

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a Special meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 4 June 2003.

Present: Provost Alistair Macdonald and Councillors Denis Agnew, James Bolland, Margaret Bootland, Dennis Brogan, Geoffrey Calvert, Gail Casey, Tony Devine, Jack Duffy, James Flynn, Jackie Maceira, Douglas McAllister, James McCallum, Linda McColl, Duncan McDonald, Margaret McGregor, Craig McLaughlin, Marie McNair, Martin Rooney, Andy White and Raymond Young.

Attending: Tim Huntingford, Chief Executive; Eric Walker, Director of Corporate Services; Dan Henderson, Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services; David McMillan, Director of Commercial and Technical Services; Ian McMurdo, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Stephen Brown, Head of Legal and Administrative Services; and Julie Herrity, Senior Administrative Officer.

Apology: An Apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Connie O'Sullivan.

Provost Macdonald in the Chair

ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

- 47 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 14 May 2003 (page 2, paragraph 13 refers), a copy of the existing Standing Orders for the Council were re-submitted for consideration.
- 48 The Council agreed to continue consideration of the existing Standing Orders to the meeting of Council to be held on 25 June 2003, subject to any changes which may be required to the Standing Orders as a result of decisions made in respect of the following items.

CONSTITUTION AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES ETC OF WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL AND APPOINTMENT OF CONVENERS THERETO

- 49 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 14 May 2003 (page 3, paragraph 22 refers), a report by the Director of Corporate Services was re-submitted inviting the Council to consider (i) the appointment of such Committees etc., as it deemed appropriate and (ii) the appointment of Conveners thereto.

50 It was reported that subsequent to the last meeting, Councillor O'Sullivan had resigned as Depute Leader of the Council and would instead take up the position of Chair of the Labour Group.

51 Councillor Calvert, seconded by Councillor White, moved that the Council make the following nominations:-

Health Improvement and Social Justice Sub-Committee

Councillor Rooney
Councillor O'Sullivan
Councillor Duffy
1 Opposition Member

Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers

Councillor McCallum
Councillor Bootland
1 Opposition Member

Argyll & Bute & Dunbartonshire's Social Work Criminal Justice Partnership Committee

Councillor Rooney
Councillor Flynn

52 Further that the Council agrees to implement the political structures and appoint Elected Members as Service Conveners as shown in Appendix I to these minutes.

53 It was also proposed that the Special Responsibility Allowance for all Conveners be set at Scale 2.

54 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved:-

55 That the Council does not accept the Labour Group's recommendations and should instead investigate other structures.

56 That the Council note that Area Committees are to be scrapped and suggest that the Labour Group should reconsider this proposal.

57 On a vote being taken, 4 Members voted for the amendment, and 16 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

REMIT AND DELEGATION TO COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS

58 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 14 May 2003 (page 4, paragraph 26 refers), a copy of the existing remits and delegation to Committees and Officers was re-submitted for consideration.

- 59 The Council agreed to instruct officers to report to the meeting of Council to be held on 25 June 2003 with a draft remit and delegation to committees and officers.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE LICENSING BOARD

- 60 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 14 May 2003 (page 4, paragraph 28 refers), the Council resumed consideration of the statutory requirement to appoint Councillors to the Licensing Board in accordance with the Licensing (Scotland) Act 1976.

- 61 The Council agreed that the Licensing Board comprise 8 Members, 6 Labour and 2 Opposition, and that the Labour nominations be as follows:-

Councillor Maceira
Councillor Duffy
Councillor McColl
Councillor Calvert
Councillor McCallum
Councillor Casey

COMMITTEE TIMETABLE TO DECEMBER 2003

- 62 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 14 May 2003 (page 4, paragraph 32 refers), a report by the Director of Corporate Services was re-submitted requesting approval of a timetable in respect of meeting dates of West Dunbartonshire Council and Committees, subject to any adjustments or changes consequent upon decisions taken previously.

