

EXECUTIVE

At a meeting of the Executive, held in Committee Room 2, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 27 June 2001 at 10.40 a.m.

Present: Councillors John Trainer, Anthony Devine, Daniel McCafferty, Duncan McDonald, James Flynn and Connie O'Sullivan.

Attending: Tim Huntingford, Chief Executive; Ian McMurdo, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Eric Walker, Director of Corporate Services; Dan Henderson, Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services; David McMillan, Director of Commercial and Technical Services; William Clark, Head of Strategy; Anne Ritchie, Head of Social Work Operations; Stephen Brown, Head of Legal and Administrative Services and George Hawthorn, Administrative Officer.

Apology: An apology was intimated on behalf of Councillor Andrew White.

Councillor John Trainer in the Chair

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 13 JUNE 2001

The Minutes of Meeting of the Executive held on 13 June 2001 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Minutes of Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 20 June 2001 were submitted and noted.

55 RISK STREET, DUMBARTON

The Executive agreed to hear Councillor James McCallum on the issue of water penetration at properties at Risk Street, Dumbarton. Councillor Trainer invited Councillor McCallum to come forward and address the Executive.

Councillor McCallum explained that he was speaking on behalf of owner occupiers from Risk Street and that the problem of water penetration and the issue of payment for work carried out by the Council to remedy the situation had been ongoing for a number of years. He further informed the Executive that the properties in question were previously Council houses and the problem of water penetration on the gable ends was as a result of an inherent design fault at the time of construction. Councillor McCallum requested the Executive to consider ways of alleviating the financial burden on owner occupiers given the Council's previous role as landlord.

Having heard Councillor Flynn, Portfolio Holder for Social Work and Housing Services and Willie Croft, Property Services Manager (in attendance for this item only) and following discussion, the Executive agreed that a report be prepared by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services and Director of Commercial and Technical Services, which details all the issues involved and identifies possible solutions to the situation, for submission to a future meeting of the Executive.

HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT (HECA)

A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services advising of the publication of the first Home Energy Conservation Act progress report by the Scottish Executive to the Scottish Parliament.

Having heard Councillor Flynn, Portfolio Holder for Social Work and Housing Services and Tim Holmes, Capital Programme Officer (in attendance for this item only) in further explanation, the Executive agreed to note the contents of the report.

HOUSING (SCOTLAND) BILL - THE SINGLE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services:-

- (1) providing information on how Scottish Homes, in its new role as an Executive Agency, proposes to carry out the inspection and regulation of all regulated landlords (RSLs) and certain functions of local authorities; and
- (2) seeking approval of a response to a series of consultation documents issued by Scottish Homes on how it intends to implement the single regulatory framework.

Having heard Ronny Lee, Strategy Officer (in attendance for this item only) in further explanation, the Executive agreed, in view of the timescale for responses, to remit the preparation of West Dunbartonshire Council's response to Scottish Homes to the Director of Social Work and Housing Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Social Work and Housing Services.

THE FUTURE FOR CARE HOMES IN SCOTLAND

A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services:-

- (1) providing information on a consultation paper issued by the Scottish Executive on the "Future for Care Homes in Scotland"; and
- (2) advising on the implications for care homes in West Dunbartonshire.

Having heard the Head of Strategy in answer to Members' questions, the Executive agreed:-

- (1) to welcome the general principles of the consultation paper but to express reservations on timescales and costs; and

- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report

CHANGING FOR THE FUTURE (SOCIAL WORK SERVICES FOR THE FUTURE)

A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services highlighting the publication by the First Minister of a national report on social work services across all local authorities.

Having heard Councillor Trainer, the Executive agreed to welcome the recognition of good practice, investment and joint working in social work services in West Dunbartonshire, as referred to in paragraph 4.1 of the report, and support its circulation widely across the authority.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE - A REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES "THE SAME AS YOU?"

A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services:-

- (a) advising of progress towards the implementation of the review of services for people with learning disabilities; and
- (b) seeking approval of a draft partnership agreement binding NHS partners and the Council to work together to achieve health and social care objectives.

Having heard the Head of Strategy and Colin Meehan, Section Head - Learning Disabilities (in attendance for this item only) in further explanation, the Executive agreed:-

- (1) to confirm the Partnership in Practice Agreement and support the outlined proposal of the Agreement as appended to the report; and
- (2) to note that Malcolm Chisholm, Deputy Minister for Health and Community Care, would visit West Dunbartonshire on 2 July 2001.

NATIONAL CARE STANDARDS

A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services providing information on the second tranche of draft care standards issued by the Scottish Executive for consultation and seeking approval of a response from this Council as detailed in the report.

