

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 21 October 2009 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors George Black, Jim Brown, Jim McElhill, Marie McNair, John Millar, Iain Robertson and May Smillie; Ann Aire, Clydebank Women's Aid (Sub); Murdoch Cameron, MBE, Community Councils Forum; John Diamond, Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum; Mary Theresa Doherty (Sub) and Megan Harrison, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; Anna Hemphill, Dumbarton Community Forum (Sub); Anne MacDougall, Clydebank Crime Prevention Panel; Francis McNeill, Community Councils Forum; Haji Munir, West Dunbartonshire Minority Ethnic Association; Tom Nimmo, West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum; Brenda Pasquire, West Dunbartonshire Citizens' Advice Service; Justeen Peacock, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel; June Todd, Clydebank Community Forum and Rhona Young, Clydebank Seniors Forum.

Attending: Liz Cochrane, Head of Service – Policy & Performance; Vincent Gardiner, Manager of Exchequer; Rodney Thornton, Section Head – Waste and Transport Services; Robert Robb, Senior Officer, Waste and Transport Services; Peter Barry, Community Planning Manager and Fiona Anderson and Scott Kelly, Committee Officers, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services.

Apologies: Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors Margaret Bootland, Jonathan McColl and Martin Rooney.

Councillor Jim Brown in the Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business of the agenda.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 19 August 2009 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

PRESENTATION ON WASTE SERVICES

Rodney Thornton, Section Head, Waste and Transport Services and Robert Robb, Senior Waste and Transport Officer, gave a presentation on the Waste Management Challenges facing West Dunbartonshire Council.

The main points covered in the presentation were:-

- Recycling – Performance to date;
- Zero Waste/Landfill Allowance Implications;
- Landfill Allowance Scheme (Scotland) Regulations;
- National Waste Strategy/Plan;
- Glasgow and Clyde Valley Area Waste Plan;
- Short term priorities to meet 2010/11/12 targets and proposals to vary the collection schedule for the green, blue and brown bins with the possible addition of adding a food waste collection service to the brown bin service;
- Medium term priorities to meet 2012 targets including proposals to introduce a kerbside collection service of glass to low level homes;
- Longer term priorities 2013/2020 including proposals to work with partners in neighbouring Councils to secure the use of centralized treatment facilities; and
- The Single Outcome Agreement to increase recycling to 40% in 2010, increasing to 50% in 2013.

Following discussion and having heard the officers from Waste and Transport Services in response to members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that Fairer Scotland Funding would be used to introduce a kerbside mixed glass recycling scheme in December 2009 as a 16 month pilot scheme for 12,000 low level households;
- (2) to note that the vehicles to be used for collection would enable the glass to be sorted at the point of collection;
- (3) to note that officers would respond directly to Councillor Black with information relating to how well West Dunbartonshire Council was performing compared to other local authorities; and
- (4) to note that officers would respond directly to Councillor Millar with information regarding any increase in the incidences of fly-tipping since the introduction of a charge for special uplifts of construction waste from private households and also provide information from other local authorities.

The Chair, Councillor Brown, on behalf of the Committee thanked the officers for their most interesting and informative presentation and invited them to return in the future to update the Committee.

EFFECTIVE MEETINGS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive outlining some ways to make meetings work well and maximise the contributions from community representatives.

The Head of Service - Policy and Performance, was heard in further explanation of the report and the background relating thereto and in response to members' questions.

Following discussion the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the information contained within points 2 - 3.9 of the report should be reproduced as a small document for distribution to all members of the Community Participation Committee; and
- (2) to follow the principles and the rules outlined in that document to ensure the CPC works effectively; and
- (3) to note that any members requiring further clarification should contact the Head of Service, Policy and Performance or Policy Officer, Community and Consultation.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update on developments at the West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board meeting on 24 August 2009.

The Head of Service - Policy and Performance and the Community Planning Partnership Manager were heard in further explanation and in response to members' questions.

Following discussion the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that officers would respond directly to Councillor McNair's request for a copy of the tender documentation which was approved at the Community Planning Strategic Board in August;
- (2) to note that Community Planning Board information was available online for members of the public to access;
- (3) to note the concern expressed regarding lack of publicity and communication to groups about Community Forum meetings;
- (4) to note the progress made by the Community Planning Partnership during recent months, particularly:-
 - (a) the formal agreement with the Scottish Government of the Single Outcome Agreement;

- (b) the development of a revised thematic, strategic approach to the use of Fairer Scotland Funding which was ratified at the Council meeting on 30 September 2009;
 - (c) the review of support for Community Engagement; and
- (5) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

REVENUE AND BENEFITS SERVICE PLAN 2009 TO 2013

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 18 March 2009 (pages 1832/1833 refer), a report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services updating the Committee on the Revenue and Benefits Service Plan 2009 to 2013.

