

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank, on Wednesday, 25 August 2010 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Provost Denis Agnew and Councillors George Black, Jim Bolla, Margaret Bootland, Jim Brown, Geoff Calvert, Gail Casey, Jim Finn, William Hendrie, Douglas McAllister, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Ronnie McColl, Jim McElhill, Patrick McGlinchey*, Craig McLaughlin, Willie McLaughlin, Marie McNair, John Millar, Iain Robertson, Martin Rooney and May Smillie.

*Arrived later in the meeting.

Attending: David McMillan, Chief Executive; Joyce White, Executive Director of Corporate Services; Elaine Melrose, Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development; Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services; Keith Redpath, Director of West Dunbartonshire Community Health and Care Partnership; David Connell, Head of Finance and ICT; Lorraine Coyne, Head of Audit, Performance and Strategic Planning; Alexandria Brysland, Manager of Quality; Colin McDougall, Manager of Risk and Performance; Andrew Fraser, Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services and George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer.

Provost Denis Agnew in the Chair

JIMMY REID – TWO MINUTES OF SILENCE

After hearing Provost Agnew, the Council stood for two minutes in silence in remembrance of the late Jimmy Reid who died on 10 August 2010. It was noted that Mr Reid was a trades union activist in the Upper Clyde shipyards and served as a Councillor in Clydebank before becoming a well known journalist and broadcaster.

PROVOST'S REMARKS

Provost Agnew welcomed Councillor Bootland to her first meeting of Council following her absence due to ill health.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Provost Agnew and Councillor C. McLaughlin declared a financial interest in Item 13 on the agenda: "Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park: Local Authority Nominations to the Park Authority Board", as both are currently members of the Park Authority Board.

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

At this point in the meeting, Provost Agnew informed the Council that he had received a request from Councillor McBride to submit an emergency motion to Council on the Flood Disaster in Pakistan. It was noted that Councillor McBride had consulted with the Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services and would read out the terms of the revised motion at the appropriate point later in the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 30 June 2010 were submitted and approved as a correct record subject to the undernoted correction:-

With reference to the item under the heading "Key Corporate Performance Indicators" (Page 2970 refers), it was agreed that the words "to note" at the end of the second line of the second paragraph be deleted.

The Director of the West Dunbartonshire Community Health and Care Partnership and the Executive Director of Corporate Services were heard in answer to Members' questions.

Provost Agnew took the opportunity to welcome Mr Redpath to his first meeting of Council in his new role as Director of the West Dunbartonshire Community Health and Care Partnership.

OPEN FORUM

The Council noted that no open forum questions had been submitted by members of the public.

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 JUNE 2010

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held on 16 June 2010 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

MINUTES OF THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE FORUM HELD ON 24 JUNE 2010

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Joint Consultative Forum held on 24 June 2010 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

The Executive Director of Educational Services was heard in answer to Members' questions.

AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE – QUORUM

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services proposing an amendment to the quorum of the Audit and Performance Review Committee.

Having heard Councillor Rooney, Chair of the Audit and Performance Review Committee and the Chief Executive, the Council agreed that the quorum of the Audit and Performance Review Committee be reduced to three and that the status of the Community Participation Committee be confirmed as being a Sub-Committee of Council, thus ensuring compliance with legislation.

WDC CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive presenting a draft Continuous Improvement Strategy which harmonises the approaches that will be used to ensure services are continuously improving and systematically delivering best value.

Having heard the Chief Executive and the Manager of Quality, in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to approve the Continuous Improvement Strategy, as shown as the appendix to the report, and
- (2) to thank those officers involved in its preparation for all their hard work.

Note: Councillor McGlinchey entered the meeting during discussion on the above item.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR 2009/10

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive reviewing the performance of the Key Corporate Performance Indicators for 2009/10.

After hearing the Chief Executive in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note that the above report would also be presented to the next meeting of the Audit and Performance Review Committee for further scrutiny;

- (2) to note that Appendices 2 (a) and (b) of the report, which contained information on the poorly performing Statutory Performance Indicators (SPIs) for 2009/10, also contained the proposed corrective actions which should address a number of the issues raised by Members at the meeting; and
- (3) to approve the use of the SPI 1 and SPI 2 measures as the basis for a 2009/10 Public Performance Report, which was due to be published by the end of September 2010.

