

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU

22 August 2008

MEETING: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

**WEDNESDAY 27 AUGUST 2008
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CLYDEBANK TOWN HALL
DUMBARTON ROAD
CLYDEBANK**

Dear Member,

Please attend a Meeting of **West Dunbartonshire Council** to be held in the **Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank, on Wednesday, 27 August 2008 at 7.00 p.m.**

The business is as shown on the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

DAVID MCMILLAN

Chief Executive

Distribution:-

All Members of West Dunbartonshire Council.

Chief Executive

Executive Director of Corporate Services

Executive Director of Educational Services

Executive Director of Social Work and Health

Executive Director of Housing, Environmental & Economic Development

For information on the following agenda please contact George Hawthorn, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, G82 3PU on Tel: (01389) 737204 or e-mail: george.hawthorn@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 27 AUGUST 2008

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Submit for approval, as a correct record, the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 25 June 2008.

3. CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR ELECTED MEMBERS – PRESENTATION BY MARK MCATEER AND SARAH GADSEN FROM THE IMPROVEMENT SERVICE.

Mark McAteer and Sarah Gadsen, Improvement Service, will give a presentation on the Continuous Professional Development Framework for elected members.

4. OPEN FORUM

The Council is asked to note that no open forum questions have been received from members of the public.

5. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

Submit for information, and where necessary ratification, the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held on 18 June 2008.

6. MINUTES OF THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE FORUM

Submit for information, and where necessary ratification, the Minutes of Meeting of the Joint Consultative Forum held on 26 June 2008.

7. VOLUNTARY MENTORING SCHEME FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Council held on 28 May 2008, submit report by the Executive Director of Educational Services on the viability of developing a voluntary mentoring scheme employing S6 pupils who have left school for a positive destination, mentoring S4 or S2 pupils currently in education.

8. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2008/2009 BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT TO 15 JULY 2008 (PERIOD 3)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development providing the Council with an update on the financial performance of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to the period ended 15 July 2008.

9. HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008/2009 BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 15 JULY 2008 (PERIOD 3)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development providing the Council with an update on the progress of the HRA Capital Programme 2008/2009.

10. COMMITTEE TIMETABLE – JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2009

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services asking the Council to approve the timetable of main Committee meetings from January 2009 to December 2009.

11. DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2007/2008

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services providing the Council with a copy of the draft Annual Accounts for 2007/2008 and highlighting matters of interest.

12. INDICATIVE FINANCIAL POSITION 2009/10 AND 2010/11

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services providing the council with information on an indicative revenue position for the Council in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

13. GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 15 JULY 2008 (PERIOD 3)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services informing the Council of the performance of the General Services Revenue Budget for the period to 15 July 2008.

14. GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 15 JULY 2008 (PERIOD 3) (Pages 151 - 156)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services providing the Council with an update on the General Services Capital Plan for 2008/2009.

15. BUDGET 2008/2009 – ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENTAL SAVINGS (Pages 157 - 161)

Submit report by the Chief Executive providing an update on developments to address the budget decision to identify a further 1% efficiency savings by April 2009.

16. DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2009 - 2013 CORPORATE PLAN

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services seeking agreement on the themes, priorities and objectives for the 2009 – 13 Corporate Plan.

17. CORPORATE PLAN 2005 -2009 – ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services setting out the annual progress of the Corporate Plan 2005/9 for 2007/8.

18. EVIDENCE TO THE COMMISSION ON SCOTTISH DEVOLUTION

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services inviting the Council to make a formal submission to the Commission on Scottish Devolution.

19. LOCAL INQUIRIES INTO THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT BOUNDARY REVIEW

Submit report by the Chief Executive on the Local Inquiries into the proposals of the Boundary Commission for Scotland for the review of Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies.

20. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Motion by Councillor Geoff Calvert - Single Outcome Agreement

This Council is pleased to note that, in spite of the SNP Administration's assertions that the inclusion of requirements for specific actions for the Scottish Government such as – providing £25m for a new Dumbarton Academy, road improvements on the A82 at the bottleneck at Milton, more money for housing investment and a fairer distribution formula that addresses identified need in West Dunbartonshire be included West Dunbartonshire's Single Outcome Agreement as per the Labour Amendment, would result in West Dunbartonshire Council becoming a 'laughing stock, the Finance Secretary, John Swinney signed this historic document on Wednesday 30th August 2008 on behalf of the Scottish Government.

This Council notes that the Labour Opposition's determination to ensure that the Scottish Government has its own part to play in delivering for West Dunbartonshire was endorsed, without laughter, by Mr Swinney on behalf of the Scottish Government. This Council trusts that the SNP Administration has now learned that its role is to fight for West Dunbartonshire and not to protect its own Ministers from perceived embarrassment. If you don't ask, you don't get!

Given that this historic document is between the Scottish Government and the Council, the Council is disappointed that the Council Leader Iain Robertson did not arrange for the signing ceremony to take place with all elected members present as witnesses. This Council believes that this was a missed opportunity to show solidarity to a Government that, as yet, has delivered nothing but financial cuts to West Dunbartonshire.

(b) Motion by Councillor Marie McNair - Learning Disabilities Charges

Council notes that the 2008 budget introduced charges to housing support and day care services for people with a learning disability.

