

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held within the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 29 March 2000 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Provost Alistair Macdonald (LAB) and Councillors James McElhill (SNP), Daniel McCafferty (LAB), John Syme (LAB), Andrew White (LAB), Anthony Devine (LAB), Ian McDonald (SNP), Duncan McDonald (LAB), Linda McColl (LAB), Iain Robertson (SNP), Geoffrey Calvert (LAB & CO-OP), James McCallum (LAB & CO-OP), John Trainer (LAB), James Bollan (SSP), Craig McLaughlin (SNP), Ronald McColl (SNP), Margaret McGregor (SNP), James Flynn (LAB) and Connie O'Sullivan (LAB).

Attending: Tim Huntingford, Chief Executive; Eric Walker, Director of Corporate Services; Ian McMurdo, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Dan Henderson, Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services; David McMillan, Director of Commercial and Technical Services; Alexis Jay, Director of Social Work and Housing; Stephen Brown, Manager - Legal and Administrative Services and Joe Reilly, Principal Officer (Resources).

Apologies for Absence: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Mary Campbell (LAB), Mary Collins (LAB) and John McCutcheon (SNP).

Provost Alistair Macdonald in the Chair

ORDER OF BUSINESS

In terms of Standing Order 6, Provost Macdonald determined that (i) the presentation of a Certificate of Merit for outstanding contributions to Health and Safety in the Workplace; and (ii) a presentation by the J & B Task Force should precede normal business.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

PRESENTATION OF "CERTIFICATE OF MERIT" FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO HEALTH AND SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE

There was submitted report by the Director of Corporate Services advising of the successful nomination of Mr William McFadden, Traffic Officer, Transport Section of the Commercial and Technical Services Department for the award of a "Certificate of Merit" for his contribution to health and safety in the workplace.

Provost Macdonald welcomed Mr McFadden to the meeting and congratulated him on his commitment in managing the risk assessment process and the development and implementation of control measures relating to the area of work within his remit.

Provost Macdonald at this point invited Mr McFadden to accept the "Certificate of Merit" with the Council's thanks and appreciation.

Mr McFadden thanked Provost Macdonald for the award and thereafter left the meeting.

PRESENTATION BY J&B TASK FORCE

Provost Macdonald welcomed Mr John McFall MP and the other members of the J & B Task Force to the meeting.

Mr McFall introduced Messrs Allan McQuade, Ken Robertson, Tom Woods, Gwyn Furlong, Dave Anderson, Tony Davies and John Toal and proceeded to remind the Council of the background to the establishment of the Task Force and the importance placed throughout on a partnership approach. It was reported that owing to the commitment and co-operation of the private and public bodies and the Trades Unions involved, the company Enterprise plc had been established which was a major step forward.

At this point in the meeting Mr McFall handed over to Allan McQuade who proceeded to give a presentation outlining the plan and proposals to deal with the effects of the closure of the J & B Bottling Plant at Dumbarton and the likely benefits to arise from the action proposed.

Following the presentation, the members of the Task Force answered questions from elected members.

ADJOURNMENT

After further discussion, Provost Macdonald thanked the representatives of the J & B Task Force for their efforts and for taking the trouble to come along to address the meeting and suggested that the Council adjourn for a period of ten minutes to allow members to raise any further related issues with those representatives.

The Council agreed accordingly and the members of the delegation left the meeting.

The Council resumed a short time thereafter those present being as shown in the sederunt.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 23 February 2000 were submitted for approval.

In connection with the item entitled 'Review of Senior Management Structures' (**Volume page 5516 refers**) Councillor Bollan intimated that he wished it recorded in the minutes that he had abstained from voting on this item.

On the motion of Provost Macdonald, seconded by Councillor Trainer, the minutes were approved.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

Tendering Committee - 22 February 2000

The minutes of meeting of the Tendering Committee held on 22 February 2000 were submitted for approval.

In connection with the item entitled 'Installation of Thermostatic Radiator Valves - Phase 2' (**Volume page 5533 refers**) Councillor Bollan referred to the investigation currently being carried out into the work done by the successful contractor, and suggested that no further contracts be placed there meantime.

On the motion of Provost Macdonald, seconded by Councillor Ronald McColl, the minutes were approved.

Councillor Bollan recorded his dissent.

Special Environmental Protection and Leisure Services Committee - 22 February 2000

The minutes of meeting of the Special Environmental Protection and Leisure Services Committee held on 22 February 2000 were submitted for approval.

On the motion of Councillor Ronald McColl, seconded by Councillor Duncan McDonald, the minutes were approved.

Personnel Sub-Committee - 23 February 2000

The minutes of meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 23 February 2000 were submitted and approved on the motion of Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Calvert.

