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## **CONSULTATION PROCESS ON PHASE 2 OF THE REGENERATION OF THE SCHOOLS' ESTATE**

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive analysing the consequences for West Dunbartonshire Council on the decision of Council of 30 January 2008 (Pages 762/764 refer), to reject officers' proposals for Phase 2 of the regeneration of the schools' estate and instead to embark on a comprehensive consultation process involving all educational establishments affected.

After hearing the Chief Executive in explanation of the report, the Committee noted that any proposal to amend the decision taken by Council on 30 January 2008 would require the suspension of Standing Orders at the next Council meeting.

After discussion and having heard officers in answer to Members' questions, in particular in relation to decisions made at the first meeting of the Member/Officer Working Group on Phase 2 of the Regeneration of West Dunbartonshire Schools' Estate held on 7 April 2008, Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor Millar, moved:-

This Committee notes with concern that the Executive Director of Educational Services has insufficient resources to implement the Council's decision to consult with every educational establishment.

Therefore this Committee agrees to remit this report to Council with the request that Council provides the Executive Director with adequate resources in order to comply with the Council's decision of 30 January, 2008.

In response to a question in relation to the draft Schools' Estate Management Plan (SEMP) for 2008 which had been submitted to the Scottish Government, the Chief Executive confirmed that this document contained no recommendations and had still to be approved by Council.

After further discussion, as an amendment, Councillor C. McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Black, moved:-

We note the report and take no action at this time. We also note with concern that the phraseology of the report was highly subjective. We note that the appearance of the report appears to be politically motivated and note with concern the preferred anti-democratic approach being sought by Labour to the democratically agreed process of Council.

After debate, on a vote being taken, 4 Members voted for the amendment and 4 for the motion. There being an equality of votes, the Chair, Councillor Calvert, used his casting vote in favour of the motion which was accordingly declared carried.