

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held within the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 28th May 1997.

Present: Provost Patrick O'Neill (LAB), James McElhill (SNP), Mary Campbell (LAB), Daniel McCafferty (LAB), John Syme (LAB), Andrew White (LAB), Anthony Devine (LAB), Alistair Macdonald (LAB), James Doherty (LAB), George Cairney (LAB), John McCutcheon (SNP), James McCallum (LAB & CO-OP), Geoffrey Calvert (LAB & CO-OP), John Wailes (SNP), William Mackechnie (SNP), Duncan Mills (LAB), Craig McLaughlin (SNP), Ronald McColl (SNP), James Flynn (LAB) and James Chirrey (SNP).

Attending: Michael Watters, Chief Executive, Ian Leitch, Depute Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council, Eric Walker, Director of Finance, Ian McMurdo, Director of Education and Leisure Services, Tim Huntingford, Director of Social Work and Housing, Ian Fernie, Director of Economic; Planning and Environmental Services, Allan Findlay, Director of Contract Services, Patrick Cleary, Director of Roads and Technical Services, John Bak, Head of Personnel and Training, Mary Cullen, Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations and Angela Clements, Head of Information Services.

Apologies for Absence: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Patricia Rice (LAB) and Margaret McGregor (SNP).

Provost Patrick O'Neill in the Chair

PRESENTATION BY SCOTTISH WATER AND SEWERAGE CUSTOMIER COUNCIL

There was tabled letter dated 28th May 1997 from the Scottish Water and Sewerage Customers Council advising that, as a result of unavoidable staff absence, it was necessary to cancel the presentation scheduled for this meeting. The Council noted the position.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 23rd April 1997 were submitted and approved on the motion of Councillor Cairney, seconded by Councillor Campbell, with the exception of the undernoted item from the excerpt minute from the Policy and Resources Committee (page 2115):

Financial Assistance: Balloch and Loch Lomond Highland Games

Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor Mackechnie, moved the Suspension of Standing Order 18(c) to allow further consideration of this item. On a vote being taken, 13 Members

voted in favour of suspension. There being no votes against, the suspension accordingly carried.

After discussion, Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor Mackechnie, moved that in light of new information received, the Council agree to provide a guarantee of further grant assistance of up to £2,000 if it proved necessary and that Council staff meanwhile assist the Balloch Highland Games Association to identify and seek suitable sponsorship.

As an amendment, Councillor Cairney, seconded by Councillor Campbell, moved that no additional funding be approved, but that the use of Argyle Park for the Games be approved in principle and that the decision thereon be remitted to Provost O'Neill and Councillor Macdonald after receiving reports from the appropriate officers.

On a vote being taken, 13 Members voted for the Amendment and 7 for the Motion. The Amendment accordingly carried.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

Finance Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 23rd April 1997 (insofar as not already approved) were submitted and approved on the motion of Councillor Cairney seconded by Councillor Campbell.

Policy and Resources Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 23rd April 1997 (insofar as not already approved) were submitted and approved on the motion of Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor McCafferty.

Information Services Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Information Services Committee held on 23rd April 1997 were submitted and noted for information.

Community Initiatives Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Initiatives Committee held on 25th April 1997 were submitted and noted for information.

Social Work Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 7th May 1997 were submitted and noted for information.

Housing Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Housing Committee held on 7th May 1997 were submitted and noted for information.

Special Meeting of the Planning and Economic Development Committee

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Planning and Economic Development Committee held on 7th May 1997 were submitted and noted for information.

COMPLAINT TO PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 28th August 1996 (pages 964/965 refer), there was submitted and noted report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council giving the updated position on the outcome of the complaint to the Press Complaints Commission about the treatment of the Council in relation to the removal of security cameras at Ladyton.

SCOTTISH POWER SHOP, ALEXANDRIA

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 26th March 1997 (page 2040 refers), there was submitted letter from Scottish Power on its proposals to close its Alexandria shop. After discussion, it was agreed to write to Scottish Power reaffirming the Council's concern at the closure and requesting that Scottish Power consider making arrangements for accounts to be paid at the local Post Office without additional charge.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS/ANNUAL LEAVE

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 26th March 1997 (page 2043 refers), there was submitted and approved report by the Head of Personnel and Training making recommendations in respect of the remainder of public holidays for 1997 and the standardisation of annual leave entitlements, following negotiations with the trades unions.

