

Agenda



Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council

Date: Wednesday, 26 June 2019

Time: 18:00

Venue: Civic Space, Council Offices, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton

Contact: Christine McCaffary
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Dear Member

Please attend a meeting of **West Dunbartonshire Council** as detailed above.
The business is shown on the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

JOYCE WHITE

Chief Executive

Distribution:-

Provost William Hendrie
Bailie Denis Agnew
Councillor Jim Bollan
Councillor Jim Brown
Councillor Gail Casey
Councillor Karen Conaghan
Councillor Ian Dickson
Councillor Diane Docherty
Councillor Jim Finn
Councillor Daniel Lennie
Councillor Caroline McAllister

Councillor Douglas McAllister
Councillor David McBride
Councillor Jonathan McColl
Councillor Iain McLaren
Councillor Marie McNair
Councillor John Millar
Councillor John Mooney
Councillor Lawrence O'Neill
Councillor Sally Page
Councillor Martin Rooney
Councillor Brian Walker

Chief Executive

Strategic Director - Transformation & Public Service Reform

Strategic Director - Regeneration, Environment & Growth

Chief Officer - West Dunbartonshire Health & Social Care Partnership

Date of issue: 13 June 2019

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WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 26 JUNE 2019

AGENDA

1 STATEMENT BY CHAIR – AUDIO STREAMING

The Chair will be heard in connection with the above.

2 APOLOGIES

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are invited to declare if they have an interest in any of the items of business on this agenda and the reasons for such declarations.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS 13 - 26

- (a) Submit for approval as a correct record, the redacted Minutes of Special Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 14 May 2019.
- (b) Submit for approval as a correct record, the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 29 May 2019.

5 OPEN FORUM

The Council is asked to note that no open forum questions have been submitted by members of the public.

6 BUDGET CONSULTATION 2020 27 - 30

Submit report by the Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture and Communities proposing an approach to budget consultation for the 2019/20 budget onwards.

7 DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2018/19 To Follow

Submit report by the Strategic Lead – Resources on the above.

8 WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE'S GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN 31 - 78

Submit report by the Chief Education Officer seeking approval for the draft plan to be submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

9 QUEENS QUAY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT To Follow

Submit report by the Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability on the above.

10 CONSULTATION: 2018/0133/PPP TOURISM LED RECREATIONAL, RESIDENTIAL, FOOD AND DRINK DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT WEST RIVERSIDE AND WOODBANK HOUSE, BALLOCH 79 - 86

(a) Requests for Deputations:-

- (i) Mr Alexander Perrie, Balloch**
- (ii) Save Loch Lomond**

The Council is asked to consider whether or not it wishes to hear deputations in connection with the above.

- (b)** Submit report by the Strategic Lead – Regulatory seeking agreement of the Council's response to a consultation received from the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority regarding a planning application for tourism led development at West Riverside and Woodbank House Balloch.

11 NOTICES OF MOTION

Note: The Suspension of Standing Orders is required to allow consideration of Motion 11 (a).

(a) Motion by Councillor Caroline McAllister – Community Alliance

Council notes that the Community Alliance is currently going through a process of reform, reviewing it's purpose and making it more representative of the community.

Council agrees to the request from the Community Alliance to increase the number of Councillor members from 3 to 4 (Currently Cllrs Caroline McAllister, John Millar and Sally Page).

The new space will be filled by the Administration.

The Community Alliance have also asked that members be permitted to send a substitute in their place when they are unable to attend, and Council agrees.

The Chief Legal Officer should make the necessary changes to Standing Orders to reflect these changes.

(b) Motion by Councillor John Mooney – Community Alarm Charges

This Council notes that in March 2019 the SNP administration moved a budget which included above inflation increases in community alarm charges.

As a result of the increase to the charges the number of users has reduced by 151.

This Council is concerned about the long term sustainability of the service if the number of service users continues to fall.

Council is also concerned that the reduction could lead to more falls and injury by vulnerable pensioners.

The cost of this is always difficult to quantify, but the costs of an emergency admission to hospital would be significantly more.

Given the above, this Council calls for a report to come to a future Council meeting highlighting the benefits of increasing the charges, and comparing it to the potential consequential costs, such as the loss of service to vulnerable pensioners and the cost to the HSCP.

(c) Motion by Councillor Iain McLaren – Re-use Policy

Council notes that many items taken to our recycling centres for disposal are still perfectly usable, and in many cases brand new. The dumping of these goods not only costs West Dunbartonshire Council money to dispose of, they help generate and sustain a 'throw-away society' that is causing significant environmental issues both in terms of disposal and manufacture of replacement items.

Council further notes the work done by our recycling centre operators to set aside many of these items for donation to the Home from Home charity, and thanks them for their efforts to give usable items a new lease of life.

Council instructs officers to bring a report to a future IRED committee that will detail how more reusable items that are taken to our recycling centres can be saved from the scrapheap. This should include any issues regarding insurance and liability, and take into account working with charities and organisations such as Home from Home, Rag and Bone Tool Library and Made Zero, as well as using social media and other internet resources to find new homes for serviceable items.

The report should also consider the practicalities of providing free compost to residents from the food and garden waste that is currently recycled. This will reduce the amount of peat-based products on sale, and the single-use plastic that it comes wrapped in.

**(d) Motion by Councillor Jonathan McColl – Council and Committee
Timetable (Sept 2019 – 2020)**

Council agrees the following timetable for Council and Committee meetings from September 2019 to September 2020, and agrees that going forward it will set its timetable annually in June:

September 2019

4th – 10am Licensing Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Educational Services Committee (Dumbarton)

18th - 9:30am Tendering Committee (Dumbarton)
10am Planning Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Licensing Board

23rd - 10am Cultural Committee (Clydebank)

25th - 10am Audit Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm HSCP

26th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

October 2019

23rd – 9:30am Tendering Committee (Clydebank)
10am Planning Committee (Clydebank)
2pm Licensing Committee (Clydebank)

24th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

30th - 2pm Council (Clydebank)

November 2019

6th - 10am Housing & Communities Committee (Clydebank)
2pm Planning Committee (Clydebank)

13th - 9:30am Tendering Committee (Clydebank)
10am Corporate Services Committee (Clydebank)
2pm HSCP

20th - 10am Infrastructure, Regeneration & Economic Development Committee (Clydebank)
2pm Audit Committee (Clydebank)

21st - 2pm CPP

25th - 10am Cultural Committee (Clydebank)

27th – 6pm Council (Dumbarton)

28th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

December 2019

4th - 9:30am Tendering Committee (Dumbarton)
10am Licensing Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Educational Services Committee (Dumbarton)

10th - 10am Licensing Board

11th - 10am Planning Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm HSCP

12th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

18th - 2pm Council (Clydebank)

January 2020

22nd - 9:30am Tendering Committee (Clydebank)
10am Planning Committee (Clydebank)

27th - 10am Cultural Committee (Clydebank)

30th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

February 2020

5th – 10am Licensing Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Housing & Communities (Dumbarton)

12th - 10am Planning Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Infrastructure, Regeneration & Economic Development Committee (Dumbarton)

19th - 9:30am Tendering Committee (Dumbarton)
10am Corporate Services Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm HSCP

20th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

26th - 2pm Council (Clydebank)

March 2020

4th - 2pm Council [Budget & Statutory Reports Only] (Dumbarton)

11th - 9:30am Tendering Committee (Clydebank)
10am Planning Committee (Clydebank)
2pm Educational services Committee (Clydebank)

18th - 10am Audit Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Licensing Board

26th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

30th - 10am Cultural Committee (Clydebank)

April 2020

1st - 10am Licensing Committee (Clydebank)
2pm HSCP

23rd - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

29th - 9:30am Tendering (Clydebank)
10am Planning (Clydebank)

May 2020

6th - 10am Licensing Committee (Clydebank)
2pm Housing & Communities Committee (Clydebank)

13th - 10am Planning Committee (Clydebank)
2pm Infrastructure, Regeneration & Economic Development Committee (Clydebank)

18th - 10am Cultural Committee (Clydebank)

20th - 10am Corporate Services Committee (Clydebank)
2pm HSCP

27th - 2pm Council (Clydebank)

28th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

June 2020

3rd - 10am Educational Services Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Licensing Board

10th – 9:30am Tendering Committee (Dumbarton)
10am Planning Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Licensing Committee (Dumbarton)

17th - 10am Audit Committee (Clydebank)
2pm HSCP

18th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

24th - 6pm Council (Dumbarton)

August 2020

5th - 2pm HSCP

19th - 9:30am Tendering Committee (Clydebank)
10am Planning Committee (Clydebank)
2pm Licensing Committee (Clydebank)

20th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

24th - 10am Cultural Committee (Clydebank)

26th - 2pm Council (Dumbarton)

September 2020

2nd - 10am Housing and Communities Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Licensing Board

9th - 9:30am Tendering Committee (Dumbarton)
10am Licensing Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Corporate Services Committee (Dumbarton)

16th - 10am Audit Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Infrastructure, Regeneration & Economic Development Committee (Dumbarton)

23rd - 10am Planning Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm HSCP

24th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

30th - 10am Educational Services Committee (Clydebank)

Exceptions:

- The Licensing Board, as a separate legal entity, sets its own timetable. Any changes proposed here to Licensing Board meetings are subject to the Board's decision. Council asks the Chair of the Board to consider raising these proposals with the Clerk to the Board, with a view to presenting the proposals for discussion and decision as soon as practicable.
- The Health and Social Care Partnership and Community Planning West Dunbartonshire also set their own meeting timetable. Their meetings are shown here for information only.

(e) Motion by Councillor Sally Page – Booked! Festival of Words

Council wishes to acknowledge the hard work put in by Allan Gordon and his team at West Dunbartonshire Libraries in producing an inspiring line-up of authors for the Booked! Festival of Words.

The event ran from the 14th-19th May and attracted 11 authors.

384 people attended 9 events.

Every Secondary school enjoyed readings and discussions with 2 of the authors at the Booked! Schools Festival. 150 children participated in total, with 30 attending each session.

This is a service we as a Council can be very proud of and must continue to support wholeheartedly.

(f) Motion by Councillor Sally Page – Maintenance of West Riverside, Balloch

The area known as West Riverside has been managed by Scottish Enterprise for some years, and has been designated for tourism in the Local plan. Council agree to ask that the area of land be maintained to a higher standard by Scottish Enterprise. This would result in a more fitting welcome for our visitors and improvement for all users. The old station carpark could be upgraded with a better surface, a more inviting toilet block could replace the tardis.

Less is More in a National Park, visitors and residents can thrive on the simplicity and beauty, it is a rare pleasure to encounter somewhere that has not been commercialised.

(g)/

(g) Motion by Councillor Sally Page – Lease of West Riverside, Balloch

In the light of information gleaned at the public meeting on 28th May 2019, with Elected Members, WDC planners, WDC Roads, Scottish Enterprise and Flamingo Land Ltd., Council agree to write to the Scottish Government, who are responsible for their commercial arm, Scottish Enterprise, to consider a lease on the land at West Riverside. There are plenty of businesses that operate from leased premises, so there is no reason why a chalet park cannot do the same. This is public land in the County of West Dunbartonshire, surely an SNP led Council is in favour of the SG's land reform policies?

(h) Motion by Councillor Caroline McAllister – Precise Use of Language in Council Documents

Council recognises that precision in language is crucial, especially where safeguarding and child protection are concerned.

Recent policy across Scotland has the potential to fail in this area, as it confuses the term gender and sex. However these terms have very different meanings.

As a Council, it is incumbent upon us to communicate clearly, accurately and legally with our constituents and partners.

- Sex refers to the biological sexes, male and female.
- Gender refers to the social roles and stereotypes associated with males and females.

This is important because:

- Sex (not gender) is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Act allows for the provision of same sex services e.g. separate toilets for girls and boys in primary schools, women's and men's prisons, etc. Using gender instead of sex means we risk losing these provisions.
- Many departments rely on the collection of accurate data about biological sex, in areas such as healthcare provision, education, crime and lone parent households. Using gender instead of sex can result in confusion and poor policy making.

Council calls upon all departments to commit to using sex, a protected characteristic, where relevant in public documents across all levels of the Council, rather than the vague term gender.

(i) Motion by Councillor Douglas McAllister – Golf Club Fees

This Council is concerned by the effect of the SNP Administration's budget decision to increase Council charges, in particular a decision to significantly

increase the charges and membership costs at our Municipal Golf Course at Dalmuir Park, Clydebank.

Council is concerned that many members have indicated that they can no longer afford the costs associated with playing golf at the Municipal course. Council is concerned at the decision to significantly increase charges, which may in fact result in a loss of revenue to this Council.

Council therefore requests that a report is prepared by the relevant official to come to the next meeting of this Council, advising Council as to the effect of the increase to charges in relation to user numbers. Council asks that alternative options are explored in relation to the scale of charges, including reducing the costs associated across all categories, with a view to encouraging greater use of our Municipal course and the potential to encourage new members.

