

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL
Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, G82 3PU

23 April 2004

MEETING: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL 2004
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, 28 April 2004 at 7.00 p.m.

The business is as shown on the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

TIM HUNTINGFORD

Chief Executive

Distribution:-

All Members of West Dunbartonshire Council.

Chief Executive

Director of Corporate Services

Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services

Director of Education and Cultural Services

Director of Commercial and Technical Services

Director of Social Work and Housing Services

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 28 APRIL 2004

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. PRESENTATION TO SCOTT HENRY, WINNER OF THE BP SCOTTISH BOYS' CHAMPIONSHIP AND PUPIL AT CLYDEBANK HIGH SCHOOL

3. OPEN FORUM

**Mr Chris Neill, 3 Garshake Terrace, Dumbarton –
Alternatives to PPP Funding**

In light of news that Argyll and Bute are being funded by the Scottish Executive to the tune of £171 million as an alternative to PPP can the Council tell us what alternatives have been researched for our school regeneration programme.

The Council explained the costs of empty desks at a current cost of £2.7 million p.a. but there have been mistakes made in actual capacity figures for schools earmarked for closure however no account has been made for services using school buildings as Psychological Services at Aitkenbar. It is also believed that there will be slack built into the new CLC.

Can the Council please give a true indication of the costs of empty desks now and when the new schools will be in place?

Can the Council confirm or deny that they have been approached already by developers to purchase land occupied by the schools earmarked for closure?

If the Scottish Executive turn down the PPP bid what alternatives do the Council have to continue with a school estates regeneration programme?

4. QUESTIONS TO THE CONVENER OF HOUSING SERVICES RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR McLAUGHLIN

"In terms of Standing Order 9(b) Councillor McLaughlin submits the following questions to Councillor James Flynn, Convener of Housing Services:-

- 1) Is the convenor aware of the intense staff rumours concerning the merger of housing services with commercial and technical services?
- 2) When did the convenor first become aware or was first involved in the possible transfer?
- 3) Who initiated the idea of the possible transfer of housing services?
- 4) What meetings and discussions and with who has the convenor had in connection with the possible transfer?
- 5) Have the unions been consulted on the possible transfer?
- 6) Is the convenor aware of the damage to staff morale that these rumours are causing?
- 7) Is the convenor aware that some staff have been discretely told that there jobs are to go, does he find this acceptable?
- 8) Does the convenor agree that the senior housing staff should be congratulated in taking the lead to address staff fears and to communicate the facts?
- 9) Is the convenor of housing in favour of a transfer of housing services to commercial and technical services?
- 10) What benefits does the convenor think the demerger of housing services will bring?
- 11) What cost savings does the convenor think the possible transfer will deliver?
- 12) Why is the administration considering possible merger of housing services with CATS given that 4 years ago the repairs services was demerged from CATS because of difficulties.

5. QUESTIONS TO THE CONVENER OF SOCIAL WORK RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR McLAUGHLIN

“In terms of Standing Order 9(b) Councillor McLaughlin submits the following questions to Councillor Martin Rooney, Convener of Social Work:-

- 1) Is the convenor aware of the feasibility to transfer housing services to commercial and technical services?
- 2) When did the convenor first become aware of it?
- 3) What meetings and discussions and with who has the convenor had in connection with the possible demerger?

- 4) Does the convenor of Social Work support the demerger of housing services?
- 5) Does the convenor agree that, with the introduction of the supporting people legislation that the demerger of Social Work and housing will have a serious impact on service delivery to the vulnerable family groups?

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 27)

Submit for approval, Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 31 March 2004.

7. MINUTES OF THE RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE (Pages 29 - 30)

Submit for information, the Minutes of Meeting of the Recruitment Committee held on 29 March 2004.

8. MINUTES OF JOINT CONSULTATIVE FORUM (Pages 31 - 37)

Submit for information, and where necessary ratification, Minutes of Meeting of the Joint Consultative Forum held on 1 April 2004.

9. WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL – OPEN FORUMS (Pages 39 - 40)

Submit report by the Chief Executive proposing amendments to the arrangements for West Dunbartonshire Council Open Forums.

10. RESPONSE TO PROPOSED POST OFFICE CLOSURES IN HALDANE, DUNTOCHER, PARKHALL AND FLEMING AVENUE, WHITECROOK (Pages 41 - 62)

Submit report by the Chief Executive requesting the Council to consider a proposed response to the Post Office's recent comprehensive review of its network of Post Offices in West Dunbartonshire.

11. WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY
(Pages 63 - 131)

Submit report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services seeking approval to submit the Local Housing Strategy document to Communities Scotland for assessment, as directed by Scottish Ministers.

12. MODERNISING GOVERNMENT FUND – THIRD ROUND (MGF 3)
(Pages 133 - 146)

Submit report by the Director of Corporate Services concerning an invitation from the Scottish Executive to submit proposals for the third round of the Modernising Government Fund.

13. OPEN SPACE MAINTENANCE – CHARGE TO GENERAL FUND
(Pages 147 - 148)

Submit report by the Director of Corporate Services seeking approval to transfer the remaining balance of open space maintenance expenditure, in the sum £138,000, to the General Fund when the 2003/2004 final accounts are being completed.

14. COUNCIL STRUCTURES **(Pages 149 - 156)**

Submit report by the Chief Executive reviewing the current structure of the Council and recommending changes to departmental responsibilities.

**15. GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT:
PERIOD 11, 2003/04** **(Pages 157 - 166)**

Submit report by the Director of Corporate Services advising of progress of the General Services Capital Programme to 29 February 2004.

**16. GENERAL SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT: PERIOD 11,
2003/04** **(Pages 167 - 183)**

Submit report by the Director of Corporate Services advising of the performance of the General Services Revenue budget to 29 February 2004.

**17. NOMINATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE YOUTH TRUST
(Pages 185 - 188)**

Submit for consideration, correspondence from West Dunbartonshire Community Planning in Action seeking the nomination of an elected member to serve on the Board of Directors of the Youth Trust.

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