

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU

18 March 2008

MEETING: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

**WEDNESDAY 26 MARCH 2008
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CLYDEBANK TOWN HALL
DUMBARTON ROAD
CLYDEBANK**

Dear Member,

Please attend a Meeting of **West Dunbartonshire Council** to be held in the **Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank, on Wednesday, 26 March 2008 at 7.00 p.m.**

The business is as shown on the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

DAVID MCMILLAN

Chief Executive

Distribution:-

All Members of West Dunbartonshire Council.

Chief Executive

Executive Director of Corporate Services

Executive Director of Educational Services

Executive Director of Social Work and Health

Executive Director of Housing, Environmental & Economic Development

For information on the following agenda please contact George Hawthorn, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, G82 3PU on Tel: (01389) 737204 or e-mail: george.hawthorn@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 26 MARCH 2008

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Submit, for approval as a correct record, the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 27 February 2008.

3. GREATER GLASGOW & CLYDE NHS BOARD – VALE OF LEVEN HOSPITAL

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council on 19 December 2007, when it was agreed that the Chair and the Chief Executive of Greater Glasgow & Clyde NHS Board be invited to attend a meeting of this Council, Mr Tom Divers, Chief Executive and Dr. Brian Cowan, Medical Director, will be in attendance.

4. OPEN FORUM

The Council is asked to note that no open forum questions have been submitted for consideration at this meeting.

5. MINUTES OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE ON 20 FEBRUARY 2008

Submit for information, and where necessary ratification, the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held on 12 December 2007.

6. CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES
(Pages 51 - 53)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services asking the Council to consider making changes to nominations to outside bodies and to note changes to the membership of committees.

7. BUDGET 2008/2009 – ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENTAL SAVINGS

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council on 27 February 2008, submit report by the Chief Executive providing details of the way in which the Chief Executive and the Council's Corporate Management Team (CMT) propose to address the budget decision to identify a further 1% efficiency savings by April 2009 and describing the impact of this activity.

8. RENTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE, RENTON

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council on 27 February 2008, Council is asked to note that, to date, the Council's Legal Section has not heard back from the solicitors representing the Renton Community Development Trust and therefore it was not possible to submit a report to this meeting.

The Council is asked to note that a report will be submitted as soon as a response is received.

9. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: WE CAN AND MUST DO MUCH BETTER – THE CORPORATE PARENTING FUNCTION

Submit joint report by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health and Executive Director of Educational Services providing the Council with information on the Report "Looked After Children and Young People – We Can And Must Do Much Better".

10. DRUG AND ALCOHOL REHABILITATION

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council on 19 December 2007, submit report by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health providing an overview of the scope of drug and alcohol rehabilitation in West Dunbartonshire and highlighting deficits in the current service provision.

11. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

Submit report by the Chief Executive presenting the first draft of the new Single Outcome Agreement and making recommendations thereon.

12. PRIORITY AREAS FOR REGENERATION

Submit report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development on the findings of the Housing Regeneration Working Group in relation to priority areas for regeneration.

13. CIVIC QUARTER DEVELOPMENT, CLYDEBANK

Submit report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development updating the Council on progress to date with respect to proposals for the creation of a civic quarter within Clydebank and to recommend the next steps aimed at progressing this project.

14. COUNCIL LOCAL ADVERTISING CONTRACT

Submit report by the Chief Executive on the Council's Advertising Contract and how this can be expanded to include all local media, maximise audience reach and remain cost-effective.

15. QUESTION

(a) Question to Councillor May Smillie from Councillor Patrick McGlinchey - Phase-Two Regeneration

Can the Convener of Education please give the Council a full and detailed update of the work undertaken by her with regards to the phase-two schools regeneration consultation? In particular, please list which schools and which community groups have thus far been consulted, and what form the consultation took place in.

16. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Motion by Councillor Jim Bollan – Taxi Card Scheme

This Council agrees to research and collate information in relation to the introduction of a "Taxi Card Scheme" which can be used by persons across West Dunbartonshire who have severe mobility problems which do not allow them to travel safely or comfortably on public transport. A "Taxi Card" entitles the holder to travel by taxi at a reduced rate.

Officers should look at any other schemes being operated and bring forward a report to the June 2008 Council meeting for consideration. The report should detail how such a scheme may operate within West Dunbartonshire.

In preparing the report officers should consult with all appropriate groups in West Dunbartonshire to seek their views.

(b) Motion by Councillor Geoff Calvert – A Place for Milton

Note: The Council is asked to note that, in terms of Standing Order No 24, the suspension of Standing Order No 15 is required prior to consideration of the undernoted item as a period of six months has not passed since a decision was taken in respect of this matter.

This Council notes the support being offered to the community of Milton in order to assist them in delivering a community meeting place in the village. This Council commends the Bowling and Milton Community Council for its initiative in contacting every resident in Milton with a view to addressing community issues and identifying volunteers to take forward this worthwhile project.

