

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL
Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, G82 3PU

17 February 2005

MEETING: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

**WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2005
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
COUNCIL OFFICES
GARSHAKE ROAD
DUMBARTON**

Dear Member,

Please attend a Meeting of **West Dunbartonshire Council** to be held in the **Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton** on Wednesday, 23 February 2005 at 7.00 p.m.

The business is as shown on the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

TIM HUNTINGFORD

Chief Executive

Distribution:-

All Members of West Dunbartonshire Council.

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

For information on the following agenda please contact George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer, Legal and Administrative 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, 23 FEBRUARY 2005

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. OPEN FORUM

**(a) Robert Doherty, 63 North Elgin Street, Whitecrook, Clydebank
Council Reports**

When a report is presented to Council there is an expectation that it should be objective, free from slanting, embellishment and spin, reporting issues and events in a disinterested, formal and impartial way that supports decision making.

Does the Council agree with the principle, and what should residents of this authority do if they believe that a report to this Council is slanted, distorted and characterised by spin?

**(b) Brian A Cairns, 108 Brown Avenue, Clydebank
Regeneration of the Schools' Estate**

Can the Council outline to parent representatives the steps taken to inform groups in the community, other than school boards, of its plans for the regeneration of the schools' estate.

**(c) Tony Coultas, 8 Dean Street, Whitecrook, Clydebank
Outline Business Case**

Under the heading of "Options Appraisal", paragraph 2.1 "Scope of the Appraisal", sub-paragraph (ii) of the Outline Business Case makes reference to regular meetings between senior officers and Council members to consider possible options, also taking account of information provided by the Council's Technical staff and the Council's Financial advisers, Caledonian Economics.

Can the Council please elaborate on the number of meetings, the volume of information provided by Technical staff, etc. to give a better idea of the effort that went into this work?

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(Pages 1 - 11)

Submit for approval as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 2 February 2005.

4. MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL (Pages 13 - 38)

Submit for approval as a correct record, the Special Minutes of the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 10 February 2005.

5. FUTURE USE OF MILTON PRIMARY SCHOOL SITE

(a) Requests for Deputations (Pages 39 - 40)

In terms of Standing Order No. 14, the Council is asked to note that the undernoted organisations have asked to make a deputation to Council in respect of the proposal to dispose of Levenford House:-

- (i) Kirktonhill Residents' Association; and
- (ii) Silverton and Overtoun Community Council.

A copy of the relevant correspondence is attached for Members' information. Accordingly, Council is asked to consider whether it wishes to hear deputations from the above organisations.

(b) Report by Chief Executive (Pages 41 - 43)

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 2 February 2005, when it had been agreed that consideration of the above matter be continued, re-submit report by the Chief Executive presenting options regarding the future use of Milton Primary School site and seeking agreement on which of these options should be pursued.

6. OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF SKYPOINT, FAIFLEY (Pages 45 – 66)

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 2 February 2005, when it had been agreed that consideration of the above matter be continued, re-submit report by the Director of Development and Environmental Services advising of recommendations within the report on the Development of a New Management Structure, following a review carried out by MCM Associates.

7. POLLING SCHEME – GENERAL ELECTION (Pages 67 – 68)

Submit report by the Chief Executive seeking authority to vary the existing polling scheme for use at a forthcoming General Election.

8. TWINNING LINKS WITH ARGENTEUIL – 2005 (Pages 69 – 72)

Submit report by the Chief Executive providing an update on twinning relations with Argenteuil, advising of forthcoming events and seeking a response to an invitation to the Provost and others to visit Argenteuil in June 2005.

9. RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE (Pages 73 - 74)

Submit report by the Chief Executive seeking approval for the setting up of a Recruitment Committee to undertake the appointment of an Acting Director of Social Work Services.

10. PROPOSAL FOR THE PROVISION OF FREE SWIMMING FOR WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE SCHOOLCHILDREN DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAY PERIODS (Pages 75 – 78)

Submit report by the Director of Housing and Technical Services outlining proposals and indicative costs for free swimming in Council leisure facilities for schoolchildren of West Dunbartonshire during the school holiday periods of 2005 and seeking a Council decision on whether to offer this free initiative during 2005.

11. WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP – PROMOTING HOME SAFETY (Pages 79 – 81)

Submit report by the Director of Development and Environmental Services providing information about Safe and Sound @ Home – a six month home safety initiative run by west Dunbartonshire Strategic Community Safety Partnership – its flagship programme for 2004/5.

12. GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL ESTIMATES 2005/06 (Pages 83)

Submit report by the Director of Corporate Services providing the Council with an update on the progress of the General Services Capital Estimates for 2005/06.

13./

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

Council is requested to consider the undernoted motions which were received in accordance with the terms of Standing Order No 8:-

(A) Motion by Councillor Black

This Council is resolved to make available to the community of Milton the Community Centre at Milton until such times as the property becomes sold or otherwise disposed of by the authority or other facilities are available for Community use.

(B) Motion – Councillor Jim Bollan

In light of the recent findings of the investigation officer of the Standards Commissioner, this Council notes with concern Depute Provost, Councillor McColl's has shown a poor lack of judgement over this entire issue.

Therefore the Council acknowledges that in such a high profile role as Depute Provost, Councillor McColl's position is now untenable.

Therefore the Council calls on Councillor McColl to resign her post as Depute Provost. Also, in keeping with previous IT breaches, the Council suspends Councillor McColl's computer and network access for a period of 6 months.

(C) Motion – Councillor Jim Bollan

This Council instructs the Department of Social Work Services to urgently re-examine budgetary provisions made to the homecare budget in light of the dramatic cuts in supporting people money.

Homecare is a key frontline service delivering essential support to the most vulnerable members of our community.

The appropriate officers should carry out a full assessment of each client's needs and report back to the first available Council meeting.

(D) Motion – Councillor Craig McLaughlin

This Council agrees that the Council Tax is an unfair and poorly constructed tax system. The Council Tax is the only tax system, which is specifically designed to increase year on year.

This/

This Council agrees to make representations to the Scottish Executive to scrap the Council Tax system and replace it with a system based on the ability to pay.

We further agree to write to all other local authorities in Scotland seeking support for this position.

(E) Motion – Councillor Jim Bollan

This Council resolves to write supporting the legislation currently before the Scottish Parliament, which if successful will see the end to prescription charges in Scotland.

(F) Motion – Councillor Jim Bollan

This Council re-affirms our support for the work carried out in all our elderly care homes and confirms our commitment to the retention of all our care homes.

(G) Motion – Councillor George Black

At a recent meeting concerning the Vale of Leven Hospital in Alexandria, local GPs raised the issue of 47 patients who are currently in hospital awaiting care home places in West Dunbartonshire.

According to reports from the GPs the sole reason for these patients not being allocated care places is due to West Dunbartonshire Council.

Therefore this Council agrees to instruct officers to prepare a full report for the next Council meeting, on all pending requests for care places in West Dunbartonshire.

(H) Motion – Councillor Jim Bollan

This Council expresses deep concern over the external catering contract for the Playdrome and Meadow Leisure Centres.

This Council should be committed to providing the highest quality services to service users. Over the years there has been a catalogue of problems with external contractors providing these services.

Therefore as a commitment to delivering quality services and as an endorsement of the high quality and efficient service that our own staff provide, this Council agrees to return the catering service to in-house staff in consultation with the trades unions.

(I) Motion – Councillor Jim Bollan

This Council agrees that the provision of basic housing services is a right that all wards are entitled to as a matter of course.

This Council notes with concern the issues being raised by the tenants in Ward 17 due to the absence of a dedicated housing officer.

In view of the ongoing loss of service in Ward 17 with this current vacancy, this Council instructs the Director of Housing and Technical Services to come forward with proposals to remedy this situation.

(J) Motion – Councillor Craig McLaughlin

This Council agrees that the protection and reinstatement of services at the Vale of Leven Hospital is a key concern of the entire local community.

At the present time the service provision for emergency and minor injuries requires patients on occasions to be transported to Paisley. In an area of low car ownership and with poor transport links to Paisley, it is extremely difficult for patients to get there and back.

In extreme cases ambulances have been used to transport relatively minor injuries to the Royal Alexandra Hospital which ties up a critical resource for well over an hour.

Until such times as these basic critical services are restored to the Vale of Leven we must accept that there is a service shortfall which is having a dramatic effect on patients.

Therefore, in keeping with other areas and to provide a critical service for the users of the NHS this Council agrees:-

To write to the Health Minister and ask him to identify possible sources of funding to provide a 24-hour patient transport service from the Vale of Leven hospital, currently estimated to cost around £130,000 per annum.

(K) Motion – Councillor Craig McLaughlin

This Council expresses deep concern at the “independent” advisor on health Professor Kerr’s refusal to meet the public on the current review of the NHS.

This Council agrees to write to Professor Kerr and calls upon him to attend public meetings in this area and meet the wider community on the future of the NHS.