

## **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE**

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 22 February 2012 at 2.05 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors Jim Brown, George Black, Jim Finn, Jonathan McColl, Ronnie McColl, Marie McNair and Martin Rooney; Murdoch Cameron, MBE, Community Councils' Forum; Francis McNeill, Community Councils' Forum; Justeen Peacock, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel; Haji Munir, West Dunbartonshire Minority Ethnic Association; Rhona Young, Clydebank Seniors Forum; Tom Woodbridge, Dumbarton Community Forum; Neil Etherington, Clydebank Community Forum; Hope Robertson, Clydebank Asbestos Group; Archie Thomson, Renton Community Development Trust; Gillian Kirkwood, YSort-It and Brenda Pasquire, West Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice Service.

**Attending:** Peter Barry, Community Planning and Policy Manager; Anne Clegg, Policy Officer – Community and Consultation; Vincent Gardiner, Client & Support Manager (in attendance for the item 'Presentation – Welfare Reform' only); Suzanne Greer, Policy Officer (Equalities); Valerie McIlhatton, Policy Officer and Craig Stewart, Committee Officer, Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services.

**Apologies:** Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillor John Millar, John Diamond and Anne MacDougall.

### **Councillor Jim Brown in the Chair**

### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Councillor Brown, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a particularly warm welcome to the representatives who were in attendance from the two new rota members, Clydebank Asbestos Group and Renton Community Development Trust and to the new representative from Y Sort-It, representing young people.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

## **PRESENTATION – WELFARE REFORM**

Vincent Gardiner, Client and Support Manager, gave a presentation on this item and copies of the handouts were circulated to Members' for their information.

In this respect, the Committee noted the background and context and current position, including the information provided on Universal Credit and issues such as timescales, process and the implications for the Council following these changes to the welfare system.

Following a question and answer session, the Chair, Councillor Brown, thanked Mr Gardiner for the interesting and informative nature of the presentation. Mr Gardiner then left the meeting.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held on 14 December 2011 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

## **VARIATION IN ORDER OF BUSINESS**

After hearing Councillor Brown, Chair, the Committee agreed to vary the order of business as recorded hereinafter in these minutes.

## **SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROFILE 2011/12**

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services informing on the main content of the Social and Economic Profile 2011/12.

After discussion and having heard Ms McIlhatton, Policy Officer, in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of this report. The Social and Economic Profile can be accessed on the Council website at <http://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/community-and-living/facts-and-figures/> or on request from Community Planning and Policy Administration on 01389 737231.

Councillor George Black questioned the absence of the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services, who had been expected to be present at the Committee to speak and answer any questions on this item.

## **COMMUNITY PLANNING PROGRESS UPDATE**

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services highlighting programmes funded and delivered through the West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) that contribute to the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA).

After discussion and having heard the Community Planning and Policy Manager in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the terms of the discussion that had taken place in respect of this matter; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Note: Councillor R. McColl left the meeting at this point in the proceedings.

### **SETTING EQUALITY OUTCOMES – INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY**

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services informing on one of the specific duties of the Equality Act 2010, due to come into force in April 2012, to publish equality outcomes based on evidence and involvement of groups and communities and the steps planned to meet this duty.

After discussion and having heard the Policy Officer (Equalities) in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress made so far with regard to setting equality outcomes and how this was proposed to be taken forward; and
- (2) that the Committee would be advised of further progress once the outcomes have been formulated and the Equality Scheme reviewed.

### **CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT TRAINING 2011-12**

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services informing on the consultation training carried out for employees during 2011-12.

After discussion and having heard the Policy Officer (Community & Consultation) in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the issue of 'How do we improve participation from our Communities?' be taken forward as a future agenda item for the Committee; and
- (2) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

Committee members were reminded to provide information for the Community News item in advance of meetings on an on-going basis.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES**

Councillor Brown, Chair, invited community representatives to raise topics for inclusion on future Agendas.

Following discussion, it was agreed to add 'Discussion with Transport Scotland regarding roundabouts and ancillary roads issues', 'Presentation on Tourism Strategy' and 'How do we improve participation from our Communities?' to the current list of topics which included:-

- Housing Allocation policy
- Regular update on Recycling and Waste Minimisation
- Pub Watch Scheme (Licensing)
- Securitisation of Assets

## **OPEN FORUM**

The Committee noted the terms of the contribution made by Jackie Maceira, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel (substitute) who voiced the opinion that resources and budget would be needed to meet the requirements of the Equalities legislation regarding equalities outcomes. It was also noted that the December edition of the CPC Newsletter had not been updated with the change of venue for this meeting of the Community Participation Committee and an apology was given for any inconvenience that may have been caused in this regard.

The meeting closed at 4.36 p.m.