

INFORMATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Information Services Committee held within the Council Offices, Rosebery Place, Clydebank on Wednesday, 30th June 1999.

Present: Provost Alistair Macdonald (LAB); Councillors Daniel McCafferty (LAB); Andrew White (LAB); Anthony Devine (LAB); Iain Robertson (SNP); Geoffrey Calvert (LAB & CO-OP); John Trainer (LAB); James Bollan (IND); Craig McLaughlin (SNP); Ronald McColl (SNP); Margaret McGregor (SNP) and Connie O'Sullivan (LAB).

Attending: Tim Huntingford, Acting Chief Executive; Ian Leitch, Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council and Angela Clements, Head of Information Services.

Apologies for Absence: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors James McCallum (LAB & CO-OP) and James Flynn (LAB).

ELECTION OF CONVENER

In the absence of the Convener of the Committee, Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor Robertson, moved that the Meeting be chaired by Councillor McLaughlin. As an amendment, Provost Macdonald, seconded by Councillor Devine, moved that the Meeting be chaired by Councillor White.

On a vote being taken six Members voted for the amendment and five Members voted for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried and Councillor White took the Chair.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of meeting of the Information Services Committee held on 21 April 1999 were submitted and approved.

CORPORATE YEAR 2000 COMPLIANCE

There was submitted report by the Head of Information Services giving an update on a series of reports which described the technical and technological aspects of the problem facing the Council's computer systems due to the advent of the next Millennium.

Following discussion and having heard the Head of Information Services in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Trainer, moved that the Committee note the progress made to date in the Millennium Compliance project with the proviso that the Acting Chief Executive and Head of Information Services keep both Group Leaders apprised of any developments with regard to this matter. As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McColl, moved that whilst both Group Leaders should be kept informed of developments, a special Meeting of the Information

Services Committee should be convened as and when required in view of concerns relating to the Year 2000 problem and its possible affect on the community of West Dunbartonshire.

On a vote being taken, four Members voted for the amendment and eight Members voted for the motion. The motion was accordingly declared carried.

UPDATE ON INFORMATION SERVICES HELPDESK

There was submitted report by the Head of Information Services giving an update on the issues and requests raised via the Information Services Helpdesk relating to the functional areas of Client (applications support), Operations (computer and telephone operations and administration), Systems (local and wide-area data networks, telecommunications and training) and Development.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to note the report in respect of the main issues and requests which were being processed via the Information Services Helpdesk, under the functions of Client, Operations, Systems and Development.

PROGRESS WITH INFORMATION SERVICES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

There was submitted report by the Head of Information Services describing Information Services' ongoing work in progressing projects to meet the systems development requirements of the Council.

The Committee agreed to note the continuing efforts of Information Services management to deploy scarce resources to the highest priority development projects of the Council.

INFORMATION STRATEGY PHASE 2 UPDATE

There was submitted report by the Head of Information Services regarding the Council's Information Strategy and in particular the progress made in the second phase of the Information Strategy which Information Services is leading.

The Committee, having heard the Head of Information Services on the up to date position, agreed to note the progress of this phase of the Information Strategy.

MEMBERS CONNECTIVITY

There was submitted report by the Head of Information Services regarding the requirement to provide Information Technology to elected representatives and access to subsets of data from corporate computer systems.

Following discussion, Councillor White, seconded by Provost Macdonald, moved that the Committee agree:-

- (a) to note that, rather than have Information Services make assumptions about the requirements of every elected Member and proposing a generic solution in that regard, the suggested approach should be to pilot the connectivity project with a representative number of specific Members;
- (b) that Councillors James McCallum, Andrew White, Linda McColl, Iain Robertson, John Trainer and Craig McLaughlin form the pilot for the connectivity project to be co-ordinated by the Systems Information Services Manager and which would involve consultation with officers in Departments as required when determining the datasets provided in the pilot;
- (c) that Councillor James Bollan be added to give a pilot of seven Members; and
- (d) to note that this approach would allow the pilot project to proceed rapidly and that further phases could then be agreed and connectivity extended to other Members on a phased basis.

As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McColl, moved that the Committee do not agree the proposed recommended approach to pilot the connectivity project in view of the severe and limited resources of Information Services at the current time.

On a vote being taken, four Members voted for the amendment and eight Members voted for the motion. The motion was accordingly declared carried.

CORPORATE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

There was submitted report by the Head of Information Services updating Members on the progress towards producing an agreed future strategy for Information and Communications Technologies (ICT).

Having heard the Head of Information Services, the Committee agreed to note the position in relation to the production of an agreed ICT strategy.