SERVICES TO ELECTED MEMBERS

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 23rd April 1997 (page 2105 refers), the following reports were submitted and dealt with as undernoted :

- a) Update report by the Chief Executive on the current position in relation to Members' secretarial services; and
- (b) Report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council on transport for Members

On the motion of Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Macdonald, it was agreed in respect of item (a) that the Chief Executive should immediately take steps to restore the complement of members' secretarial staff and improve the service and that he report to the June meeting of the Council; and in respect of item (b), that the Depute Chief Executive and

Solicitor to the Council report to the next Council meeting on the most economic means of providing transport for those Members (currently 7 in number) who are non-drivers.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

With reference to the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 23rd April 1997, there were submitted four reports by the Head of Personnel and Training on Training and Development:

- a) **Vocational Qualifications** (page 2143 refers)
- b) **Senior Management Development** (page 2144 refers)
- c) **Supervisor and Middle Management Development** (page 2144 refers)
- d) **Elected Members' Development** (page 2144 refers)

The following additional report was also submitted by the Head of Personnel and Training:

e) Corporate Learning and Development Policy

It was agreed, on the motion of Councillor McCallum seconded by Councillor Calvert, in respect of each of the above that they be remitted back to the Policy and Resources Committee for further consideration with the following observations:

- i) that training should be competence based
- ii) that the Council's training strategy should recognise the key role which Directors, Heads, Managers and Supervisors have to play in staff training;
- iii) that the strategy should focus on demand and needs-based training.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor McCallum, seconded by Councillor White, moved the following:

"West Dunbartonshire Council condemns the negative contribution made to the article on West Dunbartonshire printed in the national press on 30th April 1997.

The Council reminds the SNP Group that when they have nothing constructive to contribute, they should refrain from damaging the positive contribution made to community life by others."
Councillor Mackechnie, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, proposed the following amendment:

"This Council notes the hyper-sensitivity of certain Labour Councillors to criticism and contrasts this with the dignified way in which the Leader of the Council has treated comments made by Labour Party Colleagues in the press.

This Council also notes that the SNP always strives to be constructive and in this spirit, to assist the Labour Administration in its forthcoming deliberations the SNP publishes the latest odds in the Backstabbers Handicap.

Backstabbers Handicap

Runners	Odds
Linnvale Marauder	4-6
Dalmuir Dynamo	4-1
Mountblow Rambler	6-1
Bellsmyre Planner	10-1
Kilbowie Komment	16-1
In Relation to Duntocher	20-1
	25-1 Bar

On a vote being taken, 7 Members voted for the Amendment and 13 for the Motion which accordingly carried.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME 1997/98 (NON-HOUSING AND NON-HRA)

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance making recommendations in respect of the Capital Expenditure Programme for 1997/98 (Non-Housing and Non-HRA).

After discussion, Councillor Cairney, seconded by Councillor Campbell, moved approval of the proposed capital programme (pages 42 and 43 of the report) subject to the following changes, namely that the three items relating to Residential Homes and Day Centres detailed on pages 16 and 17 of the report be deleted and met from slippage in the Social Work Section of the Capital Programme, which failing, from central repairs and maintenance.

As an amendment, Councillor Mackechnie, seconded by Councillor McCutcheon, moved approval of the report subject to the following changes:

Planning and Economic Development:	£
Add provision for Millennium Link	50,000
Reduce Industrial/Commercial Premises by £25,000	175,000
Roads and Transportation	£
Add Minor Works	12,000
Reduce Road Safety, Cycling and Traffic Calming by £12,000	168,000
Reduce Bridge Assessment and Strengthening by £10,000	140,000
Contract Services	
Reduce Machinery by £15,000	85,000

RECESS

At this point the Council agreed to a short recess. The meeting resumed at 9.05 p.m. with the same sederunt.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME 1997/98 (NON-HOUSING AND NON-HRA) - continued

On a vote being taken, 7 Members voted for the Amendment and 13 for the Motion which accordingly carried.

The Capital Expenditure programme as approved forms the Appendix to this Minute.

Councillor Cairney, on behalf of the Council, thanked the officers for the work which they had undertaken in preparing the report.