Finance Committee - 23 February 2000

The minutes of meeting of the Finance Committee held on 23 February 2000 were submitted for approval.

On the motion of Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor White, the Council approved the minutes on the basis that in connection with the item entitled 'Scottish Community Enterprise Investment Fund plc (SCEIF)' (**Volume page 5549 refers**) the Leaders of the Labour and SNP Groups, Councillor Bollan and the Trades Unions would meet to consider the principle of making a donation to the Campaign.

Policy and Resources Committee - 23 February 2000

The minutes of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 23 February 2000 were submitted and approved on the motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Trainer.

Information Services Committee - 23 February 2000

The minutes of meeting of the Information Services Committee held on 23 February 2000 were submitted and approved on the motion of Councillor McCallum, seconded by Councillor Trainer.

Special Housing Committee - 23 February 2000

The minutes of meeting of the Special Housing Committee held on 23 February 2000 were submitted and approved on the motion of Councillor Flynn, seconded by Councillor White.

Millennium Events Committee - 6 March 2000

The minutes of meeting of the Millennium Events Committee held on 6 March 2000 were submitted and approved on the motion of Provost Macdonald, seconded by Councillor Linda McColl.

Tendering Committee - 8 March 2000

The minutes of meeting of the Tendering Committee held on 8 March 2000 were submitted and approved on the motion of Provost Macdonald, seconded by Councillor Flynn.

Social Work Committee - 8 March 2000

The minutes of meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 8 March 2000 were submitted and approved on the motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Syme.

Housing Committee - 8 March 2000

The minutes of meeting of the Housing Committee held on 8 March 2000 were submitted and approved on the motion of Councillor Flynn, seconded by Councillor Syme.

Special Planning and Economic Development Committee - 8 March 2000

The minutes of meeting of the Special Planning and Economic Development Committee held on 8 March 2000 were submitted and approved.

Special Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council - 9 March 2000

The minutes of the special meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 9 March 2000 were submitted and approved.

Community Initiatives Committee - 10 March 2000

The minutes of meeting of the Community Initiatives Committee held on 10 March 2000 were submitted for approval.

It was agreed that the minutes be approved and that it be formally resolved that the Revised Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils (**Volume page 5671 refers**) be adopted.

**The following minutes were submitted for information:-
Appeals Committee held on 16 March 2000**

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME 2000/01 (NON-HOUSING AND NON-HRA)

There was submitted report by the Chief Executive providing an update in relation to the Non-Housing and Non-HRA Capital Expenditure Programme 2000/01 on the basis of the provisional figures received to date from the Scottish Executive.

The Council, agreed to note the report and that a further report would be submitted to Council once more detailed information was available.

Councillor Bollan recorded his dissent.

REVIEW OF MEASURED TERM CONTRACT: HOUSING REPAIRS

With reference to the minutes of meeting of Council held on 23 February 2000 (**Volume page 5519 refers**) there was submitted report by the Chief Executive providing information on the Housing Revenue Account repair budget and describing action taken to prevent substantial variances occurring in future.

The Council agreed that:-

This Council remains concerned about the reasons behind the substantial housing repairs budget variance that was discussed at the January Council meeting. This Council agrees that any reoccurrence of this serious situation would be unacceptable.

This Council therefore resolves to put in place a working group of six Councillors (4 Labour, 2 Opposition) with relevant officer support. The group using the Chief Executive's report as a starting point, will have a remit to further examine the reasons for the budget variance and monitor the measures to be taken by officers of the Council to ensure that this situation will not be allowed to recur in the future. Should Councillor Bollan also wish to take part in the working group, the membership should be extended to 5 Labour, 2 Opposition members and Councillor Bollan.

ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION ACT 1999

With reference to the minutes of meeting of the Housing Committee held on 12 January 2000 (**Volume page 5428 refers**) there was submitted report by the Chief Executive apprising members of the implications of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1999 and of the progress to date on appropriate preparations in West Dunbartonshire.

The Council noted the current arrangements in place to co-ordinate any response to asylum seekers in West Dunbartonshire and that a further report would be submitted to Council to keep members advised of implications as the situation developed.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR STRUCTURAL FUNDS NOMINATION TO PROGRAMME MONITORING COMMITTEES

There was submitted report by the Director of Corporate Services inviting the Council to consider making a nomination to the European Structural Fund Programme Monitoring Committees which were to be established for each of the 5 new European Structural Fund Programmes for Scotland.

The Council agreed that Councillor Connie O'Sullivan be nominated for appointment to one of the European Structural Fund Programme Monitoring Committees.

ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS 1998/99

There was submitted report by the Director of Corporate Services on the audited Abstract of Accounts for the year to 31 March 1999. A copy of the document was attached to the report.

