

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

At the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Civic Space, Council Offices, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 28 November 2018 at 2.02 p.m.

**Present:** Provost William Hendrie, Bailie Denis Agnew and Councillors Jim Bolland, 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 (Legal Officer); Stephen West, Strategic Lead – Resources; Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer; Victoria Rogers, Strategic Lead – People & Technology; Malcolm Bennie, Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture & Communities; Jim McAloon, Strategic Lead – Regeneration; Peter Barry, Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability; Gillian McNeilly, Finance Manager; Ian Bain, Greenspace Manager; Rodney Thornton, Fleet & Waste Services Manager; Raymond Walsh, Roads & Transportation Manager; Michael McGuinness, Economic Development Manager; and Christine McCaffary, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

**Provost William Hendrie in the Chair**

### **MINUTE'S SILENCE**

Having heard Provost Hendrie, a minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect for Claire Weir, Council Officer and member of the Provost's civic team, who had sadly passed away whilst on duty on Sunday, 11 November 2018.

## **STATEMENT BY CHAIR – AUDIO STREAMING**

The Provost advised that the meeting was being audio streamed and broadcast live to the internet and would be available for playback.

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interest were declared by Provost Hendrie and Councillors Finn and McBride, all being members of West Dunbartonshire Leisure Trust.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 27 September 2018 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

## **OPEN FORUM**

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

## **GLASGOW CITY REGION CITY DEAL – UPDATE**

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Regeneration updating on the progress with the implementation of the Glasgow City Region, City Deal and the Council's City Deal Project.

Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor Rooney moved:-

That Council notes the progress of the Glasgow City Region City Deal.

As an amendment Councillor Bollan, seconded by Bailie Agnew moved:-

Council agrees to withdraw from the current City Deal Project relating to the Exxon site. The site is heavily contaminated with toxic chemicals and materials including asbestos which will not be removed from the site under the proposed “remediation” process.

Until an agreement is reached with the Exxon owners that all the contaminated heavy metals and asbestos is removed from the site, at their cost, then WDC will not spend any more public money on this land which is not owned by WDC and which has already cost local Council Taxpayers in excess of £3m.

On a vote being taken 2 Members voted for the amendment and 20 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

## **GLASGOW CITY REGION CITY DEAL – EXXON SITE REFRESHED OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE**

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Regeneration seeking approval of the Outline Business Case (Refreshed) for the ExxonMobil City Deal project.

Following discussion and having heard officers in answer to Members' questions, Councillor McLaren seconded by Councillor Rooney moved that Council agree:-

- (1) to approve the Outline Business Case (Refreshed);
- (2) that the refreshed Outline Business Case is presented to the Glasgow City Region Chief Executive Group and subsequently to Cabinet for approval on 1 February 2019;
- (3) to approve the increased financial commitment from £3.906m to £4.767m, by updating the Council's capital plan, as the Council's 14% contribution to the project cost, subject to approval of the refreshed Outline Business Case by the Glasgow City Region Cabinet;
- (4) that should additional City Region funding not be made available the Council will fund the additional £6.153m capital spend noting the expected future receipt of around £1.6m would reduce this to a net additional cost of around £4.553m;
- (5) to note the existing approved budget allocation of £2.948m from the City Deal Infrastructure fund still allows the Council to progress to Final Business Case; and
- (6) that Council officers can commence negotiations with surrounding landowners regarding the transfer of their land ownership to the Council to enable the wider development.

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

Accordingly, the Council agreed the motion.

## **FORMER GREENLIGHT SERVICES – OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Environment & Neighbourhood providing Council with an option appraisal to consider future service provision of council services following the administration of Greenlight Environmental.

Following discussion and having heard officers in answer to Members' questions, Councillor McLaren seconded by Councillor McColl moved:-

That Council agree:-

- (1) that glass collection service is delivered in-house
- (2) that dry recyclate collection service is delivered in-house
- (3) that dry recyclate processing service is delivered externally
- (4) that cardboard collection service is delivered in-house
- (5) that confidential waste service is delivered externally
- (6) operative cover for the Household Waste Recycling Centre at Dalmoak (near Renton) is delivered in-house
- (7) operative cover for the Household Waste Recycling Centre at Ferry Road, Old Kilpatrick is delivered in-house
- (8) that the Care of Gardens Scheme is delivered as an in-house service.

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

That Council agree the recommendations of the report, subject to the contract required at para (3) being awarded for 1 year and that a report by the Chief Executive be brought back to Council advising of the cost of providing this service in-house.

At the request of Councillor O'Neill the Council proceeded by way of a roll call vote.

