

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Thursday, 27 September 2018 at 2.05 p.m.

Present: Provost William Hendrie, Bailie Denis Agnew and Councillors Jim Bolla, Jim Brown, Gail Casey, Karen Conaghan, Ian Dickson, Diane Docherty, Daniel Lennie, Caroline McAllister, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Iain McLaren, Marie McNair, John Millar*, John Mooney, Lawrence O'Neill, Sally Page, Martin Rooney and Brian Walker.

* Arrived later in the meeting.

Attending: Joyce White, Chief Executive; Angela Wilson, Strategic Director - Transformation & Public Service Reform; Beth Culshaw, Chief Officer, West Dunbartonshire Health & Social Care Partnership; Peter Hissett, Strategic Lead – Regulatory (Legal Officer); Stephen West, Strategic Lead – Resources; Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer; Malcolm Bennie, Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture & Communities; Jim McAloon, Strategic Lead – Regeneration; Peter Barry, Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability and Christine McCaffary, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Also Attending: Carol Hislop, Senior Audit Manager and Zahrah Mahmood, Senior Auditor, Audit Scotland

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Jim Finn and Douglas McAllister.

Provost William Hendrie in the Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

VARIATION IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

After hearing Provost Hendrie the order of business was varied as hereinafter recorded.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 29 August 2018 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

PROVOST'S REMARKS

The Provost welcomed Ms Carol Hislop, Senior Audit Manager and Zahrah Mahmood, Senior Auditor to the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

The Provost advised that two Open Forum questions had been received. He then invited Mrs Rose Harvie forward and she read out her question:-

(a) Mrs Rose Harvie, Dumbarton – Charles Rennie Mackintosh

CONTEXT

There is a link between the world-famous Glasgow architect, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, and Dumbarton.

This is the 150th anniversary of his birth.

Mackintosh married Margaret McDonald, equally famous as an artist, in 1900, in St. Augustine's Church in Dumbarton High Street, because this was her parish church.

Mackintosh was apprenticed, and then worked for, Honeyman and Keppie, Glasgow architects.

The new WDC offices, opened this year, have been designed by Keppie Designs, Glasgow architects.

QUESTION

Because of this perhaps somewhat tenuous but interesting link, would it not be appropriate to have a small commemorative plaque, or something similar, in the new offices?

Bailie Agnew provided the following response:-

I'd like to thank Mrs Harvie for submitting her question, the sentiment of which I agree with. However, as the question recognises the link is tenuous and I do not think appropriate to have a plaque displayed in the Church Street offices. I would ask the Chief Executive to contact Historic Scotland and ask for advice / guidance on how West Dunbartonshire Council can recognise Rennie Mackintosh's connection to Dumbarton.

As a supplementary question Mrs Harvie asked:-

Mrs Harvie thanked Bailie Agnew for his answer and asked that the matter be referred to Dumbarton Town Centre Forum.

The Provost then invited Mr Andrew Muir forward and he read out his question:-

(b) Mr Andrew Muir, Dumbarton – West Dunbartonshire Mental Health Forum

Q. West Dunbartonshire Mental Health Forum is a registered charity and is funded by the council. It is designed to give users of services a voice so that feedback can be given to the NHS on possible improvements. It rents a room in Benview, an annex of St Patrick's Church, Dumbarton. I have asked the organisation to give me details of how much funding they receive and how much they pay in rent but they refuse to do so.

I do not find the forum very useful. At their Annual General Meeting in 2015 I was refused permission to stand on their committee and they just nominated themselves for positions.

At a rare meeting in 2016 there was no discussion; we all just sat around tables speaking to ourselves. The only point of the meeting was to present a cake to augment the retirement package of the head of mental health who was leaving. Halfway through the meeting I was ordered out the room for no reason and banned from the forum permanently. In December 2017 I tried to attend a meeting but they just left me outside in the freezing cold.

I do not know what to do. My requests for a resolution from the charities regulator, the church and the NHS have fallen on deaf ears. The forum is not a forum. They hardly have any meetings. Even when they do, you are not allowed to speak, and they in no way follow the ethics of the church. They ignore Christianity and human rights.

Would you please either investigate the forum to change its culture or close it down, being a waste of taxpayers' money?

Note:- Councillor John Millar arrived during the above.

Councillor Marie McNair provided the following response:-

I would like to thank Mr Muir for his question, however his claims are unfounded and the Council is unable to assist you any further.

As a supplementary question Mr Muir asked:-

Do you believe in democracy and justice? The Forum do not follow their own constitution. Who is monitoring this?

Councillor McNair responded as follows:-

As the Forum is a charity I would refer you back to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

JOINT COLLABORATION WITH INVERCLYDE COUNCIL - STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive on the above.

Councillor McColl, seconded by Bailie Agnew moved:-

That the Council agree:-

- (1) to note the position in relation to shared roads and transportation service as outlined in this report;
- (2) to approve a revised approach involving the progression of a shared strategic lead (Head of Service) leading on collaboration across two separate services in the two Councils as opposed to a shared service;
- (3) to note the action to continue with the recruitment of a strategic lead officer as agreed by Council at the meeting of 28 March 2018;
- (4) to note the governance of the revised arrangement which will be through the two Councils within the Shared Service Joint Committee; and
- (5) to note that a meeting of the Joint Shared Services Committee will be organised to update on revised arrangements and continue discussions on potential joint working with East Dunbartonshire Council.

As an amendment Councillor Bollan, seconded by Councillor O'Neill moved:-

That the Council discontinue all our interests in this project immediately and advise Inverclyde Council.

On a vote being taken 8 Members voted for the amendment and 12 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2017/18 – ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT TO MEMBERS AND CONTROLLER OF AUDIT

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources on the above.

Having heard Ms Hislop, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Scotland and officers in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) to approve the audited Annual Accounts 2017/18 of both the Council and the Charities;
- (3) to note that these will be presented to the Audit Committee on 12 December 2018 for further scrutiny; and
- (3) to note the findings of the audits as detailed in Audit Scotland's reports dated 27 September 2018.

Note:- Bailie Agnew left the meeting at this point.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2017/18

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture & Communities presenting the West Dunbartonshire Council Annual Report 2017/18.

After discussion and having heard officers in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Council noted the contents of the Annual Report provided.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources providing an update on treasury management during 2017/18.

The Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the treasury management stewardship information contained in the report;
- (2) to note the 2017/18 actual prudential indicators as advised within the report (Tables 2, 3, 4 and 5);
- (3) to note the future repayment profile of loans fund advances as at 31 March 2018 (Table 8); and

- (4) that a copy of the report be remitted to the Audit Committee to ensure further scrutiny takes place.

GENERAL SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT – PERIOD 5

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources on the progress of the General Services revenue budget and the approved capital programme for the period to 31 August 2018 (Period 5).

Following discussion the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note that the revenue account currently shows a projected annual adverse variance of £0.194m (0.09% of the total budget); and
- (2) to note that the capital account shows that planned expenditure and resource for 2018/19 is lower than previously anticipated by £24.910m (29.75% of the budget), made up of £25.079m relating to project slippage, partially offset by £0.169m relating to an in year overspend.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT – PERIOD 5

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability providing an update on the financial performance of the HRA revenue and capital budgets for the period to 31 August 2018 (Period 5).

The Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of this report which shows a projected favourable revenue variance of £0.018m (0.04%); and
- (2) to note the net projected annual position in relation to relevant capital projects which is highlighting a variance of £7.504m (22.5%) due to projected slippage of £7.446m (22.3%) and an underspend of £0.058m (0.2%).

The meeting closed at 3.27 p.m.