

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

At the meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Lesser Town Hall, Municipal Buildings, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 27 August 2003.

**Present:** Provost Alistair Macdonald and Councillors Denis Agnew, James Bolland, Margaret Bootland, Dennis Brogan, Geoffrey Calvert, Gail Casey, Anthony Devine, Jack Duffy, James Flynn, Jackie Maceira, Douglas McAllister, James McCallum, Linda McColl, Duncan McDonald, Margaret McGregor, Craig McLaughlin, Marie McNair, Connie O'Sullivan, Martin Rooney, Andy White and Raymond Young.

**Attending:** Tim Huntingford, Chief Executive; Eric Walker, Director of Corporate Services; Dan Henderson, Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services; Ian McMurdo, Director of Education and Cultural Services; David McMillan, Director of Commercial and Technical Services; Alexis Jay, Director of Social Work and Housing Services; Cy Neil, Head of Housing; Jeff Stobo, Manager of Strategy (Social Work and Housing Services); Stephen Brown, Head of Legal and Administrative Services and George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer.

### **Provost Macdonald in the Chair**

#### **PROVOST'S REMARKS**

482 Prior to business commencing, Provost Macdonald took the opportunity to welcome everyone to the meeting and then, on behalf of the Council, thanked all officers and other external agencies involved with the organisation of a number of successful events which took place during the month of July in West Dunbartonshire, namely the visit by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, the Town Twinning Visitation and the Scottish Pipe Band Championships.

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

483 The Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 25 June 2003 were submitted and approved as a correct record subject to the undernoted corrections:-

Motion – Vale of Leven Hospital (Page 51, paragraph 154 refers)

The penultimate paragraph be amended to read as follows:-

- 484 “Councillor Flynn was heard in respect of the concerns felt about the cuts in service at the Vale of Leven Hospital and it was suggested that the Chief Executive to report back on establishing a forum which should include the health board, Councillors and community groups to discuss the issues surrounding the services at the Vale of Leven Hospital.”

Committee Timetable to December 2004 (Page 55, paragraph 189 refers)

The penultimate paragraph be amended to read as follows:-

- 485 “As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Young, moved that all scheduled meetings, when due to be held in Dumbarton, should be held in the Council Chambers, Garshake Road, Dumbarton; these premises being more accessible and more suitable for accommodating large numbers.”

### **MINUTES OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE**

- 486 The Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held on 20 August 2003 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

### **UROLOGY SERVICE - VALE OF LEVEN HOSPITAL**

- 487 It was noted that John Mullin, Chairman of the NHS Board and Neil Campbell, Chief Executive of NHS Argyll and Clyde were invited to attend the meeting to discuss the transfer of the Urology Service from the Vale of Leven Hospital to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley but had advised that they were unable to attend this meeting of Council.

- 488 Councillor Flynn, seconded by Calvert, moved:-

- 489 This Council expresses its extreme disappointment that Mr Neil Campbell, the Chief Executive of NHS Argyll and Clyde did not come to our August meeting to address the very real concerns that members have about the services provided at the Vale of Leven Hospital. This Council calls on Mr Campbell to make himself available to answer the legitimate concerns of the people of West Dunbartonshire and their representatives.

- 490 As an amendment, Councillor Bollan, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, moved:-

491 The closure of the Urology Services at the Vale of Leven Hospital is the sixth health service cut to the Hospital in eighteen months the others being:-

- Care of the Elderly
- Surgical Services
- Psychiatric Services
- Accident & Emergency
- Maternity Unit

492 The loss of these major services will undermine the viability of the Hospital and will further reduce the health services to thousands of local people.

493 We call on the Government to provide the required amount of resources at the Vale Hospital to re-open the services already lost and to invest sufficient new money to ensure new services are delivered at the local Hospital for the benefit of all West Dunbartonshire Citizens.

494 This Council also calls on the Health Minister, Malcolm Chisholm MSP to attend a meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council to explain the cuts in health care which will eventually lead to the closure of the Vale Hospital.

495 After discussion, on a vote being taken 5 Members voted for the amendment and 17 for the motion which was declared carried.

### VARIATION IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

496 Having heard Provost Macdonald, the Council agreed to vary the order of the questions presented under the next item 'Open Forum' resulting in those questions at (a) and (d) on the agenda being dealt with prior to those questions shown at (b) and (c).

