

## **HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

At a Special Meeting of the Housing, Environment & Economic Development Committee held in Committee Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 22 January at 10.00 a.m.

**Present:** Councillors Jim Bollan, David McBride, Michelle McGinty, John Mooney, Lawrence O'Neill, Tommy Rainey, Gail Robertson, Martin Rooney and Kath Ryall.

**Attending:** Richard Cairns, Executive Director of Infrastructure and Regeneration; Jim McAloon, Head of Regeneration and Economic Development; Kenny Simpson, Interim Head of Housing and Community Safety; Alan Douglas, Manager of Legal Services; and Nuala Quinn-Ross, Committee Officer, Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Gail Casey and William Hendrie.

**Councillor David McBride in the Chair**

### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The Chair, Councillor McBride welcomed Kenny Simpson, the newly appointed Interim Head of Housing and Community Safety, to the meeting.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

On a query being raised by the Chair, the Manager of Legal Services advised Councillors O'Neill and Ryall that in terms of the Councillors Code of Conduct as they had been appointed by the Council to a body to which a Specific Exclusion applies, in terms of the Code, they could remain in the meeting after declaration of a non financial interest.

Having heard advice from the Legal Officer, Councillors Lawrence O'Neill and Kath Ryall declared a non financial interest in the item under the heading 'Clydebank Rebuilt Asset Purchase Proposal', Councillor Ryall being a member and Councillor O'Neill being a substitute member of the Clydebank Rebuilt Board of Directors.

## **DELIVERING HOMELESSNESS SERVICE IN 2014/15 AND BEYOND**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Infrastructure and Regeneration on the above.

Having heard the Interim Head of Housing and Community Safety in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that a structured review of the Homeless Service and funding to external bodies be conducted;
- (2) to note that a report would be submitted to the Committee in August 2014 presenting the findings of the structured review of the Homelessness Service;
- (3) to thank the Interim Head of Housing and Community Safety for the hard work on completing the report in a short space of time; and
- (4) to pay tribute to the work undertaken by the staff and Trades Unions involved in reducing the considerable budget gap which existed within the Homelessness Service.

Councillor Bollan, having failed to obtain a seconder for a proposed amendment, asked that his dissent be recorded in respect of this item.

## **CLYDEBANK REBUILT ASSET PURCHASE PROPOSAL**

Following earlier advice given by the Legal Officer, both Councillors O'Neill and Ryall remained in the meeting.

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Infrastructure and Regeneration on the above.

Having heard the Executive Director of Infrastructure and Regeneration and the Head of Regeneration and Economic Development in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that Clydebank Re-built was a pathfinder Urban Regeneration Company, limited by guarantee and a registered charity.

It was set up in 2002 by West Dunbartonshire Council and Scottish Enterprise and received financial support from the Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise and West Dunbartonshire Council.

Its purpose was to help regenerate Clydebank - working with the community, the public sector and private companies as a "facilitator" and a "developer".

Clydebank Property Company is wholly owned by Clydebank re-built and has undertaken some of the larger development in the Town.

During its ten year term over £54 million was invested in the town in projects that Clydebank Rebuilt has undertaken directly or managed on behalf of partner organisations. In November 2012 the job tally in business premises built by Clydebank Rebuilt was 132.

It is evident that Clydebank Rebuilt has delivered significant improvements to the town and an orderly close down is the most appropriate way of recognising this, and more importantly of ensuring that the assets remain available for the long term benefit of Clydebank;

- (2) that the Executive Director of Infrastructure and Regeneration be instructed to inform the Board of Clydebank Rebuilt that the Council would, in principle, be willing to purchase all the shares of the Clydebank Property Company for a sum no greater than £800,000 as long as all the assets presently owned by the Clydebank Rebuilt Group of companies are held and owned by the Clydebank Property Company at the time of the purchase by the Council, subject to any agreements relating to such property already disclosed to and accepted by the Council;
- (3) that it be recommended to Council that £800,000 be earmarked from the Council's General Reserve, for the purchase of the shares, subject to the Head of Finance and Resources confirming this as an appropriate route for this purchase;
- (4) that the Executive Director of Regeneration and Infrastructure be instructed to ensure that all TUPE implications are considered and applied as required, during any such purchase; and

Councillors Bollan and Robertson, having failed to obtain a seconder for their respective proposed amendments, asked that their dissent be recorded in respect of this item.

The meeting closed at 11.00 a.m.