

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 29 June 2005 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Depute Provost Linda McColl and Councillors Denis Agnew, Jim Bolland, Margaret Bootland, Geoff Calvert, Gail Casey, Tony Devine, James Flynn, Jackie Maceira, Douglas McAllister, James McCallum, Duncan McDonald, Margaret McGregor, Craig McLaughlin, Marie McNair, Connie O'Sullivan, Martin Rooney and Andy White.

Attending: Tim Huntingford, Chief Executive; Gerry McNerney, Director of Corporate Services; Bob Cook, Director of Education and Cultural Services; David McMillan, Director of Housing and Technical Services; Bill Clark, Acting Director of Social Work Services; David Connell, Head of Finance; John McKerracher, Head of Housing and Property Services; Ronald Dinnie, Head of Land Services; Alan Douglas, Manager of Best Value and Special Projects; Kevin Neeson, Manager of Development Services; Jeff Stobo, Manager of Strategy; Liz Cochrane, Policy Manager; David Webster, Section Head (Performance Management); and George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Provost Alistair Macdonald and Councillors George Black, Dennis Brogan and Joe Pilkington.

Depute Provost McColl in the Chair

OPEN FORUM

6382 The Council noted that no open forum questions had been received.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

6383 The Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 27 April 2005 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

- 6384 The Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held on 18 May 2005 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- 6385 Depute Provost Linda McColl declared a non-financial interest in the following item and left the meeting.
- 6386 At this point the Chief Executive invited the Council to nominate a Chair in the absence of Councillor McColl.
- 6387 Councillor Flynn, seconded by Councillor Rooney, moved that Councillor Agnew should chair the meeting in the absence of Councillor McColl.
- 6388 Councillor Bollan, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, moved that Councillor Calvert should chair the meeting in the absence of Councillor McColl.
- 6389 Having noted that Councillor Calvert did not wish to chair the meeting, the Council agreed that Councillor Agnew should chair the meeting.

REMIT FROM SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE – ADDITIONAL REPORT ON CONVERSION OF LOFT SPACE IN TENEMENTAL AND FOUR-IN-A-BLOCK PROPERTIES

- 6390 In terms of remit from the Meeting of the Social Justice Committee held on 11 May 2005 (page 1628, paragraph 5850 refers), the relevant excerpt minute and report by the Director of Corporate Services were submitted providing information on the feasibility of loft/attic conversions of tenemental or four-in-a-block properties where the Council has or formerly had an ownership interest in roof space.
- 6391 Councillor O’Sullivan, seconded by Councillor Rooney, moved:-
- 6392 This Council welcomes the report and agrees to change the existing policy in line with the recommendation contained in paragraph 5, on page 6, on the clear understanding that the owners must come to a negotiated settlement and there is no cost to the Council.
- 6393 Having heard the Manager of Best Value and Special Projects and the Chief Executive in answer to Members’ questions and following discussion, the Council agreed to approve the above motion subject to the proviso that a further report providing more detail on consultation with neighbouring tenants be submitted to the next meeting and in the meantime no action be taken by officers to implement the change.

- 6394 At this point Depute Provost McColl re-entered the meeting and took the Chair.

**REMIT FROM CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE – TEMPORARY
RELOCATION OF DUMBARTON DISTRICT COURT**

- 6395 In terms of remit from the Meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held on 25 May 2005 (page 1661, paragraph 5990 refers), the relevant excerpt minute and report by the Director of Corporate Services were submitted on the proposed temporary relocation of Dumbarton District Court.
- 6396 It was also noted that correspondence had been submitted by the Justices Committee concerning the temporary relocation of Dumbarton District Court.
- 6397 Having heard Councillor Devine, the Council agreed to reject the recommendations of the report and instructed officers to continue discussions with the Scottish Courts Service with a view to identifying a suitable venue for the temporary relocation of the courts.
- 6398 In response to a question by Councillor McLaughlin, Councillor Devine confirmed that the proposal to move Dumbarton District Court to Clydebank Town Hall on a temporary basis had been rejected.

