

COMMUNITY SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Safety & Environmental Services Committee held in the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings, Station Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 4 August 2004 at 11.10 a.m.

Present: Provost Alistair Macdonald and Councillors Geoff Calvert, Gail Casey, Jack Duffy and Linda McColl.

Attending: David McMillan, Director of Housing and Technical Services; Irving Hodgson, Head of Planning and Development; John McKerracher, Head of Technical Services; Alasdair Gregor, Planning and Development Manager; William Gibson, Section Head of Estates; Rodney Thornton, Section Head (Waste Services); David McCulloch, Section Head (Trading Standards); Angus Bodie, Manager of Transportation; and Craig Stewart, Administrative Assistant.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Jim Bolla, Duncan McDonald and Connie O'Sullivan.

APPOINTMENT OF CONVENER

3265 In the absence of the Convener, Councillor O'Sullivan, it was agreed that the meeting be chaired by Councillor Jack Duffy.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3266 The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 5 May 2004 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

DISABILITY ACCESS AUDIT PROGRESS IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS

3267 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services advising of the progress made to date in carrying out Disability Access Audits to identify and plan to meet the Council's obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

3268 After hearing Councillor Duffy, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) that West Dunbartonshire Access Panel's views be ascertained in respect of the prioritisation of future projects and spending commitments.

**ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF THE BLIND
"SIMPLY THE BEST" AWARD**

3269 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services advising of the success of the Department of Housing and Technical Services in winning the Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB) "Simply the Best" Award in the category of Innovative Employment Practice.

3270 After discussion and having heard the Director of Housing and Technical Services, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note, with satisfaction, the contents of the report; and
- (2) to congratulate everyone involved for their hard work and commitment that had contributed towards the Department achieving the prestigious RNIB "Simply the Best" Award in the category of Innovative Employment Practice.

**ATTAINMENT OF CHARTER MARK ACCREDITATION 2004 –
LEISURE SERVICES SECTION**

3271 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services advising of the success of the Leisure Services Section of Housing and Technical Services in achieving Charter Mark accreditation.

3272 After hearing Councillor Duffy, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note, with satisfaction, the success of the Leisure Services Section of Housing and Technical Services in achieving Charter Mark accreditation during 2004; and
- (2) to congratulate everyone involved for their dedication that had contributed towards the accreditation.

**DUMBARTON TOWN CENTRE – PROPOSED CHANGES TO TRAFFIC
MANAGEMENT AND CAR PARKING**

3273 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services highlighting the key results of the public consultation and seeking approval on the proposed changes to the management of traffic through the centre of Dumbarton, and on the proposed introduction of short-term parking restrictions on some of the town centre car parks.

3274 After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the results of the 2004 public consultation;
- (2) that the traffic management arrangements in High Street be changed to restrict on-street parking at all times and to limit access by cars to outwith a core period of 11 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. to the section of High Street between each end of Riverside Lane, with this measure being subject to monitoring and further review as necessary;
- (3) that the facilities for disabled parking, during core times on the designated section of High Street, be replaced with additional facilities provided nearby in the public car parks;
- (4) that short stay parking (up to 2 hours maximum) be introduced in designated car parks;
- (5) to note that the outcome of the traffic management consultation would be included in a public presentation event in September 2004;
- (6) to note the outline timescale for the introduction of these changes; and
- (7) to review the operation of Dumbarton Bridge once it was re-opened to traffic in 2004, in line with any new traffic management arrangements that may be in operation on High Street.

SURPLUS PROPERTY WITHIN HOUSING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

3275 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services seeking approval to declare the public toilets at Church Road, Gartocharn and Bank Street, Alexandria surplus to the requirements of the Department of Housing and Technical Services.

3276 The Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the public toilets at Church Road, Gartocharn and Bank Street, Alexandria be declared surplus to the requirements of the Department;
- (2) that the Director of Development and Environmental Services be authorised to sell these surplus properties on the open market with a closing date for formal legal offers and, thereafter, to refer the sale to the Head of Legal and Administrative Services to conclude this transaction subject to such legal conditions as are considered appropriate; and
- (3) that the cost of providing services on the proposed site in Alexandria would be met from the income from the sale of the existing facility.

**CONSULTATION RESPONSE ON “A JOINT TRANSPORT STRATEGY
FOR WESTERN SCOTLAND TO 2025”**

3277 A joint report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services and Director of Development and Environmental Services informing on the consultation stage of the document “A Joint Transport Strategy for Western Scotland to 2025” prepared by WESTRANS and seeking approval of a formal consultation response.

3278 After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the Joint Transport Strategy, while recognising its long-term regional perspective on the basis outlined in the Director’s report; and
- (2) to approve the proposed consultation response to WESTRANS as contained in the report.

FLOOD PREVENTION – DUMBARTON AND THE VALE OF LEVEN

3279 A joint report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services and Director of Development and Environmental Services:-

- (a) providing an update on the results of recent studies into flooding in Dumbarton and the River Leven corridor; and
- (b) outlining options for further assessment and requesting approval for a course of action aimed at alleviating flooding risk along the River Leven.

