

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU

22 June 2007

MEETING: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

**WEDNESDAY 27 JUNE 2007
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 June 2007 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

Director of Education and Cultural Services

Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration Services)

Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land and Environmental Services)

Director of Social Work Services

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 27 JUNE 2007

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. OPEN FORUM

**Mr Edward Gray, 38 Abbott Crescent, Whitecrook, Clydebank
Issues relating to laminate flooring in Council housing**

Request to address members of the Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee and relevant housing officers re anti-social behaviour policies with particular referral to laminate flooring in council housing stock with little or inadequate levels of modern required/needed sound insulation, as is the case with most of the authority's remaining housing stock (approx. 12,000).

As well as the very high level of noise penetration/disturbance there seems to be little or no concern regarding safety issues which can be confirmed by most accident and emergency units, accidents caused by slipping/tripping on this type of surface particularly have increased dramatically and information from major carpet manufacturing companies analysis conducted recently about home safety. Nor does there appear to be any full risk assessment of fire risk with regards to possible fire-spread due to types of materials used to manufacture this flooring. I also believe that similar questions have been raised by Social Justice Committee Members of the last Administration, and I question whether there is any relevance to the Scottish Secure Tenancy Agreement to deal with this, as it is a highly prioritised complaint within the context of noise complaint items in the strategy to help combat anti-social incidents/complaints, and decrease the amount of time officers commit to such matters/inquiries. This is included in the authority's anti-social behaviour adverts/literature/newspaper ads, etc. which at first glance would appear to be a low priority or category?

It appears that this Council's strategy is to allow this type of flooring without any reasonable/realistic considerations for tenants and home owners alike. Unlike other social landlords who have advised their tenants of the unsuitable nature of this type of flooring. And I would look for possible change to the present housing policy in this instance which would bring this authority into the modern housing strategies as most housing associations and new built flats with similar restrictions already have. I have no doubts that the elected members are inundated with similar enquiries from their constituents yet seem unable to find a practical solution even with the resources already committed. With the new councillors elected I would hope to see a realistic change to the present system.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Submit, for approval as a correct record, the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 30 May 2007.

4. ADVICE AND SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY CANCER

Submit report by the Director of Social Work Services in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support to raise cancer poverty issues with the Scottish Executive and other key stakeholders including neighbouring Local authorities.

Note: Members are asked to note that Mr Allan Cowie, Macmillan Cancer Support and Tommy Gorman, Team Leader, Welfare Rights Section, will be in attendance to give a brief presentation in connection with the above

5. COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY MESOTHELIOMA: THE RIGHTS OF RELATIVES TO DAMAGES (MESOTHELIOMA) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2007

Submit report by the Director of Social Work Services inviting the Council to support the ongoing partnership with Clydebank Asbestos Group to change Scottish personal injury legislation in favour of Mesothelioma sufferers and bereaved relatives.

6. COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR CLYDEBANK ASBESTOS GROUP CAMPAIGN TO CONTINUE PRESCRIBING ALIMTA

Submit report by the Director of Social Work Services informing the Council of a national campaign supported by Social Work Services in partnership with Clydebank Asbestos Group and other campaigners to ensure continuation of prescribing Alimta (a type of chemotherapy) for Mesothelioma patients in Scotland.

7. OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE BUDGET

Submit report by the Chief Executive informing the Council of options available that will deliver a real terms increase to the Old People's Welfare Budget in line with previous years' budgets.

8. REMIT FROM THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 13 JUNE 2007 – DEVELOPMENTS AT CLYDEBANK PROGRESS REPORT NO. 2

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee on 13 June 2007, submit relevant excerpt from the Minutes together with a report by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration) reporting progress concerning proposed (i) Leisure and Heritage, (ii) Supermarket, and (iii) other developments at Queen's Quays and other areas within Clydebank and to seek endorsement/agreement in respect of actions taken and proposed.

9. WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL – REVIEW OF DECISION MAKING STRUCTURES

Submit report by the Chief Executive on the results of the recent external study of the Council's decision making processes and proposing a revised structure for consideration.

10. COMMITTEE TIMETABLE

Submit report by the Chief Executive requesting the Council to make arrangements for the preparation of a timetable for future meetings of the Council and its Committees.

11. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Submit report by the Chief Executive asking the Council to consider making further nominations to serve on outside bodies.

12. SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Submit report by the Chief Executive updating the Council on the approved Scheme of Members' Allowances and asking the Council to consider making further appointments in respect of Senior Councillor positions.

13. WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL – REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Submit report by the Chief Executive presenting the results of the recent study of the Council's management arrangements and proposing a revised structure for consideration.

14. PROGRESS OF BEST VALUE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Submit report by the Chief Executive providing the Council with an update on the progress made on the Best Value Improvement Plan.

15. NEW CORPORATE PLAN AND 2006/2007 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Submit report by the Chief Executive providing the Council with a note of progress made on the production of the Council's new Corporate Plan and the annual review of progress of the current plan.

16. GENDER EQUALITY SCHEME

Submit report by the Chief Executive seeking the Council's approval of a proposed Gender Equality Scheme, following on from the introduction of the Gender duty in April 2007.

17. PAY MODERNISATION – PROPOSALS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SINGLE STATUS AGREEMENT

Submit report by the Chief Executive:-

- (a) providing an update on the status of on-going local negotiations and of the national context affecting progress in relation to implementation of the Single Status Agreement;
- (b) recommending an 'Employers' Offer' as a proposal for implementation of the Single Status agreement in West Dunbartonshire Council; and
- (c) detailing the necessary steps that require to be taken to meet the Council's obligations in relation to employee consultation and statutory obligations.

18. DILLICHIP FOOTBRIDGE (BLACK BRIDGE), BONHILL

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council on 30 May 2007, submit report by the Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land and Environmental Services) providing the Council with information on the structural condition of Dillichip Bridge (Black Bridge), Bonhill and providing options for consideration.

19. CONTAMINATED LAND REMEDIATION PROJECT AT THE FORMER INDUSTRIAL SITE, DALQUHURN ESTATE, RENTON

Submit report by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) informing the Council that the Scottish Executive has provided a capital grant funding award of £2 million to remediate the former industrial site at Dalquhurn in Renton and seeking the Council's approval to spend the £2 million grant allocation.

20. PILOT PROJECT TO ESTABLISH A SCHOOL BASED CAMPUS OFFICER

Submit report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services seeking Council approval to establish a School Based Campus Officer in a secondary school as a pilot project for one year between August 2007 and June 2008.

21. NOTICES OF MOTION

The Council is asked to consider the undernoted motions which have been submitted in accordance with Standing Order 8:-

(a) Motion by Councillor McBride – Council Finance

This Council notes that demand on the Council's finances is increasing against a potential shortfall should a freeze on Council Tax rates be imposed by the Scottish Executive without a compensatory increase in grant funding.

Against this backdrop, this Council requests the Leader of the Council to lead a cross-party delegation, to include both of our MSPs, to meet with John Swinney, MSP in order to re-iterate the justifiable needs of our communities and to seek both a redistribution of resources for long term sustainability and an increase in short-term grant to meet the Council's immediate needs.

Furthermore, this Council requests the Leader of the Council to bring Local Government Finance in its widest context to the attention of COSLA and to drive forward a commitment to ensure support within COSLA for deprivation to be recognised as a determining factor in the distribution formula.

This Council asks the Leader of the Council to report back to Council on the outcome of his initiatives before the budget process begins in earnest for the next financial year.

(b) Motion by Councillor Geoff Calvert – Dumbarton Castle

This Council recognises that Dumbarton Rock is the most awe-inspiring geographical feature within West Dunbartonshire. With its associated castle, Dumbarton Rock's place in history is assured. Its status as a "Royal" castle places it amongst the most prestigious castles in Scotland alongside Stirling and Edinburgh.

In order to enhance the status and stunning visual attraction of Dumbarton Rock and Castle, this Council believes that the Rock should be floodlit to a standard befitting its status and equal to the best in Scotland. This Council will strive to achieve this objective by mid 2008.

This Council understands fully that successful implementation of such prestigious project will depend on a sustainable income stream being identified to provide funding for ongoing maintenance and repair over the long term as well as initial capital costs.

Therefore, this Council resolves to initiate and give leadership to a Partnership and requests the Chief Executive to invite Colonel Donald Ross, the Lord Lieutenant of Dunbartonshire, Brigadier Donald Hardie, the Keeper of Dumbarton Castle, Historic Scotland, the Dumbarton Castle Society, Turnberry Homes and any other partner who can contribute to the successful completion of this project to an inaugural meeting in early August as a prelude to the creation of a plan of action.

In addition the Chief Executive is to seek nominations for elected member involvement and to nominate a lead officer from the Council, together with appropriate support as necessary in order to ensure that the Partnership is both efficient and effective.

Finally, the Chief Executive is to bring forward a progress report to the August meeting of the Council.

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