Council asks that our golf professional Stewart Savage and the current membership are consulted in the preparation of the report.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Special Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Civic Space, Council Offices, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Tuesday, 14 May 2019 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Provost William Hendrie, Bailie Denis Agnew and Councillors Jim Bolla, Jim Brown, Gail Casey, Karen Conaghan, Ian Dickson, Diane Docherty, Caroline McAllister, Jonathan McColl, Iain McLaren, Marie McNair, John Millar, 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, West Dunbartonshire Health & Social Care Partnership; Peter Hissett, 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; Colin McDougall, Audit and Risk Manager; and Craig Stewart, Committee Officer.

Also Attending: Fiona Mitchell-Knight, Assistant Director and Zahrah Mahmood, Senior Auditor, Audit Scotland.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Jim Finn, Daniel Lennie, Douglas McAllister and David McBride.

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.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

AUDIT SCOTLAND REVIEW OF INVESTIGATION INTO TENDERING AND CONTRACTING PRACTICES IN ROADS AND GREENSPACE SERVICES

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update on the outcome of the Audit Scotland review of the Council's internal audit investigation into Tendering and Contracting Practices in Roads and Greenspace Services and recommendations arising.

Ms Mitchell-Knight, Assistant Director of Audit Scotland, the Chief Executive and relevant officers were heard in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions.

Following discussion, Councillor McColl moved:-

That Council:-

- (1) note the contents of the report;
- (2) note the report and recommendations from Audit Scotland at Appendix A;
- (3) note the Council action plan outlining progress to date and further planned activity at Appendix B; and
- (4) note that the report and appendices would be presented to the Council's Audit Committee on June 12, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

Having heard the Provost, the Council agreed to adjourn the meeting for a short period. The meeting resumed at 12.13 p.m. with all Members listed in the sederunt present, with the exception of Councillor Walker.

As an amendment, Councillor Rooney moved:-

Council notes that Scotland Excel carries out assessments and scores Councils on a number of procurement areas.

Originally, the Procurement Capability Assessment (PCA) was used, but this was replaced by the PCIP, Procurement and Commercial Improvement Programme, in 2011.

The Council had demonstrated steady improvement since 2011 and the percentage of spend on contract has increased over time.

- In 2011 it was 44% spend on contract

- In 2014 we had 60% spend on contract
- In 2017 we had 64% spend on contract
- In 2018 we had 78% spend on contract

The spend in 2017 – 64% - represent the average spend on contract for Scottish Local Authorities.

In 2017/18 the Council spend £165million with third party suppliers. Around £130million of this was on contract.

The evidence suggests that there has been a steady increase in the percentage of spend on contracted, which demonstrates continuous improvement.

However, there is still a long way to go.

The Council notes the Council report from the Strategic Lead for Resources and the attached report from Audit Scotland.

Council also notes the action plans as Appendix B, which includes the improvement action plan arising from the Audit Scotland Report.

The Council's Internal Auditor found:

- The hospitality allegations were unsubstantiated
- That the Council's procurement procedures were not always followed
- Document retention policies weren't followed
- There was a systematic failure to follow approved policies and procedures
- That the procurement policies across the Council were sufficient
- Personal relationships were not declared which breached the Council's Code of Conduct.

Police Scotland Found : No evidence of criminality.

The Council's Disciplinary Process : discounted the unsubstantiated allegations and found that there was no basis for action.

The Audit Scotland Review : confirmed the Internal Auditors findings and agreed the conclusions reached were reasonable.

However Audit Scotland identified a number of issues and made appropriate recommendations.

The Audit Scotland findings include:

- The extent of non-compliant should be in the Annual Procurement Report 2019
- The format of Internal Audit reports should be reviewed
- The documentation of Internal Audit investigation should be reviewed

- Approach to investigating serious allegations should be reviewed and staff should respond quickly to Internal Audit findings
- Council Officers should comply with financial regulations and any deviation approved by Committee.
- Actions expected of Managers should be clear when declaring personal relationships.

Audit Scotland also agreed with Internal Audit's view that personal relationships were not declared which is a breach of the Council's Code of Conduct, and recommends that Senior Officers should reconsider whether action should be taken regarding any breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct.

The Council's Human Resources disagreed with Internal Audit's assessment that the employees had breached the Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct in place until October 2018 stated:

" Employees must notify the Chief Executive in writing if it comes to their knowledge that a contract , in which they have a personal or financial interest, whether direct or indirect, has been or is about to be entered into by the Council"

Given the excerpt from the Code of Conduct above, Council would be inclined to support the Internal Auditor and Audit Scotland's findings in regard to potential breaches to the Code of Conduct.

However, it is noted that in light of the Audit Scotland report, the disciplinary process was further reviewed by the Strategic Lead – People and Technology, and the Strategic Lead – Regulatory. They agreed with the view taken by Human Resources at the time.

Council believes that despite significant improvement in the spend on contract over recent years, the non-compliance with Policy and Procedures has had a detrimental impact on the Council's reputation.

At this point, the motion by Councillor McColl was seconded by Bailie Agnew and the amendment by Councillor Rooney was seconded by Councillor Mooney.

Councillor Bolla, seconded by Councillor O'Neill, moved a second amendment which is only produced in redacted form in these public minutes. A full record of the terms of same is being retained should the detail of same be required at a future date. Were the Council to publish the terms of same it would breach the Data Protection Act 2018 and risk a fine and may also be liable in an action of defamation. Minutes of Council meetings are published in accordance with Part IIIA of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and section 50A(2) provides "nothing in this Part shall be taken to authorise or require the disclosure of confidential information in breach of the obligation of confidence." Confidential information is defined in section 50A(3) as including "information the disclosure of which to the public is prohibited by or under any enactment." The amendment as redacted reads as follows:-

Council agrees to commission an Independent Public Inquiry into the allegations of fraud and corruption by █████ WDC officers. The █████ implicated and interviewed regarding this case should be suspended immediately, under the normal rules, pending the public inquiry reporting. Police Scotland continue to investigate this matter.

The report from Internal Audit uncovered a series of deliberate actions which completely ignored and breached Council Policy on Procurement, Council's Financial Regulations and the Officer's Code of Conduct, yet not one officer received any sanction under the Council's disciplinary procedures. █████ officers were not even put through the disciplinary process.

The processes and methodology used by I A to investigate these types of serious financial offences are not fit for purpose and should be reviewed independently and urgently.

The first officer accepted █████ probably attended █████ and possibly attended an █████ where hospitality was provided by the █████ the private company who were given around █████ of Council work. This officer produced no evidence he made a contribution to the cost of the hospitality, nor was he asked to provide any evidence of such a contribution.

He also confirmed he was a very █████ and knew WDC were giving this company work. █████ two weeks █████.

The second officer in his first interview said he █████. Yet in his second interview, he said █████ and any time he attended these he contributed towards the cost of the hospitality provided █████ via the same Director of this private company. This officer produced no evidence that he made a contribution to the hospitality, nor was he asked to provide any evidence he made these payments.

█████
█████

In contrast, the evidence contained in the 43 receipts from the whistleblower with WDC officers and partners names on the back for receiving hospitality from █████ posh restaurants and golf events across Scotland where the officers were wined and dined was discounted in the IA report, with no officer being sanctioned.

No officers produced evidence to prove they did not attend these events/dinners/lunches, where their names appeared on the back of the till receipts and were signed █████.
It is clear from the unredacted I.A. report that there are clear inconsistencies with the evidence the officers gave across the two sets of interviews that took place in █████.

The unredacted report also demonstrates the cavalier attitude that these officers displayed in breaching Council rules, possibly emboldened due to the lack of oversight by the CEO & SMT who knew for years they were breaching Council procurement rules. The unredacted report makes some comment on this lack of oversight, by more senior officers with one Director saying they did not know work was not being tendered yet IA & AS both confirmed the SMT knew this had been happening for years. Both versions can't be right.

██████████

██████████

██████████ along with the receipts and their own testimonies admitting deliberately breaking, Procurement, Financial and Code Of Conduct Council rules, provides hard written evidence in a paper trail of wrongdoing. The failure of Audit Scotland to take up the offer of interviewing the whistleblower was a major error on their part which beggars belief and must make their report incomplete and highly questionable.

The first point of any investigation is to "follow the best evidence" and in this case, this was not done. The question needs to be asked, why was the whistleblower not interviewed?

The whistleblower had quality first-hand knowledge and information and was present at many of the dinners/social-functions/golf-events that Council Officers attended and received the hospitality paid for by ██████████. They were present during many of the discussions that took place regarding arrangements for contracts and services between WDC & ██████████.

The information provided by the AS report is confirmation that the CEO and the SMT not only knew for years the procurement policies and finance regulations were being deliberately breached, but they condoned it. The cost to the public purse is incalculable.

The CEO & the SMT have been complicit and need to be held to account for condoning these clear serious premeditated breaches of Council Financial Policy.

The code of conduct on officers in place up to 2018 made clear written consent from the CEO was required if they had a direct or indirect personal relationship with a contractor being issued with work by WDC. Both IA and AS agree this rule was breached on a regular basis, yet no action has been taken against any officer.

There is no doubt based on the written and oral evidence, plus the damning evidence from IA & AS there have been deliberate multiple breaches of the Financial Regulations, Procurement Policies and the Officers Code of Conduct ██████████.

The public and the Council Taxpayers in particular of West Dunbartonshire who expect value for money and the public pound to be safeguarded have a right to know the truth which has not yet been put into the public domain and the best way to achieve this, given the Council's premeditated failure to act, is by a truly Independent Public Inquiry, funded from reserves, into all aspects of this case with the subsequent report being made available to the Public.

During the reading of this amendment the Legal Officer advised Councillor Bollan that, in his opinion, he considered his amendment may be in breach of law in terms of the Data Protection Act and was potentially in breach of the Council's Code of Conduct for Elected Members and that some parts of it could be found to be defamatory.

On a roll call vote being taken between the first amendment (Councillor Rooney) and the second amendment (Councillor Bollan), 2 Members, namely Councillors Brown and O'Neill, voted for the second amendment and 6 Members, namely Bailie Agnew and Councillors Casey, Millar, Mooney, Page and Rooney voted for the first amendment, which was accordingly declared carried.

On a further roll vote being taken between the amendment (Councillor Rooney) and the motion (Councillor McColl), 5 Members, namely Councillors Bollan, Casey, Millar, Mooney, O'Neill voted for the amendment and 11 Members, namely Provost Hendrie, Bailie Agnew and Councillors Brown, Conaghan, Dickson, Docherty, Caroline McAllister, McColl, McLaren, McNair and Page voted for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

The meeting closed at 1.35 p.m.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Civic Space, Council Offices, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 29 May 2019 at 2.04 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, Douglas McAllister, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Iain McLaren, 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; Victoria Rogers, Strategic Lead – People & Technology; Jim McAloon, Strategic Lead – Regeneration; Peter Barry, Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability and Christine McCaffary, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Jim Finn and Marie McNair.

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.

Note:- Councillor Millar arrived at this point in the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As members of Strathclyde Pension Fund all Members present declared an interest in the item Notice of Motion by Councillor Jim Bolla – Climate Emergency.

In addition, Councillors Millar, Rooney and Walker declared interests in the item Notice of Motion by Councillor Ian Dickson – Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, in view of them being employees of the Ministry of Defence.

VARIATION IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

After hearing Provost Hendrie, Chair, the Council agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 27 March 2019 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

OPEN FORUM

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

PRESENTATION BY SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (SFRS) DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN CONSULTATION

The Provost welcomed Paul Devlin, Local Senior Officer, SFRS, to the meeting. Mr Devlin proceeded to give a presentation on the service's Draft Strategic Plan 2019-2022, advising that a 10 week public consultation had opened on 9 May that was seeking comments from the public and other partners.

Mr Devlin outlined the four outcomes contained in the draft Plan and how the service was seeking views to ensure the correct objectives were being sought and welcomed suggestions on how the service could help support the community and its other partners.

Following questions from Members, the Provost thanked Mr Devlin for his presentation, noting that views could be shared at <https://firescotland.citizenspace.com>

NOTICE OF MOTION

(a) Motion by Bailie Agnew – Assisted Dying

Bailie Agnew, seconded by Councillor Conaghan moved:-

This Council agrees to oppose the proposal being presented to the Scottish Parliament regarding 'assisted dying'.

The move to legalise assisted suicide or euthanasia is unacceptable in our society and we call upon the Leader of the Council to write to the Scottish Government to register the Council's opposition in the strongest terms to this iniquitous concept.

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

Council notes that the issue of assisted dying is an extremely complex medical, social and moral issue.

Council further notes that we have not been asked by the Scottish Parliament for a view and there are no current discussions at any level within the Scottish Parliament on assisted dying.

Council agrees that it would not be appropriate for this meeting to set a Council position on assisted dying and recognises and respects that there will be a wide range of views among our 22 elected members.

Agreeing this amendment does not prevent any Councillor from lobbying the Scottish Government on this issue, provided that they are clear they are expressing their personal views as an individual elected member.

Bailie Agnew requested that a roll call vote be taken.

Following a question from Councillor McColl and having heard the Legal Officer in reply, Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor Lennie moved that no roll call vote be taken.

