

**WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

At a Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held by video conference on Wednesday, 30 September 2020 at 2.02 p.m.

**Present:** Provost William Hendrie, Bailie Denis Agnew and Councillors Jim Brown, Gail Casey, Karen Conaghan, Ian Dickson, Diane Docherty, Jim Finn, Daniel Lennie, Caroline McAllister, Douglas McAllister, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Iain McLaren, Marie McNair, John Millar, John Mooney, Lawrence O'Neill, Sally Page, Martin Rooney and Brian Walker.

**Attending:** Joyce White, Chief Executive; Angela Wilson, Strategic Director – Transformation & Public Service Reform; Richard Cairns, Strategic Director – Regeneration, Environment & Growth, Beth Culshaw, Chief Officer, Health & Social Care Partnership, Peter Hessett, Strategic Lead – Regulatory (Legal Officer); Stephen West, Strategic Lead – Resources; Victoria Rogers, Strategic Lead – People & Technology; Peter Barry, Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability; Gail MacFarlane, Strategic Lead – Shared Services Roads and Neighbourhood; Malcolm Bennie, Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture, Communities & Facilities; Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer; Gillian McNeilly, Finance Manager; Amanda Coulthard, Performance & Strategy Manager; Pamela Clifford, Planning, Building Standards & Environmental Health Manager; George Hawthorn, Manager – Democratic & Registration Services; and Christine McCaffary, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

**STATEMENT BY CHAIR**

Provost Hendrie advised that the meeting was being audio streamed and broadcast live to the internet and would be available for playback.

**URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS**

The Provost advised that he had received a request from Councillor McColl for an urgent motion on accessible play equipment in Council playparks to be considered. The Provost agreed to accept the motion and advised that it would be dealt with after the business shown on the agenda.

With reference to the decision of Council at the Requisitioned Meeting held on 24 September 2020, the Provost further advised that the verbal update on the

Duntiglennan Fields, Duntocher planning appeal would be given after Item 4 – Recording of Votes.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

As convener of Clyde Plan, Councillor O'Neill declared an interest in the verbal update on Duntiglennan Fields, Duntocher, and advised that he would participate in any discussion thereon.

### **RECORDING OF VOTES**

The Council agreed that all votes taken during the meeting would be done by roll call vote to ensure an accurate record.

### **DUNTIGLENNAN FIELDS, DUNTOCHER**

The Planning, Building Services & Environmental Health Manager advised that she had provided Members with a written update providing detail of the Reporter's reasons for the grant of planning permission in the appeal against non-determination in respect of Duntiglennan Fields, Duntocher. She advised that confirmation had been received that the timescale for Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) had been extended to 22 October 2020 to allow Scottish Ministers to consider the implications of the recent appeal on the LDP. She also advised that the preferred legal Counsel had been appointed to advise on the prospects of challenging the decision.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 26 August 2020 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

Councillor McColl referred to the decision contained in said Minutes where the Council had agreed to correct the Minutes of Meeting held on 25 June 2020 and that following discussion with the Legal Officer he had been advised that the Minutes of the June meeting had in fact been correct.

Having heard the Legal Officer in further explanation, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to correct the Minutes of Meeting held on 25 June, to show that in connection with the item 'Motion by Councillor Gail Casey – Formal Record of Thanks to the Communities of West Dunbartonshire', that it was Councillor Docherty who had requested the addendum to the motion; and
- (2) that corrections to Minutes of Meetings will be subject to recordings being checked to ensure that the correction being proposed was accurate.

## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of Meeting of the Audit Committee held on 17 June 2020 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

### **OPEN FORUM**

The Council noted that no open forum questions have been submitted by members of the public.

### **CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20**

A report was submitted by the Chief Social Work Officer presenting the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report for 2019/20 which provided information on the statutory work undertaken on the Council's behalf, including a summary of governance arrangements, service delivery, resources and workforce.

In view of technical difficulties being experienced by the Chief Social Work Officer, the Chief Officer, Health & Social Care Partnership presented the report in his absence and provided Members with detail of the activity and performance of Social Work Services across West Dunbartonshire.

Following a question from Councillor McColl, and having heard the Legal Officer the Council agreed to continue consideration of the report to later in the meeting to allow the Chief Social Work Officer to rejoin the video conference and provide Members with the opportunity to properly discuss the report with him present and ask questions.

### **TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20**

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources providing an update on treasury management during 2019/20.

Having heard the Strategic Lead - Resources and the Finance Manager in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the information provided within the Annual Report; and
- (2) to note that the report would be referred to the Audit Committee for further security.

### **FOOTWAY GRITTING UPDATE**

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Shared Services Roads and Neighbourhood providing an update on the costs incurred following the implementation of additional footway gritting actions carried out in the period

between January and March 2020 and seeking approval of footway gritting actions for the Winter Plan 2020/21.

Councillor McLaren moved:-

That the Council agrees:-

- (1) to note the incurred additional costs identified in paragraph 4.3 of the report and evaluation of measures taken in paragraph 4.4;
- (2) the proposed footway treatment detailed in Option 1 of the report;
- (3) to note the potential additional costs for Option 1; and
- (4) to note that a further report would be presented to Council to evaluate any measures taken.