### OPEN FORUM

497 Provost Macdonald informed the Council that Mr McCafferty was unable to attend this meeting but had requested that the response to his question be read out at this meeting and recorded in the Minutes. The Council agreed to the request.

498 The following questions were submitted in accordance with Standing Order 2.

- (a) Mr Daniel McCafferty, 48 Duntocher Road, Clydebank**  
**Subject: St. Patrick's Well and Garden**

499 West Dunbartonshire Council has unanimously agreed to proceed with proposals to develop St. Patrick's Well and Garden at Gavinburn.

£50,000 was endorsed by a well-attended meeting in Old Kilpatrick subject to maintenance commitments being met by Council. West Dunbartonshire Council unanimously agreed to the Public request for a maintenance undertaking and approved work proceeding without further delay. Local children have subsequently taken part in design workshops.

500 What is the start date for work on the project to commence and its completion date for finishing?

501 **Councillor Duncan McDonald was heard in answer to this question as follows:-**

502 At its meeting of 29 January 2003, the Council agreed that the project design should be subject to a competition by local schools and that Education and Cultural Services would assume responsibility for the competition including judging arrangements.

503 On 23 June 2003, Education and Cultural Services produced designs from the schools with a request that Land Services assess the drawings with a view to incorporating aspects of them within the overall project design.

504 Revised design proposals are currently being prepared for final approval by the local Community. Subject to approval and to any statutory condition requirements, the proposed project start date is end of September 2003 with a contract duration 3/4 weeks.

**(b) Sue Hemmings, 22/1 Shandon Crescent, Balloch  
Maintenance of Allotments**

505 Recently I applied for an allotment and was told that I would be put on the list but that there was a four year wait. I have been to look at the local allotments and notice that a considerable number have not been maintained. Could you tell me why the Council have not chased up these tenants about the state of their allotments? Also could you tell me why these people are allowed to keep allotments when they obviously have no intention of using them and others are waiting.

506 **Councillor Duncan McDonald was heard in answer to this question as follows:-**

507 I have discussed the matter with the Department of Commercial and Technical Services and would initially advise you that there are 25 allotments at Castlegreen Street with a waiting list of 19 and 7 allotments at Round Riding Road with a waiting list of 10.

- 508 Allotment management, letting and monitoring procedures recently identified a number of uncultivated allotments within Castlegreen Street.
- 509 Allotment holders were notified that they were in breach of the conditions of let and a reasonable timescale was given for remedial cultivation work to be carried out. Two confirmed termination of the lease and eight did not respond to the correspondence.
- 510 Ten offers of let were issued to the first ten on the waiting list, seven of which have been accepted. Offers of let will now be issued to the next three on the waiting list.
- 511 Increased monitoring procedures have been introduced which will ensure the conditions of let are being adhered to and the waiting list is kept to a minimum.
- 512 Thereafter, Mrs Hemmings thanked Councillor McDonald for his response and informed Council that the purpose of her question was to establish if Council had a policy for dealing with such matters and that she was pleased to hear that it did. She also pointed that there were a number of organisations such as the Prince's Trust which could offer assistance to disabled or elderly persons who found it difficult to maintain their allotments.
- 513 Provost Macdonald thanked Mrs Hemmings for her contribution and thereafter she returned to the public gallery.
- (c) **Mr William Neeson, 2/1, 179 Glasgow Road, Clydebank (Questions 1 – 4) and Mr David J Thomson, 24 Nobleston Estate, Bonhill, Alexandria (Questions 5 - 9)**  
**Subject: Council decision on Wheelchair Accessible Taxis**
- 514 (1) Why were no representatives of the Taxi Trade or Disabled Forum invited to attend the meeting at which such an important decision was taken?
- 515 (2) As Legislation is awaited from the Scottish Executive why put forward proposals which may be changed at a later date?
- 516 (3) Why were the owners in the other main office not contacted and informed of the consequences if they did not conform to the agreement of 2 Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles per office.
- 517 (4) In the Civic Government Act, Consultation is part of the process of local change. Has this been changed? If so, when?
- 518 (5) Why was exemption not considered for this Zone?

