

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU

12 February 2010

MEETING: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

**WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2010
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
COUNCIL OFFICES
GARSHAKE ROAD
DUMBARTON**

Dear Member,

Please attend a Meeting of **West Dunbartonshire Council** to be held in the **Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, on Wednesday, 24 February 2010 at 6.00 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

Interim Executive Directors 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-dunbartonshire.gov.uk

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2010

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are invited to declare if they have an interest in any of the items of business on this agenda and state the reasons for such declarations.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Submit for approval as a correct record, the undernoted Minutes of Meetings of West Dunbartonshire Council:-

- (a) Ordinary Meeting held on 27 January 2010
- (b) Special Meeting held on 28 January 2010

4. OPEN FORUM

**Rose Harvie on behalf of the Silverton and Overtoun Community Council
– Funding for Overtoun House**

Following a report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development to the Housing Environment and Economic Development (HEED) Committee on 2 September 2009, Silverton and Overtoun Community Council submitted a Freedom of Information request to West Dunbartonshire Council, concerning funding applications by the tenant of Overtoun House. In a reply from Mr Jeff Stobo on 16 December 2009, we were informed that two grants had been made by WDC, but our request for evidence of spend was refused on the grounds that a) 'It is possible that the information was destroyed under the Council's document Retention Scheme, and b) 'the person who would have overseen the use of the grant at the time has since left the Council.' This is unacceptable, and we would suggest it may be against the Council's presumed policy of monitoring grants.

A request for information on any other grants applied for was refused, on grounds of Confidentiality - Section 36 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act. We accept that the Council feels bound by this legislation on the matter of confidentiality.

However, while Mr Stobo states that ‘there is no requirement on the part of any tenant to inform the Council of applications for grants’ we consider that the Council’s stewardship of Overtoun House includes a constant monitoring of the terms and conditions of the agreed Lease, and this ought to empower the council to *seek* information on the tenant’s attempts to obtain funding, in order to carry out the programme of works agreed under the Lease.

We do not feel that the Council is accepting its responsibility as the trustee of a publicly-owned Grade A listed building, gifted to the people of Dumbarton, lived in rent-free by the tenant and his family and bound by the terms of the Lease to carry out certain works. We refer to the report to the HEED Committee which stated that ‘the Centre (the tenant) have been unable to provide a definitive date for the completion of all renovation works involved in fulfilling their expected outcomes as listed.....and there is no estimate of completion of any further works.’

It is completely unacceptable that this situation be allowed to continue.

Will the Council now accept its responsibility as trustees of Overtoun House, and make every effort to determine what funding has been applied for, and with what success, by the tenant to complete the works required under the terms of the Lease?

**5. INTEGRATION OF NHS AND LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES
(Copy to follow)**

Reference is made to the Minutes of the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 28 October 2009 (pages 2274/5 refer), when it was agreed that the Chief Executive would meet with the Chief Executive of Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS Board to consider proposals for integration; and that the Chair of the Board be invited to meet with senior elected members to consider these proposals and provide regular reports on progress to Council.

In this connection, submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services detailing the work undertaken since October 2009 to consider proposals for greater integration between NHS services provided by Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS Board through its Community Health Partnership and Local Authority Social Work Services and seeking authority to further develop proposals for integration of services and structure.

Members are asked to note that Mr Andrew Robertson, Chairperson, Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS Board has been invited to the meeting to address the Council on the above.

6. CLYDE VALLEY SHARED SERVICES INITIATIVE (ARBUTHNOTT REPORT)

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 27 January 2010, submit report by the Chief Executive:-

- (a) providing the Council with information on the Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership (CVCPP) Review of Joint Working and Shared Opportunities (Arbuthnott Report); and
- (b) providing the Council with details of the proposed priorities and actions for West Dunbartonshire Council and requesting Council approval thereon.

7. REMIT FROM THE MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP ON THE REGENERATION OF THE SCHOOLS' ESTATE (PHASE 2) – THE RESULTS OF THE FORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSALS IN RESPECT OF THE CO-LOCATION OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE FAIFLEY AREA

With reference to the Meeting of the Member/Officer Working Group on the Regeneration of the Schools' Estate held on 3 February 2010, submit report by the Executive Director of Educational Services reporting on the outcomes of the formal consultation for the proposed co-location of a newly built Edinbarnet Primary School and St. Joseph's Primary School, together with an Integrated Early Years and Family Support Centre.

8. REMIT FROM THE MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP ON THE REGENERATION OF THE SCHOOLS' ESTATE (PHASE 2) – STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF ST. MARTIN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

With reference to the Meeting of the Member/Officer Working Group on the Regeneration of the Schools' Estate held on 3 February 2010, submit report by the Executive Director of Educational Services explaining why statutory consultation on the closure of St. Martin's Primary school has not proceeded as instructed by Council at its meeting on 16 December 2009

Note: Members are asked to note that the suspension of Standing Order 19 (a) will be required in order to consider this matter as a period of six months has not passed since a decision was taken to proceed with the Statutory Consultation.

9. BEST VALUE IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND EXTERNAL SUPPORT

Submit report by the Chief Executive on the progress of the Best Value Improvement Plan (BVIP) and reviewing progress towards engagement of external support.

10. REVIEW OF STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP AND DECISION MAKING PROCESSES

Submit report by the Chief Executive making recommendations on the revised structures for Strategic Leadership and Decision Making and 8 Strategic Priority Areas, which were introduced in 2009.

