

FINANCE COMMITTEE

At a special meeting of the Finance Committee held within the Council Offices, Rosebery Place, Clydebank on Wednesday, 9 February 2000 at 10.45 a.m.

Present: Councillors Anthony Devine (LAB), Mary Campbell (LAB), Daniel McCafferty (LAB), Andrew White (LAB), Iain Robertson (SNP), James McCallum (LAB & CO-OP), John Trainer (LAB), Craig McLaughlin (SNP), Ronald McColl (SNP), Margaret McGregor (SNP) and Connie O'Sullivan (LAB).

Attending: Tim Huntingford, Chief Executive; Eric Walker, Director of Corporate Services; Crawford Howat, Manager of Accounting; David Logan, Principal Solicitor and Angela Clements, Head of Information Services.

Apologies for Absence: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Provost Alistair Macdonald (LAB) and Councillors James Bollan (IND) and James Flynn (LAB).

Councillor Anthony Devine in the Chair

2000/2001 REVENUE ESTIMATES

With reference to the minutes of meeting of the Committee held on 15 September 1999 (**Volume page 5052 refers**) and of Council held on 22 December 1999 (**Volume page 5413 refers**) there was submitted report by the Director of Corporate Services (i) providing an update on the previously reported position in that the draft estimates exceeded the expenditure guideline by £2,449,270 and intimating that a deprivation allowance of £1.011m had been awarded to the Council bringing the total expenditure guideline to £148,330m and that the Council's Aggregate External Finance (AEF) had been increased to £112.855m to accommodate the additional spending power generated by the deprivation allowance; and (ii) advising that the draft 2000/2001 revenue estimates had been compiled and produced in a volume format and were submitted for consideration by the Committee.

The Director of Corporate Services advised of 2 alterations to the report in that regarding (i) page 2 para.3.6. the page reference number should be '89' rather than '90' and (ii) appendix 2 and para 3.7. on page 2 as updated information was still being received from the Social Inclusion Partnership the figures shown were no longer reliable and the Director would issue the updated information to all members as soon as it was ready.

Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor White, moved:-

The Committee notes with concern the unsatisfactory settlement imposed upon West Dunbartonshire Council.

Committee further notes that strong representations are being made to the Scottish Executive and an urgent meeting has been sought with the Minister of Finance at which the Council would be represented by the Leader of the Council, the Convener of the Finance Committee, the Chief Executive and the Director of Corporate Services.

Furthermore, the Finance Committee continues this report along with other budget issues to the meeting of the Council to be held on 9 March 2000.

The Committee also notes that the SNP would like to make representation to the Minister of Finance and will be advised of the Minister's response as to whether or not he is agreeable to this.

Councillor Campbell left the meeting at this point and returned a short time thereafter.

As an amendment, Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, moved:-

The Committee notes with concern the unsatisfactory settlement imposed upon West Dunbartonshire Council.

Committee further notes that strong representations are being made to the Scottish Executive and an urgent meeting has been sought with the Minister of Finance.

Furthermore, the Finance Committee continues this report along with other budget issues to the meeting of the Council to be held on 9 March 2000.

That the SNP should be part of the delegation to the joint meeting between the Council's representatives and Government Ministers.

Councillor Campbell left the meeting at this point and returned a short time thereafter.

On a vote being taken, 4 members voted for the amendment and 7 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

The meeting finished at 11.30 a.m.