- 519 (6) Is it legal for the Council to implement these proposals when legislation is forthcoming?
- 520 (7) Will the Council agree to a meeting with the Taxi Trade and the Disabled Forum to discuss this issue?
- 521 (8) Which vehicles are the Council proposing to make mandatory, Hackney carriages or any wheelchair accessible vehicle?
- 522 (9) What rights do able-bodied people have – are they, the majority of the Taxi Trade customers, to be forced to accept WAV rather than Saloon or Estate vehicles? Many senior travellers cannot comfortably enter a WAV without aid, and surely detrimental to their peace of mind and sense of independence.

523 **Councillor Jack Duffy was heard in answer to the above questions as follows:-**

- 524 (1) Consultation on the issue of taxi accessibility in the Dumbarton and Vale of Leven area has been ongoing with representatives of the taxi trade and local disabled groups since May 2001.
- 525 An interim proposal was eventually put forward on behalf of the taxi trade, via West Dumbarton Area Taxi Trade Association, that two wheelchair accessible taxis would be provided by each of the two main taxi companies in the Dumbarton and Vale of Leven Taxi Licensing Zone. This proposal was accepted by the Committee which was responsible for taxi licensing in April 2002.
- 526 Despite further correspondence with West Dumbarton Area Taxi Trade Association this agreement has not been adhered to.
- 527 It is considered that the trade has had ample opportunity to put forward its views on this subject.
- 528 (2) In May 2003 a letter was received from the Scottish Accessible Transport Alliance (SATA) drawing attention to a letter which had been issued by the Department for Transport in September 2002 concerning the introduction of local accessibility policies for taxis prior to taxi regulations being made under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.
- 529 The letter from the Department for Transport urged licensing authorities not to hold back on any local initiative in this area in anticipation of national regulations. The letter stressed that, as and when any national requirements are introduced, there will be a sufficient lead-time for any necessary changes to vehicle specifications to be made. It was suggested that in the meantime, licensing authorities may be able to make significant improvements in the availability of taxis to disabled people in their area.

- 530 Consultation on this matter had been taking place with West  
Dumbarton Area Taxi Trade Association, which puts itself forward as a  
representative organisation for the taxi trade in the area.
- 531 When it became apparent that one of the taxi firms was not adhering to  
the agreement that two wheelchair accessible taxis would be provided  
by each of the two main taxi companies in the area, West Dumbarton  
Area Taxi Trade Association suggested that the matter should be taken  
up directly with Leven Radio Taxis. This was done and a letter was  
received in January 2003 from Leven Radio Taxis indicating that two of  
their vehicles were being converted to accommodate wheelchairs.  
However, by July 2003 no wheelchair accessible taxis had been put  
into service by the company.
- 532 It is impractical for the Council to consult individually with each taxi  
operator affiliated to a taxi company.
- 533 (4) The Council always complies with any legal duties which it has to  
consult with individuals in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act  
1982.
- 534 (5) Exemption Orders were referred to in the original consultation  
document issued by the Scottish Office in 1997 in relation to proposals  
to introduce Taxi Accessibility Regulations. As regulations have not  
been introduced, it is not possible to consider an application for an  
Exemption Order.
- 535 (6) Yes. Section 10(2) of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 gives  
licensing authorities the power to grant taxi licences in respect of  
vehicles which they consider to be suitable in type, size and design for  
use as a taxi.
- 536 The Council has, for many years, required such wheelchair-accessible  
taxis to be available for taxis operating within the Clydebank Zone.
- 537 (7) Meetings have already taken place between Council officials and the  
Taxi Trade and the Disabled Forum. Members of the Taxi Trade and  
the Disabled Forum are asked to contact the Chairman of the Council's  
Licensing Committee with a view to setting up a further meeting.
- 538 (8) All vehicles which are wheelchair accessible and considered to be  
suitable in type, size and design for use as a taxi.

539 (9) Able bodied people obviously have a far greater choice available to them with respect to modes of transport which they are able to use. The recent decision of the Licensing Committee is designed to address the present anomalous situation whereby wheelchair bound individuals living in the Dumbarton and Vale of Leven areas are considerably disadvantaged in terms of accessibility to taxis compared to wheelchair-bound individuals residing in the Clydebank area. Able-bodied people can hire a taxi on any street corner but disabled people cannot.