**REMIT FROM COMMUNITY SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE – STRATHLEVEN REGENERATION COMPANY**

- 6399 In terms of remit from the Meeting of the Community Safety & Environmental Services Committee held on 1 June 2005 (page xxx, paragraph xxx refers), the relevant excerpt minute and report by the Director of Development and Environmental Services were submitted setting out details of Strathleven Regeneration Company's (SRC) agreed business plan and requesting that the Council allocate seed-funding to facilitate the activities of this company.
- 6400 Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved:-
- 6401 That the Council agrees to the inclusion of £40,000 within the Revenue Estimates for 2006/07 in respect of the requested contribution from Strathleven Regeneration Company and notes that any costs falling due within 2005/06 would be met from within the department's current budget.
- 6402 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Bollan, moved:-

- 6403 That recommendation 4.2 of the report be approved and that a further report be submitted to the next meeting of Council providing details on: SRC's running costs; its number of employees; minutes of its meetings; the number of jobs created locally since its inception; its five year plan; etc.
- 6404 On a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the amendment and 15 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 6405 Councillors McAllister and Bootland declared a non-financial interest in the following item and took no part in the deliberation thereon.

SKYPOINT, FAIFLEY AND KNOWES CAFÉ

- 6406 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 27 April 2005 (page 1607, paragraph 5781(2) refers), a report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services providing further information to the Council on funding for a café at Skypoint, Faifley.
- 6407 The Council agreed, in principle, that no rent be levied for the use of the café for the period October 2004 to March 2006 but reserved the right to receive a contribution should the café exceed its forecast income outturn, such payment to be negotiated between officers of the Council and the Knowes Housing Association.

OBSERVATION VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL ELECTION COUNT

- 6408 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 27 April 2005 (page 1605, paragraph 5791 refers), a report was submitted by the Chief Executive on the visit by the Leader of the Council and the Manager of Administrative Services to a local election count in Northern Ireland on 9 and 10 May 2005.
- 6409 Having heard Councillor White, the Council agreed:-
- (1) to note the contents of the report in relation to the visit to the local election counts in Northern Ireland;
 - (2) to express its thanks to the Electoral Office of Northern Ireland and to Dungannon and South Tyrone Council for giving its representatives the opportunity to see a local government count by STV in operation;

- (3) to extend the remit of the member officer working group on the Local Government Boundary Review to include consideration of the implications of STV for the Council;
- (4) to remit detailed consideration of the issues arising from this paper to that group; and
- (5) that a copy of the Electoral Commission report which highlighted some of the lessons to be learned from the Northern Ireland Elections be circulated to all Members for information.

ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE IN RELATION TO THE NEW COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

- 6410 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 30 March 2005 (page 1555/1556, paragraph 5614 (4) refers), a report was submitted by the Chief Executive considering the role of the Community Participation Committee in relation to the new Community Planning Partnership.
- 6411 Having heard Councillor White, the Council agreed to continue consideration of this item to the next meeting.

APPEALS HEARINGS

- 6412 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 30 March 2005 (page 1555/1556, paragraph 5614 (3) refers), a report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services making recommendations in response to a review of the current arrangements for Appeals submitted under the Council's Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures.
- 6413 Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Agnew, moved:-
- 6414 That the Council approves recommendations (a) to (e) as detailed within the report, as follows:-
- (a) the establishment of an Appeals Panel that is constituted to hear appeals from Chief Officers in addition to Local Government Employees;
 - (b) that the preferred option for Panel membership be determined from the options available for further consultation;
 - (c) that a review be undertaken of current disciplinary procedures which incorporates the procedure to be followed at Appeal hearings;

- (d) that a programme of training be put in place for management and personnel representatives to enhance competence in the presentation of appeals;
- (e) the remit of the Appeals Panel be extended to reflect revised legislation in relation to dismissal in the event of redundancy and the termination of fixed-term contracts.

