

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chamber, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 30 October 2019 at 2.00 p.m.

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

Attending: Joyce White, Chief Executive; Angela Wilson, Strategic Director – Transformation & Public Service Reform; Richard Cairns, Strategic Director – Regeneration, Environment & Growth, Beth Culshaw, Chief Officer, Health & Social Care Partnership, Peter Hessett, Strategic Lead – Regulatory (Legal Officer); Stephen West, Strategic Lead – Resources; Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer; Victoria Rogers, Strategic Lead – People & Technology; Malcolm Bennie, Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture & Communities; Jim McAloon, Strategic Lead – Regeneration; Gillian McNeilly, Finance Manager and Christine McCaffary, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Also Attending: Fiona Mitchell-Knight, Assistant Director and Richard Smith, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Scotland.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Gail Casey, Jim Finn and John Millar.

Provost William Hendrie in the Chair

STATEMENT BY CHAIR – AUDIO STREAMING

The Provost advised that the meeting was being audio streamed and broadcast live to the internet and would be available for playback.

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS
UK PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION – INCLEMENT WEATHER

Provost Hendrie advised that he had received a request from Councillor McColl for an urgent motion to be considered by Council in connection with the forthcoming UK Parliamentary Election.

The Provost agreed that the motion would be considered after the last item of business on the agenda and copies of the motion were then circulated to all those present.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 28 August 2019 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Minutes of Meeting of the Audit Committee held on 12 June 2019 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee noted that no open forum questions had been submitted by members of the public.

GLASGOW CITY REGION CITY DEAL - UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Regeneration advising of progress with the implementation of the Glasgow City Region, City Deal.

After discussion and having heard the Strategic Lead - Regeneration in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress of the Glasgow City Region (GCR) City Deal, and
- (2) to note progress with the Council's project for the Exxon site.

AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2018/19 – ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT TO MEMBERS AND CONTROLLER OF AUDIT

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

Having heard Ms Mitchell-Knight, Assistant Director, Audit Scotland 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 note the findings of the audits as detailed in Audit Scotland's reports dated 25 September 2019; and
- (3) to note the audited Annual Accounts 2018/19 of both the Council and the Council-administered Charities and note that these were approved by the Audit Committee on 25 September 2019.

GENERAL SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO PERIOD 6

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources advising on the General Services revenue budget and the approved capital programme to 30 September 2019 (Period 6).

The Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the revenue account currently shows a projected annual favourable variance of £0.321m (0.14% of the total budget); and
- (2) to note that the capital account shows that planned expenditure and resource for 2019/20 is lower than budgeted by £8.693m (12.49% of the budget), made up to £9.131m (13.12% of the budget) relating to project slippage, partially offset by £0.438m relating to an in year overspend (as noted in appendices 5 to 8 of the report).

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO PERIOD 6

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability providing an update on the financial performance to 30 September 2019 (Period 6) of the HRA revenue and capital budgets.

The Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report which shows the revenue budget forecast to underspend against budget by £0.019m (0.06%) at the year-end; and

- (2) to note the net projected annual position in relation to relevant capital projects which is highlighting a variance of £3.112m (5.0%) due to projected slippage of £3.162m and an overspend of £0.050m.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REPORT 2019/20

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources providing an update on treasury management during the first six months of 2019/20.

The Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the treasury management stewardship information appended to the report;
- (2) to approve the 2019/20 revised estimates of treasury and prudential indicators as advised within the report (Tables A, B, C, D, E, F, H, L and N of the report); and
- (3) to agree that the report is remitted the Audit Committee to ensure further scrutiny takes place.

NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Motion by Councillor Jim Bollan – May Bank Holiday

Councillor Bollan, seconded by Councillor O'Neill moved:-

The May Day Bank Holiday celebrates International Workers Day. It is an important day in the Working Class calendar that we must respect.

Council therefore agrees WDC employees will have an additional day of annual leave on 4 May 2020 allowing all our workers to mark VE day with the rest of the Country, and International Workers Day. The additional outlay that would be incurred by the Council is estimated at approximately £100,000 which can be met from Council reserves.

As an amendment, Councillor Dickson seconded by Councillor McColl moved:-

Council agrees to respect the agreement reached between the joint trades unions and management at their Conveners' meeting in June of this year. The agreement to move the public holiday from the 4th to the 8th May 2020 is in line with Scottish Government policy and nearly every Council in Scotland and therefore Council agrees to take no action on Councillor Bollan's motion.

At the request of Councillor Bollan the Council proceeded by way of a roll call vote.

On a vote being taken 11 members voted for the amendment, namely Provost

Hendrie, Baillie Agnew and Councillors Brown, Conaghan, Dickson, Docherty, Caroline McAllister, McColl, McLaren, McNair and Page and 8 members voted for the motion, namely Councillors Bolla, Lennie, Douglas McAllister, McBride, Mooney, O'Neill, Rooney and Walker. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

(b) Motion by Councillor Jim Bolla – Supporting ‘Our Turn’ Initiative

Councillor Bolla moved:-

This Council resolves to support the STUC/Dumfries TUC/Safe Passage/Kindertransport Association "Our Turn" initiative. To this end, WDC agrees to recommend to the West Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership/

Partnership Board that the Board uses its resources to help find places in volunteer households for at least 3 unaccompanied child refugees per year for each of the next 10 years, provided that the UK Government underwrites financial support for these refugees in full in line with Scottish Legislation. This Council also resolves to use its resources for the education of those child refugees.