540 At this point, Provost Macdonald ruled that only one supplementary question would be permitted on the above issue.

541 **Mr Thompson asked the following supplementary question:-**

542 Will the Council conduct an independent survey on the issue of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles in the whole West Dunbartonshire taxi zone in order that its findings be discussed at a meeting with taxi trade associations and local disabled forums?

543 **Councillor Duffy responded in the following terms:-**

544 This cannot be agreed tonight but I am not against it.

545 Provost Macdonald thanked Mr Thompson and Mr Neeson for their contributions and thereafter they returned to the public gallery.

(d) **Karen A. Watters, 'Tara', 137 Weldon Street, Greenock**  
**Council decision on Wheelchair Accessible Taxis**

546 (1) On 23 July 2003 I licensed a brand new Skoda Octavia motor vehicle, I understood that this vehicle would be able to be used as a taxi for the maximum 8 years, that being the final closure date for this type of vehicle. I have now read the changes to the licence will start to take effect in the year 2006.

547 Could you please clarify to me if my vehicle will have to be changed at this time or will the full 8 years be permitted?

548 (2) I have read the consultation document which encompasses the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. This document is a consolatory paper. I have contacted the Scottish Parliament by telephone and have established that this Act did not pass through the Scottish Parliament, it is a Westminster Act. I am at a loss as to whether the local licensing board are aware of this and if they are, are they aware that they may wish to reconsider the enactment as I feel that I have a legal right to challenge this in the courts.



549 Is the Council prepared to compensate the holders of current licences who have made a considerable investment in their vehicles as requested by the licensing authority?

550 (3) Why was Section 35 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 not enacted on by the Council? This exemption was specifically placed into the Act to accommodate areas like ours, to help the local taxi operators cope with the changes, something the local elected officers have chosen to completely ignore.

551 **Councillor Jack Duffy was heard in answer to the above questions as follows:-**

552 (1) The vehicle which you are currently operating would be permitted to be used as a taxi within the Dumbarton and Vale of Leven Taxi Licensing Zone until 31 December 2008.

553 (2) The Licensing Authority is fully aware of the legal position and of the fact that Taxi Accessibility Regulations have not been introduced as yet under the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

554 In view of difficulties which had been encountered with respect to the introduction of regulations, licensing authorities were recently urged by the Department for Transport not to hold back on any local initiative in this area in anticipation of national regulations.

555 The Council would not be in a position to provide compensation to holders of taxi licences.

556 (3) Section 35 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 relates to the position in England and Wales.

557 Section 39 of the Act amended those parts of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 which concern the licensing and regulation of taxis and enabled the then Secretary of State for Scotland to introduce regulations providing for the carrying of disabled passengers, wheelchairs, guide dogs and hearing dogs in taxis in Scotland.

558 Exemption Orders were referred to in the original consultation document issued by the Scottish Office in 1997 in relation to proposals to introduce Taxi Accessibility Regulations which would be applicable in Scotland. However, as regulations have not been introduced, other than those relating to the carrying of guide dogs and hearing dogs, it is not possible to consider an application for an Exemption Order.

559 Ms Watters informed the Council that she did not have a supplementary question.

560 Provost Macdonald thanked Ms Watters for her contribution and thereafter she returned to the public gallery.

**ARGYLL, BUTE AND THE DUNBARTONSHIRES SOCIAL WORK  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE**

561 Council was invited to nominate two substitutes for each member serving on the Argyll, Bute and the Dunbartonshires Social Work Criminal Justice Partnership Joint Committee.

562 The Council agreed that Councillors Jack Duffy and Connie O'Sullivan be nominated as substitutes for Councillors Martin Rooney and James Flynn respectively.

**ANDREW CROSS CAMERON FUND WORKING GROUP**

563 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services seeking the appointment of four elected members to serve on the Andrew Cross Cameron Fund Working Group, as an interim arrangement pending the conclusion of the overall review of Working Groups, as agreed by Council on 25 June 2003.

564 The Council agreed to nominate the following Members to serve on the Working Group: Provost Macdonald and Councillors Denis Agnew, Anthony Devine and Duncan McDonald.

**SURGERY ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTED MEMBERS**

565 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services requesting Council to determine the response to surgery requests for an individual Elected Member.