6415 That, in respect of recommendation (b) above, the Trades Unions be consulted on Options 2 and 6 as detailed within the report but that the quorum in respect of each option should be amended to read '3' and not '2'.

6416 As an amendment Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Bollan, moved:-

6417 That this Council should not approve any of the recommendations in the report but instead should refer the whole report to the Trades Unions for comment. In addition, the Trades Unions should be invited to give their views on whether they would prefer meetings to be arranged on a fixed timetable or to continue on an ad hoc basis.

6418 Thereafter, the views of the Trades Unions on all of the options listed within the report together with any other concerns they might have on the Appeals mechanism should be considered by this Council at the same time as the report.

6419 On a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the amendment and 15 for the motion which was according declared carried.

JOINT CONSULTATIVE FORUM

6420 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 30 March 2005 (page 1555/1556, paragraph 5614 (3) refers) a report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services asking the Council to consider options for the conduct of Joint Consultation with the Trades Unions.

6421 Having heard Councillor Devine in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to approve the recommendation to proceed with discussions with the Trades Unions to amend the constitution of the JCF to reflect the requirements of the Information and Consultation Regulations; and
- (2) to continue consideration of recommendation 5 (b) of the report to a future meeting.

COUNCIL MEETING ARRANGEMENTS – REGULATORY COMMITTEES

- 6422 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 30 March 2005 (page 1555/1556, paragraph 5614 (3) refers), a report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing the Council with further information on meetings of its Regulatory Committees (the Planning Committee and Licensing Committee).
- 6423 Having heard Councillor McAllister in answer to a Member's question, the Council agreed that a general review on the operation of the Regulatory Committees should be combined with the review of the procedures operated by the Planning Committee which is scheduled to take place towards the end of the current year. In the meantime the existing arrangements for determining regulatory issues through the Council's Planning and Licensing Committees should continue.

CHANGE OF CONVENERSHIPS/COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS/OUTSIDE BODIES ETC.

- 6424 The Council was invited to consider making changes to Convenerships/Committee Memberships/Outside Bodies etc.
- 6425 Councillor Flynn, seconded by Councillor Agnew, moved:-
- 6426 The Council reaffirms the convenerships currently held within the Council with the following changes/additions:-
- 6427 Convener of Personnel – Joe Pilkington (Scale 2 SRA)
Community Safety Partnership – Geoff Calvert (Scale 2 SRA)
- 6428 In addition, the Council agrees to make the following changes to the membership of Committees/Outside Bodies:-
- SPT
Linda McColl
Duncan McDonald (substitute)
- Clydebank Rebuilt
Andy White
Duncan McDonald
Connie O'Sullivan (substitute)
Gail Casey (substitute)
- 6429 In addition, Council agrees to give further consideration to other changes to membership of committees and outside bodies at the next Council meeting.
- 6430 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved:-

6431 That Councillor Brogan be nominated to serve on Clydebank Rebuilt whether it be as a member or a substitute.

6432 On a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the amendment and 15 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

LIAISON MEETING WITH AMEY AND SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE ON 20 MAY 2005

6433 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 27 April 2005 (page 1608, paragraph 5816 refers), a report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services on the outcome of discussions with AMEY and the Scottish Executive on the A82.

6434 Councillor McDonald, seconded by Councillor Rooney, moved:-

6435 That the Council agrees to note that AMEY plan to return to carry out minor repairs later in the year to a section of the A82, outwith peak periods.

6436 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved:-

6437 That the Council should write to AMEY expressing the Council's disappointment that they have effectively ignored the Council's request that works on the Stoneymollan Roundabout, Balloch, should be carried outwith peak hours.

6438 On a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the amendment and 15 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

CORPORATE PLAN: PROGRESS

6439 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive presenting the new Corporate Plan for 2005-2009 to the Council for approval.