- 63 The Council agreed:-

- (a) to instruct officers to report to the meeting of Council, to be held on 25 June 2003, with a draft diary of Council and Committee meetings;
- (b) that Committees should meet bi-monthly, the Council should meet monthly and that all meetings of Council should have an Open Forum; and
- (c) that in respect of any outstanding planning and licensing issues, urgent meetings be convened, if necessary, in consultation with the Convener.

APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING/LICENSING COMMITTEES

- 64 Arising from consideration of the preceding item of business, reference was made to the composition of the Planning/Licensing Committees.

- 65 The Council agreed that the Committees comprise 8 Members, 6 Labour and 2 Opposition, the Labour Members to be as follows:-

Provost Macdonald
Councillor McColl
Councillor O'Sullivan
Councillor Duffy
Councillor Agnew
Councillor McDonald

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

- 66 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 14 May 2003 (page 5, paragraph 34 refers), a report by the Director of Corporate Services was re-submitted in respect of the filling of vacancies on Outside Bodies.
- 67 The Council agreed to make appointments to various Outside Bodies as shown in Appendix II to these minutes, and that the remainder be continued to the meeting of Council to be held on 25 June 2003.

EX-OFFICIO JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

- 68 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 14 May 2003 (page 5, paragraph 36 refers), a letter from the Scottish Executive was re-submitted inviting nominations for up to one quarter of the Council's Elected Members to serve as ex-officio Justices for this area.
- 69 The Council agreed that 5 Members, 4 Labour and 1 Opposition, serve as ex-officio Justices for this area and that the Labour nominations be as follows:-

Provost Macdonald
Councillor McCallum
Councillor Duffy
Councillor McColl

ELECTED MEMBERS' SUPPORT SERVICES

- 70 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted advising elected Members of certain support services provided for them and of alterations that might require to be made in view of the outcome of the recent local government elections.
- 71 Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that:-
- 72 Council notes the report on elected Members' Support Services from the Director of Corporate Services and agrees:-

- (a) to establish a Working Group to review the current accommodation arrangements for elected Members. The Working Group will report to the June Council meeting with recommendations. Furthermore, the Group membership will be Councillors Jim McCallum, Dennis Agnew, Andy White and Jack Duffy and the relevant Council officers; and
- (b) that office accommodation and secretarial support will be provided at Garshake Road and Rosebery Place offices only.

73 Furthermore, to contribute to this Council's clear intention to modernise and fully commit our strategies towards providing improved frontline services, the Administration will need research resources and organisation support in addition to the secretarial service which currently exists in Members' Services.

74 Council agrees to establish a post of Research Officer (AP4) who will inform the Administration (Labour Group) on the development of political strategies by providing a comprehensive research service and contribute to the collation and management of information.

75 In addition, a post of Personal Assistant to the Leader of the Council will be established to support the extensive and diverse portfolio of issues held by the Leader.

76 Council notes that both these posts will be essential to the progress this Administration intends to demonstrate on an extensive range of issues.

77 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Young, moved:-

78 That the Council should not create the post of Research Officer, nor the Personal Assistant, nor a Working Group on Members Accommodation.

79 That all Councillors be invited to state their requirements to the Chief Executive and that thereafter, a report be prepared by officers for submission to Council.

80 On a vote being taken, 4 Members voted for the amendment and 16 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

DECENTRALISATION SCHEME – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE COUNCIL'S DECISION MAKING STRUCTURES

81 A report by the Chief Executive was submitted identifying the requirement to review the Council's Decentralisation Scheme and suggesting a process for taking this forward.

82 The Council agreed:-

- (a) that the Chief Executive develop proposals, in consultation with the Convener of the Community Participation Committee, and undertake the appropriate community consultation processes; and
- (b) that progress be reported to Council at its first meeting after the Summer recess.

COSLA – ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS

83 A letter received from COSLA was submitted inviting the Council to make nominations for the positions of COSLA President and Vice Presidents prior to Thursday 5 June 2003.

84 The Council agreed to nominate Councillor Pat Watters as President and Councillor James Mutter as Vice-President of COSLA.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.