

COMMUNITY SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Safety & Environmental Services Committee held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 6 October 2004 at 11.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Geoff Calvert, Gail Casey, Jack Duffy, Linda McColl and Duncan McDonald.

Attending: Dan Henderson, Director of Development and Environmental Services; David McMillan, Director of Housing and Technical Services; Ronnie Dinnie, Head of Roads, Transport and Environmental Services; John McKerracher, Head of Technical Services; Angus Bodie, Manager of Transportation; David McCulloch, Section Head, (Trading Standards); Alistair Young, Solicitor and Shona Barton, Administrative Assistant.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Provost Alistair Macdonald and Councillor Jim Bollan.

APPOINTMENT OF CONVENER

3900 Councillor O'Sullivan advised that due to a rotation of the Conveners of Council Committees, that the Committee would be required to appoint a new Convener. Thereafter, the Committee unanimously agreed to appoint Councillor Duncan McDonald as Convener of the Committee. Accordingly Councillor McDonald took the Chair.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3901 The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 4 August 2004 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

MAINTAINING HOUSES – PRESERVING HOMES CONSULTATION

3902 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing a suggested response to consultation document issued by the Scottish Executive entitled "Maintaining Houses – Preserving Homes".

3903 Having heard Councillor McDonald, the Committee agreed to remit this item to the next meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council for consideration.

PAYING FOR WATER SERVICES 2006 – 2010

- 3904 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services recommending the Council's formal response to the Scottish Executive's consultation paper on the principles of charging for water services entitled "Paying for Water Services 2006 – 2010".
- 3905 Having heard Councillor McDonald, the Committee agreed to remit this item to the next meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council for consideration.

INVESTING IN WATER SERVICES 2006 - 2014 – THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS III PROJECT

- 3906 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services advising of a consultation paper issued by the Scottish Executive entitled "Investing in Water Services 2006-2014 – The Quality and Standards III Project" and recommending the Council's formal response.
- 3907 After discussion the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
 - (2) that the report and the accompanying Annex form the basis of the Council's response to the consultation.

CONSULTATION ON THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSUMER STRATEGY

- 3908 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services informing on the Government's proposals for a consumer strategy for the next ten years and seeking approval for a response to the consultation.
- 3909 Having heard Councillor O'Sullivan, the Committee agreed to approve the proposed response to the Department of Trade & Industry consultation document entitled "Extending Competitive Markets – Empowered Consumers, Successful Businesses".

TRADING STANDARDS – SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN

- 3910 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services seeking approval for a Service Delivery Plan for the Trading Standards Section for 2004/2005.
- 3911 Having heard Councillor O'Sullivan, the Committee agreed to approve the Service Delivery Plan for Trading Standards for 2004/2005.

BEST VALUE REVIEW OF TRADING STANDARDS' CONSUMER SUPPORT SERVICES

- 3912 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services informing that a Best Value review had been carried out on the Consumer Support Services provided by the Trading Standards Section and seeking approval for a Service Improvement Plan which addresses the findings of this review.
- 3913 Having heard Councillor O'Sullivan, the Committee agreed to approve the detailed Service Improvement Plan as set out in the Appendix to the report.

NEW LEGAL CONTROLS ON THE SALE OF FIREWORKS

- 3914 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services informing on the provisions of the new Fireworks Regulations 2004 and their impact on West Dunbartonshire Council.
- 3915 Having heard Councillor O'Sullivan, and the Section Head, Trading Standards in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
 - (2) to note that West Dunbartonshire Council was still in favour of a complete ban on the supply of Fireworks, but accepts the more stringent regulations which have been put in place by the Government.

BUDGETARY CONTROL

- 3916 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services informing on how the budgets controlled by the Development and Environmental Services Department are performing against projections for the period up until 15 August 2004.
- 3917 Having heard Councillor O'Sullivan, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

HALDANE GREEN CORRIDOR PHASE 2

- 3918 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services advising that Land Engineering (Scotland) Limited have been appointed as the main contractor for the Haldane Green Corridor Phase 2 project.
- 3919 Having heard Councillor O'Sullivan, the Committee agreed to note the letting of the contract for the Haldane Green Corridor Phase 2 project, with a value of £96,787.32, to Land Engineering (Scotland) Limited.

FLOOD PREVENTION – GRUGGIES BURN AND KNOWLE BURN

3920 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services providing an update on the results of recent studies into flooding around Gruggies Burn and Knowle Burn, Dumbarton.