566 Councillor Flynn, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved:-

567 Council reaffirms its decision of 4 June 2003 regarding Members' office accommodation provision at Garshake Road and Rosebery Place.

568 This Council believes that Councillor Bollan's decision to hold surgeries 5 days a week is simply an attempt to circumvent the Council's decision.

569 Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to analyse the matter of surgery arrangements made by Elected Members in West Dunbartonshire, and to use this as a guide in determining the number of surgeries that can be paid for from the public purse.

570 Any Member wishing exceptionally to exceed this limit will require to make a case for this to the Chief Executive. When there is no additional cost to the Council tax payer (for example where surgeries are held in Council premises and no additional expenses are claimed), there will be no limit to the number of surgeries that can be held.

571 As an amendment Councillor Bollan, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, moved that the status quo should remain.

572 After discussion, on a vote being taken, 5 members voted for the amendment and 17 for the motion which was declared carried.

### LOCAL GRANTS

573 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services requesting Council to consider options for dealing with the overspend on the Local Grants Budget.

574 Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that the recommendations of the report be amended and approved as follows:-

(1) That in order to deal with the current year overspend:-

- No further Local Grants be considered for payment in 2003/2004 apart from the pending applications for Health for All and the Duntocher After School Care scheme and those grants payable from a discretionary small grants fund of £15,000 to be administered by the Corporate Services Committee.
- The Duntocher After School Care scheme be funded out of the monies earmarked for young people or the environment which was transferred from the Area Committee budget in June.
- The current balance on the General Grants budget be transferred to the Local Grants Budget and no further applications for General Grants be considered.

(2) To note that these measures should result in an overspend of £43,450 which would be less than the overspend of £64,218 in 2002/2003.

- (3) That to ensure that there are no overspends in 2004/05:-
- To instruct the Chief Executive's Policy Unit to co-ordinate a stocktake and review of community advice services throughout West Dunbartonshire to identify:
    - the range of services provided by provider
    - the cost of services provided by provider
    - the accessibility of services to citizens
    - the measurable beneficial outcomes that the services provided.
  - To instruct the Chief Executive's Policy Unit to report to Council on the findings of the review, making recommendations about the future provision of community advice services, including whether the services should be provided directly by the Council or indirectly by another organisation in conjunction with a service level agreement.
  - To instruct the External Funding Officer and the Head of Finance to develop proposals to maximise the leverage of Local Grants by assisting prospective applicants to access other sources of funding.
  - To instruct the Head of Finance to report back to Council no later than December 2003 with specific recommendations for the management of the grants budget based on the stocktake of community advice services and proposals for maximising leverage.

575 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved that

576 The Council agrees to allocate £120,000, from the reserves, to deal with the demands on the grants budget and that the Corporate Services Committee should consider all relevant applications for grant. The Council should honour all existing Service Level Agreements with other organisations and should instruct the Convener of Finance to increase the Council Grants provision in the 04/05 budgets in line with these additional funds allocated.

577 On a vote being taken 5 Members voted for the amendment and 17 for the motion which was declared carried.

**DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2002/03**

- 578 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing a copy of the draft annual accounts for 2002/03 and highlighting matters of interest.
- 579 On behalf of the Council, Councillor Devine thanked all officers involved in the preparation of the draft accounts for their hard work, which ensured that the accounts were submitted timeously to Audit Scotland. The Director of Corporate Services informed Council that to date no significant matters had been raised by the auditors.
- 580 Thereafter, Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that the Council should note the contents of the report and draft accounts.
- 581 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved that the draft accounts should be continued for further consideration and scrutiny by the Audit and Performance Review Committee, as had happened in previous years.
- 582 On a vote being taken 4 Members voted for the amendment and 17 for the motion which was declared carried.

**CHIEF OFFICERS' SALARIES**

- 583 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive seeking support for the establishment of a revised pay structure for Chief Officials.
- 584 Councillor Bootland, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved:-
- 585 This Council has always automatically applied all pay awards agreed by the Scottish Joint Council.
- 586 Council regrets that Chief Officers' salaries were not determined by the SJC, but were left to individual Councils to determine. This runs the risk of poorer Councils losing out in the recruitment and retention of senior staff to better off Councils.
- 587 Council therefore accepts the need to address this issue and determines to resolve the issue for the future by agreeing the recommendation in the Chief Executive's report, as amended to read as follows:-
- 588         The establishment of a Chief Officials salary structure based on a notional 80% relationship between the salaries of the Chief Executive and Directors and a consequential 75% relationship between Directors and Heads of Service with effect from 1st September 2003.
- 589 Council welcomes the support of the Trades Unions for this course of action, and takes this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment and hard work shown by senior officers in the management of the Council's services.