6440 The Council agreed:-

- (1) to approve the main principles of the new 2005-2009 Corporate Plan and delegate approval of the final version of the text to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council;
- (2) that the printed version of the booklet be circulated to all Members and published on the Council web-site once approved; and
- (3) to refer scrutiny arrangements of the Corporate Plan to the next meeting of the Audit & Performance Review Committee in September 2005.

CUSTOMER SERVICE STANDARDS

6441 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive asking the Council to approve new Customer Services Standards.

6442 Having heard the Chief Executive in answer to Members' questions and Councillor White in further explanation, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to approve the customer service standards as detailed in the Appendix to the report;
- (2) that enhanced guidance be added to the standards concerning the requirement for staff to produce photographic identification whenever visiting residents' homes; and
- (3) that officers should continue to monitor feedback from front line staff on the implications of implementing these standards.

CUSTOMER FIRST STRATEGY

6443 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive asking the Council to approve a 'Customer First' strategy.

6444 Having heard Councillor White, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to approve the 'Customer First' strategy as detailed within the report; and
- (2) that officers should continue to monitor feedback from staff on the implications of implementing the strategy.

STANDARDS COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND – GUIDANCE ON CONDUCT IN CHAMBERS OR COMMITTEE

6445 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive seeking approval of comments which had been made in response to draft Guidance which had been issued by the Standards Commission for Scotland on the Conduct of Elected Members in Chambers or Committee.

6446 The Council agreed to approve the comments submitted to the Standards Commission.

ARTS IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

6447 A joint report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services and the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing information on West Dunbartonshire Council's art collection and making recommendations thereon.

6448 It was noted that the reference to 'Children's Services Committee' in paragraph 3.4.3 of the report should have read 'Social Justice Committee'.

6449 Councillor Agnew, seconded by Councillor McNair, moved:-

6450 That the Council agrees:-

- (1) to establish an Acquisitions Working Group to comprise 5 Members, (4 Labour, 1 Opposition) and appropriate officers;
- (2) that the remit of the Acquisitions Working Group, which will include formulating the Council's policy for retention, acquisition and disposal of works of art in accordance with Museum Registration criteria; and
- (3) to note that details of an exhibition of Council art works to be held in Lomond Shores would be reported to the Acquisitions Working Group.

6451 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved:-

6452 That the proposed Working Group must report to Council prior to deciding on the future of any works of art held by the Council.

6453 On a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the amendment and 15 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

TOLLED BRIDGES REVIEW, PHASE 2 CONSULTATION

6454 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services advising of the current status of the Scottish Executive's review of the tolling arrangements on Scotland's three remaining toll bridges and seeking approval to respond to the Phase 2 Consultation in relation to Erskine Bridge as contained within the report.

5455 Having heard Councillor White, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the current status of the toll review at Erskine Bridge carried out by the Scottish Executive to date and approve the proposed consultation response as shown in Appendix A to the report; and

- (2) to reaffirm its opposition to the tolls on the Erskine Bridge based on the reasons detailed in the report, and to support the actions taken to achieve the removal of the tolls.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY 2004-2009 ANNUAL UPDATE – JULY 2005

- 6456 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services seeking approval to submit the first annual update of the West Dunbartonshire Local Housing Strategy to Communities Scotland.
- 6457 Having heard Councillors Flynn and McAllister, the Council agreed to approve the submission of the first Annual Update of the West Dunbartonshire Local Housing Strategy 2004-2009 to Communities Scotland Paisley Area Office for assessment.

COMMONWEALTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM

- 6458 Correspondence was submitted from the Commonwealth Local Government Forum inviting this Council to become a member of the Forum.
- 6459 Having heard Councillor Calvert, the Council agreed to become a member of the above Forum at an annual cost of £695.

