

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Community Initiatives Committee held in the Vale of Leven Academy, Alexandria on Friday, 28th April, 2000 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Linda McColl (LAB), Tony Devine (LAB)(substituting for Councillor Andrew White (LAB)), Ian McDonald (SNP) and James Bollan (SSP).

Also Present: June Todd and Murdoch Cameron, West Dunbartonshire Community Council Forum, Hugh Coll, Elderly Forum, Margaret Morrison, Forum on Disability, Frances McGonagle, Lone Parent Group and Brian Rocks, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum.

Attending: Mary Cullen, Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations, Anne Laird, Chief Administrative Officer and Morag Dalziel, Solicitor.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors John Syme (LAB), Daniel McCafferty (LAB), Mary Collins (LAB), John Trainer (LAB) and George Cochrane, Voluntary Forum.

Public Gallery: 6 members of the public present.

Councillor Linda McColl in the Chair

PRESENTATION - VALE OF LEVEN HOSPITAL

Councillor McColl introduced Mrs. Joyce Gill, Directorate Manager at the Vale of Leven Hospital, to those present and advised that Mrs. Gill would be giving a presentation on the remodelling exercise of the Vale of Leven Hospital which was currently being carried out by the Argyll and Clyde Acute NHS Trust.

Mrs. Gill advised that six working groups had been set up comprising of, amongst others, front-line staff, community representatives, GPs and Social Work staff to examine specific areas relating to the Hospital and make recommendations to a Steering Group.

She stated that the objective was to set out a 5-10 year plan which outlined:-

- 1 the clinical services to be provided;
- 2 the design of services;
- 3 the role of patients, and primary and secondary care;
- 4 a statement on how the hospital met the actual care needs of the local population; and
- 5 considered and planned investment

It was hoped that the plan would be finalised within the next 2 months.

Following questions, the Convener thanked Mrs. Gill for attending the meeting and giving an informative presentation. Mrs. Gill then left the meeting.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY PLAN

There was submitted report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations advising of the progress made on the development of West Dunbartonshire's Community Plan.

The Head of Corporate Policy advised that a Community Planning Co-ordinator had been appointed who would be overseeing the production of the draft plan and the consultation period. It was proposed to make the consultation as wide as possible, targeting community groups, agency networks and the general public in West Dunbartonshire. It was intended that an explanatory leaflet would be sent to every household in West Dunbartonshire.

Following discussion, the Committee noted that the Community Plan was presently being finalised and an Action Plan added and that a presentation on the draft Plan would be made to the Community Initiatives Committee on 2nd June, 2000.

THE ACCESSIBILITY OF WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

There was submitted report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations outlining the findings of an access audit of four Council buildings and proposing how the audit report's recommendations might be implemented.

The Head of Corporate Policy advised that the report had been considered by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 19th April, 2000 when it was noted that a Disability Working Group was being established to prepare a report on timescales and budget implications for implementing the audit's recommendations.

Following discussion, the Committee noted the contents of the report and that copies of the audit report could be obtained from the Corporate Policy Section. It was also agreed that members of the Community Initiatives Committee would be invited to attend a presentation on the access report by Jane Douglas of the RNID.

CONSULTATION ON THE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT BILL

There was submitted report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations informing of the Council's response to the Scottish Executive's proposals as outlined in the Integrated Transport Bill.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) that a short-term working group be established with the remit of identifying gaps in the transport system within West Dunbartonshire and producing a plan specific to this area which could be submitted to the Scottish Parliament;
- (b) that the working group include other relevant organisations; and

- (c) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

**MCINTOSH COMMISSION - REPORT ON MEMBER/OFFICER
WORKING GROUP DEVELOPMENT OF AN EXECUTIVE/SCRUTINY
MODEL OF DECISION MAKING**

There was submitted report by the Chief Executive updating on the progress made by the member/officer working group on the McIntosh Report; proposing the development of an Executive/Scrutiny decision making structure for West Dunbartonshire Council; and outlining proposals for consultation with the community and other stakeholders.

Following consideration and discussion, it was agreed:-

- (a) to note the initial period of consultation on the introduction of an Executive/Scrutiny model of local governance during May and June 2000 (as outlined in paragraph 11 of Appendix 1 to the report) with further consultation once the new system was operational; and
- (b) that Committee members, in conjunction with their organisations, give more detailed consideration to the proposals for an Executive/Scrutiny system of decision making, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report. It was suggested that this should take place during May 2000, and that community members report back to the next meeting of the Community Initiatives Committee on Friday, 2nd June, 2000.

OPEN FORUM: 10TH MARCH, 2000 - RESPONSES

There was submitted report by the Director of Corporate Services providing an update on issues raised by members of the public during the Open Forum of the Community Initiatives Committee meeting held on 10th March, 2000.

The following responses were noted:-

- (a) Community Council Forum Resource Unit - PCs

Following comment by a member of the Committee, a request was logged with the Information Services Helpdesk to obtain advice on the configuration of the PCs used by the Community Council Forum Resource Unit in Rosebery Place, Clydebank. An officer from Information Services attended and provided the advice requested.

- (b) Concessionary Travel - 10 mile limit

As agreed by the Committee a letter was sent to the Minister for Transport and the Environment requesting that consideration be given to the replacement of the existing concessionary 10 mile travel limit with a universal journey. Copies were sent to the

Convener of the Transport Committee and West Dunbartonshire MSPs for information.

A response has since been received from Des McNulty MSP stating that he is keen to see an extension of the concessionary travel and the Minister has indicated that it is her objective to create a national scheme of concessionary travel in line with the views of the Community Initiatives Committee. Mr. McNulty has assured that he will be doing all he can as a member of the Transport Committee to pursue that objective as quickly as possible.

CLYDEBANK EAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

There was submitted report by the Director of Corporate Services providing an update on the current status of Clydebank East Community Council.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend to Council that it formally resolves to dissolve Clydebank East Community Council in terms of Section 15(2) of the Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee considered various issues raised during the Open Forum session as shown in the Appendix to these Minutes.

The meeting closed at 4.00 p.m.

OPEN FORUM

Members of the public present - 6

McIntosh Commission - Report On Member/Officer Working Group Development Of An Executive/Scrutiny Model Of Decision Making

Mr. McFarlane referred to the proposed public consultation to be carried out on the development of an Executive/Scrutiny model of decision making for West Dunbartonshire Council. He felt that the public seminars being held must address what he considered to be a move towards a local democracy with little accountability.

Concessionary Travel - 10 mile limit

It was agreed that a reminder be sent to the Minister of Transport and the Environment regarding the replacement of the concessionary '10 mile limit' with a universal journey system.

Lomond Shores Development, Balloch

Reference was made to the policing of Balloch once the Lomond Shores project is complete. Sergeant Saxon confirmed that this matter would be addressed by Strathclyde Police.

First Glasgow - Bus Service Nos. 81 and 82, Hardgate, Clydebank

Reference was made to the First Glasgow service Nos. 81 and 82 which run along Breval Crescent. Councillor McDonald claimed that residents in that area felt that there was no requirement for the services to use Breval Crescent as there appeared to be little demand. It was agreed that this matter be raised with First Glasgow and the over-provision highlighted.