

## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

At a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held within the Municipal Buildings, Station Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 15 November 2000 at 10.00 a.m.

**Present:** Councillors Ronald McColl (SNP), Mary Campbell (LAB), John McDonald (SNP), Linda McColl (LAB), Iain Robertson (SNP), James McCallum (LAB & CO-OP) and Craig McLaughlin (SNP),

**Attending:** Tim Huntingford, Chief Executive; Eric Walker, Director of Corporate Services; Dan Henderson, Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services and Alan Douglas, Manager of Best Value and Special Projects.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence from the meeting were intimated on behalf of Councillor Geoffrey Calvert (LAB and CO-OP).

### **Councillor Ronald McColl in the Chair**

## **WELCOME**

Councillor McColl welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Scrutiny Committee and advised that he saw the Committee fulfilling a vital role in serving the people of West Dunbartonshire by scrutinising not only the decisions of the Executive and other Committees, but also decisions taken by officers under delegated powers.

## **CALL IN PROCEDURES**

An extract from the Council's Standing Orders (Standing Order 36) was submitted for information in relation to the operation of call-in procedures. After discussion, the Committee agreed as follows:-

- (a) that officers prepare a call-in requisition form for use of all members and that it be made clear as to which officer of the Council such forms should be submitted; and
- (b) that, as and when the call-in requisition forms are submitted, the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee be notified to allow him the opportunity to exercise his right of call in.

## **MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE**

The minutes of meeting of the Executive held on 8 November 2000 were submitted for information. The Committee noted that the Item on Council Tax Setting Day should be amended to show that the date for Council Tax Setting Day would be 15 February 2001 in lines 2 and 5 respectively of the second paragraph of the minute.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed as follows: -

- (a) to recommend to the Executive that reports marked on agendas as “copies to follow” should be disallowed and any such items should be held over until the following meeting;
- (b) that the Executive consider the possibility of Opposition Members being included in the membership of its Policy Forums; and
- (c) That, in relation to the matter of the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care and the proposed transfer of funding from local authorities, the representations to the Minister, Scottish Parliament and other bodies be made on a strenuous basis, and that, it be highlighted that the widely acknowledged excellent service which West Dunbartonshire currently provides is in danger of being diminished through a reduction in the number of inspections.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF SCRUTINY PANELS**

### **Scrutiny Panels**

A report by the Chief Executive on the Establishment of Scrutiny Panels was submitted.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Executive in explanation of his report, and having considered a letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> October 2000 from the Leader of the Council about the Housing Allocations Policy, the Committee gave consideration to options for the formation of standing and **ad hoc** Scrutiny Panels and agreed that the following three **ad hoc** panels be formed:

- Communications (Internal and External)
- Flooding Issues (i.e. prevention of, and response to, flooding)
- Housing Allocations Policy

Members further agreed that the Chief Executive report on the membership and remit of the above panels. Within this report, it was agreed that he should advise on whether a ceiling should be put on the number of panels in operation at any one time.

Consideration was given to the exclusion of Opposition members on the Education Executive from Scrutiny Panels and it was agreed that this be remitted to the member/officer Working Group on the Executive/Scrutiny System.

## **TIMES AND LOCATION OF MEETINGS**

After discussion, the Committee agreed that, in light of the necessary alterations to the Municipal Buildings in Dumbarton, future meetings be held in Committee Room 2 in Garshake Road and the Council Chamber in Rosebery Place, Clydebank as appropriate.

It was further agreed that meetings be held at 10.00 a.m. in the meantime, but that the Citizens' Panel be consulted on the location and timing of meetings and that the outcome of the consultation be submitted to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

The Meeting closed at 10.55 a.m.