Communities presenting the 2015/16 Annual Report.

Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor McBride moved that the Council note the content of the Annual Report.

As an amendment Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor Hendrie moved that the Council note the content of the Annual Report, subject to the map on page 10 being updated to accurately show the location of individual projects.

On a vote being taken, 7 Members voted for the amendment and 13 for the motion which was declared carried.

2015/16 YEAR END PERFORMANCE REPORT

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture & Communities presenting the Year End Performance Report.

After discussion and having heard officers in further explanation of the report and in answer to a Member's questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the content of the report; and

- (2) to note that the full suite of performance information will be published as part of annual public performance reporting.

Note: Councillor Agnew left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources providing an update on the treasury management during 2015/16.

After discussion and having heard the Finance Manager in answer to a Member's question, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the treasury management stewardship information within the report;
- (2) to note the 2015/16 actual prudential indicators as advised within the report (Tables 2, 3, 4 and 5); and
- (3) that a copy of the report be remitted to the Audit & Performance Review Committee for further scrutiny.

The meeting closed at 7.18 p.m.

Appendix

Trust	Purpose	Suggested Delegation
Alexander Cross Cameron Bequest	For the benefit of the people of Clydebank, to assist and relieve those in need by reason of age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage	Alexander Cross Cameron Bequest Committee comprising Provost McAllister and Councillors Casey, Mooney and O'Neill.
War Memorial Dumbarton	For the upkeep of war memorials, Dumbarton	Dumbarton Trust Committee comprising those members representing Ward 3.
Halkett Memorial Trust	For the advancement of art by supporting painting activities and painting competitions within and amongst primary schools located within the West Dunbartonshire area	Corporate Services Committee
Vale of Leven Fund	For 'the benefit of the people of the Vale of Leven area who are in need by reason of age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage	Vale of Leven Fund Committee comprising those members representing Wards 1 and 2.
Dr A K Glen Fund	For 'the benefit of the people of Dumbarton, to assist and relieve those in need by reason of age. ²	Dumbarton Trust Committee comprising those members representing Ward 3.

² As corrected by West Dunbartonshire Council at its meeting on 26 October 2016