As a consequence, a Residents' Action Group, under the auspices of the Community Council, has been formed and it held its first meeting on Thursday 6th March. With this Action Group in place, it is appropriate that this Council lends its support.

Therefore, this Council requests that the Chief Executive instructs that a Feasibility Study, resulting in a robust delivery plan, be carried out. It is anticipated that Consultants will require to be involved and Council understands that a tendering exercise is likely to be necessary. In assembling detail required for inclusion in any tendering documentation, this Council requires full consultation to be carried out with the Action Group and that a condition of the Feasibility Study be that Consultants consult widely with as many residents as possible.

In recognition that Council has provided funding within the revenue estimates for the next three years, all costs of the Feasibility Study are to be met within existing budgets.

Finally, this Council requests the Chief Executive to bring forward a progress report to the June meeting of the Council.

(c) Motion by Councillor Patrick McGlinchey - Professional Counselling Service Pilot Scheme Clydebank High School

Council notes that all schools in East Dunbartonshire offer a professional counselling service to those pupils who feel they need it, provided through Strathclyde University.

Council notes that only Clydebank High School within West Dunbartonshire has offered their pupils access to a professional counselling service over the last four years. This service has proven exceptionally popular, with the feedback from pupils reinforcing how much it is valued and needed.

Council also notes that the offering of professional counselling to all pupils who need it is not the policy of the Education Department; rather, this service has previously been funded from Clydebank High's own devolved budget.

Council further notes that due to budget pressures there is no longer money available in the Clydebank High devolved budget to be able to provide this much used, valuable and needed service. Additionally, Council notes that Clydebank High Parent Council have taken the position that they shall lobby to save this service as they believe it is in the best interests of the school and their children.

In the knowledge that there are pupils who now rely on this service, Council resolves that funding will be made available to retain the professional counselling service at Clydebank High, and that this will be monitored as a West Dunbartonshire pilot project with the option of rolling it out throughout the local authority in the next financial year if successful.

(d) Motion by Councillor Patrick McGlinchey - School University Twinning

This Council believes:-

- The transition from high school to further or high education should be made as easy as possible for those who aspire to make it.
- That this is especially important for pupils from areas of high deprivation due to the additional barriers they face in getting a place at university and often still face once at university.

This Council notes:-

- The below average Higher Education rate of entry from West Dunbartonshire pupils.
- The below average results at both Standard Grade and Higher for pupils in West Dunbartonshire

- That most universities have widening participation policies which set targets and encourage young people from deprived backgrounds to apply to university.

In light of this, this Council resolves:-

- That we will explore the viability of developing a mutually beneficial school-university twinning scheme in West Dunbartonshire as a pilot project.
- As an example only; the physics department at Dumbarton High School could be twinned with the physics department at Glasgow University.
- Possible benefits could include such things as:-
 - The Higher physics class visiting the physics department at the university.
 - The Higher physics pupils receiving guest lectures from university professors.
 - A subject specific buddying scheme between school pupils and university students.
 - Lending of resources from the university to the school.
 - Research updates to school staff; keeping their knowledge up-to-date.
 - Teacher-lecture forum on teaching techniques, etc.

(e) Motion by Councillor Ronnie McColl– Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board

This Council is concerned that once again Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board has seen fit to attack jobs and service provision at the Vale of Leven Hospital.

This Council has no confidence in the Health Board's ability or willingness to protect and deliver for staff or the people of West Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute.

This Council agrees that it is time for political intervention. We see it as the only way to halt the systematic and clinical destruction of our hospital and the services and jobs it provides to our community.

Therefore, Council instructs the Leader of the Council to seek an early meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Health & Wellbeing, Nicola Sturgeon, to seek her assistance with this matter.

This should be a cross party Council delegation to include the Leader of the Council, Local Government Spokesperson for Health & Wellbeing, Leader of the Opposition, One Other Member and the relevant officers.

(f) Motion by Councillor Jonathan McColl – Free to Use Cash Machines

Council notes the Prime Minister and Chancellor's plans to change legislation surrounding the printing of currency, which Scottish banks have indicated would effectively mean the loss of Scottish notes.

Council is troubled by what is yet another attack on Scotland's identity.

Council notes with extreme concern that research undertaken suggests that this decision would have the knock on effect of rendering around 300 free to use cash machines in Scotland unviable.

Given John McFall MP's claims to have secured free to use cash machines in West Dunbartonshire, Council notes with extreme concern the duplicity exhibited by John McFall MP, who in his position as Chairman of the Treasury Select Committee, has been a leading figure in the development of policy in the fallout from the Northern Rock debacle.

As with John McFall's votes to close Post Offices, we once again see our Westminster representative ignoring the needs of his constituents. Council instructs the Leader of the Council to write to John McFall MP asking him to explain his actions.