

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Requisitioned Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, on Tuesday, 9 November 2010 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Provost Denis Agnew and Councillors George Black, Jim Bollan, Margaret Bootland, Jim Brown, Geoff Calvert, Jim McElhill, Jim Finn, William Hendrie, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Ronnie McColl, Patrick McGlinchey*, Craig McLaughlin, Iain Robertson, Martin Rooney and May Smillie.

*Arrived later in the meeting.

Attending: David McMillan, Chief Executive; Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services; Stephen West, Head of Resources (Community Health and Care); Ronnie Dinnie, Head of Neighbourhood Services; Tricia O'Neill, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development; Andrew Fraser, Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services; and George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Gail Casey, Douglas McAlister, Marie McNair and John Millar.

Provost Denis Agnew in the Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest.

MOTION BY COUNCILLOR DAVID MCBRIDE – SCOTTISH LIVING WAGE

Council notes the Labour Group has twice attempted to introduce the Scottish Living Wage. This has been rejected by the SNP Administration.

The Labour Party in Scotland has continued to campaign for the introduction of the Living Wage in all areas of the public sector.

We therefore welcome the First Minister's conversion to support the Living Wage where he announced at the SNP Annual Conference that every Scottish Government-controlled wage packet would meet a new "living wage target" of £7.15 an hour - matching an earlier pledge set out by Scottish Labour Leader, Iain Gray.

In light of this announcement, we call on the SNP Administration to follow Labour's lead and Alex Salmond's conversion and support the introduction of the Living Wage currently £7.15 per hour for all workers in the Council.

Councillor McBride was heard in support of his motion which was seconded by Councillor Rooney.

As an amendment, Councillor R. McColl moved:-

This Council notes that we have in the past been criticised for not taking decisions strategically, with all the relevant information in front of us.

Council further notes that the Administration has asked for a report from officers addressing the financial and legal implications of Council agreeing a minimum Scottish living wage of £7.15 p/h in West Dunbartonshire, which will come to the November Council meeting; just 15 days away.

Council therefore agrees to take no action until all Members can discuss this item together with the officer's report at the Council meeting on 24 November 2010.

After hearing Councillor Black, Councillor R. McColl, informed the Council that he was not prepared to accept the proposed addendum by Councillor Black.

Thereafter, Councillor J. McColl seconded the amendment by Councillor R. McColl.

As a second amendment, Councillor Calvert, seconded by Councillor Bootland, moved:-

That, in addition to the motion by Councillor McBride (as printed above), the Council also expects all 3rd party and private sector organisations, with which it contracts, to pay their staff the Living Wage of £7.15 per hour.

After hearing the Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services on a point of clarification, the Council noted that the Council could not enforce this expectation on its contractors and sub-contractors and could not include a clause to that effect in its contracts.

Note: Councillor McGlinchey entered the meeting during the debate on the above motion and amendments.

On a vote taken between the second amendment (Councillor Calvert) and the amendment (Councillor R. McColl), 7 Members voted for the second amendment and 10 for the amendment.

On a vote taken between the amendment (Councillor R. McColl) and the motion (Councillor McBride), 10 Members voted for the amendment and 7 for the motion.

The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

The meeting closed at 10.55 a.m