COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday 4 April 2007 at 11.34 a.m.

Present: Councillors George Black, Geoff Calvert, Gail Casey, Linda McColl, Duncan McDonald, Craig McLaughlin, Marie McNair and Connie O'Sullivan.

Attending: Ronnie Dinnie, Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services); Irving Hodgson, Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services); Nigel Ettles, Principal Solicitor; Lynda McLaughlin, Manager of Commercial Operations; Jim Pow, Manager of Finance, Housing, Regeneration & Environmental Services; Don Findlay, Manager of Technical Services; Alasdair Gregor, Planning Services Manager; Kevin Neeson, Manager of Development Services; Angus Bodie, Manager of Roads; Rodney Thornton, Section Head, Waste and Transport Services; and Craig Stewart, Administrative Assistant.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Provost Macdonald.

Councillor Duncan McDonald in the Chair

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

12096 The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 7 February 2007 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

CLYDEBANK CREMATORIUM – CAMEO SCHEME – FURTHER INFORMATION

12097 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services) providing further information on the Crematorium Abatement of Mercury Emissions Organisation (CAMEO) Scheme as it affects Clydebank Crematorium with emphasis on the financial implications thereto.

12098 After discussion and having heard the Manager of Development Services in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Councillor McColl, moved:-

12099 That the Committee agrees to approve the application of the £35 environmental surcharge per cremation, as recommended by the CAMEO Steering Group and the Federation of British Cremation Authorities.

12100 As an amendment, Councillor Black, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, moved:-

12101 That the surcharge should remain at £25 as no satisfactory justification had been made for its increase and officers should look at the possibility of purchasing the required equipment as a long-term investment by the Council.

12102 On a vote being taken, 6 Members voted for the amendment and 2 for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING GRANT

12103 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration & Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services) informing of the offer of grant from Communities Scotland for private sector housing grant for 2007/2008 and recommending how this funding should be allocated and prioritised.

12104 Having heard the Convener, Councillor McDonald, a copy of a table showing revised allocations was circulated for Members' information. After discussion and having heard the relevant officers in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

(1) to note the contents of the report, including the allocations indicated in the revised table circulated to Members; and

(2) to note that a further report giving details of the actual allocation of funding from Communities Scotland would be submitted at the appropriate time.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2006/2007 TO 15 FEBRUARY 2007 (PERIOD 10)

12105 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) providing an update on the financial performance of the Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services Department to 15 February 2007 (Period 10). A copy of a revised Appendix 1 to the report was circulated to Members' for information.

12106 After discussion and having heard the Manager of Finance in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the financial performance of the Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services Department.

PERFORMANCE REPORT

12107 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services providing information on the performance of Regeneration and Environmental Services. The report contained information on:-

(a) Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the third quarter of 2006/2007;

(b) Statutory Performance Indicators (SPIs) for the third quarter of 2006/07 (Appendix 1);

(c) The programme of Best Value Reviews (Appendix 2); and

(d) The current status of Departmental Actions to meet Departmental Objectives for 2006/2007 i.e. the Service Plan Report (Appendix 3).

12108 After discussion and having heard the relevant officers in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND (HLF) STAGE 1 APPLICATION FOR DALMUIR PARK

12109 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) providing an update on the progress of the Heritage Lottery Fund Application for Dalmuir Park, Clydebank.

12110 Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved:-

12111 This Council agrees to progress the Stage 1 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for improvement works to Dalmuir Park.

12112 In addition to restoring the park's cultural and historic features, Council agrees that the improvement works should include the provision of public toilets for the users of the park.

12113 Council agrees that the proposed improvement works will make a positive contribution to a socially and economically deprived area and attract new visitors to the park.

12114 The Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land and Environmental Services), in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance, will ensure that the Council's contribution is provided using Prudential Borrowing in the 2008/09 budget.

12115 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McColl, moved:-

12116 That the Committee requests that officers look at the possibility of establishing a Community Trust to take forward proposals relating to the Stage 1 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

12117 On a vote being taken, 4 Members voted for the amendment and 4 for the motion. There being an equality of voting, the Convener exercised his casting vote in favour of the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

CHRISTIE PARK WAR MEMORIAL - ALEXANDRIA

12118 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) advising of necessary restoration work to Christie Park War Memorial and the position relating to the availability of external funding.

12119 After discussion and having heard the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services), the Committee agreed:-

(1) to note the contents of the report;

(2) to support the development of a phased capital and revenue programme of work over the next 3 years from 2008/2009 onwards; and

(3) that officers be requested to investigate the feasibility of establishing a Community Trust to take matters forward in this regard.

LEISURE SERVICES FREE FITNESS ASSESSMENT SCHEME

12120 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) providing an update on the performance of the free Fitness Assessment Scheme that has been run by Leisure Services since 2002/03.

12121 The Committee agreed:-

(1) to note, with satisfaction, the success of the Leisure Services Section in delivering this health promoting project; and

(2) to congratulate everyone involved in the Leisure Services Section for ensuring the success of the Scheme.

LEISURE SERVICES PROVISION OF NATIONAL POOL LIFEGUARD QUALIFICATION (NPLQ) COURSES & FIRST AID AT WORK COURSES

12122 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) providing an update on the success of Leisure Services' role as a training provider in delivering National Pool Lifeguard Qualification (NPLQ) courses for staff and public and First Aid at Work courses for essential first aiders within the department.

12123 After discussion and having heard the Manager of Commercial Operations in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

(1) to convey its thanks to the staff involved for their hard work and effort;

(2) to note, with satisfaction, the investment made by Leisure Services to achieve NPLQ Approved Training Centre status and to note the success of the Leisure Services Section in providing these training courses; and

(3) to note that officers would take on board comments made by Members in relation to future arrangements, including the possibility of Leisure Services being recognised as a training provider by Learning Direct Scotland for courses of this nature.