On a vote being taken 9 members, namely Councillors Bollan, Casey, Lennie, Douglas McAllister, McBride, Millar, Mooney, O'Neill and Rooney voted for the amendment and 13 members, namely Provost Hendrie, Bailie Agnew and Councillors Brown, Conaghan, Dickson, Docherty, Finn, Caroline McAllister, McColl, McLaren, McNair, Page and Walker voted for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

## **GENERAL FUND BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT PERIOD 7 – 2018/19**

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources on the progress of the General Services revenue budget and the approved capital programme for the period to 31 October 2018 (Period 7).

The Council agreed:-

- (1) to note that the revenue account currently shows a projected annual favourable variance of £0.077m (0.04% of the total budget); and
- (2) to note that the capital account shows that planned expenditure and resource for 2018/19 is lower than budgeted by £23.899m (28.54% of the budget), made up of £24.135m relating to project slippage, partially offset by £0.236m relating to an in year overspend.

## **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT PERIOD 7 – 2018/19**

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability providing an update on the financial performance of the HRA revenue and capital budgets for the period to 31 October 2018 (Period 7).

The Council agreed:-

- (1) to consider and note the contents of the report which shows a projected favourable revenue variance of £0.069m (0.16%); and
- (2) to consider and note the net projected annual position in relation to relevant capital projects which is highlighting a variance of £6.592m (19.7%) due to projected slippage of £7.092m (21.2%) and an overspend of £0.500m (-1.5%).

## **LONG TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY REFRESH AND GENERAL SERVICES AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT REVENUE ESTIMATES UPDATE 2019/20 TO 2021/22**

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources providing an update of the Council's Long Term Finance Strategy, together with information on the estimates process for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

Following discussion and having heard officers in answer to Members' questions, Councillor Dickson, seconded by Councillor McColl moved:-

That Council agree:-

- (1) to note the updated strategy has developed estimates of the Council's funding position to 2021/22 and identifies cumulative anticipated revenue funding gaps within General Services of £2.066m for 2019/20; £8.786m for 2020/21; and £13.502m for 2021/22;
- (2) to note the position regarding the HRA projections to 2021/22;
- (3) to note the funding projection to a 10 year estimate to 2028/29;
- (4) to approve the long term financial strategy, as attached as Appendix 1 to the report, including:
  - the assumption of a Council Tax increase for 2019/20 onwards of 3% as described in 4.6 of the strategy;
  - inflationary uplift for 2019/20 onwards as described in 4.12 of the report; and
  - the 10 year plan within the strategy as described at 4.38 of the report;
- (5) to note the projected year-end position regarding reserves and provisions;

- (6) to note that the Corporate Management Team (CMT) has generated a number of management adjustments which have been implemented in generating the gaps identified;
- (7) to note that the CMT is in the process of generating savings options which will be reported to Council in December 2018;
- (8) to note the plans to engage with the public during January 2019;
- (9) to note the current position regarding the long term capital plan;
- (10) to note the information provided in relation to the ongoing Brexit negotiations, the teachers pension fund costs and the review of loan charges; and
- (11) to note that this projected position is subject to amendment as assumptions continue to be clarified and revised between now and Council in February 2019.

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

Council notes the report and the projected settlement but does not agree to take any action regarding the recommendations.

Instead, we call on the Leader of the Council to go back to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and tell him that West Dunbartonshire Council will not accept another year of SNP cuts.

The only way that this Council's financial situation will improve is through fair funding from the SNP Government.

At the request of Councillor O'Neill the Council proceeded by way of a roll call vote.

On a vote being taken 2 members abstained, namely Councillors Page and Walker, 9 members voted for the amendment, namely Councillors Bollan, Casey, Lennie, Douglas McAllister, McBride, Millar, Mooney, O'Neill and Rooney voted for the amendment and 11 members, namely Provost Hendrie, Bailie Agnew and Councillors Brown, Conaghan, Dickson, Docherty, Finn, Caroline McAllister, McColl, McLaren and McNair voted for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

Note: Bailie Agnew left at this point in the meeting.

## **APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES: GLASGOW AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Regulatory advising of a request for nominations to the Glasgow Airport Consultative Committee.

The Council agreed that Provost Hendrie be nominated with Bailie Agnew as substitute.

## **NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

### **(a) Motion by Councillor David McBride – Winter Resilience**

Councillor McBride, seconded by Councillor Mooney moved:-

Council notes the severe winter weather experienced in early 2018 where heavy snowfall meant the first ever Red Warning issued in Scotland which resulted in considerable disruption to travel and every day living for all our residents and staff.

Council believes valuable lessons have been learned and this should allow West Dunbartonshire Residents, staff and businesses to plan for future severe weather occurrences.