EDUCATION CAPITAL BUILDING PROGRAMME 1998/99

There was submitted report by the Director of Education and Leisure Services seeking to identify finances within the Council's Capital Programme for 1998/99 in relation to modifications to the planned capital building project at Ladyton Primary School (fire reinstatement). The Council approved in principle the allocation of Capital Funding of £388,000 to the Ladyton Primary School Fire Reinstatement Programme in financial year 1998/99 to enable the full project to be completed in the most cost-effective manner

DISAGGREGATION OF STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL HQ COMPLEX - DISPOSAL OF STRATHCLYDE HOUSE 4

There was submitted report by the Director of Economic; Planning and Environmental Services on the outcome of the marketing exercise undertaken by Glasgow City Council to dispose of the former Strathclyde House 4 which was part of Strathclyde Regional Council's H.Q. Office Complex. The Council agreed to advise Glasgow City Council of its acceptance of the offer from Derby Investments Holdings Ltd within the timescale indicated in the report.

AUTHORITIES BUYING CONSORTIUM

There was submitted report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council in relation to the proposed withdrawal of Glasgow City Council from the Authorities Buying Consortium. The Council approved the action taken by the Joint Committee to retain all current members within the Consortium and to consider any report arising from the outcome of negotiations.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, SCOTLAND, THE EARL OF HAIG FUND, SCOTLAND AND THE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION, SCOTLAND –

REMEMBRANCE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11TH 1997

There was submitted report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council advising of the intention of the above organisations to promote a two minute silence on Tuesday, 11th November 1997. The Council agreed the recommendations of the report as follows:

- a) that the Council supports the Associations by enabling staff to observe the two minute silence;
- b) that the Council invite members of the public, through the public media, likewise to observe the silence; and
- c) that the Council, in its schools, seeks observance of the silence.

ROADS DIRECT - WORKS FOR EXTERNAL AGENCIES

There was submitted report by the Director of Roads and Technical Services on the opportunity for Roads Direct to carry out works for external agencies. Councillor Flynn, seconded by Councillor White, moved that the Council delegate authority to the Director of Roads and Technical Services in consultation with the Convener of the Roads and Technical Services Committee to tender for works from external agencies and that the Roads and Technical Services Committee be apprised of external commissions at the earliest opportunity.

Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McElhill, moved that, in addition to the above motion, the local Member be also consulted on external commissions prior to tender issue and that, in the event of dispute between the directorate and the local member, the matter revert to the Committee for decision.

Having heard the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council, Councillor McLaughlin withdrew this amendment. He then, seconded by Councillor McElhill, moved as an amendment that a Sub-Committee be established to decide bids for external contracts.

On a vote being taken, 7 Members voted for the Amendment and 13 for the Motion which accordingly carried.

MODEL OF HELICOPTER/ERECTION OF PLAQUE

There was submitted report by the Director of Education and Leisure Services on the offer by Mr. Norman Horan of Cheltenham to donate a model of the Denny helicopter to the Denny Tank, where the original was designed by Edwin R. Mumford and recommending that a commemorative plaque be placed to Mr Mumford at the Denny Tank. After discussion, the Council approved the report, expressed its gratitude to Mr Horan and commanded Councillor Chirrey for bringing the matter to its attention.

Councillor Doherty left the Meeting at this point.

CLYEBANK UNEMPLOYED COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - DELEGATION TO LABARTOW, POLAND

There was submitted letter and associated correspondence from the Clydebank Unemployed Community Resource Centre's Management Committee advising of a forthcoming visit to Labartow, Poland and requesting that the Council send a representative to Labartow to accompany the delegation.

Councillor Macdonald, seconded by Councillor McCafferty, moved that the Provost take part in the visit.

As an amendment, Councillor Mackechnie, seconded by Councillor McColl, moved that it was inappropriate to take part in such a visit at a time of financial restraint.

On a vote being taken, 7 Members voted for the Amendment and 12 for the Motion which accordingly carried.

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

There were submitted and dealt with as undernoted details of the following conferences/seminars:

(a) Association of Direct Labour Organisations Annual Conference 1997: Belfast 3-6 June 1997; and

(b) COSLA - "Putting Scotland in the Picture" Conference - Edinburgh - 6 June 1997

Noted.

(c) Scottish Local Government Information Unit: "Local Business Rates: A Solution or a Problem?" Edinburgh, 19 June 1997

Agreed attendance of Councillor White.

(d) Children in Scotland: "Children's Rights = Human Rights?" Seminar, Edinburgh 9 July 1997.

Agreed attendance of Councillor Rice.

GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 1997/1998

There was submitted report by the Director of Education and Leisure Services making recommendations for grants to voluntary organisations made by the Education Member/Officer Working Group at its meeting on 21st May 1997. The recommendations were approved as follows:

Braidfield Community Creche	£9,000
Dalmuir After School Care	£5,000
St. Mary's After School Care	£5,000
Vale After School Care	£3,000
Club After Three, Braehead	£3,600
Zoological Society of Glasgow and West of Scotland	£1,176
National Youth Orchestra of Scotland	£160

Councillor McCafferty, having declared a non-pecuniary interest in a grant application, took no part in the discussion nor decision on the matter.

1. Projects which have Statutory/Health & Safety Implications

	<u>£ '000</u>
<i>Education</i>	
St. Stephen's P. School- Essential Maintenance	60
Health & Safety	45
<i>Roads and Transportation</i>	
Noise Regulations	5
Reconstruction, Urb.Renewal & Streetscape (see note 2 overleaf)	200
Bridge Assessment and Strengthening (reduced)	150
Street Lighting Programme	100
<i>Environmental Services, etc.</i>	
Dewy Civic Theatre	80
<i>Contract Services</i>	
Replacement Buses	110
Zoeller Automatic Bin Lift	40
Machinery (Grounds Maintenance, etc.)	100
Rationalisation of Depots	65
<i>Information Services</i>	
EPLS Flare Package	7
<u>Sub-Total</u>	<u>962</u>

2. Projects Which Support the Council's Policy Objectives

<i>Education</i>	
St. Mary's P. School, Duntocher	110
Kilbowie Pre-Five Project	165
Minimum Essential List of Capital Projects	181
Excluding -	
Dumbarton Academy - Circular Saw Garage	9
Our Lady & St Patricks - Screen Print Facility	6
Janitors Houses - Reduction	5
Major Planned Maintenance - Our Lady of Loretto	60
St. Andrews High	80
<i>Social Work</i>	
Six Homes for the Elderly (Anti-Scald Valves)	72
Dalreoch House & Leven Cottage Security Lighting	5
Major Planned Maintenance	688
<i>Roads and Transportation</i>	
Road Safety, Cycling and Traffic Calming	180
<i>Planning and Economic Development</i>	
Medical Grants, Care & Repair Support	125
Other Grants	100
Town Centre Regeneration	100
Improvement of Industrial & Commercial Premises	200
C/Fwd	2,066

2. Projects Which Support the Council's Policy Objectives (cont'd)

B/Fwd	2,066
<i>Contract Services</i>	
Client/Contractor Repetitive Services	15
Management Software	
Catering	10
<i>Information Services</i>	
Year 2000 Project (see note 1 overleaf)	
Caird Exit Strategy	750
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	
Community Regeneration Centre (Faifley)	25
<u>Sub-Total</u>	<u>2,866</u>

3. Additional Projects Approved

Social Work

Mount Pleasant Home for the Elderly (Report p. 16)]	
Frank Downie Home for the Elderly (Report p. 17)]	100
Hill Park Independent Living Unit (Report p. 17)]	

Sub-Total **100**

Total (Sections 1, 2, and 3) **3,928**

Add - Total Committed (as per Summary Attached) **2,207**

Total (estimated capital availability - £6m) **6,135**

Year 2000 Project (see note 1 below) **700**

Note 1

Year 2000 Project - £700,000

Please note that it is critical that the I.S. "Millenium" problem is addressed during the current year 1997/98 and also 1998/99.

This affects all or most computer systems users throughout the world and it could cost substantial sums to resolve the problem.

It is currently unknown as to whether or not the Scottish Office will make available additional consents for Councils to tackle this situation, but if not, some £166,000 of this could be contained within the "anticipation" facility under the regulations. Any overspend beyond this, could result in an audit qualification and an equivalent abatement to the 1998/99 consent.

4. Summary of Committed Projects 1997/98

	<u>£'000</u>
St. Michael's P. Schoo4 Dumbarton	1,538
Glencairn House	46
Road Safety, Cycling and Traffic Calming	60
Street Lighting Programme	26
Town Centre and Urban Area Action Plans	78
A82 Kilbowie Roundabout	20
Environmental Improvements	20
Town Centre Regeneration	20
Medical Grants	20
Other Grants	155
Capitalised Salaries	102
Alterations to Offices (Garshake Road)	40
Alterations to Offices (Rosebery Place)	32
Alterations to 235 Dumbarton Road (Jt.Val.Board)	40
Alexandria CCTV Retention	10
<u>Total Committed</u>	<u>2,207</u>