On a vote being taken, 10 members voted for a roll call vote and 9 against.

Accordingly, on a roll call vote being taken 14 members voted for Councillor McColl's amendment, namely Councillors Bolla, Brown, Casey, Dickson, Docherty, Lennie, Caroline McAllister, McBride, McColl, McLaren, Millar, Mooney, Rooney and Walker and 6 members for Bailie Agnew's motion, namely Provost Hendrie, Bailie Agnew and Councillors Conaghan, Douglas McAllister, O'Neill and Page. Councillor McColl's amendment was therefore agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

Having heard the Provost, the Council agreed to a short adjournment. The meeting reconvened at 3.30 p.m. with all those Members listed in the sederunt present.

GLASGOW CITY REGION CITY DEAL UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Regeneration on the 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.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE CHILD POVERTY ACTION REPORT 2019

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Housing and Employability providing an update on the development of the West Dunbartonshire Child Poverty action report.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Executive and Strategic Lead, Housing and Employability in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the final draft report attached as Appendix 1 to the report and that the action report will be finalised as soon as 2018/19 year end data is available;
- (2) to note the Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) and support the implementation of emerging actions and progress indicators; and
- (3) that the Council lobby the Scottish Government to increase Child Benefit to the children of Scotland in its next budget.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

(b) Motion by Councillor Jim Bollan – Climate Emergency

Councillor Bollan moved:-

Council agrees with the view held by the movement Extinction Rebellion that we have a "Climate Emergency" which needs urgent political action on a global scale to save the planet. Council agrees to write to the UK and Scottish Government's in these terms urging them to take immediate action to tackle this grave issue and do all within their power to reverse the situation. As a first step in a local context Council also agrees to request the trustees of the SPF (Strathclyde Pension Fund) divest from any investments in fossil fuels which are warming the planet already to 1°C. Council pension funds in Scotland invest £1.8b per year in companies like BP & Shell who are planning on using fossil fuels which will warm the planet up to 3.5°C. Scientists are clear that burning fossil Fuels, Coal, Oil & Gas is the main driver for the problem. Fossil Fuel divestment is a practical, legal and responsible way for pension funds to respond to climate change and avoid financial risk. Over 30 Scottish MP's have supported divestment of their own pension fund and I would ask that WDC put the same request to the trustees of the SPF.

Following a request from Councillor O'Neill, Councillor Bollan accepted the following addendum to his motion:-

That the request to Strathclyde Pension Fund include that it divest from companies involved in the production, maintenance and development of nuclear weapons in the UK or other nuclear weapon states.

The Council agreed the motion with addendum.

(c) Motion by Councillor Iain McLaren – Mass Balloon Releases

Councillor McLaren moved:-

Council notes that all released balloons return to Earth as ugly litter that is dangerous to wildlife, in particular marine wildlife.

Council recognises the concerns of farmers, environmentalists, biologists and animal lovers, and their work to raise awareness of and tackle this problem.

Council further notes that more than half of the local authorities in Scotland, including our neighbours in Argyll & Bute, have already banned mass balloon releases on their land.

Council therefore instructs officers to take steps to ban mass balloon releases on Council controlled land.

The Council agreed the motion.

(d) Motion by Councillor David McBride – Temporary Public Entertainment Licences

Councillor McBride moved the following motion, subject to the words 'Council meeting' in the first sentence of paragraph 3 being changed to Licensing Committee and 'Council' at the start of paragraph 4 also being changed to 'Licensing Committee':-

Council notes a temporary Public Entertainment Licence, for example siting the recent carnival at Dumbarton Common, can be granted without consultation or notification to nearby residents and ward councillors.

Council notes on some occasions, particularly when the event may significantly affect nearby residents, consultation may be appropriate.

Therefore, Council requests the Chief Executive provides a report to a future Council Meeting that details the current procedure and an explanation of how this maybe improved for the future. The options detailed should include the status quo, limited notification and consultation with local residents & ward

councillors, up to and including requiring full consideration by the Councils Licensing Committee.

Council can agree an appropriate procedure once the report is published.

The Council agreed the motion as amended.

Note:- Councillors Millar, Rooney and Walker left the meeting at this point, having declared an interest in the following item of business earlier in the meeting.

(e) Motion by Councillor Ian Dickson – Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Councillor Dickson moved:-

West Dunbartonshire Council is deeply concerned about the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world. We firmly believe that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far reaching and long-lasting consequences for people and the environment.

Council fully supports the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) as one of the most effective ways to bring about long-term and verifiable multilateral nuclear disarmament and reaffirms our commitment to West Dunbartonshires designation as a Nuclear Free Zone. To this end council asserts its opposition to the illegal transportation of nuclear weapons on our roads and rail networks on moral and safety grounds.

Council instructs the Leader of the Council to write to the UK Government to inform them of this resolution and urge them to take account of it.

Having been asked by Councillor Bolla if he would accept an amendment to his motion, Councillor Dickson agreed to change the word 'multilateral' to 'unilateral'.

Councillor Page moved an amendment, which fell due to her failing to obtain a seconder for said amendment.

The Council agreed Councillor Dickson's motion as amended.

The meeting closed at 4.35 p.m.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture & Communities

West Dunbartonshire Council: 26 June 2019

Subject: Budget Consultation 2020

1. Purpose

- 1.1** This report provides an outline of a proposed approach to budget consultation for the 2020/21 budget onwards.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that Members agree the proposal to carry out an early citizen consultation on broad priorities for future savings areas. This will inform officer activity when savings proposals are being generated.

3. Background

- 3.1** Since 2013 the Council has been refining its budget consultation including a focus on online tools for wider community engagement and more specific engagement with representative groups from across the community. This has led to consistent growth in the numbers taking part. The most recent budget consultation carried out through survey monkey engaged 2733 residents.
- 3.2** The Council's traditional approach to budget consultation can make it difficult to provide residents with a balanced overall picture of all the saving and investment activity taking place across the Council. The focus on the savings options can lead to single issue campaigning on specific options rather than inform priorities and what is most important to all residents in West Dunbartonshire. As officers we are keen that any consultation undertaken gives data to Elected Members that supports their decision making.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** An exercise was undertaken last year to review the budget consultation approaches taken in other Council areas. One popular approach is to carry out an early consultation, typically over summer, on broad principles and priorities for citizens. This then informs the generation of savings options and decisions at the budget setting process later in the financial year.
- 4.2** This report proposes that this approach is adopted in West Dunbartonshire for the 2020/21 budget consultation. This would allow for a consultation which focuses on identifying the things that really matter to our citizens, and the services and provisions which are less of a priority. An early priority-based consultation such as this would allow us to work with citizens to build their

knowledge and understanding of the range of services provided by Council. This is in line with aspirations of Scottish Government to develop the capacity of citizens to have more input to budget setting at an organisational level – known as mainstreaming participatory budgeting.

- 4.3** Undertaking such a consultation on broad areas of priority for citizens would inform service design, planning and savings options for future years – not just a single year. It would also support delivery of the strategic priority on meaningful engagement with citizens. By consulting on priorities rather than specific options, a dialogue can be developed with citizens which builds an understanding of the challenges being faced in order to balance the budget and also those areas which are ‘hard lines’ for our local population. The outcome from a consultation on priorities would then inform savings options to be taken for the 2020/21 budget, and would ensure that options considered by Council fall within the areas highlighted by citizens as least important.
- 4.4** It is recommended that this priority based consultation replaces the previous model of consulting on specific savings options on an option by option basis. This allows for a more strategic and long-term approach to be taken to considering funding for non-priority services. It is advised that no further consultation would be required following a summer engagement around priorities. Elected Members would utilise the information from a priority-based consultation to make decisions on the available options presented later in the year for savings and investment.
- 4.6** A timeline has been provided below for a priority based consultation, which would require to be carried out in August / September to allow feedback to be utilised in the development and consideration of savings options.

Period	Activity	Lead
26 June	Update to Council on proposed consultation model	Strategic Lead - CCC
19 August	Consultation opens	Performance & Strategy Manager
w/c 2 September	6 public focus group events	Performance & Strategy Manager
27 September	Consultation closes	Performance & Strategy Manager
27 November	Consultation report presented to Council	Strategic Lead - CCC
26 February	Council budget setting – results from consultation considered	

5. People Implications

- 5.1** There are no people implications associated with this report.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 6.1** There is no financial implication resulting from the decision to undertake a revised model of priority focused consultation.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** It is important for Council to demonstrate that public opinion has been considered. In circumstances where Council propose to change service provision or reduce budget levels for a specific service, there is an underpinning reputational risk. This risk is mitigated by undertaking public consultation, ensuring the widest number possible of residents had an opportunity to express their views.
- 7.2** It is possible that a revised approach to consultation, where citizens are asked for views on priority areas rather than on specific savings options may cause initial queries. However the guidance and support information published alongside the consultation will explain the model and the anticipated benefits of this. Supports will also be provided to citizens through consultation focus groups, drop-in sessions and one-to-one advice and guidance as required.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** To ensure the process is accessible to the widest range of stakeholders each element is planned to ensure maximum coverage and accessibility for residents. Additional support is made available on request to ensure it is specific to the requirements of the individual.

9. Consultation

- 9.1** This proposal has been considered by senior Council Officers. It describes a consultation process to be undertaken with residents over the summer period. Consideration and decision by Council will inform the approach taken.

10. Strategic Assessment

- 10.1** The outcomes of the priority focused consultation process will support decision making across each of the Council's strategic priorities. Specifically this consultation activity supports:
- Meaningful community engagement with active, empowered and informed citizens who feel safe and engaged; and
 - Open, accountable and accessible local government.

Malcolm Bennie
Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture and Communities
13 June 2019

Person to Contact: Amanda Coulthard
Performance & Strategy Manager
Tel: 01389 737271
amanda.coulthard@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendices: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Education Officer

West Dunbartonshire Council: 26 June 2019

Subject: West Dunbartonshire's Gaelic Language Plan

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to submit to Council for the consideration West Dunbartonshire Gaelic Plan 2019-2024 and to seek approval for the draft plan for submission to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for approval.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that Council :

- i. note the contents of the report and the aims of West Dunbartonshire Gaelic Language Plan 2019-2024
- ii. approve West Dunbartonshire Gaelic Language Plan for submission to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for approval nationally

3. Background

- 3.1** The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 was passed by the Scottish Parliament with the aim to secure the status of the Gaelic language as an official language of Scotland commanding equal respect to the English language. Bòrd na Gàidhlig requires each Local Authority to prepare a Gaelic Language Plan in order to create a sustainable future for Gaelic. A Gaelic Language Plan raises Gaelic's status and profile and creates opportunities for its use across every authority.
- 3.2** The 2005 Act has clear statutory guidance that must be taken into account by Local Authorities when preparing Gaelic Language Plans. Bòrd na Gàidhlig has published statutory guidance under Section 8 of the 2005 Act. This provides advice on how Gaelic Language Plans should be structured and gives guidance on the content which public authorities should consider including in their Plans. The Act states that a Gaelic Language Plan must set out measures to be taken by the relevant public authority in relation to the use of Gaelic language in connection with the exercise of the authority's functions. It must specify the date in which the measures are to be taken, and contain other information as prescribed in regulations.
- 3.3** A Gaelic language plan must also have regard to:
- i. the most recent national Gaelic language plan published;

- ii. the extent to which the persons in relation to whom the authority's functions are exercisable use the Gaelic language;
- iii. the potential for developing the use of the Gaelic Language in connection with the exercise of those functions and;
- iv. any representations made to the authority in relation to the use of the Gaelic language in connection with the exercise of those functions.

3.4 The National Plan for Gaelic

The National Plan for Gaelic is a statutory document produced by Bòrd na Gàidhlig under Section 2 of the 2005 Act. The National Plan offers a holistic overview of Gaelic development needs, covering language acquisition, language usage, language status and language corpus issues. It sets out priorities for Gaelic development and identifies bodies which can contribute to achieving them.

3.5 The principle of equal respect.

The principle of equal respect was incorporated into the 2005 Act by the Scottish Parliament as a positive statement about the value and worth of Gaelic. In recognition of the fact that users of Gaelic aspire to use Gaelic as normally as possible in their lives, that there should be a generosity of spirit towards Gaelic across Scotland, and that the language should not suffer from any lack of respect either at an individual or corporate level. Bòrd Na Gàidhlig's guidance states that giving Gaelic equal respect does not automatically mean identical treatment for Gaelic and English, or that a particular level of Gaelic provision must be made available in all circumstances. Instead, it encourages public bodies to endeavour, whatever the particular linguistic landscape they face, to be supportive and generous to Gaelic development and to prepare their Gaelic Language Plans with a view to facilitating the use of Gaelic to the greatest extent that is appropriate to their individual circumstances.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** In producing West Dunbartonshire's Gaelic Language Plan 2019-2024, the Authority is committed to ensuring the aims of the Gaelic Language Act 2005 are reflected. The Plan includes ongoing commitment from council service areas responsible such as; educational programmes, council communication, roads and signage.
- 4.2** Whilst reflecting the aims of the Gaelic language Act 2005, West Dunbartonshire's Gaelic language Plan 2019-2024 is cognisant of:
 - i. the existing usage of Gaelic within the authority;
 - ii. the council's strategic priorities; and
 - iii. the current economic climate.
- 4.3** The plan identifies key areas which will be developed over its 5 year lifespan, including actions, timescales and lead services. Actions identified within West

Dunbartonshire's 2019-2024 Gaelic Language Plan include: Gaelic Bookbug, Pàrant is Pàiste/Parent and Toddler Session, enhanced partnership opportunities with Fèis Dhùn Bhreatainn an Iar, Gaelic Family Learning Session, Saltire Award Volunteering Opportunities, targeted bilingual signage on council buildings and roads, support for learning for all ages and development of Gaelic resources linked to the Curriculum for Excellence. Gaelic language collections will be expanded across libraries in West Dunbartonshire. Equity and equality of access as well as Inclusion are key drivers in this plan.

