

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU

13 November 2009

MEETING: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

**WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2009
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CLYDEBANK TOWN HALL
DUMBARTON ROAD
CLYDEBANK**

Dear Member,

Please attend a Meeting of **West Dunbartonshire Council** to be held in the **Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank, on Wednesday, 25 November 2009 at 6.00 p.m.**

The business is as shown on the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

DAVID MCMILLAN

Chief Executive

Distribution:-

All Members of West Dunbartonshire Council.

Chief Executive

Executive Director of Corporate Services

Executive Director of Educational Services

Interim Executive Directors of Social Work and Health

Executive Director of Housing, Environmental & Economic Development

For information on the following agenda please contact George Hawthorn, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, G82 3PU on Tel: (01389) 737204 or e-mail: george.hawthorn@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

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WEDNESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2009

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are invited to declare if they have an interest in any of the items of business on this agenda and state the reasons for such declarations.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Submit for approval as a correct record, the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on Wednesday, 28 October 2009.

4. OPEN FORUM

The Council is asked to note that no open forum questions have been submitted by members of the public.

5. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2009

Submit for information, and where necessary ratification, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held on 21 October 2009.

6. THE NEW BEST VALUE IMPROVEMENT PLAN (Copy to follow)

With reference to the Minutes of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 28 October 2009, submit report by the Chief Executive on the new Best Value Improvement Plan.

7. REVIEW OF SALES, FEES AND CHARGES

With reference to the Minutes of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 28 October 2009, re-submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services seeking Council approval for a mid-year increase to the levels of existing sales, fees and charges and recommending the introduction of some additional charges on new income streams.

Note: Members are asked to consider the above report with the exception of those areas of the report relating to Charges for Childcare in Early Education & Childcare Centres, specifically: Pre 5 - Charging for Extra Places and Miscellaneous Income – Appendix A; and Pre 5 Out of School Care – Appendix B, which will be dealt with in the report shown at Item 8 on this agenda.

8. CHARGES FOR CHILDCARE IN EARLY EDUCATION & CHILDCARE CENTRES

Submit report by the Executive Director of Educational Services seeking the Council's approval on new revised charges for the provision of childcare in Council operated Early Education & Childcare Centres.

9. REMIT FROM THE EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE – RESIDENTIAL OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROVISION

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee held on 11 November 2009, submit the relevant excerpt from the Minutes of that Meeting together with a report by the Executive Director of Educational Services seeking approval to pursue the lease of private property to offer residential outdoor provision to pupils, at existing charges.

10. KPMG LLP – 2008/09 - FINAL REPORT TO MEMBERS

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services advising the Council of the findings in relation to KPMG LLP's Final Report to Members for the completion of their 2008/2009 Audit.

11. EMPLOYEE SURVEY

Submit report by the Chief Executive providing a summary of the 2009 Employee Survey results and recommending steps to address the outcomes.

12. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

(A) Motion by Councillor David McBride – Scottish Government Funding

This Council notes that West Dunbartonshire Council is being underfunded by the Scottish Government by the sum of 5.67 million pounds.

This equates to a cut of 2.1 percent.

Official government figures show that the Finance Secretary, John Swinney has effectively cut 270 million pounds from local government.

Council notes that official tables provided by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre show that the share of the Scottish Budget provided to local authorities has fallen from 34.7 percent in 2006/07 to 33.9 percent in 2010/11.

This means that local authorities received £11,885.3 million rather than £12,155.4 million in 2010/11 which equates to a cut of 270 million pounds.

Council instructs the Leader of the Council to write to the Finance Secretary requesting that the local government share of the budget be restored to its 2006/7 level and that West Dunbartonshire Council receives its fair share of resources.

Furthermore, Council notes that the Scottish Government has 600 million pounds more in its budget in 2010 than it had last year and requests that a significant proportion of this is allocated to West Dunbartonshire Council in order to avoid cuts to council services and increases to charges to vulnerable people in our community.

(B) Motion by Councillor Jonathan McColl – Prisoner of Conscience

Council is heartened by news of the release of our recently adopted prisoner of conscience, Saed Yassin; the 34 year old Palestinian human rights defender, who had been held in 'administrative detention' in Israel since October 2006.

Council thanks all those who wrote letters and got involved, helping out in any way they could with the local Amnesty International branch campaign for his release.

Council is proud of those employees who, as members of the local Amnesty International Branch, give their own time and other resources selflessly to the cause of helping others. They are a credit to the Council and West Dunbartonshire as a whole.

(C) Motion by Councillor Patrick McGlinchey – Glasgow Airport Rail Link.

Council notes that as part of the draft budget statement to Parliament on the 17 September 2009, the SNP Government announced that they will be cancelling the Glasgow Airport Rail Link (GARL).

The cancellation of GARL will affect the whole of Scotland - particularly the west - taking with it an estimated 1,300 jobs and £300-million boost to the Scottish economy.

Council further notes that the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, Scottish Chambers of Commerce, CBI Scotland, Institute of Directors and Scottish Council for Development and Industry have all warned of the long term economic damage to the West of Scotland - including tourist destinations such as West Dunbartonshire with the National Park - if the decision stands.

Council believes the Scottish Government's intention to ditch GARL will be bad for the whole of Scotland and therefore Council instructs the Leader of the Council to write to the Finance Minister, John Sweeney calling on his Government to reverse the decision to include the funding of GARL in his upcoming budget.