

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in the Lecture Room, Municipal Buildings, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank, on Wednesday 18 February 2004 at 7.00 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors Margaret Bootland, Gail Casey and Jackie Maceira. Wendy Hutchinson, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum and Patricia Rice, Clydebank Unemployed Community Resource Centre.

**Attending:** Lynn Bradley, Head of Finance; Liz Cochrane, Policy Manager; Anne Clegg, Policy Officer – Community and Consultation; Ronny Lee, Senior Strategy Officer – Housing Services; Valerie McIlhatton, Policy Officer – Social Justice; Deborah Anderson, Solicitor and Fiona Anderson, Administrative Assistant, Legal and Administrative Services.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Jim Bolland, Margaret McGregor, Marie McNair and Andy White. Murdoch Cameron MBE, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum and Carol Mckechnie, Millburn Tenants and Residents Association.

### Councillor Gail Casey in the Chair

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1899 Before commencing with the business of the meeting, Councillor Casey welcomed everyone to the first evening meeting of the Community Participation Committee and thanked them for attending.

### PRESENTATIONS

#### (a) WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROFILE

1900 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive on the West Dunbartonshire Social and Economic Profile.

1901 Councillor Casey, Convener, advised that Ms Valerie McIlhatton, Policy Officer – Social Justice, was in attendance to provide a presentation on West Dunbartonshire's Social and Economic Profile 2003/2004. Copies of the Profile were distributed at the meeting to the Members for information.

1902 Having heard the Policy Officer – Social Justice in further explanation and in answer to Members’ questions and comments, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report. Thereafter, the Convener, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Ms McIlhatton for her interesting and informative presentation.

At this point Ms McIlhatton left the meeting.

**(b) LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY**

1903 Mr Ronny Lee, Senior Strategy Officer – Housing Services, gave a presentation on local housing strategy in the West Dunbartonshire Council area with a view to seeking feedback from the Committee.

1904 Having heard Mr Lee in answer to Members’ questions and comments, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the draft report.

1905 The Convener, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Mr Lee for his enlightening presentation.

At this point Mr. Lee left the meeting.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

1906 The Minutes of Meeting of Community Participation Committee held on 10 December 2003 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

1907 With reference to the item under the heading “Funding Review”, (page 444, paragraph 1436 refers), Councillor Maceira advised that he would hope relevant issues regarding the Council’s performance in attracting external funding would be referred to the Audit and Performance Review Committee.

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE – TIMING OF MEETINGS AND VENUES**

1908 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing the Committee with details of the revised venues and timetable for the Community Participation Committee (CPC) meetings during 2004.

1909 Following the poor attendance at the first evening meeting, it was agreed to monitor future attendance with a view to reverting again to daytime meetings.

1910 Having heard the Policy Officer – Community and Consultation in elaboration, the Committee agreed to note the arrangements.

## **REVIEW OF DECENTRALISATION SCHEME – PROPOSALS FOR SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

- 1911 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive informing the Committee about proposals for support to Community Councils in the context of the Decentralisation Scheme.
- 1912 Having heard the Policy Officer – Community and Consultation in elaboration and in answer to Members’ questions, the Committee agreed to recommend to Council the contents of the report and noted the information contained therein.
- 1913 It was noted that West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum was actively seeking to attract additional funding from the Scottish Executive, to be used specifically in efforts to resurrect Community Councils in those areas in West Dunbartonshire which lost them at the 2002 Elections.

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (SCOTLAND) 2002: PUBLICATION SCHEME**

- 1914 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing information on progress towards the implementation of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 in West Dunbartonshire Council and seeking the views of the Committee on the Council’s Publication Scheme.
- 1915 After discussion and having heard Deborah Anderson, Solicitor, in further explanation, the Committee agreed to note the aims of the Working Group and the progress made.

At this point Ms Anderson left the meeting.

## **LOCAL GRANTS**

- 1916 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Council held on 17 December 2003 (page 474, paragraph 1525 refers), an Excerpt Minute and report on Local Grants by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted for consideration by the Committee.
- 1917 After discussion and having heard the Head of Finance in elaboration and in response to Members’ questions, the Committee agreed to recommend to Council:-
- (a) that twice yearly grant decision dates was not sufficient, particularly with regard to smaller community groups; and
  - (b) that more staff be given appropriate training on external funding matters to assist community groups obtain funds from external bodies thereby freeing Council monies to assist a wider range of groups.

1918 It was noted that the Finance Department would be holding a meeting of all interested parties on Monday, 23 February, 2004 to discuss the introduction of a new simplified system for grant application. It was also noted that an Information Pack had been prepared for distribution and that this information would also be available on the Council's website.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.