QUESTIONS

- 6460 **(A)** In accordance with Standing Order No 9, the following questions were submitted to the Convener of Housing:-
- (1) What are the current criteria for the replacement of a kitchen as part of the capital and revenue programmes?
 - (2) Can the Convener provide a written list to members detailing on a ward by ward basis, how many kitchens have been replaced through either capital or revenue programmes?
 - (3) Can the Convener detail the current Council policy for the external painting of houses?
 - (4) Is the Convener aware that this Council's housing debt is almost at its upper limit of borrowing consent?
 - (5) Does the Convener find this level acceptable?

Councillor Flynn, Convener of Housing Services, responded in the following terms:-

- (1) The HRA Capital Plan 2004/2005 was approved by Council on 31 March 2004. The report recommended that the kitchen programme be prioritised on the basis of house age of build but any kitchen requiring upgrading ahead of this programme due to their current condition would also be funded from this budget. To start the kitchen programme, all pending jobs were started while supply tenders were being progressed.

The HRA Capital Plan 2005/2006 was approved by Council on 10 February 2005. The report recommended that the programme be prioritised on the basis of current condition of kitchen units.

The current kitchen programme has been developed from information held on the condition of the housing stock and date of build criteria. However, a small sum will be held to enable urgent replacements to be carried out.

- (2) Yes. The information will be sent to you.
- (3) I can confirm that there is no specific policy in place for external painterwork. The Capital Plan 2005/2006 was approved by Council on 10 February 2005. The report advised that the programme would incorporate carry forward projects from 2004/2005 with the remaining programme delegated to the Director of Housing and Technical Services in consultation with the Convener. The programme would be reported to Committee at a later date.

I can further advise that when identifying suitable projects, technical staff took into account the current condition of the building. However, to avoid previous pressures on the Council's budgets, the painterwork programme only considered buildings that had previously been painted.

To ensure the Council works towards the Scottish Housing Quality Standard by 2015, it is proposed that the 2006/2007 and future programmes are prepared on the basis of current external appearance and building condition.

- (4) Housing capital is borrowed within the parameters of the Prudential Code and the payment of this debt is allowed for in the revenue estimates for 2005/2006. Any limit will be determined by the ability of the HRA to meet the cost of borrowing. Future borrowing will be guided by the Option Appraisal which has been undertaken by the Council's consultants, and this will be reported to the August 2005 Council meeting.
- (5) The administration is committed to providing modern housing suitable for the 21st century and this requires investment. The level of investment needed for our stock to meet the housing quality standard, and the cost of this, will be considered at the August Council meeting.

6462 **(B)** In accordance with Standing Order No 9, the following questions have been submitted to the Convener of Cultural Services:-

This Council congratulates the Convener and officers for all their efforts in the preparation of the REM Concert in Balloch. Could the Convener provide answers to the following questions:-

- (1) How many complimentary tickets and passes in total did the Council receive?
- (2) How and who allocated the complimentary tickets throughout the Council?
- (3) What is the total face retail value of the tickets received?
- (4) What was the total income generated to the Council from the event?

6463 Councillor Agnew, Convener of Cultural Services, responded in the following terms:-

- (1) The Council purchased 300 tickets from the promoter. The hospitality passes were prepared by the Council, the number prepared was 320.
- (2) A draft guest list was prepared by officers and referred to the Council Leader, Depute Council Leader, Convener of Cultural Services and Corporate Management Team for consideration. Once initially approved, the matter was remitted to the Convener of Cultural Services and officers of the Council to progress.
- (3) Tickets for the concert were £35 each. The Council has been invoiced for £8,936.17 plus VAT for the 300 tickets purchased, the VAT amount being reclaimable.

- (4) The Council has received a sum of £50,000 for the rental of Balloch Park for staging the R.E.M. concert. Various Council services were utilised by the promoter in the preparation and staging of the concert. The Council's Legal Services team agreed a sum of £4,000 for preparation of the Minute of Agreement. The Council's Land Services, Waste Services and Catering Services each provided services before, during and after the event. However, the costs to the promoter have still to be finalised and settled, as have the land rental charges for car parking. Each of these items are separate and additional arrangements outwith the £50,000 site fee.