Therefore in preparation for the onset of winter weather the Council calls on the Chief Executive to present a report to the next available Council Meeting to include a comprehensive winter resilience plan.

Although not exhaustive the plan should include:-

Consideration of an alternative place of work for WDC staff such as one within walking distance of home to avoid unnecessary travel with staff travelling to either end of the authority.

Where appropriate working from home to be considered for example – it may be possible to plan the structure of work for home carers – where they could have at least one working weeks supply of Personal Protective Equipment and a contingency plan where they attend to clients close to their home in severe weather reducing travel and risks.

Promote a Winter Resilience Pack for WDC employees and residents to have an emergency week's supply of food e.g. UHT milk, bottled water, tinned goods etc.

To encourage staff participation the council could consider offering an advance of pay of around £150 for all employees to facilitate this preparation which can be paid back over 2 or 3 pay dates (ideally February and March when most Council Tax bills have already been paid).

Vulnerable clients of HSCP to be supported in preparing for foul weather by their home carers and their managers to plan ahead for similar food items and medication.

While warnings are currently notified to staff and residents on the Councils Intranet and website a possible text information service could be introduced

similar to the service utilised in our schools to communicate with parents and guardians.

The Council could encourage local employers and the CPP to sign up to the Councils Winter Resilience initiatives.

Community Groups should also be encouraged to look at options to support the initiative such as telephone check calls to vulnerable individuals and other actions to help communities to overcome local challenges.

Our weather is changing therefore we will need to adapt, the poorest and most vulnerable must be cared for and these kind of preparations would put West Dunbartonshire at the top of a positive list of statistics in Scotland rather than a negative list by being an area most prepared and innovative in the event of amber and red warnings.

The expectation is that the initiatives would develop over time building resilience and capacity across the council area.

As an amendment Councillor McLaren, seconded by Councillor McColl moved:-

Council notes that winter resilience planning for 2018/19 is already well underway and asks that the briefing asked for and provided to the Administration by the Strategic Lead – People & Technology be provided to all Members.

On a vote being taken 12 Members voted for the amendment and 9 for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

**(b) Motion by Councillor Jim Bolla – Free Lets of Leisure Trust Premises for West Dunbartonshire Community Food Share**

Councillor Bolla moved:-

Council agrees to ask WDLT to waive hall/room rental charges for any space used by West Dunbartonshire Foodshare whilst they are distributing food to families across West Dunbartonshire.

Note:- Bailie Agnew returned to the meeting at this point.

As an amendment, Councillor McColl moved:-

Council notes the important work of West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare (WDCF) and Food 4 Thought (F4T), who both provide vital services to our most vulnerable residents and their families in times of desperate need.

Council agrees that it is a disgrace such services are needed in a modern, developed, democratic nation and we are concerned that many more of our



residents will find themselves in dire need as Universal Credit rolls out across West Dunbartonshire over the coming months and years.

Council notes that the Administration have been working for a number of months on proposals for a pot of funding to help those who will be hardest hit by the rollout of Universal Credit. While we recognise that Citizens Advice have been given the funding available from the UK Government for this purpose, we believe that the Council must do what we can for our residents.

It was our intention to present our plans as part of the Administration budget, however given the cross party support for foodbanks today, we move this motion in the hope of securing cross party support for our wider plans.

Council therefore agrees the following:

- WDC will give WDCF the use of Unit 22 at the Leven Valley Enterprise Centre. The full year commercial rate to rent this unit is £16,800. WDC notes that F4T are also struggling for sufficient room for storage and asks officers to work with them to identify, and provide free of charge, suitable Council/Leisure Trust space to allow them to carry out their increased activity over the festive period.
- WDC will fund the remaining 2018/19 financial year rental costs of Unit 22 from free reserves (By funding WDCF's main rental costs instead of asking the Leisure Trust to waive fees for use of their facilities, WDC will be providing better support for WDCF while ensuring that the Leisure Trust is not in detriment). Council notes that a portion of the rental costs for their current Unit 21 accommodation have already been awarded to WDCF by other funds and this should be taken into account when calculating the amount of outstanding rent to be covered.
- WDC would like this arrangement to start as soon as practicable, and members will decide how to fund this rental cost longer term as part of considering the report called for in the next bullet, at the Council's budget meeting.
- Council agrees in full, the motion at 13(c) of this agenda, but adds that F4T be included alongside WDCF in the officers' report, and that the report will come to the Council's budget meeting.
- This report will also include the following:
  - Details of the per annum cost of hiring 1 FTE staff member, to be given relevant training in Universal Credit applications, that we can base in our four biggest libraries (Alexandria, Dumbarton, Dalmuir, Clydebank) one day a week to assist people with initial applications and maintenance of claims.

