

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a Special Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chamber, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 23 November 2016 at 5.00 p.m.

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

Attending: Joyce White, Chief Executive; Richard Cairns, Strategic Director – Regeneration, Environment & Growth; Angela Wilson, Strategic Director – Transformation & Public Service Reform; Peter Hissett, Strategic Lead – Regulatory; Stephen West, Strategic Lead – Resources; Jim McAloon, Strategic Lead – Regeneration and Christine McCaffary, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Patrick McGlinchey, Tommy Rainey and Kath Ryall.

Provost Douglas McAllister in the Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda at this point in the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 26 October 2016 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

QUEENS' QUAY UPDATE – DISTRICT WIDE HEATING

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Regeneration seeking Council's approval to invest up to £6m for the delivery of a District Heating Network (DHN) to initially serve the proposed development at Queens' Quay with the potential for

further extension and providing an outline of the business case to be presented by the Council for the scheme for funding under the Scottish Government Low Carbon Infrastructure Transformation Programme (LCITP).

Copies of the LCITP Application Form, Queens' Quay DHN Risk Register and timescales for the project were circulated to Members at the meeting.

The Strategic Lead – Regeneration then proceeded to give a presentation on the benefits and potential investment opportunity of a DHN at Queens' Quay and how it would contribute directly towards the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 targets to reduce Scotland's CO₂ emissions.

Following discussion and having heard the Strategic Lead in answer to Members' questions, Councillor Rooney moved that the Council agree:-

- (1) to note the progress of the District Heating Network (DHN) opportunity at Queens Quay regeneration site, Clydebank;
- (2) to note the LCITP application for funding at Appendix 1 of the report;
- (3) in principle, to the investment of up to £6m towards the District Heating Network subject to funding from both Scottish Government funding from LCTIP and Energy Savings Trust's Renewable Heat Incentive being approved and the final developed business case providing a return to the Council to at least recover the cost of borrowing;
- (4) to update the Council's Treasury Strategy to allow Council to invest in investment projects for periods of investment of greater than 364 days to up to £7m;
- (5) to delegate authority to the Strategic Director - Regeneration, Environment and Growth, Strategic Lead - Resources and the Strategic Lead - Regulatory to procure the delivery of the DHN;
- (6) to the Council establishing and, together with any wholly owned nominee body, becoming the sole owners of the Energy Supply Company (ESCO); and
- (7) to note that if the business case changes significantly then a further report will be provided to a future meeting of Council.

Councillor McColl asked Councillor Rooney if he was willing to accept the following as an addendum to point (7) of his motion:-

To remove the full stop and add at the end: "to allow reconsideration of this project without the requirement for a suspension of standing orders. This may include but not be limited to partnership working to deliver this project."

Councillor Rooney confirmed his acceptance to the addendum and the motion was then seconded by Councillor McColl.

The Council then agreed to approve the amended motion.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Motion by Councillor Jim Bollan – All-weather Football Pitch, Bellsmyre Primary School Campus

Councillor Bollan, seconded by Councillor Agnew moved:-

Council agrees that the all-weather football pitch located in the Bellsmyre Primary School Campus is made available to organised local groups to hire for football matches and training facilities outside of school hours, when available. Council further agrees to install the acoustic fence required by the planning permission to allow for community use in accordance with the planning permission. The cost of this to be met by an appropriate addition to the capital plan.

This facility which is floodlit should be made available to local football/sports clubs in an area which has been identified by WDC as a Regeneration Area. Local volunteers in Bellsmyre who are devoting their time free to work with local youngsters are mystified at being refused access by WDC to a public facility which lies empty while there is an identified local need for the facility.

Another local football organisation with 150 youngsters on their books are also being thwarted by WDC from using this public facility, which cost millions of pounds of public money and is underused.

As an amendment Councillor McColl moved:-

Council agrees that until the OLSP pitches are completed, the Primary School pitches must be made available for community use.

Officers are instructed to find a way to allow temporary use of the pitches without the need to spend up to half a million pounds for an acoustic fence. Local residents nearest the site should be consulted and a report brought to December Council to allow us to make any necessary decisions.