- 4.4** In developing this plan, all Strategic Leads have been consulted and have contributed. Public consultation has taken place through social media platforms and two public meetings have taken place as part of the process.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** There are no people implications arising from this report.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 6.1** Costs relating to the actions within West Dunbartonshire's Gaelic language Plan will be met by annual applications to Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Early Years Fund, GLAIF (Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund) and the Scottish Government's Gaelic Specific Grant. Funds of up to £35,000 can be sought for each project accounting for up to 80% of any specific project.
- 6.2** The cost of the Gaelic Language Plan is detailed in the table below. Strategic Leads may wish to apply for a grant to progress their actions and support is available for this.

Lead Service	Action	Approximate Costs	Grants available
Education	<u>Staffing</u> ➤ Gaelic Development Officer	£17,180.81 0.2 (FTE per annum)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLAIF • Gaelic Specific Grant • Early Years Education Grants
	➤ Gaelic Teacher	£20,424.64 0.4 (FTE per annum)	
	➤ Gaelic Bookbug Sessional Leader	£ 1,920 per annum	
	➤ Pàrant is Pàiste Gaelic Sessional Leader	£ 1,920 per annum	
	➤ Peant agus Patter Gaelic/Art Family Learning Sessional Leader	£ 1,920 per annum	
	<u>WDC Gaelic Plan</u> • Publication of WDC Gaelic plan	£1000 Translation costs £ 500 Printing costs	
	<u>Corporate Identity</u> • Translations for WDC logo, email straplines etc.	Nil - covered by the employment of Gaelic Development Officer and Gaelic Teacher	
	<u>Signage</u> Provide Gaelic translations for any signage as part of the replacement programme	Nil - covered by the employment of Gaelic Development Officer and Gaelic Teacher	

	<u>Communications</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Gaelic translations for any signage as part of the replacement programme • Production of posters, promotion of Gaelic language and cultural learning opportunities, promotion of assessment guidelines for GME etc. • Provide Automated welcome service in Gaelic • Telephone dialogue in Gaelic • Provide Gaelic translations for job titles and email signatures for staff that have Gaelic in their remit • Provide Gaelic translations of key forms upon request • Provide a Gaelic interpreter upon request • Promote and publicise Known Gaelic events 	Nil - covered by the employment of Gaelic Development Officer and Gaelic Teacher	
	<u>Training</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Learning opportunities for WDC employees to learn Gaelic Language. 	£4,657.56	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLAIF • Gaelic Specific Grant
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaelic Teacher and Sessional worker to be trained in Gaelic Bookbug 	Nil – costs covered by Bòrd na Gàidhlig	

Lead Service	Actions	Approximate Cost	Grants available
REG	<u>Identity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the replacement programme bilingual signs will be put up at new schools, authority buildings, libraries and leisure centres. 	Aurora House – £250 New Clydebank Leisure Centre - £250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GLAIF Gaelic Specific Grant
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the replacement programme all authority buildings and street name plates where Gaelic is taught will have bilingual signs. For example, Gavinburn Primary School and Dumbarton Rd. 	Dumbarton Road Replacement Signage - £ 75 Faifley Road Replacement Signage - £ 75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GLAIF Gaelic Specific Grant
	<u>Reception</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the replacement programme welcome signs within new council buildings will have bilingual signs 	£ 75 per sign as part of the replacement programme over the life-time of WDC's Gaelic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GLAIF Gaelic Specific Grant
Lead Service	Action	Approximate Costs	Grants Available
CCC	<u>Communication</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Display Gaelic Posters on Noticeboards providing Gaelic Language and cultural opportunities 	Nil - covered by the employment of Gaelic Development Officer and Gaelic Teacher. Posters will be designed by the Gaelic Team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GLAIF Gaelic Specific Grant Early Years Education Grants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of GME assessment guidelines on WDC Official webpage 	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GLAIF Gaelic Specific Grant Early Years Education Grants

	<u>Public meetings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a Gaelic interpreter upon request 	Nil - covered by the employment of Gaelic Development Officer and Gaelic Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GLAIF Gaelic Specific Grant Early Years Education Grants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any Gaelic Language and cultural events to be publicised 	Nil - covered by the employment of Gaelic Development Officer and Gaelic Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GLAIF Gaelic Specific Grant Early Years Education Grants
	<u>Complaints</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any complaints received in Gaelic will be recorded and responded to in Gaelic 	Nil - covered by the employment of Gaelic Development Officer and Gaelic Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GLAIF Gaelic Specific Grant
	<u>Printed Materials</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide translations of key documents upon request 	Nil - covered by the employment of Gaelic Development Officer and Gaelic Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GLAIF Gaelic Specific Grant
Lead Service	<u>Action</u>	<u>Approximate Costs</u>	<u>Grants available</u>
HR	<u>Recruitment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant job profiles will define requirements for Gaelic as essential/ desirable. For example; Gaelic Development Officer, Gaelic Teacher 	Nil	

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** A West Dunbartonshire Gaelic language Plan is a statutory provision under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005. If the plan is not approved there is a risk the Council would not be compliant with statutory requirements.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** A full Equalities Impact screening was carried out in developing this Gaelic Language Plan. No negative issues were identified in the screening of this plan.

9. Consultation

- 9.1** In developing this plan, consultation was held with Strategic Leads from all service areas within West Dunbartonshire Council. The draft plan was subject to a 5 week online public consultation through social media and West Dunbartonshire Council's own webpage. Bòrd Na Gàidhlig also contributed to the consultation by sharing the live link to all Gaelic social media platforms. Two public meeting were held in local libraries.

10 Strategic Assessment

- 10.1** At its meeting on 25 October 2017, the Council agreed its five main strategic priorities for 2017 – 2022. West Dunbartonshire's Gaelic Language Plan supports the Councils strategic priorities:

- A Strong local economy and improved employment opportunities.
- Supported individuals, families and carers living independently and with dignity.
- Meaningful community engagement with active empowered and informed citizens who feel safe and engaged.
- Open, accountable and accessible local government.
- Efficient and effective frontline services that improve the everyday lives of residents.

Laura Mason
Chief Education Officer
May 2019

Person to Contact: Mhairi McCarte
Gaelic Development Officer, St Peter the Apostle High
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Appendices: The Gaelic Language Plan 2019-2024

Background Papers: Equalities Impact Screening

Wards Affected: All wards



West Dunbartonshire Council

Comhairle Siorrachd Dhùn Bhreatann an Iar

GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN

2019 - 2024

This plan has been prepared under Section 3 of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 and was approved by Bòrd na Gàidhlig on **[insert date]** 2019.

FOREWORD

The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 requires public bodies throughout Scotland to develop a Gaelic Language Plan, outlining how they will promote and use Gaelic throughout the area.

In producing this Gaelic Language Plan West Dunbartonshire Council is committed to ensuring that the aims of the act are reflected. The plan is proportionate and cognisant of the existing economic climate and identifies key areas which will be developed over the 5 year lifespan of the Plan.

Through the lifetime of this plan 2019 – 2023, West Dunbartonshire Council will take forward work to actively support the objectives of the National Plan for Gaelic and the objectives of the Education (Scotland) Act 2016.

The Council will include Gaelic in its signage for new Council Buildings in addition to bilingual gateway signs into the Authority. Equality of access and inclusion is key to this plan and will be supported through the establishment of Gaelic language collections in every public library and in mobile libraries. Opportunities for Gaelic language learners and Gaelic language speakers within West Dunbartonshire will be advertised on public noticeboards.

Learning for all ages is also reflected in the Plan. West Dunbartonshire Council will continue to support access to community based Gaelic language classes for adults and for family learning. Gaelic language (GLPS) is established in two Primary Schools and West Dunbartonshire Council will support its further development whilst encouraging more Primary Schools to adopt Gaelic as part of their 1 + 2 Languages. New learning resources will be developed for primary pupils linking language and culture to the Curriculum for Excellence.

The Council's public libraries will celebrate Gaelic language and culture and promote online access to Gaelic resources, activities and events. We believe that the actions identified in this Gaelic Plan will ensure that Gaelic is promoted to the broader West Dunbartonshire Community and will establish good practice on which to build upon in the future.

West Dunbartonshire Council's Coat of Arms signifies "Strength Through Community" and this reflects the Council's vision for Gaelic.

Jonathan McColl
Leader of the Council
West Dunbartonshire Council

Joyce White
Chief Executive
West Dunbartonshire Council

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Summary

West Dunbartonshire Council recognises that Gaelic is an integral part of Scotland's heritage, national identity and cultural life. The Council is committed to the objectives set out in *the National Gaelic Language Plan* and has put in place the necessary structures and initiatives to ensure that Gaelic has a sustainable future in Scotland. In line with the National Gaelic Plan, West Dunbartonshire's Gaelic Plan encourages people to use Gaelic more often. Furthermore, the Council will ensure opportunities are made available for people to have access to learn Gaelic language.

West Dunbartonshire Council recognises that the position of Gaelic is extremely fragile and if Gaelic is to be revitalised as a living language in Scotland, a concerted effort on the part of government, the public and private sectors, community organisations and individual speakers is required to:

- **enhance the status of Gaelic;**
- **promote the acquisition and learning of Gaelic;**
- **encourage the increased use of Gaelic.**

This document is West Dunbartonshire Council's Gaelic Language Plan prepared within the framework of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005. It sets out how we will use Gaelic in the operation of our functions, how we will enable the use of Gaelic when communicating with the public and key partners, and how we will promote and develop Gaelic.

West Dunbartonshire Council's Gaelic Language Plan has been prepared in accordance with statutory criteria set out in the 2005 Act, and having regard to the National Gaelic Language Plan and the Guidance on the Development of Gaelic Language Plans.

Structure of the Gaelic Language Plan

The key components of our Gaelic Language Plan are:

Chapter 1 – Introduction

This chapter provides the background and context relating to the preparation of Gaelic Language Plans under the 2005 Act and the structure of West Dunbartonshire Council's main areas of operation. It also provides a summary of the demography of the Gaelic language.

Chapter 2 – Core Commitments

This chapter sets out how West Dunbartonshire Council will use, and enable the use of Gaelic in relation to our main business functions. It covers key areas of operation such as corporate identity, signage, communication with the public and the use of Gaelic on our website. This chapter sets out *the basic minimum level* of Gaelic language provision to which we are committed to providing in the lifetime of the Plan.

Chapter 3 – Policy Implications for Gaelic: Implementing the National Gaelic Language Plan

This chapter sets out how West Dunbartonshire Council will help implement the National Gaelic Language Plan. It also shows how we intend promoting the use of Gaelic in service planning and delivery, particularly in policy areas, such as education and cultural services.

Chapter 4 – Implementation and Monitoring

This chapter sets out how the implementation of our Gaelic Language Plan will be taken forward, and how implementation and outcomes will be monitored.

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

Setting the Context for Developing Gaelic Language Plans

The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 and the issuing of a notice:

The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 was passed by the Scottish Parliament with a view to securing the status of the Gaelic language as an official language of Scotland commanding equal respect to the English language.

One of the key features of the 2005 Act is the provision enabling Bòrd na Gàidhlig to require public bodies to prepare Gaelic Language Plans. This provision was designed to ensure that the public sector in Scotland plays its part in creating a sustainable future for Gaelic by raising its status and profile and creating practical opportunities for its use.

The 2005 Act requires public bodies to bring the preparation of its Gaelic Language Plan to the attention of all interested parties. West Dunbartonshire Council has consulted publicly on the draft of its Gaelic Language Plan between February and March 2019 and has taken into account representations made to it during the consultation process.

Approval of West Dunbartonshire Council's Gaelic Language Plan:

West Dunbartonshire Council's Gaelic Plan will be submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for approval in June 2019.

Overview of the functions of West Dunbartonshire Council and the use of Gaelic within our area of operation

1. West Dunbartonshire Area

West Dunbartonshire lies to the west of the City of Glasgow bounded by the River Clyde, Kilpatrick Hills and Loch Lomond, covering an area of 98 square miles. Bordering Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire and Stirling, West Dunbartonshire Authority is a significant location for economic and environmental development between the City of Glasgow and the Gateway to the Highlands through Loch Lomond National Park. West Dunbartonshire includes sites of natural beauty and heritage with good transport links in close proximity to Glasgow and its airport. The area boasts a rich heritage shaped by world famous shipyards along the Clyde with many visitor attractions including; The Titan Crane, Dumbarton Castle (Dumbarton Castle being the medieval capital of the region), Dumbarton Rock, Whisky Distilleries, Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park.

