

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 26 October 2005 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Denis Agnew, Jim Bollan, George Black, Dennis Brogan, Geoff Calvert, Gail Casey, Tony Devine, James Flynn, Jackie Maceira, Douglas McAllister, James McCallum, Linda McColl, Duncan McDonald, Margaret McGregor, Craig McLaughlin, Marie McNair, Connie O'Sullivan, Martin Rooney and Andy White.

Attending: Tim Huntingford, Chief Executive; Gerry McNerney, Director of Corporate Services; Bob Cook, Director of Education and Cultural Services; David McMillan, Director of Housing and Technical Services; Bill Clark, Acting Director of Social Work Services; Dan Henderson, Director of Development and Environmental Services; David Connell, Head of Finance; Jim Pow, Manager of Finance (Housing and Technical Services); David Logan, Principal Solicitor; and George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer.

Also

Attending: Mr Derek Hendry, Head of Development; Mr Michael Dowds, Scottish Airports Planning Manager; and Ms Anne Phillips, Airfield Manager, Glasgow Airport, BAA.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Provost Alistair Macdonald and Councillors Margaret Bootland and Joe Pilkington.

Depute Provost Linda McColl in the Chair

OPEN FORUM

7347 The Council noted that no open forum questions had been received.

PRESENTATION
GLASGOW AIRPORT MASTERPLAN CONSULTATION

- 7348 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 7 September 2005 (Page 1884, paragraph 6649 (3) refers), the Council received a presentation from Mr Derek Hendry, Head of Development, British Airports Authority (BAA) on the proposals contained within the Glasgow Airport Master Plan. It was noted that Mr Michael Dowds, Scottish Airports Planning Manager and Ms Anne Phillips, Airfield Manager, Glasgow Airport, BAA were also in attendance to answer Members' questions.
- 7349 Having heard all three officials from BAA in response to Members' questions concerning the issue of noise pollution and air quality in those areas of Clydebank which would be affected by the projected increase in air traffic, the Council agreed to note that BAA intended to meet with all relevant local authorities to discuss the key issues which had been raised during the consultation process with a view to finding a solution which would satisfy the needs of all interested parties.
- 7350 At this point Depute Provost McColl thanked Mr Hendry, Mr Dowds and Ms Phillips for their attendance and thereafter they left the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

- 7351 Having heard Depute Provost McColl, the Council agreed to adjourn for a period of five minutes.
- 7352 The meeting reconvened at 2.45 p.m. with all those listed on the sederunt present, with the exception of the three officials from BAA.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 7353 The Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 31 August 2005 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

MINUTES OF THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE FORUM

- 7354 The Minutes of Meeting of the Joint Consultative Forum held on 1 September 2005 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.
- 7355 In response to a question by Councillor McLaughlin concerning PPI/PFI Schools Regeneration (Page 1876, paragraph 5899 (3) refers), the Chief Executive confirmed that the Council had not taken a decision on the provision of Soft Services and that a report on this issue would be submitted to the December meeting of Council.

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

- 7356 The Minutes of Meeting of the Audit and Performance Review Committee held on 14 September 2005 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

REMIT FROM AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE – ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANNING

- 7357 Reference was made to the Minutes of Meeting of the Audit and Performance Review Committee held on 14 September 2005 (Pages 1910/11, paragraph 7042 (4) refer), when it had been agreed that the matter of designating a Member to ensure that asset management considerations were taken into account in policy and operational discussions at political level, be continued to this meeting of Council for determination.
- 7358 A copy of the report by the Director of Development and Environmental Services advising of the work undertaken in relation to Asset Management Planning was submitted for information.
- 7359 The Council agreed:-
- (1) to note that, a briefing note concerning the role of elected members in Asset Management Planning had been circulated to all elected members under a separate cover; and
 - (2) to nominate Councillor Maceira as the elected member responsible for asset management.

NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES – STRATHCLYDE FIRE AND RESCUE BOARD

- 7360 The Council agreed to note that Councillor Calvert had resigned as a substitute member of the Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Board, which meant that there were now two vacancies on the above Board
- 7361 It was agreed that Councillors Denis Agnew and Connie O'Sullivan be nominated to serve as substitute members on the Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Board.

FUNDING FOR THE CLYDEBANK ASBESTOS GROUP

- 7362 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Social Work Services recommending that the Council awards the Clydebank Asbestos Group the sum of £15,000 for 2005/2006.