11. REVIEW OF THE SCHEME FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services on the arrangements for a review of the Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils and, in particular, the implications of adopting a Model Scheme prepared by the Scottish Government. This report has already been considered by the Community Participation Committee.

12. GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT – PERIOD 9 (2009/10)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services:-

- (a) advising the Council of the performance of the General Services Revenue Budget for the period to 15 January 2010; and
- (b) proposing a draft timetable for budgetary control reporting for 2010/11.

13. GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT – PERIOD 9 (2009/10)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services providing the Council with an update on the General Services Capital Plan 2009/2010 for the period to 15 January 2010.

14. GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PLAN 2010/11 (copy to follow)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services seeking approval of the General Services Capital Plan 2010/11.

15. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNTS 2009/2010 BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENTS TO 15 JANUARY 2010 (PERIOD 9)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development providing the Council with an update on the financial performance of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) up to the period ending 15 January 2010.

16. HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/2010 BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 15 JANUARY 2010 (PERIOD 9)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development advising the Council of progress of the HRA Capital Programme for the period to 15 January 2010.

17. HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11 (Copy to follow)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development seeking approval of HRA Capital Programme 2010/11.

18. QUESTIONS

(a) Question by Councillor Patrick McGlinchey to the Convener of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

Following the review carried out by an external consultant; the SNP has agreed a cut of £500,000 from the Education Budget in the 2010/11 Budget.

Will the Convener of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee advise Members when the Executive Director will be in a position to report to Members what services are being cut?

(b) Question by Councillor Douglas McAllister to the Convener of Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee

The SNP has introduced a new service charge of £48 a year for 2,500 elderly residents for the care of garden scheme which had traditionally been provided free by previous Labour Administrations.

How will the new charge be collected?

(c) Question by Councillor David McBride to the Convener of Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee

The SNP has introduced a new service charge of £15 for each Domestic Bulk Rubbish uplift which was traditionally provided free by the previous Labour Administrations.

How will the new charges be applied?

(d) Question by Councillor Douglas McAllister to the Convener of Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee

The SNP has imposed a new service charge of £1 per meal for Home Care to 570 housebound and elderly residents.

What steps will be taken to ensure that the service will be continued should the service user be unable to pay?

(e) Questions by Councillor John Millar to the Convener of the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee

The SNP has introduced a new service charge of £2.50 per trip for the 160 pensioners and adults with learning difficulties using day care facilities; this will raise £104,000 per year.

Is this charge per journey or per round trip?

How will the SNP Administration guarantee that the budgeted saving of £104,000 will be realised?

(f) Questions by Councillor Geoff Calvert to the Convener of the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee

The SNP introduced a new service charge on people with mobility problems. The 500 clients will be required to pay for 50% of the cost of special needs equipment. It is estimated that they will pay £200 each raising an extra £100,000 from disabled people.

What items will be affected by the SNP charge and what will not have this charge applied?

How will the SNP Administration guarantee that the budgeted saving target of £100,000 is achieved?

(g) Question by Councillor Gail Casey to the Convener of the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee

The SNP has introduced a new service charge of £20 per week for 240 Housing Support Services clients including people with learning disabilities; people with mental health problems; people with addiction problems; people with acquired brain injury; and some older people and people with physical disabilities.

How will this the charge be collected?

(h) Question by Councillor Patrick McGlinchey to the Convener of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

The SNP has introduced a new service charge of £5 per week for 'privilege seats' on school bus contracts affecting 61 pupils.

What method will be used to allow pupils to pay for the new charge?

19. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Motion by Councillor Jonathan McColl – UK Government Funding

Council expresses its support for the Trades Union campaign calling on the Westminster Government to take cognisance of the current financial situation and the effect this is having across the UK on public sector jobs and services.

Council instructs the Leader to meet with the trades union representatives with a view to sending a joint trades union and West Dunbartonshire Council letter to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, calling on the Government to take stock and divert funding away from costly projects such

as Nuclear Arms and ID Cards and into Local Government where it can be used by Councils across the UK to protect and enhance public services.

(b) Motion by Councillor Geoff Calvert – St Martin’s Primary School

This Council notes that at the meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council on 16 December 2009, in response to the SNP’s Motion to instigate immediate statutory consultation to close St Martin’s Primary School, the Labour Group opposed with the following amendment:

‘This Council agrees: - (1) that the Renton & Early Education Childcare Centre is to relocate to St Martin’s Primary School and be amalgamated with the Vale of Leven Early Education & Childcare Centre in accordance with the wishes of the community as expressed after consultation; and (2) that no action is to be taken regarding the proposal to close St Martin’s Primary School and it is to remain on the existing site.’

Given the recent ‘Wink, Wink, Nudge, Nudge’ type comments reported in the local press from SNP Councillors, this Council agrees that there are no educational reasons to close St Martin’s Primary School and that to continue with the Statutory Consultation serves no useful purpose.

Therefore, this Council agrees that the Statutory Consultation is to cease immediately and confirms its commitment to support St Martin’s Primary School on its present site for the foreseeable future. Furthermore, this Council agrees that it could have handled this process in a more sensitive way and, without prejudice to any Officer or Elected Member, apologises to the staff, parents and children of the school for being the cause of unnecessary stress and upset.

Note: Members are asked to note that the suspension of Standing Order 19 (a) will be required in order to consider this motion as a period of six months has not passed since a decision was taken to proceed with the Statutory Consultation.