SHARED RISK ASSESSMENT - ASSURANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive presenting for the first time the Assurance and Improvement Plan (AIP) received from the combined scrutiny bodies in June 2010.

After hearing the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to approve the action plan, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report; and
- (2) to note that the reference made to the West Dunbartonshire Community Health and Care Partnership within the Appendices to the report should indicate that the Council had still to agree to its establishment.

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM – PUBLIC SERVICE IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK (PSIF)

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive informing the Council of the Corporate Management Team (CMT) Public Service Improvement Framework (PSIF) self assessment and seeking approval to implement the West Dunbartonshire Council Improvement Plan.

Having heard the Manager of Quality and the Chief Executive in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to approve the CMT PSIF Improvement Plan, as detailed in the Appendix to the report subject to some minor adjustments to the strengths and evidence columns listed under Criterion 7 – People Results; and
- (2) to note that resources to implement actions arising from the Improvement Plan would be allocated from within existing capacity.

DESIGNATION OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive asking the Council to consider the designation of polling districts and polling places from 1 October 2010 to 30 September 2011.

After hearing the Chief Executive and the Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to confirm the current arrangements for polling districts as a basis for the new electoral register;
- (2) to approve the list of recommended polling places for use at any elections, by-elections or referendums occurring between 1 October 2010 and 30 September 2011, subject to the premises being available on the dates of the polls;
- (3) that, in the event of any matter arising about the designation of polling places which cannot be resolved at the meeting, or of any named premises being unavailable or becoming unsuitable for a poll, that it be remitted to the Chief Executive, in consultation with local members, to agree the final list of premises to be used;
- (4) to note that the Chief Executive would investigate the possibility of using the Onslow Road Community Hall (Ward 5 – Clydebank Central) as a suitable polling place and would inform Councillor McGlinchey of his findings in due course; and
- (5) to note that Anne Laird, Manager of Administrative Services was retiring from Council Service and acknowledged all the good work she had done on behalf of the Council during the past 15 years.

LOCH LOMOND AND THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK: LOCAL AUTHORITY NOMINATIONS TO THE PARK AUTHORITY BOARD

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services informing of a reduction to the local authority membership on the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority Board and asking the Council to nominate a member to serve on the Board from 2 October 2010.

The Council agreed to nominate Councillor Craig McLaughlin to serve on the Park Authority with effect from 2 October 2010.

At this point in the meeting Councillor Rooney indicated that, with the consent of Council, he wished to withdraw the Questions (shown as Item 19 on the agenda) and the Motion (shown as Item 20 (e) on the agenda) which he had submitted in connection with the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority Board.

DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2009/2010

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services providing the Council with a copy of the draft Annual Accounts for 2009/10 and highlighting matters of interest.

After hearing various officers in response to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the content of the report and the draft accounts for 2009/10; and
- (2) to note that the Executive Director of Corporate Services would provide Councillor W. McLaughlin with an analysis of the Council's other income, totalling £68,185,000, outwith the meeting.

GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT 2010/11 (PERIOD 3)

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services informing the Council of the performance of the General Services Revenue Budget for the period to 30 June 2010.

The Council agreed to note the content of the report.

GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT 2010/11 (PERIOD 3)

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services updating the Council on the General Services Capital Plan for 2010/2011.

The Council agreed to note the position to date as outlined in the appendices to the report.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2010/11 - BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT TO 30 JUNE 2010 (PERIOD 3)

A report was submitted 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) to the period ended 30 June 2010.

After hearing the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) that a breakdown of the expenditure accounted for under the budget heading "Miscellaneous" would be included in the next budgetary control report to be submitted to the Council; and

- (2) otherwise to note the content of the report.

HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11 BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2010 (PERIOD 3)

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development advising the Council on progress of the HRA Capital Programme 2010/11 as at 30 June 2010.