3921 After discussion and having heard officers in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the summary of the Consultant's reports concerning possible solutions to resolve the long-standing flooding problems in Dumbarton due to Gruggies Burn and Knowle Burn as detailed in the report;
- (2) to instruct officers to commence with further survey work followed by initial Flood Prevention Order (FPO) procedures for Knowle Burn and Gruggies Burn to determine a final preferred option for storage and defence works, and in due course progress to detailed FPO stage - £60,000 funded from the 2004/2005 Capital Programme for Flood Prevention and additional funding from subsequent years' Capital budgets; and
- (3) to note that the Director of Housing and Technical Services would introduce increased maintenance procedures to both burns to include inspection and clearance of extraneous materials and overgrown vegetation on a twice-yearly basis, funded from the Roads Revenue account.

DISABILITY ACCESS AUDIT PROGRESS IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS

3922 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services advising of progress to date in carrying out Disability Access Audits to identify and plan to meet the Council's obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

3923 Having heard Councillor McDonald, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

INCREASING EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

3924 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services advising of the successful implementation of a scheme to provide employees of West Dunbartonshire Council with discounted opportunities to participate in physical activity at the Council's indoor leisure facilities.

3925 After discussion, the Committee agreed to note the success of the employee Cosmopolitan health and fitness scheme in increasing physical activity amongst employees of West Dunbartonshire Council as part of the Council's commitment to promote employee health and well-being and maximise attendance.

THE PROVISION OF FREE SWIMMING FOR WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE SCHOOLCHILDREN DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS SUMMER 2004

- 3926 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services providing an update on the success of the scheme to provide free swimming in Council leisure facilities for schoolchildren of West Dunbartonshire during the school holidays of summer 2004.
- 3927 Having heard Councillor McDonald the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to note the success of this initiative to offer free swimming to West Dunbartonshire schoolchildren during the school holidays of summer 2004 and that all costs in connection would be absorbed within departmental budget; and
 - (2) to extend the free swimming initiative to the October school week in line with the budget projections as detailed in the report.

FINANCIAL REPORT PERIOD 4 2004/2005

- 3928 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services providing an update on the financial performance of the Housing and Technical Services Department to 15 August 2004 (Period 4).
- 3929 Having heard Councillor McDonald, the Committee noted the financial performance of the Housing and Technical Services Department.

OLD RENT OFFICE, LEVENVALE

- 3930 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services seeking approval to dispose of the property known as the Old Rent Office, Lansbury Street, Levenvale.
- 3931 Having heard Councillor McDonald the Committee agreed:-
- (1) that the Old Rent Office in Levenvale be declared surplus to the requirements of Housing and Technical Services;
 - (2) to authorise the Director of Development and Environmental Services to offer to lease the property to the Levenvale Older People's Welfare Association at a nominal annual rent for a period of 10 years on a full repairing and insuring lease subject to the availability of funding; and
 - (3) to authorise the Director of Housing and Technical Services to offer technical assistance to the lessees up to grant application stage as a contribution in kind to the project.

HALDANE LEISURE BARN, INLER PARK, TALBOT ROAD, HALDANE

3932 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services seeking approval to declare Haldane Leisure Barn surplus to the requirements of Housing and Technical Services and to implement necessary arrangements for disposal of the premises.

3933 The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to declare the premises of Haldane Leisure Barn, Inler Park, Talbot Road, Haldane surplus to the requirements of Housing and Technical Services; and
- (2) to authorise the Director of Housing and Technical Services to implement procedures to dispose of the premises via the Estates Section of the Department of Development and Environmental Services.

ATTAINMENT OF CHARTER MARK ACCREDITATION 2004 – ROADS SERVICES

3934 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services advising of the success of the Roads Services Section of Housing and Technical Services in achieving Charter Mark accreditation.

3935 The Committee noted the success of Roads Services in achieving Charter Mark accreditation during 2004.

WINTER MAINTENANCE STRATEGY DOCUMENT – OCTOBER 2004

3936 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services advising of the Council's statutory obligations under Section 34 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 and seeking approval of the Winter Maintenance Strategy Document – October 2004.

3937 Having heard Councillor McDonald, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the content of the report;
- (2) to delegate authority to the Director of Housing and Technical Services to provide assistance to Bear Scotland and Amey Highways, if requested, to keep the A82 Trunk Road open during severe weather; and
- (3) to approve the Winter Maintenance Strategy Document – October 2004.

The meeting closed at 11.22 a.m.