

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a special meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held within the Main Hall, Municipal Buildings, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Thursday 29 November 2001 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Provost Alistair Macdonald and Councillors James Bolla, Geoffrey Calvert, Mary Campbell, Anthony Devine, Daniel McCafferty, James McCallum, Linda McColl, Ronnie McColl, John McCutcheon, Duncan McDonald, Ian McDonald, James McElhill, Margaret McGregor, Craig McLaughlin, Connie O'Sullivan, Iain Robertson, John Syme, John Trainer, and Andrew White.

Attending: Tim Huntingford, Chief Executive; Ian McMurdo, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Eric Walker, Director of Corporate Services; David McMillan, Director of Commercial and Technical Services; Stephen B. Brown, Head of Legal and Administrative Services; Frank Newall, Head of Children's Services and Dave Low, Administrative Assistant.

Also attending: Michael Nevin and Sam Craig, Caledonian Economics Limited.

Apologies: Councillors Mary Collins and James Flynn.

Provost Alistair Macdonald in the Chair

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT PARTNERSHIP FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS - OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive seeking the Council's approval to submit the Outline Business Case for Revenue Support for Public Private Partnership School Buildings Projects, attached as an appendix thereto, to the Scottish Executive.

After a presentation by the Head of Children's Services, Members were given the opportunity to put questions on the matter to the Chief Executive, Director of Education and Cultural Services, the Head of Children's Services and the two consultants.

Adjournment

After a short adjournment, Councillor Ronnie McColl, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved:-

"The Council agrees that an expression of interest for second round bids be submitted to the Executive before the December deadline.

This Council notes the years of inadequate funding made available by successive Governments, which has resulted in the decaying state of our Educational Buildings.

This Council resolve to enter into an extensive consultation process over the coming year with the people of West Dunbartonshire to ascertain what their aspirations are for

Educational Services. This consultation should in particular ascertain the views of all the parents whose children use or will use our schools, all the people who staff them and the trade unions since they all have a large stake in the Education System.

The report entitled "**Public and Private Partnership Project for School Buildings Outline Business Case**" and the various options in the document are the opinion of Officers, they will be used to stimulate the debate which will inform the elected members how the people of West Dunbartonshire wish us to proceed.

Alongside this debate this Council will investigate various innovative funding options including a "**Scottish Trust for Public Investment**". This will be an open and transparent investigation to find the best funding option for West Dunbartonshire.

This Council instructs the Chief Executive and the Director of Education to bring forward a plan for a full and costed consultation period between January 2002 and August 2002."

By way of an amendment, Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Trainer, moved as follows:-

"This Council notes the report by the Chief Executive dated 29th November 2001.

This Council wishes to express its interest, based on a bid date of September 2002, and agrees that the fullest consultation with the community at large is imperative. This should take the form of meetings at every school by the Convenor of Education and the Leader of the Council.

Council also agrees to involve the Trade Unions in full and genuine consultation ensuring openness and transparency.

Council further agrees that all affected organisations are given similar consultation.

This Council believes that the cart has been put before the horse and agrees that any argument for the business case must be shaped by the community before going forward."

On a vote being taken by way of calling the roll, 10 Members (namely Provost Macdonald and Councillors Syme, White, Devine, D. McDonald, L. McColl, Calvert, McCallum, Trainer and O'Sullivan) voted for the amendment and 9 Members (namely Councillors McElhill, McCafferty, I. McDonald, McCutcheon, Robertson, Bollan, McLaughlin, R. McColl and McGregor) voted for the motion with one abstention. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

Councillor Campbell requested that her dissent be noted.

The meeting concluded at 10.15 p.m.