

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU

9 December 2005

MEETING: SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

**WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2005
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS
STATION ROAD
DUMBARTON**

Dear Member

Please attend a Meeting of the **Social Justice Committee** to be held in the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings, Station Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 14 December 2005 at 2.00 p.m.

The business is as shown on the enclosed agenda.

Yours faithfully

TIM HUNTINGFORD

Chief Executive

Distribution:

Councillor D. Agnew (Convener)
Councillor J. Bollan
Councillor D. Brogan
Councillor J. Flynn
Councillor D. McAllister
Councillor C. McLaughlin
Councillor L. McColl
Councillor M. McNair
Councillor M. Rooney
Councillor A. White

All other Councillors for information

Chief Executive
Director of Corporate Services
Director of Development and Environmental Services
Director of Education and Cultural Services
Director of Housing and Technical Services
Acting Director of Social Work Services

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2005

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(Pages 1 - 12)

Submit, for approval as a correct record, Minutes of Meeting of the Social Justice Committee held on 12 October 2005.

3. THE EQUALITIES REVIEW CALL FOR EVIDENCE

(Pages 13 - 22)

Submit report by the Chief Executive presenting the Council's response to the Equalities Review Call for Evidence. In this respect, retrospective approval is requested as the timescale for the submission of the Council's response was 26 November 2005.

4. ADVANCING EQUALITY FOR MEN AND WOMEN: GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS TO INTRODUCE A PUBLIC SECTOR DUTY TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY

(Pages 23 - 32)

Submit report by the Chief Executive presenting a draft response to the Women and Equality Unit of the Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) consultation on Government proposals to introduce a public sector duty to promote gender equality.

5. SOCIAL WORK BUDGETARY POSITION 2005/06 AS AT PERIOD 7 TO 15 NOVEMBER 2005

(Pages 33 - 82)

Submit report by the Acting Director of Social Work Services advising of the performance of the Social Work Services budget for the period to 15 November 2005.

6. SOCIAL WORK GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS
(Pages 83 - 85)

Submit report by the Acting Director of Social Work Services advising of grant applications received by Social Work Services from voluntary organisations seeking funding and making recommendations on the level of funding to be provided.

7. REPORT ON STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2004/05 & QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2005 FOR COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES
(Pages 87 - 102)

Submit report by the Acting Director of Social Work Services providing a progress report on Social Work Statutory Performance Indicators (SPIs), Local Improvement Targets (LITs) and actions in support of Corporate Priorities and Objectives for the period 1 July to 30 September 2005.

8. WELFARE RIGHTS SERVICE
(Pages 103 - 115)

Submit report by the Acting Director of Social Work Services providing an update on the activity of the Welfare Rights Service.

9. BRUCEHILL ACTION GROUP
(Pages 117 - 118)

Submit report by the Acting Director of Social Work Services requesting consideration of a free let to the Brucehill Action Group in respect of the premises located to the rear of 37 - 43 Napier Crescent, Brucehill, Dumbarton.

10. HOUSING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT - PERFORMANCE REPORT
(Pages 119 - 142)

Submit report by the Director of Housing and Technical Services providing information on the Statutory Performance Indicators for the Department of Housing and Technical Services in respect of the second quarter of 2005/2006 and the Department's programme of Best Value Reviews.

11. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR: CLYDEBANK CCTV TRUST AND STRATHCLYDE POLICE

(Pages 143 - 146)

Submit report by the Director of Housing and Technical Services seeking approval to provide Scottish Executive anti social behaviour funding to Clydebank CCTV Trust and Strathclyde Police in order to support initiatives to tackle anti social behaviour.

12. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004: REPORTING FRAMEWORK

(Pages 147 - 149)

Submit report by the Director of Housing and Technical Services providing details of an anti social behaviour statistical update issued to the Scottish Executive in compliance with reporting requirements set out under the Anti Social Behaviour Etc. (Scotland) Act 2004.

13. FIRE PRECAUTIONS INSPECTION IN MULTI-STOREY FLATS WITHIN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

(Pages 151 - 152)

Submit report by the Director of Housing and Technical Services advising on progress with actions in response to the recommendations made by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service following their inspection of all multi-storey flats within West Dunbartonshire in 2004.

14. HRA CAPITAL PLAN GRANT IMPLICATIONS

(Pages 153 - 157)

Submit report by the Director of Housing and Technical Services advising on the current position with regard to the proposed reduction in Private Sector Housing Grant (PSHG), the implications on the 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 HRA Capital Programmes, and seeking approval for the deferment of new 2005/2006 projects involving owner occupiers until January/February 2006 when 2006/2007PSHG levels are known.

- 15. HOUSING MAINTENANCE TRADING OPERATION 2005/2006 – FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE TO 15 NOVEMBER 2005 (PERIOD 7)**
(Pages 159 - 161)

Submit report by the Director of Housing and Technical Services presenting the interim cumulative financial information for the period ending 15 November 2005.

- 16. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2005/2006 – BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT TO 15 NOVEMBER 2005 (PERIOD 7)**
(Pages 163 - 166)

Submit report by the Director of Housing and Technical Services providing an update on the financial performance of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the period ended 15 November 2005.

- 17. HOUSING NON-HRA REVENUE ACCOUNT – BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT TO 15 NOVEMBER 2005 (PERIOD 7)**
(pages 167 - 176)

Submit report by the Director of Housing and Technical Services advising on the financial performance of the Housing – Non HRA Revenue Account for the period ended 15 November 2005.

- 18. HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/2006 – BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 15 NOVEMBER 2005 (PERIOD 7)**
(Pages 177 – 182)

Submit report by the Director of Housing and Technical Services advising on the progress of the HRA Capital Programme 2005/2006.

- 19. BENEFIT FRAUD INSPECTORATE (BFI) INSPECTION AND ACTION PLAN**
(Pages 183 - 224)

Submit report by the Director of Housing and Technical Services advising on the outcome of a recent Benefit Fraud Inspectorate (BFI) inspection of security within the Council's benefit administration and informing of the action plan which has been produced to progress the recommendations highlighted within the report.

20. HOUSING AND COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT FRAUD STRATEGY

(Pages 225 - 234)

Submit report by the Director of Housing and Technical Services seeking approval to implement a Housing and Council Tax Benefit Fraud Strategy for West Dunbartonshire Council.

21. BENEFIT INVESTIGATION TEAM FRAUD RESULTS 2004/2005 AND ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2005/2006

(Pages 235 - 248)

Submit report by the Director of Housing and Technical Services advising on the performance of the investigation team in 2004/2005 and seeking approval for the team's Business Plan for 2005/2006.

22. HOUSING AND COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT STATISTICAL INFORMATION

(Pages 249 - 253)

Submit report by the Director of Housing and Technical Services providing an update on Housing and Council Tax Benefit performance to the end of September 2005.

23. STATISTICAL INFORMATION: WAITING LIST, VOIDS, LETS & HOMELESS

(Pages 255 - 264)

Submit report by the Director of Housing and Technical Services providing statistical information in relation to the waiting list for West Dunbartonshire Council houses, the reasons for termination of tenancies and the void and lets position as at 31 October 2005.

24. HOUSE SALES

(Pages 265 - 267)

Submit report by the Director of Housing and Technical Services providing information on West Dunbartonshire Council houses sold under the Right to Buy scheme between 1 April and 31 October 2005.

For information on the above agenda please contact Craig Stewart, Administrative Assistant, Legal and Administrative Services, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU. Tel: (01389) 737251. e-mail: craig.stewart@west-dunbarton.gov.uk