ADJOURNMENT

12124 After hearing the Convener, Councillor McDonald, it was agreed that the meeting be adjourned for a period of 10 minutes.

12125 The meeting resumed at 1.00 p.m. with the same Members on the sederunt being present, with the exception of Councillor Calvert.

ACHIEVEMENT OF THE HEALTHY LIVING AWARD

12126 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) advising that the Staff Restaurant at Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton has achieved The Healthy Living Award.

12127 Having heard the Convener, Councillor McDonald, the Committee agreed:-

(1) to note, with satisfaction, the achievement and contribution made by employees of the Staff Restaurant in attaining the award; and

(2) that a letter of congratulations be sent to everyone involved for their diligence and hard work.

THE 'BEST OF SCHOOL COOKS' EVENT

12128 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) advising that Margaret McGarry, Catering Manager at St Mary's Primary School, Duntocher had been selected as one of only five Scottish cooks to attend a high profile event to celebrate the work of school cooks across the United Kingdom.

12129 After discussion, the Committee agreed to commend Margaret McGarry, Catering Manager at St Mary's Primary School, for her excellent quality of work and achieving recognition for the Council in the national 'Best of School Cooks' event which was held recently at Clarence House, London.

THE SEAFOOD AWARDS 2007

12130 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) advising that the Council's School Meal Service had been chosen as a finalist in the Schools Award category of the national Seafood Awards 2007.

12131 Having heard the Convener, Councillor McDonald, the Committee agreed:-

(1) to note, with satisfaction, the achievement and contribution made by the Facilities Management Section, Catering Services in reaching the final of the Schools Award category of the national Seafood Awards 2007; and

(2) to congratulate the staff involved on their significant achievement.

VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME – 2007/2008

12132 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) seeking approval to purchase replacement Council vehicles as part of the General Services Capital Plan.

12133 After discussion and having heard the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed that authority be delegated to the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) in consultation with the Head of Finance to purchase vehicles through the ABC framework agreement(s) or by a West Dunbartonshire Council tender, whichever is most economically advantageous following discussion and agreement with Client Departments.

WASTE SERVICES – CHARTER MARK SURVEILLANCE AUDIT – JANUARY 2007

12134 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) informing of the outcome of the Charter Mark surveillance audit of Waste Services held on 9 January 2007.

12135 The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report with satisfaction.

WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT DIRECTIVE

12136 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) seeking approval to apply to register the Council's three Household Waste Recycling Centres as Designated Collection Facilities (DCFs) for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and negotiate with the relevant Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS) to agree appropriate service levels for the collection of WEEE from the centres.

12137 After discussion and having heard the Section Head, Waste and Transport Services in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

(1) that the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) be authorised to make applications for registration for the Council's three Household Waste Recycling Centres as Designated Collection Facilities; and

(2) that the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) be authorised to negotiate with appropriate Producer Compliance Schemes to provide the necessary infrastructure to collect, store and transport WEEE for reprocessing.

STREET LIGHTING PROGRAMME 2007/08

12138 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) seeking approval of the proposed programme of street lighting revenue and capital works to be carried out in the financial year 2007/2008.

12139 After discussion and having heard the relevant officers in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

(1) to approve the proposed street lighting revenue and capital programme of works for 2007/8 as detailed in the Appendix to the report; and

(2) that the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) be authorised to write to both MSPs in West Dunbartonshire asking for their help and assistance in making a case, for additional funding, to the Scottish Executive for replacement street lighting in order to enhance public safety and provide greater security for the local community.

CYCLING, WALKING AND SAFER STREETS PROJECTS 2007/2008

12140 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) seeking approval to undertake the list of schemes attached to the report which would be funded from the Scottish Executive public transport budget.

12141 The Committee agreed to approve the undertaking of the projects detailed in the Appendix to the report.

20 MPH SPEED LIMITS AROUND SCHOOLS AND SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECTS 2007/2008

12142 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) seeking approval to undertake the list of schemes attached to the report which would be funded from the associated Scottish Executive grant.

12143 After discussion and having heard the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

(1) to approve the undertaking of the projects detailed in the Appendix to the report; and

(2) that officers would consider the points made by Members in relation to this issue.

TRAVELLING GREEN – NATIONAL LAUNCH

12144 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) informing of the funding received from the Scottish Executive to make preparations to launch West Dunbartonshire Council's 'Travelling Green' project in all schools in Scotland.

12145 The Committee agreed:-

(1) to note the award of grant and that the project was being delivered to a very short timescale; and

(2) to note the national recognition achieved by the Council for the 'Travelling Green' project.

ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2007/8

12146 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) seeking approval for the proposed programme of road maintenance works to be carried out in 2007/2008.

12147 After discussion and having heard the Manager of Roads in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

(1) to approve the Road Maintenance Programme 2007/08 as outlined in the Appendix to the report, subject to confirmation of funding allocation; and

(2) that authority be delegated to the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) to take appropriate action in the event of the programme being delayed as a consequence of public utility operations and/or adverse weather conditions.

VALEDICTORY

12148 Councillor McDonald, informed the Committee that as this was the last meeting of the Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee under the present Council, he would like to take the opportunity to thank Members and Officers for their co-operation and assistance during his term as Convener of the Committee.

12149 Members concurred with the Convener's remarks and gave a vote of thanks to him for the fair and constructive way in which he had chaired meetings of the Committee.

The meeting closed at 1.27 p.m.