7363 Having heard Councillor White in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to grant funding of £15,000 to the Clydebank Asbestos Group for 2005/2006;
- (2) that the Clydebank Asbestos Group, with the assistance of the Council's Welfare Rights Service, should continue to seek ongoing commitments of funding from other bodies; and
- (3) that the Acting Director of Social Work Services should report progress in relation to the ongoing funding of the group to a future meeting of the Social Justice Committee.

RESPONSE TO THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION ON THE REDRAWING OF NHS BOUNDARIES IN ARGYLL & CLYDE

7364 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Social Work Services presenting a draft response to the Consultation on the redrawing of NHS boundaries in Argyll and Clyde and seeking a decision thereon.

7365 Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor Flynn, moved as follows:-

7366 This Council welcomes the draft response and agrees with the concerns of the Acting Director of Social Work as expressed in the report.

7367 The Council agrees to submit a finalised response in support of Option 1 for the proposed boundaries of the new NHS Greater Glasgow.

7368 Council is not opposed to Option 2.

7369 However, West Dunbartonshire has had experience of being covered by 2 different NHS Boards and we recognise the potential difficulties that can result from not having coterminous boundaries.

- 7370 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved:-
- 7371 That further development is required on the Integrated Care Plan which was designed by the local GPs to maximise and grow services thus improving the viability of the Vale of Leven Hospital site.
- 7372 On the issue of the boundaries, this Council recognises that the final decision should rest with the people of the area.
- 7373 On a vote being taken, 5 Members voted for the amendment and 14 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS 2004/2005

- 7374 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing Members with a copy of the audited abstract of accounts for the year to 31 March 2005.
- 7375 Having heard Councillor Devine express his appreciation and thanks to all staff involved in the preparation of the Accounts, the Council agreed to note the Abstract of Accounts for the year to 31 March 2005.

AUDIT SCOTLAND'S FINAL AUDIT REPORT TO MEMBERS 2004/2005

- 7376 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services advising of Audit Scotland's report on the audit of West Dunbartonshire Council's Accounts for 2004/05.
- 7377 Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Rooney, moved:-
- 7378 That the Council agrees to delegate the responsibility for monitoring the action plan to the Audit and Performance Review Committee.
- 7379 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Bolla, moved:-
- 7380 That a further report be submitted to Council providing details on how the Council, in partnership with the Community Planning Partnership, intends to spend the remaining balance of the Better Neighbourhood Funding by the end of this financial year.
- 7381 On a vote being taken, 5 Members voted for the amendment and 14 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

**GENERAL SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT:
PERIOD 5 2005/2006**

- 7382 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services on the performance of the General Services Budget for the period to 15 September 2005.
- 7383 The Council agreed to note the terms of the report.

**GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT:
PERIOD 5, 2005/2006**

- 7384 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services advising of progress of the General Services Capital Programme to 15 September 2005 and providing an update on Prudential Indicators.
- 7385 The Council agreed:-
- (1) to approve the updated capital plan as outlined in Appendices I, II and III to the report;
 - (2) to approve the updated Prudential Indicators as outlined in Appendix IV to the report; and
 - (3) to approve the virement, as detailed at paragraph 3.5 (b) of the report.

AMENDMENT TO FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

- 7386 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services requesting the Council to approve an alteration to the Council's Financial Regulations to incorporate the requirements of the Prudential Code.
- 7387 The Council agreed to amend the Financial Regulations as detailed in paragraph 2.3 of the report.

COMMITTEE TIMETABLE FOR 2006

- 7388 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services recommending approval of the Timetable of Meetings for the period November 2005 to December 2006.
- 7389 The Council agreed:-

- (1) to approve the timetable of main Committee meetings from November 2005 to December 2006, as contained in the Appendix to these minutes; and
- (2) to note the changes to the existing timetable as detailed in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

**HOUSING MAINTENANCE TRADING OPERATION 2005/2006 –
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE TO 15 SEPTEMBER 2005 (PERIOD 5)**

- 7390 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services presenting the Council with the interim cumulative financial information for the period ending 15 September 2005.
- 7391 The Council agreed to note the terms of the report.

**HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2005/2006 – BUDGETARY CONTROL
STATEMENT TO 15 SEPTEMBER 2005 (PERIOD 5)**

- 7392 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services providing an update on the financial performance of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to the period ending 15 September 2005.
- 7393 The Council agreed to note the terms of the report.

**HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/2006 – BUDGETARY CONTROL
REPORT TO 15 SEPTEMBER 2005 (PERIOD 5)**

- 7394 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services on the progress of the HRA Capital Programme 2005/2006 up to 15 September 2005 (Period 5).
- 7395 The Council agreed to note the terms of the report.