The Manager of Exchequer was heard in further explanation and in response to Members' questions.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the Revenue and Benefits Service Plan 2009-2013 (as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report) was approved by the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee on 30 September 2009;
- (2) to note the actions and how they will meet the corporate and departmental priorities and objectives as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (3) to note that the Benefits Services Plan will be launched in November 2009 in an effort to publicise the availability of resources and support mechanisms particularly to new tenants/people new to the area by introducing a "one and done approach";
- (4) to note that there would be a press release in advance of the launch of the Plan and also simple bookmarks would be displayed and available;
- (5) to note that the Benefits Plan would be aimed at Council tenants in the first instance in an effort to reduce the number of people falling into rent arrears, and rolled out to everyone else thereafter; and
- (6) to note that the Revenues and Benefits Services are striving to develop closer working relationships with other departments and particularly with outside organisations.

Note: Ms Anne MacDougall, Clydebank Crime Prevention Panel, left the meeting before discussion of the following item.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY DAY 2009

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive containing information on this year's West Dunbartonshire Community Day and making proposals for the future.

The Head of Service - Policy and Performance, was heard in further explanation of the report and in response to members' questions.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the acoustics in the Meadow Centre were poor, particularly for people with a hearing impairment;
- (2) that any future events should give more consideration to the timing and locating of music performances;
- (3) to recommend to Council:-
 - (a) that, given the considerable amount of officer time needed to deliver the event, the increasing costs, and the level of public attendance, it was not considered that this provided the best value for money. It is therefore recommended that a review of Community Day be carried out by the middle of 2010 and options drawn up for alternative arrangements;
 - (b) to note that there were a number of alternative opportunities for service providers and community and voluntary groups and projects to interact with the public where much larger numbers of people attend e.g. Fire Station Open Days, Gala Days and other events;
 - (c) to note that the networking opportunity between partners and voluntary and community groups was consistently identified as a key positive output of the Day. This, therefore, should be taken into account in scoping the review process;
 - (d) that, given the partnership nature of the event, it is recommended that consideration be given to subsequent events being carried out via the Community Planning Partnership; and
 - (e) to note that members of the West Dunbartonshire Council Community Day Planning Group were in broad agreement with the above, but that one member asked to emphasise that the Council should adapt, rather than do away with, the event; and
- (4) to note that a report updating the Committee on the outcome of the above would be submitted to a future meeting.

VOLUNTARY POLICY AUDIT – COUNCIL VOLUNTEERING AND VOLUNTARY ACTIVITY

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing information on:-

- (1) the Voluntary Policy Audit process: and
- (2) the Council's supported volunteering and voluntary activity.

Having heard the Head of Service - Policy and Performance in elaboration and in response to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

The Chair, Councillor Brown, wished to record congratulations to all those directly involved in volunteering.

Following a question from the representative from West Dunbartonshire Citizens' Advice Service, the Head of Service - Policy and Performance confirmed that the audit form was distributed to a mailing list administered by West Dunbartonshire Council for Voluntary Service.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Committee members were invited to provide information for the Community News item in advance of meetings on an on-going basis.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Community Representatives were invited to raise topics for inclusion on future Agendas.

It was noted that current topics included:-

- Update on Regeneration of the Schools' Estate
- Housing – Strategic Delivery Plans
- Fairtrade
- Clydebank Crime Prevention Panel
- Regular update on Recycling and Waste Minimisation
- Clydebank Rebuilt
- Future Development on Strathleven Corridor
- West Dunbartonshire Licensing Forum "Wrecked Campaign"
- Council Tax Presentation (Feb 2010 then annually)
- Presentation by Alexandria Canine Club to tie in with a Members' Bill going through Parliament regarding dogs and dog fouling (proposed for December CPC)
- Gender Equality – Men's Health

- How the Council intends to deal with the current credit crunch particularly with regard to staffing, pensions, etc. and what strategies have been put in place
- An update on Addiction Services and in particular whether funding is (Autumn 2010 and then annually)
- Alexandria Health Centre (Keith Redpath)

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 19 August 2009 (page 2117 refers), Councillor Robertson confirmed that a decision had been made regarding Alexandria Health Centre but questions regarding capital spend had still to be resolved.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee noted that there were no Open Forum questions as there were no members of the public present.

The Community Representative for West Dunbartonshire Ethnic Minority Association (EMA) advised that the Association was in the process of taking forward a mapping exercise to ensure it was able to properly engage, communicate and help its members in West Dunbartonshire. The EMA is looking for volunteers to help visit every business premises, community group or individual family who could be served by EMA and to complete a short questionnaire with them. It was noted that anyone willing to assist in any way with this project should contact the EMA directly, the C.V.S. or the Council's Policy Unit.

The meeting closed at 4.00 p.m.