The Council agreed the motion.

(c) Motion by Councillor John Mooney – Linnvale

Councillor Mooney, seconded by Councillor Lennie, moved:-

Council notes the concerns of the Linnvale Community expressed by Save Linnvale Greenspace, Linnvale & Drumry Community Council, and hundreds of individual residents of Linnvale about the potential loss of greenspace at Strauss Avenue.

Accordingly, Council agrees to consult all Linnvale residents about their views on how this greenspace should be used and report back to a future Council meeting.

Following a question from Bailie Agnew, the Legal Officer advised that members of the Planning Committee were not precluded from considering this motion.

As an amendment, Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor Dickson, moved:-

Council agrees to take no action for the following reasons:

Written advice to the Leader of the Council from the Chief Legal Officer states, "...Council has already submitted its recommendations on LDP2 and that cannot be changed...", and therefore any result from the consultation

other than 'Housing' could not be implemented; we would not wish to consult with residents and falsely lead them to believe there is a choice.

In any case, the LDP 2 went through a 12 week public consultation at Main Issues Report stage and 6 weeks at the Proposed Plan Stage, and members of the public were able to submit their views at both stages in the LDP 2 preparation process. Public views and representations were considered by elected members of the Planning Committee prior to submitting LDP 2 to Scottish Ministers.

The Strauss Avenue site is required as a green field release for housing to meet the housing land requirement for LDP 2 and to fully comply with Scottish Planning Policy. The alternative Clydebank site is at Duntiglennan fields, which this Council has already rejected, and we reaffirm that this site remains unsuitable for housing.

That means that any consultation response on 'what to use the site for' is moot as we require to make the site available for housing.

Any future development on the site will be subject to a Masterplan having to be produced by the developer as required by LDP 2, as well as the development requiring to include significant improvements to the open space provision on both sides of the canal, providing greater amenity for the community to that on offer at the existing undeveloped site.

As the Council has ownership of a significant part of the site, Council agrees to require, as a condition of the sale of our land interest, that the developer produces the Masterplan in partnership with the local community. Council also agrees that the Planning Committee should consider adopting the masterplan as Supplementary Guidance, which would have the same status as the development plan and ensure that community aspirations are met.

At the request of Councillor Mooney the Council proceeded by way of a roll call vote.

On a vote being taken 10 members voted for the amendment, namely Provost Hendrie, Baillie Agnew and Councillors Brown, Conaghan, Dickson, Docherty, Caroline McAllister, McColl, McLaren and McNair and 9 members voted for the motion, namely Councillors Bollan, Lennie, Douglas McAllister, McBride, Mooney, O'Neill, Page, Rooney and Walker. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

(d) Motion by Councillor David McBride – Future Housing Supply Concerns

Councillor McBride moved:-

The Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) published the 2019 UK Housing Review Autumn Briefing Paper highlighting progress towards meeting the

Scottish Government's target to deliver 50,000 affordable homes over five years.

Callum Chomczuk, Director of CIH Scotland said:

"While we are pleased that the Scottish Government's commitment to affordable housing supply is providing good quality homes across the whole of Scotland, we have deep concerns about future funding arrangements. The 50,000 homes target represented a significant increase in funding for new homes and as we can see from the figures, it has taken the sector several years to build up the capacity to deliver homes in the volume that we need.

"We have had no indication of what funding levels will be after next year and there's a danger that social landlords will simply have to stop building. Skilled staff will leave the sector and we will end up back where we started. The 50,000 homes target is just beginning to make up for loss of affordable homes through right to buy and planned demolitions of old stock that was no longer fit for purpose.

If we are serious about increasing affordable housing in Scotland, to end homelessness, improve health and well-being and reduce poverty and inequality, we need a long-term plan for delivery backed by funding."

Council notes these serious concerns from CIH and call upon the Leader of the Council, and Housing & Communities Convenor to meet with The Minister for Local Government, Housing & Planning.

The purpose of this meeting is to ensure West Dunbartonshire's Local Housing Strategy which was approved in 2017 for the years 2017-2022 is not jeopardised by not having a long-term plan for housing delivery; and to set funding needed to build more new social housing across West Dunbartonshire now and post-2022.

The Council agreed the motion.

Note:- Councillor O'Neill left the meeting at this point

**URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS
MOTION BY COUNCILLOR McCOLL
UK PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION – INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Councillor McColl moved:-

Council notes that it is likely there will be a UK General Election on 12th December 2019.

Council asks officers to prepare a report for November Council with a plan to ensure that roads and pavements around polling places, and walking routes

between bus stops and polling places are kept free from ice/snow should action be required on the day.

The plan should also include steps to ensure that drains in the vicinity of polling stations are checked in advance of the election and maintained free from blockages to avoid flooding.

Any extra costs associated with this plan should be included in the report to allow elected members to agree how it can be properly resourced to ensure the safety of voters on election day.

The Council agreed the motion.

The meeting closed at 4.00 p.m.