Having heard the Director of Corporate Services, the Council agreed to note the Abstract of Accounts for the Year to 31 March 1999.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS' FINAL REPORT TO MEMBERS 1998/99

There was submitted report by the Director of Corporate Services advising that the Auditors had prepared their Final Report to Members 1998/99 arising from their completion of the audit of the Council's 1998/99 Annual Accounts. A copy of this document was attached to the report.

The Council noted the report and agreed that the Director of Corporate Services prepare a more detailed report addressing specific points highlighted by the Auditors and the additional points raised at this meeting for submission to a future meeting.

AUTHORITIES BUYING CONSORTIUM TRUST - PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO MINUTE OF AGREEMENT AMONG MEMBER COUNCILS

There was submitted report by the Director of Corporate Services advising of a proposed amendment to the Minute of Agreement among member authorities of the Authorities Buying Consortium Trust which would alter the contribution rates of member authorities to the Trust.

The Council agreed to approve the request received from the Authorities Buying Consortium Joint Committee regarding the alteration to the contribution rate.

COUNCIL ADVERTISING CONTRACT 2000/2001

There was submitted report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations seeking permission to invite local newspapers to submit bids for a Council advertising contract for 2000/2001.

The Council agreed that invitations to tender for the Council advertising contract be issued to local newspaper publishers based on the specification contained in the report.

NATIONAL STRATEGY TO ADDRESS DOMESTIC ABUSE

There was submitted report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations requesting approval to submit a response on behalf of West Dunbartonshire Council to the Scottish Partnership on Domestic Abuse's draft strategy to address domestic abuse in Scotland. A suggested response was attached.

The Council agreed to approve the proposed response for submission to the Scottish Partnership on Domestic Abuse.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION TOWARDS AN EQUALITY STRATEGY

There was submitted report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations requesting approval to submit a response on behalf of West Dunbartonshire Council to the Scottish Executive's consultation paper "Towards an Equality Strategy". A suggested response was attached.

The Council agreed to approve the draft response to the Scottish Executive consultation document.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL: A NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY

There was submitted report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services containing information on recent developments in rolling out the New Community Schools Initiative across schools within West Dunbartonshire Council and making recommendations thereon.

The Council commended all the work done on this issue and agreed:-

- (a) to note the report and the letters from the Scottish Executive Education Department;
- (b) to approve, in principle, the proposals set out in the report; and
- (c) to approve the submission of bids to the Scottish Executive Education Department for the additional funding potentially available as outlined in the report.

BOUNDARY BETWEEN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE/ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCILS AT ARDOCH SEWAGE WORKS: REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 14(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1993

There was submitted report by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services advising of an official boundary review between West Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute Councils at Ardoch Sewage Works and making recommendations thereon.

The Council agreed to authorise the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services to write to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland giving support to the boundary proposals.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE APPEALS COMMITTEE OF THE DUNBARTONSHIRE & ARGYLL AND BUTE VALUATION JOINT BOARD

The Council was advised that a request had been received for the Council to consider appointing two members of the Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute Valuation Joint Board to the above Appeals Committee.

Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Trainer, moved that one Labour member (Councillor Mary Campbell) and one SNP member be nominated.

As an amendment, Councillor Ronald McColl, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, moved that 2 Labour members be appointed.

On a vote being taken, 6 members voted for the amendment and 12 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

SLGIU - CONFERENCE “EXECUTIVES OR COMMITTEES: LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE”

There was submitted invitation for the Council to be represented at a one-day conference, “Executives Or Committees: Learning From Experience” to be held on 13 April 2000 in Glasgow.

The Council agreed that 2 Labour members and 1 Opposition member be nominated to attend.

FORMER TENANT ARREARS - WRITE OFFS

There was submitted report by the Acting Head of Housing seeking approval for former tenant arrears write-offs for the year 1999/2000.

The Council agreed to approve the cases specified in the report for write-off.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Council agreed to pass the following Resolution:-

“That under Section 50A(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 involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 2, of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

**FORMER TENANT ARREARS - WRITE OFFS
(DECEASED AND UNREASONABLE TO PURSUE)**

There was submitted report by the Acting Head of Housing making recommendations in respect of the write-offs of former tenant arrears for sums in excess of £500 in respect of cases where the arrears were deemed unreasonable to pursue or irrecoverable due to the death of the tenant.

The Council agreed to approve the cases specified in this report for write-off.

CONFERENCE

ADSW Annual Conference - Hilton Dunblane Hydro, Perthshire - 9/12 May 2000

There were submitted details of the ADSW Annual Conference to be held in Dunblane on 9/12 May 2000.

The Council agreed that Councillor Trainer (or substitute) be authorised to attend.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.