Following discussion the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note that the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development would provide Councillor Black with the information which he had requested on the Void Housing Strategy, outwith the meeting.
- (2) otherwise to note the content of the report.

QUESTIONS

Questions by Councillor Martin Rooney to Provost Denis Agnew on the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority (LLTTNPA)

As referred to earlier in the meeting, the Council unanimously agreed that the questions submitted by Councillor Rooney in respect of the above item be withdrawn.

Provost Agnew informed the Council that he intended to issue a press statement in response to the questions.

ADJOURNMENT

After hearing Provost Agnew, the Council agreed to adjourn for a period of 10 minutes.

The meeting reconvened at 7.35 p.m. with all those Members shown on the sederunt in attendance.

NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Urgent Item of Business – Pakistan Disaster Fund

As referred to earlier in the meeting, Provost Agnew invited Councillor McBride to read out the proposed motion.

Councillor McBride read out the motion as follows:-

This Council notes the fantastic support given by our staff who raised £22,251.06 in 2005 to help the victims of the Asian Tsunami. Council also notes that the magnificent efforts of the employee fundraising was matched pound for pound by West Dunbartonshire Council which meant that the Disaster Emergency Committee received a total of £44,500 from the people of West Dunbartonshire.

The disaster in Pakistan has already caused devastation, destroying infrastructure which has hampered the relief effort, leaving hundreds of thousands of people homeless and destitute.

The violence of the floods has led to thousands of deaths and many families have already lost loved ones. However, many more are now facing the prospect of starvation and disease.

Young children, the elderly and the sick are most at risk and endure a daily struggle to cling on to life, a struggle which many will lose over the coming months, particularly as the risk of diseases such as cholera tighten their grip on a vulnerable population.

The flood victims of Pakistan will need all the help and support that they can get to survive the ravages of the flood and Council calls on our staff and the people of West Dunbartonshire to mobilise in aid of the Pakistan floods.

This Council agrees to begin the process of creating a fund for staff donations as a matter of urgency.

Provost Agnew informed the Council that he was willing to accept the motion as a matter of urgency and urged all Members of the Council to support it.

Thereafter, Councillor McBride was heard in support of his motion which was seconded by Councillor R. McColl.

The Council agreed unanimously to support the motion.

It was noted that Councillor McBride intended to submit a motion to the next meeting of the Council asking the Council to match any donations received from staff.

(b) Motion by Councillor Bollan – Hospitalwatch

This Council, in recognising that Hospitalwatch has nominated Jim Moohan as its representative to the Vale Monitoring Group (VMG) which was set up to oversee the implementation of the “Vision for the Vale”, agrees to write to the VMG advising that West Dunbartonshire Council supports Mr Moohan’s selection and now calls on the VMG to confirm his appointment as soon as possible and ensure he is invited to take his position up at the next meeting of the group.

Councillor Bollan was heard in support of his motion which was seconded by Councillor Black.

As an amendment Councillor R. McColl, seconded by J. McColl, moved:-

This Council acknowledges all the work that Hospitalwatch, and Jim Moohan in particular, has done in the fight to preserve services and jobs at the Vale of Leven Hospital.

Council calls on Hospitalwatch to adhere to the process that all other campaign groups have for nominating their delegates to the Vale of Leven Hospital Monitoring Group (VOLHMG).

Council notes that the Chairman of the VOLHSG has written to Hospitalwatch explaining the procedures and this Council asks that Hospital Watch fully engage with this process to allow the organisation to take its place at the table at this vital time.

Councillor Rooney asked Councillor Bollan if he would accept Councillor McColl's amendment as an addendum to his motion. Councillor Bollan informed the Council that he was not prepared to accept the addendum to his motion.

On a vote being taken, 18 Members voted for the amendment, 2 for the motion and 2 abstained. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

(b) Motion by Councillor John Millar – Security Checks at Schools and Educational Establishments

This Council is concerned at claims that reduced security checks to schools and educational establishments, as a consequence of the Council Budget decision could result in increased incidents of vandalism and hence increased costs.

This Council requests the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development to bring forward a report to the next Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee outlining the operational impact of this Budget decision.

