

CORPORATE AND EFFICIENT GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee held on Wednesday, 23 November 2011 in Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Jim Bollan, Jim Brown, David McBride, Ronnie McColl, Patrick McGlinchey, Craig McLaughlin, Lawrence O'Neill and Iain Robertson.

Attending: David Amos, Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services; Andrew Fraser, Head of Legal, Democratic & Regulatory Services; Stephen West, Head of Finance & Resources; Vincent Gardiner, Client & Support Manager; Gillian McNeilly, Finance Manager; Patricia Marshall, Manager of ICT; John Stevenson, Section Head – Environmental Health and Craig Stewart, Committee Officer.

Councillor Craig McLaughlin in the Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor McLaughlin, Chair, declared a non-financial interest in the Item of business under the heading 'Service of a Demolition Order – 143 Braehead, Bonhill, Alexandria G83 9ND', in that he knew the person involved.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee held on 21 September 2011 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE CULTURAL SUB-COMMITTEE

The Minutes of Meetings of the Corporate Cultural Sub-Committee held on 13 September and 3 October 2011 were submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the following:-

In relation to the item under the heading 'International Links – Update on Town Twinning and Friendship Links' (Minute of Ordinary Meeting on 13 September refers), and having heard the Head of Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services in clarification of the Sub-Committee's delegated powers, the Committee expressed the opinion that cultural trips were not appropriate in the current economic climate.

RENT ARREARS WRITE OFF – QUARTER 2 2011/12

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services seeking approval for rent arrears write-offs for the second quarter of 2011/12.

The Committee agreed to approve rent arrears write-offs totalling £11,002.43 for 2011/2012, as shown in the Appendix to the report.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE GROUPS SCHEME UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services providing an update on the Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme (PVG Scheme) which commenced on 28 February 2011.

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the issues involved with implementation of the PVG Scheme;
- (2) to approve the recommendation that the payment of the PVG Scheme fees be extended to include all staff groups through:-
 - (a) incorporation of additional recruitment costs within existing departmental revenue resources; and
 - (b) retrospective checking costs added into the 2012/13 budget process as an additional burden for a three year period. The effect of this would be to increase the budget gap for each of the next three financial years by £35,990.

VARIATION IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

THE REGISTRATION OF CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS/SAME SEX MARRIAGE – CONSULTATION

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services informing of the Scottish Government's consultation paper on the Registration of Civil Partnerships and Same Sex Marriage and requesting consideration for the submission of a response to the Scottish Government on its consultation.

The Committee agreed that individual Members be invited to submit their own responses to the questions asked within the consultation paper.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As referred to earlier in the Minutes, Councillor McLaughlin declared a non-financial interest in the following Item and left the meeting before deliberation of this matter. After Councillor McLaughlin had vacated the chair, the Vice-Chair Councillor McColl took the chair while the next item of business was being considered.

SERVICE OF A DEMOLITION ORDER – 143 BRAEHEAD, BONHILL, ALEXANDRIA G83 9ND

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services requesting consideration for the service of a Demolition Order, in terms of Section 115 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, upon a Mr Zishan (or Zeeshan) Iqbal the owner of the property at 143 Braehead, Bonhill, Alexandria.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve that a demolition order, in terms of Section 115 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, be served on Mr. Zishan (or Zeeshan) Iqbal, the owner of No. 143 Braehead, Bonhill, Alexandria; and
- (2) to request that a further report be prepared showing the scope of powers that the Council had in relation to private landlords.

Note: Councillor McLaughlin returned to the meeting at this point and assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services providing an update on grants to voluntary organisations from the Vale of Leven Trust Fund and Dumbarton Common Good Fund.

After discussion, Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor Bollan, moved:-

That the Committee agrees to award the Strathleven Artizans group with the amount of £25,000, to enable them to complete the purchase of a trailer and van for their equipment.

As an amendment, Councillor McBride, seconded by Councillor McGlinchey, moved:-

That the Committee agrees to continue consideration of this application pending a further report giving more detailed information on the group and its activities in the local area.

On a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the amendment and 5 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

Otherwise, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that in relation to the application for funding, received from Age Concern Vale of Leven, to the Vale of Leven Trust to approve the recommendation of Nil from the Trust; and
- (2) that, in view of (1) above, that the application be referred to the CVS with a recommendation for approval - £6,360 from the Community Chest.

TREASURY UPDATE (1 APRIL 2011 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2011)

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services advising of interest rates and treasury transactions of the Council which had taken place during the period 1 April to 30 September 2011.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

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

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT: PERIOD 6 2011/12

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive advising of the performance of the department's budget for the period to 30 September 2011.

The Committee agreed to note the favourable variance of £0.095m in the Chief Executive departmental budget to date.

CORPORATE SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT: PERIOD 6 2011/12

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services advising of the performance of the department's budget for the period to 30 September 2011.

The Committee agreed to note the favourable variance of £0.039m in the Corporate Services departmental budget to date.

DUMBARTON COMMON GOOD FUND – MONITORING REPORT TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2011

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services providing details of income and expenditure on the Dumbarton Common Good Fund Account to 30 September 2011.

After discussion and having heard the Finance Manager in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report, and requested a year-end report giving an update from groups as to the benefits of their grant to Dumbarton.

ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENT 2010/2011

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services providing a copy of the Annual Efficiency Statement for 2010/2011 prepared by the Council and providing an update on the aggregated national position with regard to efficiencies achieved by Local Government.

After discussion and having heard the relevant officers in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the efficiency gains achieved by the Council in the Efficiency Statement for 2010/11 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Statement; and
- (2) to note the key areas to be targeted for efficiencies in 2011/12 as detailed in Section 6 of the Statement.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENTAL PLAN 2011/15 – MID YEAR REVIEW

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive setting out progress against the Chief Executive's Departmental Plan 2011/15 from 1 April 2011 to 30 September 2011.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENTAL PLAN 2011/15 – MID YEAR PERFORMANCE

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services presenting the Corporate Services Department mid year performance report.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and the appendices thereto.

CORPORATE PLAN 2010/14 YEAR END PROGRESS REPORT – FURTHER INFORMATION ON THOSE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS ASSIGNED TO CORPORATE SERVICES WHICH SIGNIFICANTLY MISSED THEIR TARGETS

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services providing further details on the Department's three Performance Indicators (PIs) in the Corporate Plan 2010/14 year end progress report which significantly missed their targets.

The Committee agreed to note the terms of the report.

RENEWAL/RE-TENDERING OF THE COUNCIL'S INSURANCE CONTRACTS

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services providing information on the renewal/re-tendering of the Council's Insurance Contracts for the 2011/12 insurance year.

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the arrangements that have been made regarding the re-tendering of the Mortgage Property 'Right to Buy' Block Buildings Insurance Policy with effect from 1 September 2011; and
- (2) to note the arrangements that have been made regarding renewal of the Council's other Insurance Contracts within the terms of existing Long Term Agreements on 1 August 2011.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Having heard the Head of Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services, the Committee approved the following Resolution:-

"That under Section 50(A) (4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act."

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2011

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services outlining and seeking approval of the ICT Asset Management Plan.

After discussion and having heard the Manager of ICT and the Head of Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to approve the ICT Asset Management Plan 2011.

The meeting closed at 11.05 a.m.