With a population of 89,610 ([2017 Estimate](#)) West Dunbartonshire is one of Scotland's mid-ranked Authorities in terms of population and area size. West Dunbartonshire Authority is a mix of urban and rural communities with Clydebank, Dumbarton and Alexandria being its key towns. Other towns and villages include Duntocher, Old Kilpatrick, Milton, Bowling, Gartocharn and Balloch.

West Dunbartonshire includes significant pockets of social and economic deprivation; 22% of the population are income deprived (Scotland 16%) [2017/2018 Figures](#) and the percentage of economically active residents at a working age is 76% (Scotland 77.6%), [Oct 2017-Sep 2018 Figures](#). West Dunbartonshire Council remains the biggest employer in the area.

2. West Dunbartonshire Council

West Dunbartonshire Council is one of 32 unitary authorities in Scotland. It is responsible for a broad range of services including: education, social work, housing, environmental health, planning, economic development, employment and financial support, Roads and Transportation, Contact Centres and One Stop Shops based in Council Headquarters, Clydebank and Alexandria. West Dunbartonshire Authority has one of the best established Community Planning Partnerships in Scotland and was one of the first Authorities to set up a Community Health and Care Partnership with the NHS.

West Dunbartonshire comprises 22 locally elected Councillors covering 6 multi-member wards. The Council is the governing body for West Dunbartonshire's decision making and is the source of all delegated powers to strategic Committees.

West Dunbartonshire Council has a 2017/18 net expenditure of £ 212.5m, with 5,500 employees.

3. Gaelic in West Dunbartonshire

In the 2011 Census, 0.58% of West Dunbartonshire's population over the age of 3 years could speak Gaelic. 0.98% of the population had knowledge of Gaelic Language and 0.31% of the population could speak, read and write Gaelic. West Dunbartonshire is therefore in the lower third nationally, in terms of understanding Gaelic. However, West Dunbartonshire Council has many strategies in place to develop and expand its Gaelic Speaking community.

The table below exemplifies 2011 Census Findings.

Knowledge of Gaelic in West Dunbartonshire*	
All People, aged 3+	87,590
Understands spoken Gaelic but cannot speak, read or write aged 3+	289
Speaks, reads and writes Gaelic aged 3+	275
Speaks but neither reads nor writes Gaelic, aged 3+	190
Speaks and reads but cannot write Gaelic, aged 3+	45
Reads but neither speaks nor writes Gaelic, aged 3+	41
Other combination of skills in Gaelic, aged 3+	23
No knowledge of Gaelic, aged 3+	86,727
Gaelic used at home, aged 3+	110

*Census 2011, provided by General Register for Scotland

West Dunbartonshire Authority recognises Gaelic to be equal to English. To provide further opportunities and increase Gaelic speakers, in partnership with Bòrd Na Gàidhlig, a Gaelic Development Officer and Gaelic Teacher have been appointed. Furthermore, Online Gaelic language tuition is available to West Dunbartonshire employees in partnership with e-Sgoil. Many opportunities for West Dunbartonshire residents exist including Gaelic Bookbug, GLPS, Senior Phase Gaelic language and cultural Saltire Award, Gaelic language classes and cultural experiences ran by Fèis Dhun Breatainn an Iar.

Knowledge of Gaelic within West Dunbartonshire Employees	
Number of Gaelic speaking staff within the Authority	6*
Number of staff who are Gaelic learners	10*
Number of staff who have expressed a desire to learn Gaelic	2*
Number of staff who can speak, read and write in Gaelic	6*

* **Accurate** figures not currently held

In the first year of West Dunbartonshire's Gaelic Plan an authority wide audit will take place to determine accurate figures of Gaelic speakers within the workplace.

4. Gaelic Development in West Dunbartonshire

Education Services is the main provider of Gaelic Development within West Dunbartonshire. Gaelic Language in the Primary School (GLPS) has been taught in Edinbarnet Primary School for a number of years. This is a non-denominational school located in Faifley, Clydebank and the school roll is 246. Edinbarnet Primary sits within a redesigned secondary school building and comprises a primary education facility which includes Faifley Library – where Gaelic books and media have been in place since 2014.

Gaelic Learning within Edinbarnet Primary School was initially a 3 year pilot project but has been continued to be funded yearly owing to its success. Edinbarnet Primary School currently has two teachers teaching Gaelic within their establishment. This good practice has been mirrored and Gaelic is now being taught in Gavinburn Primary School. Stòrlann and Bòrd Na Gàidhlig's 'GO GAELIC!' resource is currently used by our GLPS trained primary teaching staff.

Gaelic language books and media collections have been in public libraries since 2014. The range of Gaelic books available continues to increase and Gaelic materials are prominently placed to show equal respect. Gaelic Bookbug sessions were established in West Dunbartonshire Council in 2017. The interest and sign up for Gaelic Bookbug has increased each block session. Information on Gaelic language and cultural learning opportunities are displayed throughout public libraries.

Gaelic signage will continue to be placed in refurbished council establishments building on road-signs placed at the A82 entrance to West Dunbartonshire, commanding strategic position for both tourists and community alike.

West Dunbartonshire Council supports Gaelic Medium Education and currently funds transport for 18 pupils to attend Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu. In line with the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Education (Scotland) Act 2016, West Dunbartonshire Council promotes current Gaelic language learning provisions. There is detailed information on the rights of parents to request GME on the official webpage with clear links to the assessment process:

<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/gaelic-education>

Fèis Dhùn Bhreatainn an Iar is a Community Organisation that runs weekly Gaelic classes and musical instrument tuition in Dumbarton's Concord Centre. The Fèis coordinates Gaelic cultural events and receives support towards its aims from West Dunbartonshire Council. This valuable asset to Gaelic within the Authority is supported by various financial contributions.

Language Skills within the Public Authority:

At present there are five positions where Gaelic is the designated responsibility:

- Gaelic Development Officer
- Gaelic Teacher
- Gaelic Bookbug Sessional Worker
- Pàrant 's Pàiste Sessional Worker
- Peant agus Patter Sessional Worker

Within the first year of this Gaelic Plan, West Dunbartonshire aims to undertake a new employee survey to determine Staff's current language skills and interest in pursuing Gaelic learning.

Gaelic Medium Education within West Dunbartonshire:

There is currently no provision for Gaelic Medium Education within West Dunbartonshire Council. Currently requests for Gaelic Medium Education are met by providing transport to Glasgow City Council's Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu. Any new requests for Gaelic Medium Education will be assessed in accordance with the Education (Scotland) Act 2016 and the Statutory Guidelines on Gaelic Education 2017. Information can be found on:











<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/gaelic-education>

School Based Learning:

West Dunbartonshire is committed to continuing Gaelic development and recognises that Early Years is paramount to the beginning of this journey. In 2018 nineteen babies and infants attended Gaelic Bookbug. Through close links between parents and the Authority's Gaelic Development Officer, plans are in place to commence a weekly Pàrant 's Pàiste session in the 2019-2020 Academic Year.

West Dunbartonshire Council is steeped in Gaelic history. Throughout the lifetime of the Gaelic plan, Gaelic language and culture will become embedded in the curriculum from Early Years to Senior Phase education. This promotes perfectly the transferrable skills of language learning and the opportunity to engage in the world of work. Partnership with Glasgow City Council has ensured that young people have gained experience in Gaelic Medium Early Years establishments. The demand for Senior Phase Gaelic learning has increased significantly.

Curriculum for Excellence in West Dunbartonshire is the basis for improving the attainment, achievement and life chances of all children and young people. In West Dunbartonshire, education performance levels continue to improve at a steady rate does positive destinations, as the table overleaf demonstrates.

West Dunbartonshire		Outcome of the cohort of young people completing the Senior Phase of Curriculum for Excellence, 2015 – 2018
Pupils achieved the following levels of attainment:		These enable the following post-school destinations:
	99.8% of pupils achieved units at SCQF Level 1 or above	Accredited achievement which evidences personal skills needed for a range of Modern Apprenticeships and employment opportunities
	90.9% of pupils achieved Literacy at SCQF Level 4 or above	
	89.8% of pupils achieved 3 or more National 4s or better	Qualified for more selective Modern Apprenticeships (e.g. administration)
	74.3% of pupils achieved Numeracy at SCQF Level 4 or above	Accredited achievement in numeracy skills, enabling a wider range of opportunities
	68.6% of pupils achieved 3 or more National 5s or better	Qualified for the most selective Modern Apprenticeships (e.g. finance, engineering)
	59.1% of pupils achieved 1 or more Higher	Qualified to progress to study an HNC
	38.5% of pupils achieved 3 or more Highers	Qualified for a range of Higher Education opportunities
	19.9% of pupils achieved 4 or more Highers at Grades A or B	Qualified for more selective degree courses (e.g. science, etc.)
	14.6% of pupils achieved 1 or more Advanced Higher	Better qualified for more selective degree courses
	6.6% of pupils achieved 4 or more Highers at Grade A	Qualified for the most selective degree courses (e.g. veterinary science, medicine)

In order to continue to encourage Gaelic awareness within local Authority Schools, West Dunbartonshire Council plan to increase Gaelic music and singing opportunities. Gavinburn Primary is developing a Gaelic Choir and West Dunbartonshire Council will work closely with the children and teacher to encourage participation in the local Mòd and Glasgow's National Mòd 2019.

An online resource is currently being developed by the Authority's Gaelic Development Officer and is available to all Authority Staff via Google Classrooms. The online resource contains useful everyday sayings, phrases and topics to promote Gaelic language learning. This will be made public via the Authority's public website, Twitter and Facebook in the 2019–2020 Academic Year.

Community Based Learning:

Intergenerational links will be developed through a planned Là Spòrs which will bring Fèis Dhùn Bhreatainn an Iar, Gavinburn Gaelic Choir and Gaelic Sports together, showcasing Gaelic language and Gaelic culture at the Annual Book Festival. Other Gaelic agencies will be invited to participate. Fèis Dhùn Breatainn an Iar classes are as follows:

Music - full capacity
Gaelic language beginners - 6
Gaelic Language advanced level - full capacity
Gaelic singing – full capacity (making occasional performances)

**Figures correct March 2018 (Capacity set at 10-12)*

Gaelic in the Community:

West Dunbartonshire Council recognises and respects that Gaelic is a special language within the community languages. Gaelic interpretation and translation services will be available upon request.

Gaelic in the Council:

Library Services–

West Dunbartonshire Council promotes Gaelic for all ages. There are currently weekly Gaelic Bookbug sessions in Dalmuir Library which are well attended and continue to grow in numbers. West Dunbartonshire's Gaelic Development Officer and Gaelic Teacher visit regularly to engage with parents and children and to promote Gaelic language learning pathways.

West Dunbartonshire Libraries are successful in providing community based resources and Gaelic books are prominently displayed. Gaelic BookBug is successfully implemented in Dalmuir Library with a view to extending this service to other Libraries.

Posters providing information on Gaelic Services have been placed on notice boards within Libraries and Gaelic learning opportunities for all ages. Promotion of GME and the assessment guidelines will also be displayed in all WDC Libraries.

It is intended through the lifetime of this plan to develop Gaelic cultural and heritage opportunities including:

- Là Spòrs/Gaelic Open Day
- Mòd 2019
- Pàrant 's Pàiste
- Further develop partnership with Fèis Dhùn Bhreatainn an Iar

Employees –

The Gaelic Development Officer has been in post since 2016. Gaelic provision was further expanded in 2018 with employment of a Gaelic speaking teacher. These successful appointments will ensure that West Dunbartonshire Council is maintaining Gaelic's equal status with English.

Gaelic learning opportunities are available to all West Dunbartonshire employees through Professional Development sessions in partnership with e-Sgoil.

Furthermore, all West Dunbartonshire teachers are given the opportunity to attend GLPS training. Following from this success one GLPS Teacher has continued her Gaelic language learning by beginning An Cùrsa Inntrigidh in partnership with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

During the lifetime of this plan another Employee Survey will be undertaken to establish levels of knowledge and understanding of Gaelic.

Citizen Services –

West Dunbartonshire delivers high quality customer services and is committed to developing Gaelic as part of this. All comments and complaints are valued and information used to help improve our services. Any comment or complaint will be responded to in Gaelic upon request.