3280 After discussion and having heard Councillor Duffy, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the content of the report by the Babbie Group in respect of identifying possible solutions to resolve the long-standing flooding problems in and around Dumbarton and the Leven Valley;
- (2) that officers be requested to consult with Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire and other interested stakeholders with a view to an independent assessment being commissioned of the economic and other development benefits which would arise from the three options outlined in the report;
- (3) that any contribution required from the Council to part fund this study should be taken from the General Services capital allocation for the regeneration of Dumbarton and the Vale of Leven, with authority being delegated to the Director of Development and Environmental Services, in consultation with the Director of Housing and Technical Services, and the appropriate Service Spokespersons to agree any contribution; and

- (4) to note that any decision would be informed by further discussion with the Chair of the Town Centre Initiative.

NEW DEAL

3281 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services:-

- (a) providing an update on the progress of the New Deal for Young People in West Dunbartonshire and, in particular, the Environment Task Force; and
- (b) seeking continuing support for the New Deal at a local level.

3282 Having heard the Head of Planning and Development, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress made and the proposed changes with respect to New Deal; and
- (2) to endorse the action by officers to ensure that the maximum funding possible could continue to be available to support the Environment Task Force.

AUDIT SCOTLAND – LOCAL ECONOMIC FORUMS

3283 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services advising of the conclusions of the recent Audit Scotland review of the Local Economic Forums (LEFs) across Scotland.

3284 The Committee agreed that the conclusions and recommendations outlined in the report be noted.

STATE AIDS AFTER 2006

3285 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services informing on discussions concerning State Aids policy after 2006.

3286 It was noted that state aid referred to assistance provided by public bodies, which had the potential to distort competition. European legislation bans all state aid, though, in recognition of market failure in disadvantaged areas, exceptions are allowed. In this respect, geographic restrictions exist to define assisted areas where state aids could be granted within a defined set of rules.

3287 After discussion and having heard the Head of Planning and Development in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the Council should confirm its opposition to the European Union's proposals concerning State Aid on the basis of the concerns detailed in the report; and
- (2) that the Council should co-operate with relevant bodies, including the West of Scotland European Consortium and the Alliance for Regional Aid, to further its case in respect of this issue.

**PRO-AM GOLF TOURNAMENT, DALMUIR MUNICIPAL
GOLF COURSE – 19 JUNE 2004**

- 3288 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services providing information on the outcome of the 2004 tournament and seeking views on staging this tournament in 2005.
- 3289 Having heard Provost Macdonald, it was agreed that this item be continued to a future meeting of the Committee, pending a review of the feasibility of this event in light of the shortfall of sponsorship income.

RECYCLING AND WASTE MINIMISATION – IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

- 3290 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services providing an update on the progress of the Council's Strategic Waste Implementation Plan.
- 3291 After discussion and having heard the Section Head (Waste Services) in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to note the progress made to date in respect of this matter; and
 - (2) to note that a common sense approach would be adopted and that regular updates would be provided to local Members and the community in respect of the implementation of the Plan.

FOOD SERVICE PLAN 2004/2005

- 3292 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services seeking approval of the Food Service Plan 2004/2005.
- 3293 The Committee agreed to approve the Food Service Plan 2004/2005.

THE HEALTH AND SAFETY ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLAN 2004/05

- 3294 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services seeking approval of the Health and Safety Enforcement Service Plan 2004/05.
- 3295 The Committee agreed to approve the Health and Safety Enforcement Service Plan 2004/05 on the basis outlined in the report.

AIR QUALITY

- 3296 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services advising of the completion of the Air Quality Progress Report 2004.
- 3297 The Committee agreed to note the report.

THE BONHILL, JAMESTOWN AND BALLOCH SMOKE CONTROL ORDER

- 3298 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services recommending the declaring of the Bonhill, Jamestown and Balloch Smoke Control Order.
- 3299 The Committee agreed:-
- (1) to declare the Bonhill, Jamestown and Balloch Smoke Control Order as appended to the Director's report and shown in the map relative thereto in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Clean Air Act 1993; and
 - (2) to note that a further report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee advising of the date the Order would come into operation.

QUALITY MARK AWARD – TRADING STANDARDS' CONSUMER ADVICE SERVICE

- 3300 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services informing on a Quality Mark Scotland award to the Trading Standards service and the introduction of a new national consumer helpline.
- 3301 After discussion, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to note, with satisfaction, the award of the Quality Mark and the introduction of the new 'Consumer Direct' helpline; and
 - (2) to congratulate the members of staff involved on their significant achievement.

**SALE OF LAND TO THE REAR OF AUCHENCARROCH ROAD,
JAMESTOWN TO THE ADJACENT OWNER**

- 3302 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services recommending the sale of 0.444 hectares (1.10 acres) or thereby of land to the rear of Auchencarroch Road, Jamestown to the adjacent landowner.
- 3303 The Committee agreed:-
- (1) that the Director of Development and Environmental Services be authorised to agree the sale of 0.444 hectares (1.10 acres) or thereby of land to the rear of Auchencarroch Road, Jamestown to Gilmour and Aitken Ltd., on the terms and conditions detailed in the report; and
 - (2) that the Head of Legal and Administrative Services be authorised to conclude this transaction subject to such legal conditions as are considered appropriate.

**CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LEGAL CONTROLS
ON THE SALE OF FIREWORKS**

- 3304 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services seeking views on the proposed changes to the legal controls regulating the sale of fireworks.
- 3305 After hearing Councillor Duffy, it was agreed, notwithstanding that the Council had a policy opposed to the sale of fireworks to the general public, that the proposed new measures to control the misuse of fireworks be supported.

The meeting closed at 11.41 a.m.