Should this require relaxation of the planning conditions on a temporary basis, Council delegates authority to officers to apply to vary the planning permission. Council instructs that this application be made before the end of the week and that it be dealt with as quickly as possible by our planning officers.

Once the OLSP facility is available for let, if the demand is there, officers will bring a report to Council to allow us to discuss making the Primary School pitches available on a permanent basis.

Officers are also instructed to bring a report to a future Council or IRED Committee with options and costings for providing changing facilities at the current OLSP site.

In his capacity as Legal Officer, the Strategic Lead – Regulatory referred to the wording “dealt with as a priority” in the amendment and advised Councillor McColl that the Council could not seek better treatment of its planning applications than those of other applicants.

Councillor McColl asked if replacing the wording with “dealt with as quickly as possible” would be acceptable. The Legal Officer confirmed this was acceptable.

As a second amendment Councillor McGinty moved:-

This Council notes that there are 25 football pitches available for use seven days a week across West Dunbartonshire including grass and all-weather facilities. There has been significant investment in providing additional sports facilities and in the last year state of the art all-weather pitches have been launched at East End Park, Dumbarton, and Argyll Park, Alexandria.

Council also notes that these floodlit facilities are in addition to those which currently exist at Vale of Leven Academy and the current Our Lady and St Patrick’s High School (which is undergoing repair and will be available from December). All current booking requests can be accommodated from existing facilities.

Further investment is planned to provide community accessible sports facilities at Mountblow, Whitecrook and Posties Park. In addition, the new OLSP currently under construction in Bellsmyre includes two full size all-weather sports pitches for football and hockey and outdoor games courts which will be floodlit and available for community use out with school hours all year round from October 2017.

The new Bellsmyre Campus which opened in August 2016 includes a seven-aside all-weather sports pitch, and greatly enhances the opportunities for pupils to get involved in sport as previously neither Aitkenbar nor St Peter’s primaries had any useable outdoor sports facilities. Given the extensive provision which exists, this pitch has been designated for school use only.

However, this Labour Administration has demonstrated beyond doubt its willingness to invest in community sports and play equipment. The Administration also recognises the importance of getting best value from our investments and has successfully attracted millions of pounds of external investment for our area.

Council reaffirms a cast iron guarantee commitment, that the two full size all weather floodlight football and hockey pitches opening at the new Bellsmyre OLSP site opening in October 2017 will be fully available for community use out with school hours.

Council encourages the community use of the Bellsmyre School facilities and agreed to begin consultation with Bellsmyre residents and community groups to:-

1. To ascertain whether there is a desire by the council to submit a revised planning application so the 7 a side pitch can be used without the need for an acoustic fence.
2. To work with local communities to maximise and manage reasonable community use out with school hours of the fantastic facilities opening in 2017.

In addition to the community use in Bellsmyre, and to further invest in our sports, and recognise the withdrawal of OLSP from Dumbarton West, the Council agrees to set aside £500k towards changing facilities at the existing OLSP site to maximise use of the refurbished 3 G all-weather pitch, increasing capacity, choice and opportunity for our young people across the area.

The Chief Executive is requested to bring forward a report to the council meeting in February, outlining the potential benefits and options, including additional ideas and solutions from all elected member contributions tonight.

Councillor Robertson then seconded Councillor McColl's amendment, and Councillor McBride seconded Councillor McGinty's alternative amendment.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor O'Neill declared an interest as Convener of the Planning Committee and left the meeting.

After hearing the Provost ask if there were any other declarations, Councillors Agnew, Casey, Finn, McColl, Mooney, Sorrell and Provost McAllister, all being members of the Planning Committee, declared interests but remained in the meeting.

On a vote being taken between the first amendment (Councillor McColl) and the second amendment (Councillor McGinty), 8 Members voted for the second amendment and 10 for the first amendment.

On a further vote being taken between the first amendment (Councillor McColl) and the motion (Councillor Bollan), 10 Members voted for the first amendment and nil for the motion. Councillor McColl's amendment was accordingly declared carried.

The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.