Furthermore, the General Manager for Learning Disability wrote to service users in June 2008 advising them that due to the financial situation facing Councils, the service could no longer be provided without levying a charge. Council also notes the letter stated: -“It is our clear aim to ensure that you will continue to have sufficient means to lead a fulfilling and meaningful life”.

In addition, Council is aware the option appraisal within the budget papers stated: -“it was felt that this service could be delivered by a number of avenues. Charging is being used as a means to wean off the dependency of people in order that they would use the other services” (minute reference 831)

This Council believes that the Learning Disability service is a crucial and necessary service to all citizens with a learning disability regardless of their financial means.

Council wants to ensure that the budget decision does not penalise some of our most vulnerable constituents and remove services that are important to their well being.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to carry out a review regarding this charge.

The review will consider the following: -

- Do service users “have sufficient means to lead a fulfilling and meaningful life”?
- What is the Council’s definition of “sufficient means to lead a fulfilling life”?
- How can the above be assessed?
- The impact the charging policy has had on the service, including take-up.
- Whether constituents are now using other services as stated in the option appraisal.
- The views of service users and their carers.

The review should include service users, carers and interest groups and report to the Council in three months time.

(c) Motion by Councillor David McBride – C-Diff

This Council supports the families of C-Diff Justice Group in their demand for a full Public Enquiry, independent of the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland.

We instruct the Council Leader to write to the Cabinet Secretary Nicola Sturgeon with the Council's full backing for the Public Enquiry.

(d) Motion by Councillor Patrick McGlinchey – Curriculum for Excellences: Support for Parents

Council believes that we should do everything we can to ensure parents are in a position where they are able to help and support children with their homework.

Council notes that a new Scottish curriculum – “The Curriculum for Excellence” – will be phased in to all schools within West Dunbartonshire over the next year, and with it will bring a new approach to school education.

Council recognises that with changes to the curriculum and the implementation of modern teaching techniques, parents often feel they lack confidence in their knowledge of the curriculum and of the correct techniques to effectively support their children with their homework in the correct way.

Council recognises and praises the work schools currently do to assist parents with pupil's homework, and educate them on the curriculum, but also recognises the benefits of developing an authority-wide strategy on homework-aid to coincide with the implementation of the new ‘Curriculum for Excellence’.

With this in mind, Council requests that officers organise a seminar, in partnership with the ‘Parental Involvement Strategy Steering-group’, for parent council members – as a focus group - in order to gauge what Council could do to enhance homework support for parents, examining ideas such as science & maths homework accompanied by working examples, curriculum seminars for primary-one parents, and teaching- techniques guide books.

Council asks for a report back on the outcomes of the seminar.

(e) Motion by Councillor Martin Rooney – Vale of Leven Hospital

This Council deeply regrets the conclusions of the Vale of Leven Independent External Review of anaesthetics which recommends the removal of the anaesthetics service at the Vale of Leven Hospital and the cessation of the Medical Assessment Unit in its current form.

The Council notes that the Cabinet Secretary for Health & Wellbeing has welcomed the report which, if implemented, will see the further transfer of patients from the Vale of Leven Hospital to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley.

The Council further notes that the report also recommends that:

* all attendances resulting from 999 calls will completely bypass the Vale of Leven Hospital;

* all attendances resulting from NHS24 referrals will completely bypass the Vale of Leven Hospital;

* only attendances referred by a GP and the Minor Injuries Unit will continue at the Vale of Leven Hospital.

The net effect of these changes is expected to result in as many as 64% of existing emergency patients being transferred away from the Vale of Leven to Paisley.

The Council therefore believes that the SNP Government will have failed to meet its' own policy of 'keeping services local' if more patients are unable to receive emergency medical care at the Vale of Leven Hospital.

The Council also notes that Option 2, to develop a new acute hospital north of the Clyde has not been comprehensively considered, but that, with the presence of the Golden Jubilee, the clinical quality would be "Excellent - emergency medicine, cardiac and anaesthetics on site."

The Council therefore instructs the Council Leader to write to and arrange an urgent meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Health & Wellbeing to demand, in the strongest possible terms, the continuation of existing emergency services at the Vale of Leven Hospital and consideration of a new acute hospital to realign services away from Paisley to 'north of the river'.

(f) Motion by Councillor George Black – Cancelled Meetings

This Council questions the commitment of the members of the SNP Administration and their flagrant disregard of Standing Orders. Standing Order's Part Two 26 (C) states "the ordinary meetings of Committees will meet at times as may be determined by the Council and will meet according to a timetable determined by the Council from time to time".

This Education and Lifelong Learning Committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 13 August and cancelled with no explanation it was then rescheduled for Wednesday 20 August and again cancelled, rescheduled for Friday 29th August with no explanation

There is no provision in Standing Orders for a Convenor to arbitrarily change the date of a scheduled meeting and there is certainly no power granted to a Vice Chair to cancel or reschedule a meeting.

This Council therefore condemns the cavalier attitude of this SNP administration and requires them to comply with the Standing Orders of this Council.

The Council would also wish to hear the Convenor in explanation of the reasons that these changes were deemed necessary except the 20th of August and to submit an apology to this Council.