590 Thereafter, the Chief Executive was heard in answer to Members' questions.

591 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved that Chief Officials be awarded the same pay increase as all other Council employees and furthermore would urge the Chief Executive, on a voluntary basis, to accept a similar pay increase and not the increase recommended by the Scottish Joint Council (SJC).

592 After discussion, on a vote being taken, 4 Members voted for the amendment and 17 for the motion which was declared carried.

### **COUNCIL NEWSPAPER**

593 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive seeking approval of the re-launch of the West Dunbartonshire Council Newspaper – The News.

594 Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that the recommendations of the report be amended and approved as follows:-

- (a) that a Council newspaper should be re-launched in November 2003;
- (b) that it continues to be a 12 page edition, produced six times a year;
- (c) that the newspaper be funded through a combination of Council funding and internal/external advertising revenue; and
- (d) that a Council subsidy be funded from existing budgets.

595 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved that the Council should not proceed with the Council newspaper as it did not represent value for money.

596 After discussion, on a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the amendment and 18 for the motion which was declared carried.

### **INSPECTION OF THE EDUCATION FUNCTIONS OF WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

597 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive informing Council of the findings of the inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the Accounts Commission on the education functions of West Dunbartonshire Council.

598 After discussion, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report and the findings of the HMIE/Accounts commission Inspection which provided a very positive

evaluation of the performance of the education Authority in managing its education functions within West Dunbartonshire Council; and

- (2) to congratulate all officers of the Education and Cultural Services Department on their performance during the inspection process and on its evaluation of the service.

### **ACTION PLAN FOR INSPECTION REPORT**

599 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive seeking approval of a plan to take forward the key points for action as recommended in the report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the Accounts Commission on the education functions of West Dunbartonshire Council.

600 Councillor McCallum, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that the Council should note the contents of the report and endorse the Action Plan, which would be monitored by the Children's Services Committee.

601 Thereafter, the Chief Executive and Director of Education and Cultural Services were heard in answer to Members' questions.

602 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved that the Action Plan and Outline Business Case, once completed, should be put out to full public consultation; users of services should be told how the Department intends to implement the HMIE recommendations and the public should be made aware of the full implications of implementing the Outline Business Case.

603 After discussion, on a vote being taken, 4 Members voted for the amendment and 17 for the motion which was declared carried.

### **CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE: EDUCATION MATTERS**

604 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council on 25 June 2003 (Page 56, paragraph 192 (d) refers), a report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing the Council with proposals on the composition and operation of the Children's Services Committee when dealing with education matters.

605 Having heard Councillor McCallum, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to approve the arrangements for representation by teachers' representatives, church representatives and Heads of Establishment on the Children's Services Committee as outlined in Section 3 of the aforesaid report;
- (2) that the Director of Education and Cultural Services and the Convener of Education would meet with the West Dunbartonshire Pupil Council

and representatives of the Youth forums to agree on the arrangements for the involvement and/or representation of the young people on education matters which are the business of the Children's Services Committee; and

- (3) to note that the Director of Education and Cultural Services would report on these discussions to the Children's Services Committee on 17 September 2003.

### **BREAKFAST CLUB SERVICE**

606 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing an update on the progress of the Pilot Breakfast Club Service and seeking approval to continue the Service.

607 Following discussion and having heard the Director of Education and Cultural Services in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed to the continuation of the Breakfast Club Service and noted that a further report outlining proposals to expand the service would be submitted to a future meeting of Council or the appropriate Committee.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD LIAISON PILOT PROJECT**

608 A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services on the Neighbourhood Liaison Pilot Project (NLO) and seeking guidance on the continuation of the project beyond its current period of operation.

609 Having heard Councillor Flynn, the Council agreed that the Neighbourhood Liaison Pilot Project be continued for a further four months at a cost of £90,000 to be met from the General Services Budget.

