

**WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

**Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU**

11 December 2008

**MEETING: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2008  
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, 17 December 2008 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

Executive Director of Corporate Services

Executive Director of Educational Services

Executive Director of Social Work and Health

Executive Director of Housing, Environmental & Economic Development

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

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**WEDNESDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2008**

**AGENDA**

**1. APOLOGIES**

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Submit for approval as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 26 November 2008.

**3. OPEN FORUM**

The Council is asked to note that no open forum questions have been received from members of the public.

**4. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE**

Submit for information, and where necessary ratification, the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held on 19 November 2008.

**5. IMPLEMENTATION OF LEARNING DISABILITY CHARGES**

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 26 November 2008, submit report by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health providing the Council with further information on the implementation of Learning Disability Charges.

**6. HRA 2008/2009 BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT TO 15 NOVEMBER 2008**

Submit report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environment and Economic Development providing the Council with an update on the financial performance of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to the period ended 15 November 2008.

**7. HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008/2009 BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 15 NOVEMBER 2008 (PERIOD 7)**

Submit report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environment and Economic Development providing the Council with an update on the progress of the HRA capital programme as at 15 November 2008.

**8. GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE 2008/2009 BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT (PERIOD 7)**

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services informing the Council of the performance of the General Services Revenue Budget for the period to 15 November 2008.

**9. GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT: PERIOD 7 (2008/2009)**

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services providing the Council with an update on the General Services Capital Plan for 2008/2009.

**10. BEST VALUE IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Submit report by the Chief Executive providing the Council with an update on the progress of the Council's Best Value Improvement Plan (BVIP).

**11. NATIONAL PAY AWARD – LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES**

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services seeking the Council's approval to implement the National Pay Award, as recommended by the Employers Secretary of the Scottish Joint Council for Local Government Employees.

**12. QUESTION**

**Question from Councillor John Millar to the Convener of Housing, Environment and Economic Development**

The Strathleven Regeneration Company requires the temporary closure of the road between Bellsmyre Avenue and the A82/A813 between 7th December 2008 and 6th June 2010. I recognise that this potentially could cause considerable inconvenience to road users and bus users during this period.

I am pleased to learn that access will be maintained to property and for pedestrians at all times, and that Strathclyde Partnership for Transport and the emergency services will be kept fully informed of any opening and closures of the road. I am also pleased to learn that after 6 months the closure will only apply periodically.

However given the potential disruption and delays caused by speed restrictions and closure of the road it is possible that there will be increased traffic in Bellsmyre in the area of St. Peters Primary School, Aitkenbar Primary School and Whiteford Avenue in Bellsmyre. Can the Convener advise what additional safety precautions have been put in place in order to deal with the potential traffic increase in this part of Bellsmyre to protect young people and other pedestrians?

### **13. NOTICES OF MOTION**

#### **(A) Equal Pay Compromise Agreements and Recovery of Arrears**

##### **(i) Report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services**

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services providing the Council with an update on the recovery of arrears from employees in receipt of an equal pay compromise award.

##### **(ii) Motion by Councillor Bollan**

This Council agrees that no deductions will be made from any equal pay or single status (re-alignment payments) back payments due to any Council employee, who has a repayment plan in place, without their written consent. Workers have been advised they must sign a mandate by 26 November 2008.

If no written consent is forthcoming then the matter will rest there. There will be no follow up sanctions by WDC to freeze bank accounts, arrest wages or use any other recovery method against employees into this bracket.

#### **(B) Motion by Councillor by Councillor Casey – Purchase of Land by Owner-Occupiers**

Council is extremely concerned at the length of time it is taking for owner occupiers of ex-council stock to purchase small pieces of council land attached to their properties.

A policy has been agreed to allow owner occupiers to purchase the land however, until the land is surveyed and valued by the Council, no progress can be made.

This Council requests the Director of HEED to bring forward a report that explains the reasons for this deadlock, the actions being taken both to clear the backlog of requests and to ensure that future requests are dealt with timeously, and when we can expect to see these problems resolved.

**(C) Motion by Councillor David McBride – A New Build for Dumbarton Academy**

This Council reaffirms its public commitment that 'a new build Dumbarton Academy is its number one priority'.