6464 (C) In terms of Standing Order No 9, the following questions were submitted to the Convener of Housing:-

At a meeting to discuss the stock appraisal and stock condition survey Members were told that partial stock transfer was the best possible option for this Council – has the Labour Group formed a view on the option presented?

In our local communities there are existing regeneration vehicles and structures in place where communities are heavily involved. Does the Convener agree that they are the best mechanisms to drive forward regeneration in those areas?

Does the Labour Group agree that where local well established local housing associations exist they should be considered if partial transfer was agreed by this Council?

6465 Councillor Flynn, Convener of Housing Services, responded in the following terms:-

I believe that the meeting to which you refer was a presentation by consultants on the option appraisal commissioned by the Council. The consultants presented various options and did not state that partial transfer was the "best possible option" for the Council. As I have already stated, this matter will be reported to Council in August when full consideration will be given to all the options.

Communities Scotland provide guidance on the Community Ownership Programme and this included options for selecting "receiving registered social landlords." If the Council decides to transfer any of its stock, it will be necessary to comply with the requirements of Communities Scotland.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

6466 The Council considered the undernoted motions, which were submitted in accordance with Standing Order No 8:-

(A) Motion by Councillor Bollan

6467 This Council agrees to the request of local tenants and residents to remove the dangerous concrete structure situated in Riverside Estate Alexandria. The Director should be authorised to secure funding from slippage in the Capital Programme or from resources released from any other appropriate budget head.

6468 Councillor Bollan was heard in support of his motion, which was seconded by Councillor McLaughlin.

6469 As an amendment, Councillor Flynn, seconded by Councillor Agnew, moved:-

6470 This Council recognises that the structure in the Riverside Estate, Alexandria was designed and erected in a housing context as street furniture or visual art. Given this situation therefore, the Council agrees that no removal of structure is necessary but that the Director of Housing and Technical Services be instructed to arrange that the Warden Service investigates and monitors use of this structure with a view to alleviating any anti-social behaviour or nuisance issues associated in liaison with the Police.

6471 On a vote being taken, 15 Members voted for the amendment and 3 for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

(B) Motion by Councillor Bollan

6472 This Council condemns the length of time it is taking the Labour Administration to replace the public toilets they closed in West Dunbartonshire. As an interim measure, this Council agrees to provide suitable temporary toilets, before the summer school holidays, until the new toilets are put in place.

6473 Councillor Bollan was heard in support of his motion, which was seconded by Councillor McLaughlin.

6474 As an amendment, Councillor McDonald, seconded by Councillor Agnew, moved:-

6475 This Council recognises that it is bound by European legislation in any of its major procurement projects.

6476 There is a new provision in the Balloch Country Park and the public toilet provision at Dumbarton Town Centre and Balloch will remain until the procurement process is complete. There are facilities at the Vale of Leven Pool and the Community Education Centre. This Council welcomes the improvement in service that the new APC provision represents.

6477 On a vote being taken, 15 Members voted for the amendment and 3 for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

(C) Motion by Councillor Bollan

6478 This Council agrees that the budgetary decision to remove the summer play facilities in our parks, in particular Christie Park and Levensgrove, was a mistake.

6479 Therefore this Council agrees to suspend standing orders and reverse the decision to remove the children's summer play facilities.

6480 At this point, Depute Provost McColl pointed out that the Council would need to suspend Standing Order No. 16 in order to consider the above motion as the decision referred to above had been made within 6 months from the date of this meeting.

6481 On a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the suspension of Standing Order No. 16 and 15 against. Accordingly, the motion was not considered.

(D) Motion by Councillor McLaughlin

6482 This Council agrees that the collection of council tax is a high priority for the delivery services and that maximisation of collection is a must.

6483 However this Council agrees that the threat of/or the removal of a person's licence is an inappropriate maximisation method.

6484 Therefore Council officers should be instructed to no longer issue the threat of removal of a person's licence on the basis of their council tax arrears.

