

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL
Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, G82 3PU

17 December 2004

MEETING: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 22 DECEMBER 2004
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, 22 December 2004 at 7.00 p.m.

The business is as shown on the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

TIM HUNTINGFORD

Chief Executive

Distribution:-

All Members of West Dunbartonshire Council.

Chief Executive

Director of Corporate Services

Director of Development and Environmental Services

Director of Education and Cultural Services

Director of Housing and Technical Services

Director of Social Work Services

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 22 DECEMBER 2004

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. OPEN FORUM

The following questions have been submitted to Council for consideration:-

(a) Mr James Lynch, 15 Halkett Crescent, Alexandria – Ownership of the River Leven

The Council has stated that it owns the River Leven from Dumbarton Castle to the mouth of the Loch. So what right does Mr John Sweeney of Loch Lomond Cruises have to charge for moorings and place pontoons between the two bridges (with access off a public towpath) or to remove boats from their moorings, to allow him to do so, when no riparian rights exist on this river?

(b) Mr Robert Doherty, 63 North Elgin Street, Whitecrook, Clydebank - Future School Rolls

Can Councillor White update parents and Council about the position reached on methods and data about future school rolls arising from the discussions that took place on 23 September 2004 between parent representatives, Councillors and Officers?

(c) Mr Brian A Cairns, 108 Brown Avenue, Clydebank - Open and Transparent Partnership - Future of Schools in West Dunbartonshire

Can the Council assure parent representatives that the Council is fully committed to open and transparent partnership on decisions about the future of schools in West Dunbartonshire?

(d) Mr Tony Coultas, 8 Dean Street, Clydebank - Scottish Executive - Additional Guidance on School Closures

In making proposals for the future of schools, is the Council confident that it has addressed all nine factors listed in paragraph 27 of the Scottish Executive's "Additional Guidance on Local Authority Proposals for the School Estate, Including School Closures" published in September 2004?

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 12)

Submit for approval, Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 24 November 2004.

4. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE (Pages 13 - 20)

Submit for information, and where necessary ratification, the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee (CPC) held on 17 November 2004.

Members are asked to note that the CPC has made a number of recommendations, as detailed below, which require consideration. Furthermore, Members should note that the recommendations at (b) and (c) below are contrary to decisions made by Council on 29 September 2004 and therefore would require Standing Order No 16 to be suspended, prior to consideration of these items.

(a) Public Toilets

The CPC has recommended that all public toilets currently closed be re-opened until such time as the replacement toilets were fully operational.

(b) Privatisation of the Schools' Estate - PPP - Public Consultation

That, in relation to the establishment of a Project Board (Paragraph 7.3, bullet point 4 of the report by the Chief Executive dated 29 September 2004 refers), the CPC agreed to recommend to Council that there should be two parent members from non-denominational schools and two parent members from denominational schools (both primary and secondary sector) elected to the Board through the normal School Board Chairs' process.

(c) Privatisation of the Schools' Estate - PPP - Public Consultation

The CPC has recommended to Council that:-

- (i) there should be an open public meeting in every primary and secondary school in West Dunbartonshire to obtain the views of the public and that a vote be taken at the end of each meeting on the Council's Regeneration plans;
- (ii) a one day seminar should be convened to discuss PPP and that this should be facilitated by two prominent academics and two prominent educationalists to give opposing views to stimulate debate and discussion; and
- (iii) there should be a full page in the Council's newspaper to allow members of the public to make comment on the Council's proposals.

5. SPECIAL LICENSING COMMITTEE – TAXI ACCESSIBILITY IN THE DUMBARTON AND VALE OF LEVEN AREA (Pages 21 - 36)

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Special Licensing Committee held on 19 November 2004 when it was agreed that the issue of wheelchair accessible taxis, as detailed in paragraph 2.1 of the report to Committee on 3 November 2004 (copy enclosed), be continued to the Council, submit an excerpt minute of that meeting together with the relevant report by the Head of Legal and Administrative Services.

6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT 2005/06 TO 2007/2008 (Pages 37 - 38)

Submit report by the Director of Corporate Services providing the Council with key information about the revenue and capital allocations awarded to the Council by the Scottish Executive for 2005/06 to 2007/08.

7. HOUSING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES - MANAGEMENT REVIEW (Pages 39 - 48)

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 28 April 2004 (Pages 736/7, paragraph 2552 refers), submit report by the Director of Housing and Technical Services seeking approval for the revised management structure for the Department of Housing and Technical Services.

8. REVIEW OF CARETAKING SERVICES (Pages 49 - 55)

Submit report by the Director of Housing and Technical Services providing an update on the progress of the review of caretaking services and requesting approval for the revised service provision.

9. AUDIT OF BEST VALUE (Pages 57 - 63)

Submit report by the Chief Executive providing an update on the forthcoming Audit of Best Value and, in particular, highlighting Members' involvement in the process.

10. NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Bollan has requested that Council considers the undernoted motion which has been submitted in accordance with the terms of Standing Order 8:-

This Council agrees to stop the practise of asking Council Taxpayers, who are in Council Tax arrears and are also in receipt of State Benefits, to make up front lump cash payments. This puts undue pressure on people to borrow money and we should restrict our recovery to an agreed affordable re-payment plan for these clients.

For information on the above agenda please contact George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer, Legal and Administrative Services, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, G82 3PU on Tel: (01389) 737251 or e-mail: george.hawthorn@west-dunbarton.gov.uk.