Gaelic and Key Partners –

West Dunbartonshire Council will ensure that existing resources are fully utilised to develop Gaelic language and culture. Key partners of the Authority are:

- WDC Community planning partnership
- Fèis Dhùn Bhreatainn an Iar
- Glasgow City Council
- East Dunbartonshire Council
- NHS
- Poileas Alba/Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue
- West College Scotland
- Visit Scotland
- Pàirc Nàiseanta Loch Laomainn & nan Tròsaichean/
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

CHAPTER 2 - CORE COMMITMENTS

In its statutory *Guidance on the Development of Gaelic Language Plans*, Bòrd na Gàidhlig notes that creating the right environment for the use of Gaelic in public life is one of the key components of language regeneration. The Bòrd has identified four core areas of service delivery that it wishes public bodies to address when preparing Gaelic Language Plans:-

Identity	Communications	Publications	Staffing
Corporate identity Signage	Reception Telephone Mail and Email Forms Public Meetings Complaints Procedures	Public Relations and Media Printed Material Websites Exhibitions	Training Language learning Recruitment Advertising

Section 1 - Identity

Rationale:

The presence of Gaelic in the corporate identity and signs of a public authority greatly enhances the visibility of the language, increases its status and makes an important statement about how Gaelic is valued and how it is given recognition. Developing the use of Gaelic through signage can also enrich the vocabulary of Gaelic users, raise public awareness of the language and contribute to its development.

West Dunbartonshire recognises the importance of extending the visibility of Gaelic and increasing its status.

Development Function	Actions	Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Lead Service	Timescale
Corporate Identity:					
Current practice	West Dunbartonshire does not have an agreed policy for the use of Gaelic in its corporate identity.				
Key areas of development	WDC will develop a policy for the use of Gaelic in corporate identity including bilingual logos which will incorporate any renewal strategies.	Policy document approved by council	Approved policy document available in public domain.	Education	2020
	WDC will introduce Gaelic in email straplines to ensure equal respect of Gaelic and English.	Email templates to be developed with Gaelic strapline	Gaelic strapline in use.	Education	2019

Development Function	Actions	Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Lead Service	Timescale
Signage (internal and external):					
Current practice	West Dunbartonshire provides bilingual signs within our Authority.				
	As part of the replacement programme WDC will ensure bilingual signage of new schools, leisure centres and CHCP Properties. Equal respect will be given to Gaelic and English.	Policy document approved by Council	Approved policy document and will be available on the public domain.	REG	Ongoing
	WDC will continue the replacement signage programme at all authority buildings and street names in areas where Gaelic language is taught.	To complete replacement signage programme	Gaelic signs in place in all Council buildings. Gaelic street signs present in all areas where Gaelic is taught.	REG	2023
	WDC will ensure bilingual 'Gateway' road signs entering West Dunbartonshire.	To erect bilingual road signs.	Road signs in place.	REG	2018

Section 2 – Communications

Rationale:

The use of Gaelic at the initial point of contact that members of the public have with a public authority increases the visible and audible presence of the language, and contributes to the sense that the use of Gaelic is possible and welcome. In addition to raising the profile of the language, it also creates opportunities for its practical use and encourages members of the public to use Gaelic in subsequent dealings with the public authority.

The use of Gaelic in interactions with the authority by mail, e-mail and by telephone is important in creating practical opportunities for the use of the language, and in contributing to the sense that its use is possible and welcome. The presence of Gaelic in a wide range of bilingual forms and Gaelic only forms can also greatly enhance the visibility and prestige of the language. The preparation of Gaelic versions of forms, applications and similar documents, can also assist in expanding the range of Gaelic terminology and the awareness of the Gaelic-speaking public of such terminology, thus helping the development of the language itself.

West Dunbartonshire Council recognises the importance of creating opportunities for the practical use of Gaelic in a wide range of everyday situations and is committed to increasing its level of provision in this area.

Development Function	Actions	Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Lead Service	Timescale
Reception:					
Current practice	West Dunbartonshire uses Gaelic Language within Reception Areas.				
Key areas of development	In line with the signage replacement programme welcome signs within educational establishments, libraries and Council HQ will be amended to ensure equal respect for Gaelic and English.	To complete replacement signage programme	Gaelic signs in place in all Council buildings. Gaelic street signs present in all areas where Gaelic is taught.	REG	2023

	WDC will display Gaelic Information posters on all Council noticeboards providing Gaelic language and cultural learning opportunities.	To ensure promotional posters are displayed on all Noticeboards.	Gaelic Posters displayed and public informed. Increased numbers of Gaelic learners within WDC Authority.	CCC	2020
	Promotion of GME and the assessment guidelines will be displayed on WDC's official webpage. Paper copies of assessment guidelines will be provided on request.	To ensure promotional information is displayed effectively.	Gaelic Posters displayed and Public informed. Increased numbers of Gaelic learners within WDC Authority.	CCC	2020

Development Function	Actions	Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Lead Service	Timescale
Telephone:					
Current practice	West Dunbartonshire Council does not currently include Gaelic in Telephone correspondence.				
Key areas of development	WDC will provide a Gaelic automated welcome service to show equal respect to Gaelic and English.	To record Gaelic automated welcome service.	Gaelic automated service in use.	Education	by 2023
	Telephone dialogue in Gaelic will be available on request.	To promote Gaelic service availability.	Public knowledge of Gaelic service availability.	Education	Ongoing

Development Function	Actions	Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Lead Service	Timescale
Mail and E-mail:					
Current practice	West Dunbartonshire Council includes Gaelic within its alternative languages arrangements, where correspondence will be translated upon request within mail and email.				
Key areas of development	WDC will ensure the use of bilingual job titles and email signatures for staff with Gaelic in their remit.	Gaelic and English to be given equal respect in Job titles and email signatures.	Gaelic and English in signatures and job titles.	Education	2023

Development Function	Actions	Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Lead Service	Timescale
Forms:					
Current practice	West Dunbartonshire Council includes Gaelic within its alternative languages arrangements, where forms will be translated upon request.				
Key areas of development	WDC will provide Gaelic translations of key forms upon request. This will be detailed on the West Dunbartonshire official webpage.	As requested.	All translation requests are met.	Education	Ongoing

Development Function	Actions	Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Lead Service	Timescale
Public Meetings:					
Current practice	West Dunbartonshire Council does not routinely make available provision for all languages at Public Meetings but where requested provision will be made.				
Key areas of development	WDC will provide a Gaelic interpreter upon request. This will be detailed on WDC's official webpage.	Gaelic interpreter available upon request.	Gaelic interpreter requests met.	CCC	Ongoing
	Any Gaelic language and cultural events will be publicised to known Gaelic community groups as well as WDC wider community.	WDC wider Gaelic language and cultural events.	Success and increased participation in Gaelic language and cultural Events.	CCC	Ongoing
	WDC will publicise Gaelic language and cultural events through social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook and through Gaelic media, i.e. BBC Alba and Radio nan Gàidheal.	WDC wider Gaelic language and cultural events.	Success and increased participation in Gaelic language and cultural events.	CCC	Ongoing

Development Function	Actions	Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Lead Service	Timescale
Complaints Procedure:					
Current practice	West Dunbartonshire will provide the opportunity to contact and receive a response in Gaelic upon request.				
Key areas of development	Any complaints received in Gaelic will be recorded to inform our Specific Equality Duty – to gather information and use to ensure better service delivery.	All responses to complaints made in Gaelic will be answered in Gaelic.	Number of responses to complaints made in Gaelic.	CCC	Ongoing

Section 3 – Publications

Rationale:

The use of Gaelic in a range of printed material can assist Gaelic development in a variety of ways. It helps increase the visibility of the language, it enhances Gaelic's status by being used in high profile publications, and it can help develop new and enhance existing terminology. The use of Gaelic in the media helps demonstrate a public authority's commitment to making important information available through the medium of Gaelic, as well as enhancing the visibility and status of the language. As more people access information about public authorities through their websites, making provision for the use of Gaelic can significantly enhance the status and visibility of the language.

West Dunbartonshire is committed to increasing the use of Gaelic in these areas where the subject matter is of most interest to the general public or relates specifically to Gaelic issues.

Development Function	Actions	Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Lead Service	Timescale
Public Relations and Media:					
Current practice	West Dunbartonshire Council does not have a policy on providing Press Releases in Gaelic.				
Key areas of development	WDC will provide Gaelic language opportunities to access GME and cultural information through publicising current Gaelic events including: education, arts and culture, community life and Fèis Dhùn Bhreatainn an Iar.	Publicised materials made available on Council website, Intranet, Twitter and local library noticeboards.	Increased awareness and interest in Gaelic language and cultural experiences.	Education CCC	Ongoing

	WDC will publicise Gaelic Medium Education in line with the Education (Scotland) Act 2016.		Increased awareness and interest in Gaelic language and cultural experiences.	Education CCC	2019
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Development Function	Actions	Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Lead Service	Timescale
Printed Material:					
Current practice	West Dunbartonshire Council does not have a policy on publishing printed material in Gaelic.				
Key areas of development	WDC will continue to provide translations of documents which will be promoted on West Dunbartonshire Council's official webpage.	Translations of documents to be completed upon request.	All requests met.	CCC	Ongoing
	WDC will promote a positive public image of Gaelic language through a promotion campaign which will be displayed by social media and any other relevant public buildings such as; schools providing Gaelic language learning, libraries and council offices.	Increased awareness and uptake of Gaelic language and cultural opportunities.	Increased numbers of Gaelic learners throughout the Authority.	Education CCC	Ongoing

	WDC will consult annually on the Council's Gaelic plan, its aims and publish a progress report.	Regular meetings with key personnel.	Gaelic Plan targets achieved.	Education	Ongoing
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Development Function	Actions	Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Lead Service	Timescale
Websites:					
Current practice	West Dunbartonshire Council does not have a policy on publishing information in Gaelic on its website.				
Key areas of development	WDC will develop a Gaelic social media platform such as Facebook and Twitter.	Gaelic social media platforms will be created.	Facebook and Twitter feedback/followers.	Education	Ongoing
	WDC Intranet Gaelic resources will be shared on the public domain.	Gaelic resources will be created and shared.	Gaelic resources shared on WDC public domain.	Education	Ongoing

Development Function	Actions	Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Lead Service	Timescale
Exhibitions:					
Current practice	West Dunbartonshire Council does not have a policy on providing Gaelic within its Exhibitions.				
Key areas of development	WDC will introduce provision of Gaelic within arts & culture.	Gaelic labels and descriptors to be available in relevant exhibitions.	Public feedback.	CCC	Ongoing

Section 4 – Staffing

Rationale:

In order to deliver services through the medium of Gaelic, it is necessary to develop the requisite job skills and language skills of staff. The provision of language learning for staff helps promote adult Gaelic learning and promotes Gaelic as a useful skill in the workplace. The identification of jobs in which Gaelic is a designated skill will contribute greatly to the status of the language and to identifying it as a positive skill to acquire.

The use of Gaelic in advertising also helps recognise that Gaelic should be used in public life and that Gaelic users have an important role to play within a public authority. Whatever the level of Gaelic skills required, it is important that authorities ensure that Gaelic is a genuine occupational requirement. Authorities should adopt and apply objective criteria to ensure appointments are made in each case on a fair and consistent basis, and reflect the identified skills needs of the post.

West Dunbartonshire Council recognises the importance of seeing Gaelic as an important job skill and of identifying situations in which its use is essential or desirable. West Dunbartonshire also recognises the importance of enabling staff to develop their Gaelic skills if they wish to do so.

Development Function	Actions	Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Lead Service	Timescale
Language Learning:					
Current practice	West Dunbartonshire Council currently offer Gaelic learning sessions to all employees in partnership with GLPS and e-Sgoil.				
Key areas of development	WDC will carry out an audit to ascertain the employees that have knowledge and understanding of Gaelic language.	Complete audit.	Data ascertaining staff with knowledge of Gaelic.	Education	2019

Professional Learning opportunities will be available to any WDC Employee wishing to develop their Gaelic language.	Increased numbers of Employees learning Gaelic language.	Increased numbers of Gaelic learners.	Education	2019 - ongoing
WDC will provide information on all Gaelic language e-learning forums such as 1 + 2 Language, Go Gaelic! And Learn Gaelic sites.	Increase footfall on WDC Intranet.	Increased numbers of Gaelic speaking employees.	Education	2019 - ongoing
WDC will support employees involved in provision of Gaelic services and education to develop their language skills.	WDC employees are supported in their Gaelic language learning pathway.	Increased numbers of Gaelic speaking employees.	Education	2019 - ongoing

Development Function	Actions	Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Lead Service	Timescale
Training:					
Current practice	West Dunbartonshire Council encourage Education Employees to develop Gaelic Language skills.				
Key areas of development	WDC will support employees involved in provision of Gaelic training and education to develop their language skills in partnership with e-Sgoil.	Increased numbers for Gaelic language training.	Increased numbers of Gaelic speaking Employees.	Education	Ongoing
	WDC employees will undergo training to deliver Gaelic Bookbug.	Two WDC employees trained and competent in delivering Gaelic Bookbug.	Increased numbers of children attending Gaelic Bookbug sessions and	CCC	Ongoing
		Bookbug.	increased numbers of Gaelic Bookbug sessions available within WDC authority.		