6485 Councillor McLaughlin was heard in support of his motion, which was seconded by Councillor McGregor, and clarified that the motion referred to individual taxi driver licences.

6486 As an amendment, Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Agnew, moved:-

6487 That the Council approves the first paragraph of Councillor McLaughlin's motion but paragraphs 2 and 3 should be deleted.

6488 On a vote being taken, 15 Members voted for the amendment and 3 for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

(E) Motion by Councillor Bollan

6489 This Council agrees that given the imposition of a 1.5% reduction to requests from community groups for grant funding that the Council revisits the number of Conveners and committee chairs with a view to bringing them into line with the number of council departments. Any savings made should be re-allocated to the grants budget.

6490 Councillor Bollan was heard in support of his motion, which was seconded by Councillor McLaughlin.

6491 As an amendment, Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Agnew, moved:-

6492 The Council reaffirms our support for the actions taken to achieve for the second year in a row the lowest Council Tax in Scotland.

6493 Council also agrees that before Councillor Bollan proposes any changes to the grants Budget he should examine his own record in office which led to deficits, shortages and overspends.

6494 On a vote being taken, 15 Members voted for the amendment and 3 for the motion. The Amendment was accordingly declared carried.

(F) Motion by Councillor McLaughlin

6495 This Council recognises that it is a key partner in the economic regeneration process.

6496 This Council agrees that the prioritisation of local investment in the area is a critical key to the regeneration of our local economy.

6497 Therefore to deliver that objective the Council agrees to instruct officers to utilise and prioritise local companies when procuring services.

6498 Councillor McLaughlin was heard in support of his motion, which was seconded by Councillor McGregor.

6499 As an amendment, Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Councillor Agnew, moved:-

6500 That the last paragraph of the above motion be deleted and the following paragraphs be inserted:-

6501 Since the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, it has been recognised that the duty on Councils to promote sustainable development provides opportunities to examine local provision which previously may not have been capable of being justified by the existing legislative framework. A crude “buy local” policy will still be in conflict with both national and European legislation. However, other means of encouraging local benefit e.g. through requirements for training etc., reasonably related to the product, service or work being delivered under the contract may be worth investigating further.

6502 This Council instructs the Chief Executive to prepare a report for consideration by the Corporate Services Committee. This report should outline the issues involved in the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 and how the Council can best support local business while maintaining the most economic, effective and efficient method of procurement.

6503 Councillor McLaughlin informed Council that he accepted Councillor O'Sullivan's amendment to his motion and thereafter the motion, as amended, was unanimously approved.

(G) Motion by Councillor McLaughlin

6504 This Council expresses its grave concern at the disruption and traffic chaos being caused by the road works at and beyond the Stoneymollan Roundabout at Balloch.

6505 The delays being causes to businesses, local people and tourists is wholly unacceptable and in some cases is causing waiting times in excess of 45 minutes.

6506 Therefore this Council should demand that the Scottish Executive instruct that all works at the A82 should be conducted either at night or during quieter months of the year.

6507 At this point, the Manager of Best Value and Special Projects advised that the above motion was in conflict with a decision made by Council earlier in the meeting (Liaison Meeting with Amey and Scottish Executive on 20 May 2005).

6508 Thereafter, Councillor McLaughlin withdrew his motion.

(H) Motion by Councillor Black

- 6509 This Council agrees that stock transfer of any kind is a huge step for this Council. As such it requires the partnership of our tenants for any regeneration plans of our stock to succeed.
- 6510 Therefore to assist the Council to make a fully informed view well in advance of any decision on the future of the housing stock that tenants groups are fully consulted and involved prior to any decision being taken by the Council.
- 6511 As Councillor Black was not in attendance and no other Member moved the above motion on his behalf, the motion was not considered by Council.

DEPUTE PROVOST'S REMARKS

- 6512 Depute Provost McColl wished everyone a good holiday during the forthcoming Council recess in July.

The meeting closed at 5.25 p.m.