The Council agreed to approve the above motion.

(c) Motion by Councillor David McBride – Independent Budget Review Report

This Council notes with concern the publication of the Independent Budget Review report headed by Mr. Crawford Beveridge.

The Review set up by John Swinney MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, threatens redundancy for 60,000 workers within the public sector in Scotland.

With this in mind we request that the Executive Director of Corporate Services brings a report of the full implications for WDC of the Beveridge Report.

The Council agreed to approve the above motion. However, after hearing the Chief Executive, Councillor McBride, with the consent of Council, agreed to withdraw his motion on the understanding that a report would be submitted to Council when the outcome of the Spending Review had been announced by the Scottish Government.

(d) Motion by Councillor Jonathan McColl – Vice Convener

Council notes that Councillor Craig McLaughlin has resigned as Vice Convener of the Civic Licensing Committee and agrees that Councillor Ronnie McColl will take over this position.

The Council agreed to approve the above motion.

(e) Martin Rooney - Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Authority

As referred to earlier in the meeting, the Council unanimously agreed that the motion submitted by Councillor Rooney in respect of the above item be withdrawn.

(f) Motion by Councillor Patrick McGlinchey – Community Centre – Unmet Need

Council notes that a leisure trust model is currently being explored by West Dunbartonshire Council, which may include Community Centres.

Council further notes that some communities within West Dunbartonshire, such as Mountblow, have no community centre or community facilities at present.

With this in mind, the Council asks that unmet need in communities such as Mountblow is taken into consideration when the leisure trust model is being examined.

In addition, if the leisure trust model proceeds, that a report on unmet need within West Dunbartonshire communities is brought to the appropriate Committee.

Councillor McGlinchey was heard in support of his motion.

As an amendment Councillor McElhill, seconded by Provost Agnew, moved:-

Council recognises that the Leisure Trust model currently being explored is occurring in tandem with a similar but separate exercise pertaining to Halls and Community Centres.

Council confirms that a report on Halls and Community Centres will be tabled at the October meeting of the HEED Committee.

Council accepts that the only residents' facility in Mountblow, was closed by the tenants and residents group itself in March 2009 at the request of the users who no longer wished to utilise the facility. Their assets were

transferred to Kilpatrick School, North Mountblow Tenants & Residents and Frank Downie House.

Council also notes that the Clydebank Sports Community Trust is presently involved in developing a feasibility study for Mountblow Recreation Park with a view to developing an extensive range of leisure facilities at this location. Council has already agreed to work in partnership with Clydebank Sports Community Trust and has agreed in principle to Clydebank Sports Community Trust's use of Mountblow Recreation Ground to assist them to access external funding.

Council confirms that in the event of Leisure Trust being established in West Dunbartonshire, it would be a decision for the Trust whether or not it builds new facilities in addition to those already existing.

In response to a question by Councillor Calvert, Councillor McElhill confirmed that he was willing to accept the last paragraph of Councillor's McGlinchey's motion as an addendum to his amendment. However, at this point Councillor Black, seconded Councillor McGlinchey's motion and thereafter Councillor McGlinchey decided not to withdraw his original motion.

On a vote being taken, 11 Members voted for the amendment and 11 for the motion. There being an equality of votes, Provost Agnew used his casting vote in favour of the amendment which was accordingly declared carried.

(g) Motion by Councillor Patrick McGlinchey – VAT

Council believes that the increase in VAT to 20% will punish those who can least afford it, noting that VAT amounts to 10.8% of the income of the poorest 20% of the population but just 4.5% of the income of the richest 20%.

Council notes that during the election campaign David Cameron called the VAT a 'regressive' tax and acknowledged that it 'hits the poorest hardest'. He said he had 'no plans' to raise it.

Council further notes that the Liberal Democrats also campaigned against any VAT rise and that both parties broke their promise to the electorate and changed their plans just weeks after forming the coalition.

With this in mind, Council calls on the Government to reverse the decision to increase VAT to 20% and requests that the Leader of the Council write to the Government to express this opinion.

The Council agreed to approve the above motion.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.