	WDC will support employees to attend GLPS training and continue pathways to Gaelic fluency through <i>An Cùrsa Inntrigidh</i> in partnership with SMO.	Increased number of Gaelic speaking WDC teachers.	Increased numbers of WDC Gaelic speaking employees. Increased numbers of young people learning Gaelic as an additional language.	Education	Ongoing
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Development Function	Actions	Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Lead Service	Timescale
Recruitment:					
Current practice	West Dunbartonshire Council has three posts where Gaelic is essential/desirable within its Job description.				
Key areas of development	Within WDC relevant job profiles will define requirements for Gaelic as essential/desirable.	Job profiles will be adapted as required.	Increased number of job profiles where Gaelic is essential/desirable.	HR	Ongoing
	Relevant roles within WDC will continue to be assessed as Gaelic essential/desirable.	Job profiles will be adapted as required.	Increased number of job profiles where Gaelic is essential/desirable.	HR	Ongoing
	WDC job advertisements for Gaelic specific roles will provide information on the level of Gaelic fluency.	Job advertisements will be adapted as required.	Increased number of job advertisements where Gaelic is essential/desirable.	HR	Ongoing

Development Function	Actions	Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Lead Service	Timescale
Advertising:					
Current practice	West Dunbartonshire Council has three posts that require Gaelic Language skills.				
Key areas of development	Job advertisements for Gaelic specific jobs/roles will provide information on the need for fluency in Gaelic language.	To amend job applications as required.	Positions requiring Gaelic language skills are appointed.	HR	Ongoing

Chapter 3 – POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR GAELIC: Implementation of the National Gaelic Language Plan

Policy implications for Gaelic

West Dunbartonshire Council recognises that the various priority areas identified in the National Gaelic language Plan will be primarily implemented through our Gaelic Language Plan but that opportunities will arise to promote and develop the language through existing policy measures.

West Dunbartonshire Council will examine current policy commitments to identify areas where Gaelic can be pro-actively incorporated and the priorities of the National Gaelic language Plan initiated through additional methods. We see this development as corresponding to the normalisation principle which aims to include Gaelic as an everyday part of life in Scotland.

In the formation, renewal and monitoring of policies, **West Dunbartonshire Council** will ensure that the impacts on Gaelic will be in line with the National Gaelic Language Plan.

Overview of the National Gaelic Language Plan.

The National Gaelic language Plan identifies four interlinking aspects of language development which need to be addressed, and within them sets out a number of priority action areas:

1. Language Acquisition

Increasing the number of Gaelic speakers by ensuring the language is transferred within families and by securing effective opportunities for learning Gaelic, through:

- increasing the use and transmission of Gaelic in the home
- increasing the number of children acquiring Gaelic in the school
- increasing the uptake and availability of Gaelic-medium education
- increasing the number of adult Gaelic learners progressing to fluency

2. Language Usage

Encouraging greater use of Gaelic, providing opportunities to use the language, and promoting access to Gaelic forms of expression, through:

- increasing the use of Gaelic in communities
- increasing the use of Gaelic in tertiary education and places of work
- increasing the presence of Gaelic in the media
- increasing the promotion of Gaelic in the arts
- increasing the profile of Gaelic in the tourism, heritage and recreation sectors

3. Language Status

Increasing the visibility and audibility of Gaelic, enhancing its recognition and creating a positive image for Gaelic in Scottish public life, through:

- increasing the number of bodies preparing Gaelic Language Plans
- increasing the profile and prestige of Gaelic
- increasing the visibility and recognition of Gaelic

4. Language Corpus

Strengthening the relevance and consistency of Gaelic and promoting research into the language, through:

- increasing the relevance and consistency of the Gaelic language
- increasing the quality and accessibility of Gaelic translations
- increasing the availability of accurate research information

DRAFT

Commitment to the Objectives of the National Gaelic Language Plan

West Dunbartonshire Council is committed to ensuring that the National Plan is implemented, and in this section we set out how we will achieve that aim.

1. Language Acquisition

Rationale:

West Dunbartonshire Council recognises that a sustainable future for Gaelic requires more people to learn the language and that attention requires to be focused on the home, education and adult learning as the key means of achieving this. We will take the following steps to help create a supportive environment for growing the number of Gaelic speakers in Scotland.

Gaelic in the Home –

West Dunbartonshire Council recognises that numerous strategies must be implemented and sustained at each age and stage, in order to increase the Gaelic speaking community.

Action	Timescale	Lead Directorate
WDC will provide a collection of Gaelic books and media in all public libraries.	2019/20	CCC
WDC will provide Gaelic Bookbug sessions.	2019 and thereafter	CCC
WDC will establish a Pàrant 's Pàiste within one of the Local Authority Early Years Establishments.	2019 and thereafter	Education
WDC will develop online Gaelic resources through various mediums, i.e. WDC public domain webpage, Facebook and Twitter.	2019 and thereafter	Education
WDC will plan and implement a Là Spòrs/Gaelic Open Day.	2019 and thereafter	Education
WDC will plan and implement a Buidheann Disathairne.	2019 and thereafter	Education
WDC's Gaelic Development Officer will work in partnership with Gaelic Bookbug to meet parents and children with Gaelic learning aspirations.	2019 and thereafter	Education

WDC's Gaelic Development Officer will work in partnership with Fèis Dhùn Bhreatainn an Iar to support and promote Gaelic language and cultural opportunities within the Authority.	2019 and thereafter	Education
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Gaelic in Education –

West Dunbartonshire Council recognises that creating a sustainable future for Gaelic requires increasing the opportunities to learn Gaelic language and culture.

Action	Timescale	Lead Service
Early Years – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WDC will provide Gaelic Bookbug sessions. • WDC will establish a Pàrant 's Pàiste within one of the Local Authority Early Years Establishments. • WDC will provide training in partnership with GLPS for Early Years Practitioners. 	2019 and thereafter	Education
Broad General Education – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WDC will provide transport for 17 GME young people attending Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu. • WDC will provide opportunities for primary teachers to access GLPS training. • WDC will develop resources to improve Learning and Teaching of Gaelic language and culture. • WDC will provide Professional Development opportunities in Gaelic language. • WDC will plan and implement a Là Spòrs/Gaelic Open Day. • WDC will plan and implement a Buidheann Disathairne. • WDC will establish a primary school Gaelic choir. • WDC will establish a Gaelic family learning after school club in two primary schools in order to bring Gaelic into the homes of pupils learning Gaelic. • WDC will explore links with e-Sgoil to establish new Gaelic language learning opportunities. 	2019 and thereafter	Education

Senior Phase – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDC will develop two Senior Phase courses that have a Gaelic element. In partnership with neighbouring Authorities, WDC's young people will experience Gaelic within the workplace as part of their Senior Phase course. WDC will explore links with e-Sgoil to establish new Gaelic language learning opportunities. 	2019 and thereafter	Education
Adult Learning – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDC will provide Gaelic library books and media within all libraries. WDC will work in partnership Fèis Dhùn Bhreatainn an Iar to support and promote Gaelic language and cultural opportunities within the Authority. 	2019 and thereafter	Education CCC

2. Language Usage

ationale:

West Dunbartonshire Council recognises that creating a sustainable future for Gaelic requires not only increasing the number of people able to speak the language, but increasing actual usage. We recognise the importance of enabling more people to use Gaelic as their preferred and normal mode of communication in an increasingly wide range of daily activities.

- Gaelic in Communities
- Gaelic in the Workplace
- Gaelic in the Media
- Gaelic in the Arts
- Gaelic in Tourism, Heritage and Recreation

Action	Timescale	Lead Service
Gaelic in Communities – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDC will make Gaelic language resources available in public libraries and school libraries. 	2019	CCC

Gaelic in the Workplace – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDC will provide opportunities for all employees to learn Gaelic language and culture. 	2019 and thereafter	Education
Gaelic in the Media – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDC will work in partnership with local media to celebrate positive Gaelic language and cultural events. WDC will work in partnership with national media, i.e. BBCAlba and Radio nan Gàidheal, to celebrate positive Gaelic language and cultural events. WDC will develop Gaelic resources via a public Gaelic webpage, Facebook page and Twitter. WDC will report significant events in Gaelic and English language to show equal status. WDC will promote Gaelic partners such as: Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Comann nam Pàrant and Fèisean nan Gaidheal. 	2019 and thereafter	Education
Gaelic in Arts, Tourism, Heritage and Recreation – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDC will ensure that Gaelic language collections in public libraries are free, inclusive and fully accessible to members of the public. WDC will work in partnership Fèis Dhùn Bhreatainn an Iar to support and promote Gaelic language and cultural opportunities within the Authority. Through the replacement programme WDC will ensure bilingual external signage in new council buildings. WDC will provide bilingual Gaelic 'Gateway' road signage entering West Dunbartonshire. WDC will ensure Gaelic language and culture features annually in West Dunbartonshire's 'BOOKED' Festival of Words. WDC will work with local and national partners to investigate the use of Gaelic to promote tourism and cultural development. 	2019 and thereafter	CCC Education

3. Language Status

Rationale:

West Dunbartonshire Council recognises that the status of a language is affected by its presence in the daily environment and the extent to which it is used, valued and perceived to be valued by those institutions which play an important role in our daily lives.

- Preparation of Gaelic Language Plan
- Creating a Positive Image for Gaelic
- Increase Visibility of Gaelic

Action	Timescale	Lead Directorate
Preparation of Gaelic Language – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WDC will research and develop plan. • WDC Gaelic Plan will be open to public consultation. • WDC will amend Gaelic Plan in line with public response. • WDC Gaelic Plan will be passed by Council. • WDC Gaelic Plan will be approved by Bòrd na Gàidhlig. 	2019	Education
Creating a Positive Image for Gaelic – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WDC will ensure Gaelic language successes are celebrated through; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WDC webpage - Facebook - Twitter - Local Newspapers - Radio - Council Communication Forums, such as Newsletters. 	2019 and thereafter	Education CCC
Increase Visibility of Gaelic – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WDC will develop a Gaelic webpage, Facebook and Twitter with Gaelic Partners 'latest' news incorporated into feed. 	2019	Education CCC

4. Language Corpus

Rationale:

West Dunbartonshire Council recognises the need to strengthen the relevance and consistency of Gaelic, the importance of facilitating translation services and to promote research into the language.

- Gaelic Orthographic, Terminological and Place-name Development
- Gaelic Translation and Interpretation
- Gaelic in Surveys and Research

Action	Timescale	Lead Directorate
Gaelic Orthographic, Terminological and Place-names Development – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WDC will work in partnership with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and other appropriate bodies in order to strengthen the relevance and consistency of Gaelic in place name development.• WDC will commit to using the Gaelic Orthographic Conventions and Ainmean Àite na h-Alba for place names advice.	Ongoing	Education
Gaelic Translation and Interpretation – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WDC will provide translation and interpretation services on request.	Ongoing	Education
Gaelic in Surveys and Research – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WDC will examine the extent to which Gaelic is relevant to surveys and research carried out in West Dunbartonshire Council.	Ongoing	Education

CHAPTER 4 – IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

Timetable

This Gaelic Language Plan will formally remain in force for a period of 5 years from this date or until a new plan has been put in place. In Chapter 2 – *Core Commitments* and Chapter 3 – *Policy Implications for Gaelic*, we have set out the individual target dates for when we expect to implement specific commitments.

Publicising the Plan

West Dunbartonshire's Gaelic Language Plan will be published bilingually on West Dunbartonshire's website. In addition, we shall:

- issue a press release announcing the plan;
- make copies of the plan available in our public offices and reception areas,
- make the plan known to employees via West Dunbartonshire's Intranet;
- distribute copies of the plan to non-departmental public bodies and agencies, agents and contractors;
- distribute copies of the plan to Gaelic organisations;
- distribute copies of the plan to other interested bodies; and
- make copies available on request.

Administrative Arrangements for Implementing the Gaelic Language Plan

This plan is the policy of West Dunbartonshire's Council and has been endorsed both by our senior management team and Council members.

Overall Responsibility:

West Dunbartonshire Council will be responsible ultimately for ensuring that the Council delivers on the commitments set out in this Plan.

Individual Staff Members:

All employees will be provided with information on the content of this plan. Some officers will have particular responsibilities, as set out in the plan. Annual improvement plans, and progress reports will be submitted to the Council's Educational Services Committee.

Services delivered by third parties:

All third party organisations which deliver services on behalf of West Dunbartonshire Council will be advised of the commitments within this Gaelic Language Plan.

Informing other organisations of the Plan

Information on the content of this plan will be provided to all Community Planning Partners across West Dunbartonshire Council. It will also be made available to all Community Councils, equality groups, and other organisation as appropriate.

Resourcing the Plan

All activities in this plan will be resourced through existing budgets relevant to the responsible service. Additional funding for specific projects will be accessed through external funding bodies as appropriate.

Monitoring the Implementation of the Plan

The plan will be monitored on an annual basis by way of a report on progress to the Education Services Committee and Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Thereafter the report will be made available to the public on the council website.