- This individual should also be able to spend up to one day a week training members of community groups who have expressed, or may express in the future, a wish to provide access to community based assistance.
- Consideration of increasing capacity within our Communities team given an expected increased interest in community engagement as local group seek to provide more community led help for residents.
- Details of any opportunities there may be for Council to increase other funds that can help those in dire need, such as the Scottish Welfare Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments.

It will be for Council to decide at the budget meeting what measures should be put in place and how those measures will be funded.

Councillor Douglas McAllister asked if Councillor McColl would be willing to accept the following as an addendum to his amendment:-

That the report include the potential costs of West Dunbartonshire Council providing a holiday hunger benefit payment or free school meals.

Councillor McColl confirmed his acceptance of the addendum.

Following discussion Councillor McColl also agreed, with the acceptance of Councillor Bolland, that Councillor Bolland's motion be added after the first bullet point and that the costs be covered from free reserves.

The Council agreed Councillor McColl's amendment with both addendums.

**(c) Motion by Councillor Daniel Lennie – West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare (WDCF)**

The following motion no longer required consideration, having been incorporated in the decision of the previous item of business.

Council notes the fantastic work carried out by volunteers of West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare since its establishment. Over the years, the charity, and the need for it, has grown considerably since moving into its current premises of unit 21 at the Leven Valley Enterprise Centre in Dumbarton in 2015.

The Council also acknowledges the tremendous support from the local community and a range of organisations, including West Dunbartonshire Council.

Initially, the charity focused on organising food provision for vulnerable families. However, the number of initiatives has increased and the charity is now running 5 different projects as follows:

- General Food Provision
- School Holiday Brunch Bags
- Uniform Bank
- Christmas Toybank
- Teaching Cooking and Growing.

Council acknowledges that West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare desperately need more suitable, larger, longer-term premises, as they are bursting at the seams.

The charity would like the opportunity to move into larger premises at Unit 22 Leven Valley Enterprise Centre, so that they can better plan and organise the wide range of services offered to the communities of West Dunbartonshire.

The operating costs are currently £18,342.00 per year for Unit 21 at Leven Valley Enterprise Centre in Dumbarton and this includes a reduced rent of £3,200 per annum.

It is also noted that although the organisation would like to expand into larger premises they don't have the money to pay more than the current rent of £3,200 per annum.

This Council notes that West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare provides a vital service to all those in need in our communities. Unfortunately, the demand for these services is likely to continue to grow with the roll-out of Universal Credit.

Given the above, this Council calls on the Chief Executive to bring forward a report to a future Council meeting setting out the in-kind support, financial support and other assistance, that is currently provided to West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare by the Council and other partners.

The report should consider options for the sustainable funding of the services, explore options to generate income and reduce costs on the charity and to consider opportunities for expanding the services in association with Community Planning Partners

**(d) Motion by Councillor Caroline McAllister – Universal Credit**

Councillor Caroline McAllister moved:-

Council notes with concern the DWP's intention to continue with the roll out of Universal Credit despite the numerous problems highlighted from areas who are piloting the changes to the Social Security system.

People are being plunged into poverty and foodbanks are reporting a significant increase in demand. Local Authorities are seeing a spike in rent and Council Tax arrears and an increased demand on other services as a result of Universal Credit.

Here in West Dunbartonshire the roll out is due to commence at the end of this month. Bearing in mind the five week delay in claims being paid out. To leave claimants without any form of income at any time is unacceptable but leading up to Christmas is unnecessarily cruel and risks forcing our residents into the hands of unscrupulous money lenders.

This Council calls on the Leader to write again to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, and request the roll out of this damaging and punitive policy does not go ahead until all problems are addressed and resolved.

Following discussion, the motion was agreed by Council.

**(e) Motion by Councillor Sally Page – Roads Network: Balloch and Surrounding Area**

Councillor Page, seconded by Councillor Walker moved:-

We call upon West Dunbartonshire Council Roads Department, Trans Serve Scotland and Bear to explore the costs of carrying out a comprehensive survey to assess the suitability of the existing roads network surrounding and within Balloch to cope with the increase in traffic should planning be granted for proposed developments and the RSPB visitor access expansion plans.

Please could a report be brought back to the next Full Council meeting.

We would also draw Council's attention to the direction of travel of the National Park Planners to put tourism before the environment.

Following a question from Councillor McColl, Councillor Page agreed that the report be brought back to a future meeting of Council.

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

That no action be taken.

On a vote being taken, 19 Members voted for the amendment and 2 for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

The meeting closed at 6.54 p.m.