### **BUILDING STRONG, SAFE AND ATTRACTIVE COMMUNITIES**

610 A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services:-

- (a) advising of provisional funding awarded by the Scottish Executive to this Council for the provision of community warden schemes and other initiatives to tackle anti-social behaviour;
- (b) providing details of the guidance issued by the Scottish Executive in connection with the funding allocation; and
- (c) seeking approval to submit to the Scottish Executive an outline bid for the funding by deadline of 31 August 2003.

611 Having heard Councillor Flynn in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed to approve his motion, as follows:-



612 To welcome this report and the £850,000 funding proposal by the  
Scottish Executive.

613 The Administration's proposal's will see more support for our residents  
who are suffering from anti-social behaviour and we want our staff to  
be in the community at peak times. We therefore propose the  
following:-

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>ANNUAL EXPENDITURE</b>
Community Warden Scheme	£500,000
ASIST expansion of service	£68,000
ASIST out of hours/mobile patrol	£115,000
Mediation Service	£10,000
Witness/victim support	£10,000
Solicitor	£32,000
Intensive Support Team	£80,000
External Project Evaluation	£10,000
Support, infrastructure and start up costs	£25,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£850,000</b>

### **LITTER CONTROL STRATEGY 2003**

614 A report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services  
seeking approval of a litter control strategy for West Dunbartonshire.

615 After discussion, the Council agreed to approve the Litter Control Strategy, as  
appended to the aforesaid report.

### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

616 Having heard Councillor White, the Council unanimously agreed to suspend  
Standing Order 16, in order to allow the Council to consider making  
recommendations in respect of the following item, which were contrary to a  
Council decision on 25 June 2003.

### **INVESTMENT IN STREET CLEANSING**

617 A report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services  
providing Members with information on how the additional £250,000 allocated  
to improve street cleansing would be utilised.

618 Having heard Councillor Duncan McDonald in answer to Members' questions,  
the Council agreed to approve the undernoted motion:-

619 This Council agrees the recommendation on page 213 as follows:-

- (a) agree to the proposals to spend the £250,000 investment as detailed in paragraph 3.1 of the report; and
- (b) approve the funding proposal as detailed in Section 4.

620 Furthermore, Council notes that the £250,000 previously allocated to Labour's Litter Initiative remains available for allocation. The Council therefore agrees the following allocation which will enhance the quality of service provision for many residents of West Dunbartonshire. £50,000 will be invested in improving the security for those who reside in sheltered housing complexes. This has been agreed on Health and Safety grounds as the existing community alarms in the sheltered housing complexes are now nearing the end of their useful life. Therefore, Council agrees that it is imperative to replace them. £100,000 will be invested in a Safer Lighting Initiative, which will help improve the quality of life and level of security for residents. £100,000 will be made available for improving the level of quality of access to Council facilities for disabled people. This investment will provide a higher quality of service for disabled residents.

#### **ST. ANDREW'S AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION REQUEST FOR CIVIC RECEPTION**

621 Correspondence from St. Andrew's Ambulance Association requesting the Council to host a civic reception to celebrate its Centenary in 2004, was submitted for consideration.

622 Having heard Provost Macdonald, the Council agreed to host the aforesaid civic reception.

#### **JUBILEE SCOTLAND – MEMBERSHIP**

623 Correspondence from Jubilee Scotland inviting this Council to become a member of Jubilee Scotland at a cost of £150, was submitted for consideration.

624 The Council agreed to affiliate to Jubilee Scotland at a cost of £150 per annum.

**CONFERENCES****(a) 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LOTTERY MONITOR CONFERENCE FOR SCOTLAND**

625 An invitation for the Council to be represented at the Lottery Monitor 4th Annual Conference "Influencing Change for Scotland's Benefit" to be held on 30 September 2003 in Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh was submitted for consideration.

626 The Council agreed to nominate Councillor Jackie Maceira to attend the above conference.

**(b) THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT, POLITICS AND THE PEOPLE**

627 An invitation for the Council to be represented at the Scottish Parliament, Politics and the People Conference to be held on 30 August 2003 in the European in Scotland Conference Centre, 39 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, was submitted for consideration.

628 The Council agreed to nominate Councillor Martin Rooney to attend the above Conference.

The meeting ended at 9.25 p.m.