Council welcomes the UK Governments decision to bring forward capital spending in 2008/09 & 2009/10 to support jobs and continue public investment in the nations infrastructure. Council notes that the Scottish Governments share of this capital spending is £33 million in 2008/09 and a further £227 million in 2009/10.

Council further notes that if the political will exists, then the Scottish Government has sufficient uncommitted financial resources to fund a new build Dumbarton Academy. To date the SNP administration has failed to secure the necessary funding to allow Dumbarton Academy pupils to be taught in a modern and suitable school.

Given the above Council instructs the Leader of the Council and the Spokesperson for Educational Services to seek an urgent meeting with both: (i) the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Efficient Governance and (ii) the Cabinet Secretary for Education & Lifelong Learning to demand the necessary financial support for a new build Dumbarton Academy.

In addition, the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Education are likewise instructed to write to the Scottish Finance Minister John Swinney MSP for a share of the additional resources to come to West Dunbartonshire to fund a new build Dumbarton Academy.

**(D) Motion by Councillor Martin Rooney – Councillor Marie McNair**

This Council notes that Councillor McNair was elected on a Labour manifesto, her election expenses were paid for by the Labour Party and committed Labour Party members in Clydebanks actively campaigned to get Labour Councillors elected in the Clydebanks Waterfront Ward. Council also notes Councillor McNair's recent comments in the Press that she ... *'will be an independent and strong voice for her ward ...'*

This Council notes that Councillor McNair did not stand as an Independent candidate and was not elected as an Independent Councillor. Council notes that, having stood as a Labour candidate in support of the Labour manifesto, Councillor McNair has betrayed the trust placed in her by the constituents of Clydebank Waterfront Ward who voted for Labour Councillors to represent them.

Therefore this Council calls on Councillor McNair her to abide to have the courage to resign as a Councillor and to stand for election under her new guise so that the members of Clydebank Waterfront can decide for themselves who they wish to represent them.

Let the electorate decide.

**(E) Motion by Councillor Martin Rooney – Vale of Leven Hospital**

This Council notes the publication of the 'Vision for the Vale of Leven Hospital' following a comprehensive review of services at the hospital by NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde.

Council welcomes plans to expand (i) planned outpatient; (ii) day care; and (iii) diagnostic services including dental care, ophthalmology, the development of a rheumatology service and additional capacity for kidney dialysis and cancer care as this will save patients from travelling further a field for outpatient appointments.

However Council regrets the loss of anaesthetics and the consequent reduction in (i) emergency services; (ii) coronary care; and (iii) stroke services; resulting in reduced bed capacity at the Vale of Leven Hospital. The Council further regrets that this will lead to more people having to make the journey to the RAH in Paisley.

This Council believes that 24/7 anaesthetics should remain at the Vale of Leven Hospital in order that a fuller range of services can be provided and resolves to do all that it can to support those campaigning for the hospital, such as Hospital Watch.

The Council also insists that the Board of NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and the Health Secretary ensure that the anaesthetics service is retained.

In relation to the tragic outbreak of Clostridium Difficile. This Council agrees with the families' call for a full public inquiry without further delay and calls on the Cabinet Secretary for Health to stop prevaricating and grant a public inquiry with immediate effect so that the families get the answers they deserve.

**(F) Motion by Councillor Martin Rooney – Jamestown Primary School**

This Council notes that Jamestown Primary School is a listed building, and in very good condition. In addition the external areas of the school are in good order. Council also notes that the current repair costs of Jamestown Primary School are only £90,000.

The School currently provides affordable education which is slightly above the national average, at a cost of £3,700 per pupil

Council also notes that following an extensive consultation of parents in which 77% of parents that responded opted for the retention and a major refurbishment of Jamestown Primary School. The Parent Council at Jamestown has therefore proposed the following:

A major refurbishment which would enhance existing facilities, to include the area currently occupied by EECC, providing classroom accommodation for all pupils within the main school building itself. The existing annex to be modified to provide purpose built PE and community facilities. Importantly this major refurbishment would retain the valued identity and history of the school.

Given the overwhelming majority of the Parent Forum in favour of the Parent Councils proposed option, as indicated on the parental questionnaire, This Council agrees that this proposal be formally costed and considered along with the other options being put to elected members as part of Phase 2 Schools Regeneration.