Councillor Mooney asked if Councillor McLaren was willing to accept the following addendum to his motion:-

To add at (4) above that a report will also come from the Health & Social Care Partnership looking at the possible reduction in falls leading to presentations at Accident & Emergency during the winter months.

Councillor McLaren agreed to accept the addendum, and the motion with addendum was agreed by the Council.

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2019/20**

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead - Communications, Culture, Communities & Facilities presenting the West Dunbartonshire Council Annual Report 2019/20 and supporting performance information.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Executive and the Performance & Strategy Manager in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed to note the Annual Report and performance information provided.

## **GENERAL SERVICE BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT P5**

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources advising on both the General Services revenue budget and the approved capital programme to 31 August 2020.

After hearing the relevant officers in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note that the revenue account currently showed a projected annual adverse variance of £2.309m (0.98% of the total budget);
- (2) to note that of the projection £2.229m was due to the projected impact of COVID-19 and the underlying position would be £0.080m adverse;
- (3) to note that the capital account showed that planned expenditure and resource for 2020/21 was lower than budgeted by £20.988m (29.64% of the budget), made up of £21.654m (30.58% of the budget) relating to project slippage, partially offset by £0.666m relating to an in-year overspend;
- (4) to fund £0.305m of transformational projects from capital receipts during 2019/20 (as noted in paragraph 4.16 of the report), resulting in an increase of £0.305m free reserves which would be adjusted within the audited Financial Statements as at 31 March 2020; and
- (5) to note that details for the outcome of the expected savings from the transformational projects to be funded from capital receipts would be reported as part of the year end budgetary control report 2020/21 and that future use of capital receipts would be considered as part of the Long Term Finance Strategy.

#### **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT (PERIOD 5)**

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability providing an update on the financial performance to 31 August 2020 (Period 5) of the HRA revenue and capital budgets for 2020/21.

After hearing officers in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note that the revenue account currently showed a projected annual favourable variance of £1.078m (2.44% of the total budget), of which £1.076m is COVID-19 related; and
- (2) to note the net projected annual position in relation to relevant capital projects which was highlighting an in-year variance of £13.402m (22.37%) due to projected slippage.

Note:- Councillor Douglas McAllister left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

#### **JOINT COLLABORATION UPDATE: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE AND INVERCLYDE COUNCILS – PERFORMANCE AND STRATEGY**

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Communication, Culture, Communities & Facilities on proposals for further collaboration with Inverclyde Council in relation to the Performance and Strategy Service.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Executive and the Strategic Lead in answer to Members' questions, Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor Docherty moved:-

That the Council agrees:-

- (1) to approve the shared management arrangement for Performance and Strategy between Inverclyde and West Dunbartonshire Councils on a six month trial basis from 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021; and
- (2) to note that a report providing an update on the above would be submitted to a future meeting of Council.

As an amendment Councillor O'Neill, seconded by Councillor McBride moved:-

That the Council rejects the sharing of this post.

On a roll call being taken 8 Members voted for the amendment, namely Councillors Casey, Lennie, McBride, Millar, Mooney, O'Neill, Rooney and Walker and 12 Members voted for the motion, namely Provost Hendrie, Bailie Agnew and Councillors Brown, Conaghan, Dickson, Docherty, Finn, Caroline McAllister, McColl, McLaren, McNair and Page. The motion was accordingly declared carried.

### **CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20**

A report was submitted by the Chief Social Work Officer presenting the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report for 2019/20 which provided information on the statutory work undertaken on the Council's behalf, including a summary of governance arrangements, service delivery, resources and workforce.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Social Work Officer and the Chief Officer, Health & Social Care Partnership, in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the content of the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2019/20; and
- (2) to approve its submission to the Office of the Chief Social Work Advisor to the Scottish Government.

Note: Councillor Douglas McAllister re-joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

**URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS**  
**ACCESSIBLE PLAY EQUIPMENT IN COUNCIL PLAY PARKS**

Councillor McColl moved:-

Council notes the campaign by Claire McCann for more accessible play equipment in our play parks and thanks her for raising this issue. While we do have a range of accessible equipment, Council agrees we can and will do more.

Council resolves that future play park developments should include appropriate accessible play equipment; this could also be part of planning guidance/conditions and Council asks officers and the Planning Committee to consider how best to support the aims of this motion.

Officers will survey all of our existing play parks and bring a report to a future IRED Committee with options for adding accessible play equipment across the Council area.

To achieve these ends, officers are instructed to work in partnership with disabled people in West Dunbartonshire to draw up a draft engagement plan, listening to their views in relation to play park equipment.

Officers should work with key stakeholders such as Kilpatrick School, Y-Sort-It, Bruce Street Centre, Golden Friendships, Tulloch Trust, and others to enhance that process.

As an immediate action, officers should update our website to publicise the type and locations of our existing accessible play equipment.

Following discussion, the Council agreed the motion.

The meeting closed at 4.56 p.m.