Having heard the Head of Strategy and Beryl Middleton, Section Head - Inspection and Registration (in attendance for this item only) in further explanation, the Executive agreed that the contents of the report should form the basis of the Council's response to the Scottish Executive.

RENEWAL OF INSURANCES

A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services seeking delegated authority to let the contract for the renewal of the Council's Engineering and Insurance and Inspection Contract and any other insurance contracts which may require to be reviewed following receipt of revised premiums.

The Executive agreed:-

- (1) that, during the summer recess, the Director of Corporate Services be authorised to accept the most appropriate tender or tenders granted in terms of paragraphs 3.4 and 3.6 of the report, and
- (2) that a report be submitted to the first appropriate meeting of the Executive following the recess.

THE WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL DRUMKINNON BAY COMPULSORY ORDER 2001

A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services requesting authorisation to progress a Compulsory Purchase Order for a small promontory of land at Drumkinnon Bay.

Having heard the Head of Legal and Administrative Services in further explanation, the Executive agreed:-

- (1) to authorise the acquisition of ground contained in the said Compulsory Purchase Order;
- (2) to consent to the Order being entitled 'The West Dunbartonshire Council Drumkinnon Bay Compulsory Purchase Order 2001'; and
- (3) to consent to the Order being executed on behalf of the Council.

DUMBARTON COMMON GOOD FUND

A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing details of the final outturn of Income and Expenditure in respect of the Dumbarton Common Good Fund.

The Executive agreed to note the terms of the report.

CIVIC HOSPITALITY EXPENDITURE 2000/2001

A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services advising of the costs incurred in connection with the provision of civic hospitality for 2000/2001.

The Executive agreed to note the new arrangements for the consideration of civic hospitality expenditure and the actual expenditure incurred for the year 2000/2001.

LOCH LOMOND AND THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK - CONSULTATION ON DRAFT DESIGNATION ORDER

A report was submitted by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services informing the Executive of the latest consultation on the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and seeking agreement on a timetable for making a response.

Having heard Councillor O'Sullivan, Portfolio Holder for Economic, Planning and Environmental Services, the Executive agreed:-

- (1) to approve the content of the report with a view to a response being made to the Scottish Executive by 21 September 2001; and
- (2) to continue to lobby strongly in support of the new National Park headquarters being located in Balloch.

DRAFT PRIVATE MEMBERS BILL - DOG FOULING (SCOTLAND) BILL

A report was submitted by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services requesting the Executive to homologate a response given to a consultation paper on a private members bill on dog fouling.

Having heard Councillor O'Sullivan, Portfolio Holder for Economic, Planning and Environmental Services and the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services in further explanation, the Executive agreed to homologate the response to the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Bill as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS DURING JULY AND AUGUST 2001 (SUMMER RECESS)

A report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services seeking delegated authority to accept the lowest tenders received during July and August 2001 (Summer Recess).

The Executive agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Commercial and Technical Services in consultation with the appropriate Director and the Convener of the Executive to accept the lowest tenders received.

COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES BUSINESS PLANS 2001-2004

A report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services requesting approval of the proposed business plans for each section of the Commercial and Technical Services Department for 2001-2004.

Having heard Councillor McDonald, Portfolio Holder for Commercial and Technical Services and the Director of Commercial and Technical Services in further explanation, the Executive agreed:-

- (1) to approve the proposed Business Plans for 2001 - 2004; and
- (2) to commend those officers involved in the preparation of the document for their excellent work.

BEST VALUE UPDATE

A joint report was submitted by the Chief Executive and the Director of Corporate Services:-

- (a) providing an update on the progress of the Council's Best Value Programme; and
- (b) advising on current developments nationally and locally in Best Value.

Having heard the Chief Executive in further explanation, the Executive agreed:-

- (1) to note that further reports detailing the outcome of various service reviews would be submitted to future meetings of the Executive;
- (2) to express the view that other boards/quangos which provide public services should be subject to the same rigours in terms of Best Value as local authorities; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

“PROTECTING OUR RIGHTS - A HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND” - A CONSULTATION PAPER

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive proposing a draft response to the Scottish Executive in respect of the consultation document “Protecting Our Rights: A Human Rights Commission for Scotland?”

Having heard the Head of Legal and Administrative Services in further explanation, the Executive approved the contents of the draft response for submission to the Scottish Executive.

MONITORING PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing information on a corporate overview of complaints and complaints processing for the period 1 October 2000 to 31 March 2001 and providing comparative data relating to previous six-month period.

Having heard the Chief Executive, the Executive agreed:-

- (1) to note that the overall number of complaints received had fallen;
- (2) that, in future, the section detailing complaints received by outcome should identify the department/service to which each complaint related; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

The meeting closed at 11.40 a.m.