FAIRTRADE STATUS FOR WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

- 7396 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive:-
- (a) providing information on actions necessary to obtain 'Fairtrade' designation for towns in West Dunbartonshire; and
 - (b) proposing that the Council, in conjunction with its Community Planning partners, should initiate these actions in support of the Fairtrade approach and should seek to raise awareness of the issues involved at local level.

7397 **Having heard the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive in answer to Members' questions and following discussion, the Council agreed:-**

- (1) to support Fairtrade and its aims;**
- (2) to serve Fairtrade tea/coffee etc. at all meetings and in all offices and canteens, and to subsidise the hospitality costs;**
- (3) to act as a 'flagship employer', as noted in paragraph 2.2, Goal 3 of the report; and**
- (4) to raise the issue with the Community Planning Partnership and request that partners agree to support the aims of the Fairtrade Foundation and work towards achieving full Fairtrade status for West Dunbartonshire.**

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

7398 **Councillors Andrew White and Marie McNair declared a non-financial interest in the following item of business.**

STUC – ST ANDREWS DAY ANTI RACISM EVENT

7399 **Correspondence was submitted from the Scottish Trades Union Congress informing Council of the Annual St Andrew's Day March and Rally Against Racism and Fascism which would be held on Saturday 26 November 2005 in the Trades Hall, Glassford Street, Glasgow at 12 noon.**

7400 **Having heard Councillor Flynn, the Council agreed to approve the following motion:-**

7401 The Anti-racism event, which takes place in Glasgow every year, has a long and proud history. It was established to show solidarity between Scots trade unionists and the Indian Workers' Association and it has grown as an expression of Scotland's refusal to accept the bigotry and lies that racists try to spread.

7402 It is important that a visible presence on the streets of Glasgow clearly states that there is no place in Scotland for ethnic division.

7403 **I would move that we support this event, send a letter of support to the organizers and the Chief Executive be instructed to take the necessary action to publicise the event throughout West Dunbartonshire**

NOTICES OF MOTION

7404 **In accordance with Standing Order No 8, the undernoted motions were submitted for consideration by Council:-**

(a) Motion by Councillor Jim Bollan – Transfer of Tenancies

7405 **This Council agrees to hold a postal ballot of all West Dunbartonshire Council housing tenants before 31 March 2006, seeking tenants' express approval on whether they favour a transfer to another landlord, or they wish to remain as a West Dunbartonshire Council housing tenant.**

7406 **Councillor Bollan was heard in support of his motion which was seconded by Councillor McLaughlin.**

7407 **As an amendment, Councillor Flynn, seconded by Councillor White moved:-**

7408 This Administration is committed to its tenants making the final decision on a stock transfer to another landlord. We are also committed to ensuring that our tenants have all the facts before they are asked to make any decision on stock transfer.

7409 The Council has not made a decision on whether or not it should apply for entry to the Community Ownership Programme. If it decides to apply, and if it is accepted onto the programme, there will be a clear route laid out by Communities Scotland which will be open and transparent. Tenants will receive independent advice on what a transfer will mean for them, and they will have a vote in a secret ballot.

7410 Tenants cannot and should not be rushed into making decisions without all the information. This is exactly what will happen if we asked our tenants to vote by March next year.

7411 On a vote being taken, 14 Members voted for the amendment and 5 for the motion. Accordingly, the amendment was declared carried.

(b) Motion by Councillor George Black- Telecommunication Masts

- 7412 **The explosion in telecommunications has led to considerable pressures on councils to approve more and more mast applications.**
- 7413 **For some, the jury is still out on the safety concerns for others the intrusion of these masts is cause enough for concern.**
- 7414 **It is important that this Council minimises the impact and where possible controls the location of such masts.**
- 7415 **This Council therefore resolves to research the position of other Scottish Local Authorities with a view to adopting a more pragmatic approach to granting permission for the erection of phone masts and associated equipment.**
- 7416 **Officers are therefore instructed to write to all Scottish authorities and determine their policy on telecommunications masts. Once received officers should prepare a report to the first available full Council on a policy for the control of such masts, using the best practices from other local authorities.**
- 7417 **Councillor Black was heard in support of his motion, which was seconded by Councillor McLaughlin.**
- 7418 **As an amendment, Councillor McAllister, seconded by Councillor Agnew, moved as follows:-**
- 7419 **This Council currently operates best practice with regard to its dealings with telecommunication proposals and standing, thus no further action is required.**
- 7420 **On a vote being taken, 14 Members voted for the amendment and 5 for the motion. Accordingly, the amendment was declared carried.**

The meeting closed at 4.52 p.m.