Contact details

The senior officer with operational responsibility for overseeing preparation, delivery and monitoring of West Dunbartonshire's Gaelic Language Plan is:

Laura Mason
Chief Education Officer Department of Education
West Dunbartonshire Council
16 Church St.
Dumbarton
West Dunbartonshire
G82 1QL

Tel: 013897377304

Email: laura.mason@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Queries about the day-to-day operation of the plan should be addressed to:

Mhairi McCarte
Gaelic Development Officer
West Dunbartonshire Council
St. Peter the Apostle High school
Kirkoswald Dr.
Drumry
Clydebank
West Dunbartonshire
G812DB

Tel: 0141 533 3100

Email: mhairi.mccarte@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

This document is also available in other languages, large print and audio format on request.

Gàidhlig

Tha am fiosrachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an Gàidhlig.

Arabic

هذه الوثيقة متاحة أيضا بلغات أخرى والأحرف الطباعة الكبيرة وبطريقة سمعية عند الطلب.

Hindi

अनुरोध पर यह दस्तावेज़ अन्य भाषाओं में, बड़े अक्षरों की छपाई और सुनने वाले माध्यम पर भी उपलब्ध है

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਅਤੇ ਆਡੀਓ ਟੇਪ 'ਤੇ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਹੋਇਆ ਵੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ ਲਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।

Urdu

درخواست پر یہ دستاویز دیگر زبانوں میں، بڑے حروف کی چھپائی اور سننے والے ذرائع پر بھی میسر ہے۔

Chinese (Cantonese)

本文件也可應要求，製作成其他語文或特大字體版本，也可製作成錄音帶。

Polish

Dokument ten jest na życzenie udostępniany także w innych wersjach językowych, w dużym druku lub w formie audio.

British Sign Language

BSL users can contact us via contactSCOTLAND-BSL, the on-line British Sign Language interpreting service.

Find out more on the [contactSCOTLAND](http://www.contactSCOTLAND.org.uk) website

☎ 01389 737527

✉ **West Dunbartonshire Council, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, G82 3PU**

💻 communications@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Strategic Lead - Regulatory

Council: 26 June 2019

Subject: Consultation: 2018/0133/PPP: Tourism led recreational, residential, food and drink development on land at West Riverside and Woodbank House Balloch

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To agree the Council's response to a consultation received from the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority regarding a planning application for tourism led development at West Riverside and Woodbank House Balloch.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that the Council submits Appendix 2 as this Council's formal response to the above application.

3. Background

- 3.1** The above application has been submitted to the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Authority jointly by Flamingo Land Limited and Scottish Enterprise. The West Riverside site is owned by Scottish Enterprise and has been promoted as a recreational and tourism opportunity since the early 2000's. Woodbank House is in the sole ownership of Flamingo Land Limited.
- 3.2** The application was received on 25 May 2018 by Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Authority. West Dunbartonshire Council, a statutory consultee as neighbouring Planning Authority to the proposed development site, were consulted on the application and sought additional information in August 2018 to allow a thorough assessment of the application. Amendments have since been made to the application and further information provided. Following this, West Dunbartonshire Council were formally consulted by the Park Authority again on 17th April 2019. Appendix 1 provides details of the planning application site, which is within Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, in relation to the neighbouring West Dunbartonshire Planning Authority administrative boundary.

The application is made in principle and seeks to establish the acceptability of the potential new uses of the site only and does not include details of buildings and infrastructure, which would be determined at a later stage.

- 3.3** An elected member briefing meeting was held on 28th May 2019 to provide West Dunbartonshire Council Elected Members with further information about the application and give Members an opportunity to highlight any issues which they consider the application ought to address as a consultee to the development proposal. At the meeting, issues were raised about the nature and the impact of the development on the local area in terms of economic benefits, traffic, parking facilities, access and planning procedural issues.

4. Main Issues

Applications Details

- 4.1** The site is located to the north of Balloch and comprises a total area of c.56 acres. It contains two zones known respectively as West Riverside and Woodbank House. Old Luss Road intersects the two. The proposals for the West Riverside and Woodbank House sites are as follows:

- Refurbished tourist information building;
- 60-bedroom Apart-hotel;
- 32-bedspace budget accommodation;
- Up to 125 self-catering lodges comprised as follows:
 - 15 woodland bothies (in grounds of Woodbank House);
 - 16 woodland lodges (in grounds of Woodbank House);
 - 19 larger lodges (in grounds of Woodbank House);
 - 32 lodges in Drumkinnon Wood;
 - 43 lodges at West Riverside;
- Up to 6 private houses;
- Up to 15 apartments within Woodbank House;
- Up to 6 apartments within the refurbished outbuildings of Woodbank house;
- 900m² brewery;
- A boathouse of c.95m² for storage of equipment and operation of water-based activities;
- Leisure / pool /water park area up to approximately 2,500m²;
- Restaurants/Cafe & Retail areas up to 1,100m² in total;

- Visitor reception areas & hub building up to approximately 2,000m²;
- External activity areas including tree top walk, events/ performance areas, children's play areas, monorail, forest adventure rides, picnic / play areas;
- Staff and service area of up to approximately 900m²;
- Associated parking (up to 291 additional spaces), landscaping and infrastructure development works; and
- Access to be taken from the surrounding road network including Ben Lomond Way and Pier Road.

4.2 Appendix 2 includes the Council's recommended response to the consultation. The proposed response welcomes the investment in the local area which has the potential to make a major contribution to the viability of the visitor economy in Balloch by expanding the range of facilities both for visitors and local residents. New opportunities for employment will be created for Balloch and the wider Vale of Leven area. The planned works and the additional facilities to Station Square of restaurants, cafes, a brewery and outside performing space will provide a focal point for Balloch which will reach out to Balloch and the wider area. The proposed improvements to the riverside walkway, the national cycle and path networks and increased connectivity between Lomond Shores and Balloch are important additions which will also bring benefits to the wider community.

4.3 It is recognised that the development places an emphasis on sustainable modes of transport. The proposed monorail between Station Square and Pierhead enhances the connectivity between Balloch and Lomond Shores and discussions are underway with Scotrail/Abellio to improve the rail service. It is however accepted that the development will largely be car based and will have an impact on the local road network. The Roads Service in their consultation response has no objections to the development being proposed. They have indicated that the traffic movement at peak times and the network capacity with the additional trips from the development have been fully assessed. The Transport Assessment submitted by the applicant has been independently assessed by consultants for the Roads Service. This independent roads assessment is evidence based and found to be acceptable.

4.4 However, it is widely known that the summer season, good weather weekends and local events can increase traffic significantly on the A82, A811 and the local roads, all to the detriment of the local area. While mitigation measures will be implemented such as an Access and Parking Strategy and an enhanced Signage and Variable Message Signage on key approaches, there are still concerns about how this development will impact on the A82, A811 and local roads during peak summer and weekend times from a wider area perspective. It is considered that this development could exacerbate existing road conditions and concerns are expressed that the impact of this

development has not been full assessed at peak times such as good weather weekends and during the summer months to determine the associated amenity and environmental effects on the wider area.

5. People Implications

5.1 There are no people implications.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

6.1 There are no financial or procurement implications.

7. Risk Analysis

7.1 No risks have been identified.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 No equalities issues have been identified.

9. Consultation

9.1 The Council has been consulted as a neighbouring Planning Authority.

10. Strategic Assessment

10.1 The development aligns with the Council's strategic priorities of improving economic growth and employability.

Peter Hessett
Strategic Lead – Regulatory
Date: 10th June 2019

Person to Contact: Pamela Clifford, Planning. Building Standards and Environmental Health Manager,
Email: pamela.clifford@west-dunbarton.gov.uk



Appendices: Appendix 1: Site Plan
Appendix 2: West Dunbartonshire Council's response to Planning Application 2018/0133/PPP

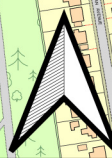
Background Papers: 2018/0133/PPP: Tourism led recreational, residential, food and drink development on land at West Riverside and Woodbank House Balloch

Wards Affected: Ward 1 Lomond

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Planning Application 2018_0133_PPP

KEY

-  Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and West Dunbartonshire Council planning boundary
-  Site boundary for planning application 2018_0133_PPP_boundary



0 100 200 300 400 m

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Appendix 2

West Dunbartonshire Council response to Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority.

Planning application: 2018/0133/PPP: Tourism led recreational, residential, food and drink development on land at West Riverside and Woodbank House, Balloch

West Dunbartonshire Council offers the following comments to the above planning application as a neighbouring authority.

Planning Policies

The Council recognises that the assessment of this application for Planning Permission in Principle will be considered against the policies contained within the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Local Development Plan 2017-2021. West Dunbartonshire Council advised the Park Authority in August 2018 of the main issues that should be considered with regard to the potential impact of the proposed development on the West Dunbartonshire Council Planning Authority Area and provided an outline of our planning policy framework to aid the assessment of cross boundary issues.

Economic Benefits

The proposed development of West Riverside and Woodbank House are key projects identified within the Balloch Charrette Action Plan and have potential to make a significant contribution to the visitor economy of Balloch. The adopted Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Local Development Plan 2017-2021 identifies the development site as a Strategic Tourism Opportunity recognising its potential for enhancing its role as a premium visitor destination and gateway to the National Park. This potential development will bring significant economic benefits to the local area and local businesses. The investment of £37.75m in the construction phase and the creation of 354 Construction jobs during the development period is to be welcomed. Tourism related jobs of 80 full time and 50 part-time jobs with a further 70 seasonal jobs created annually will be a real boost to the West Dunbartonshire economy. It is understood that it is the applicant's intention to recruit locally with opportunities and training being accessible to local people. This tourism related development will also bring wider and spin off benefits to the commercial centres of Balloch and Alexandria. Proposals at Station Square which will be a key arrival and focal point associated with the development - restaurants, cafes, a brewery and outside performing space will benefit the wider West Dunbartonshire area beyond the Park boundary.

Pedestrian and Cycle Access

It is recognised that the existing pedestrian and cycle network as it exists through the West Riverside site will be retained and enhanced to provide greater connectivity to the wider network. Key walking and cycling routes such as NCN Route 7, the John Muir Way, and West Loch Lomond Cycle Way will be enhanced and widened to Sustrans standards. The enhancements to these shared walking and cycle routes will also bring benefits to the wider community and this is a welcome addition.

An important connection is the proposed public route through the site, connecting Balloch as a whole with the development at Lomond Shores. This requires to be designed in such a way as to encourage public access and reduce the use of the car, bringing more opportunities for the residents of Balloch and the surrounding area. We are pleased that there are improvements proposed to the riverside walkway and its accessibility. The introduction of a monorail between Station Square and the Pierhead will provide better connectivity between Balloch and Loch Lomond shores and will assist in supporting an evening /winter economy together with the proposed tourism and commercial developments in this area. Bike hire, available at Station Square, will encourage more movements by bike and will be a welcome addition to the facilities proposed at this location. The area of West Riverside is an important asset to local people and it is requested that unrestricted public access is maintained to the river and through Drumkinnon Wood at all times when the development is operational and that efforts are made to manage public access during the construction period.

Traffic Impact

The proposed development site is embedded within an established road and access network and will be principally accessed by the A82 and A811 and locally by Balloch Road, Old Luss Road, Pier Road and Ben Lomond Way. While it is recognised that users of the facilities will be encouraged to use public transport and that discussions are ongoing with ScotRail/Abellio to agree in principle promoting access to the development by rail, it is accepted that the majority of people will come by car thus having a significant impact on the local road network. Mitigation measures of an Access and Parking Management Strategy and an enhanced Signage and Variable Message Signage (VMS) installed at key approaches to the site will assist in reducing the impact of the development on the road network and minimise unnecessary routing through the local roads of Balloch and neighbouring towns of Alexandria and Jamestown.

Roads guidance in relation to network capacity identified an am and pm peak time. The traffic movement at peak times have been assessed and the network capacity is considered acceptable by the Roads Service with the additional trips from the development. The Transport Assessment submitted by the applicant has been independently assessed by consultants for the Roads Service. This independent roads assessment is evidence based and found to be acceptable.

However, it is widely known that the summer season, good weather weekends and local events can increase traffic significantly on the A82, A811 and the local roads, all to the detriment of the local area. It is considered that this development could exacerbate existing conditions. Concerns are expressed that the impact of this development has not been fully assessed at peak times such as good weather weekends and during the summer months to determine the associated amenity and environmental effects on the wider area.

Parking Provision

The parking proposed as part of the development will provide additional parking for the development and will supplement existing parking already provided in the local area and help to avoid on street parking. There is a recognition that while parking demand must be catered for, overprovision is equally unacceptable in the overarching effort to encourage uptake of sustainable travel modes over private car. The parking provision will include 44 spaces for a Park and Ride facility for Balloch Railway Station which will benefit the wider community. Parking provision for the accommodation-based visitors elements will be provided remotely from the accommodation and it is hoped this will reduce the use of cars for short-trips by guests throughout their stay with it being more convenient to walk, cycle or use the monorail for shorter and site internal trips. Existing provision within the existing Loch Lomond Shores general car park and the overspill parking area is to be utilised for those occasions when parking demand increases due to events or good weather and to prevent it overspilling on adjacent roads. Monitoring and management of the existing parking areas requires to be ongoing as each land use/activity is developed to prevent future parking issues.