

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU

13 March 2009

MEETING: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MARCH 2009
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
COUNCIL OFFICES
GARSHAKE ROAD
DUMBARTON**

Dear Member,

Please attend a Meeting of **West Dunbartonshire Council** to be held in the **Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, on Wednesday, 25 March 2009 at 6.00 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) 737251 or e-mail: george.hawthorn@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 25 MARCH 2009

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Submit for approval as a correct record, the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 25 February 2009.

4. OPEN FORUM

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

5. APPEALS COMMITTEE – 14 AUGUST 2008

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 13 January 2009, submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services making recommendations in respect of the independent report by Brodies Solicitors on the delay in the implementation of a decision by the Appeal Committee held on 14 August 2008.

6. REMIT OF TENDERING COMMITTEE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 25 February 2009, submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services on the remit of the Tendering Committee, the overlap between that Committee's remit and the service committees and seeking the Council's view on the appropriate committee to consider proposed contracts.

7./

7. MEMBERSHIP OF OUTSIDE BODIES

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 25 February 2009, submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services presenting the Council with the current list of nominations to outside bodies for consideration.

8. CORDALE HOUSING ASSOCIATION – PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF KIPPEN DAIRY SITE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting West Dunbartonshire Council held on 28 January 2009, submit report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environment and Economic Development informing the Council of the findings of an Options Appraisal undertaken by Arneil Johnston Consultants in relation to the Kippen Dairy Site and making recommendations thereon.

**Note: Please note that the appendix to the report, the options appraisal, has been issued to Members only with this agenda. Copies are available to the public at the main libraries and online at the following website address:
<http://wdccmis.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/cmiswebpublic/>**

9. REMIT FROM CORPORATE CULTURE SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 MARCH 2009 – CLYDEBANK TOWN HALL – CONDITION SURVEY

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Corporate Culture Sub-Committee held on 10 March 2009, submit a relevant excerpt from the Minutes together with report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services providing information on the general condition of the Clydebank Town Hall and making recommendations thereon.

10. MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP ON PHASE 2 OF THE REGENERATION OF THE SCHOOLS' ESTATE – UPDATE REPORT

Submit report by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing the Council with an update on the progress of the Member/Officer Working Group: Regeneration of the West Dunbartonshire Schools' Estate – Phase 2.

11. GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PLAN 2009/10

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services providing the Council with the General Services Capital Plan for 2009/10 recommended by the Corporate Management Team.

12. DEVELOPMENT OF A ROBUST FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services updating the Council on the development of a robust financial framework and inviting comment on the role, remit and frequency of meetings, membership and name of the Committee.

13. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 – ADOPTION OF MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services seeking the Council's approval of the Draft West Dunbartonshire Council Model Publication Scheme for submission to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner by 4 April 2009.

**Note: Please note that the appendices to the report, which includes the model publication scheme, has been issued to Members only with this agenda. Copies are available to the public at the main libraries and online at the following website address:
<http://wdccmis.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/cmiswebpublic/>**

14. DESIGNATION OF POLLING PLACES

Submit report by the Chief Executive asking the Council to approve the designation of polling places to be used for the elections to be held in 2009.

**15. PROGRESS OF BEST VALUE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
(COPY TO FOLLOW)**

Submit report by the Chief Executive presenting an update on the progress of the Best Value Improvement Plan against the priorities identified by Audit Scotland's Best Value Audit Work.

16. QUESTIONS

Questions by Councillor Craig McLaughlin to the Leader of the Opposition

- (a)** Does the Leader of the Opposition believe that it is acceptable for any member to use Members' Services for political purposes?
- (b)** Will the Leader of the Opposition agree to support any sanction against any Councillor who has used Members' Services for political purposes?

17. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Motion by Councillor Ronnie McColl – The Chief Executive

The SNP feel that, given the recent unfounded comments and motions surrounding the Chief Executive, it is important to make a public commitment to the Chief Executive in order to dispel any uncertainty that has been created.

This Council therefore fully supports the Chief Executive in the execution of his duties.

Furthermore, the mover of the motion asks Council for a roll call vote.

(b) Motion by Councillor Craig McLaughlin – The Royal Mail

This Council expresses deep concern at the publication of the UK Government's controversial plans to part-privatize the Royal Mail to a foreign operator. The Royal Mail has undergone a sustained period of change and is starting to show that it is now a sustainable organisation. Despite this Lord Mandelson has ploughed ahead with his plans and will seek the support of the Conservatives to push his plans through.

The Council notes with concern that the Labour Party conference and the manifesto of 2005 that all the Labour Councillors, MSPs and MPs stood on clearly stated a commitment to retain the post office in the public sector. It is clear that this policy by Lord Mandelson is a complete betrayal of the public.

The future of Royal Mail as a public service is a vital interest to Scotland and every community and small business should make known their outright opposition to this controversial plan. The Royal Mail is a fundamental public service and must remain in the public sector.

The Council notes with disappointment that our local MP John McFall has not signed the early day motion no 428, which was lodged by Labour MP Geraldine Smith.

(c) Motion by Councillor Martin Rooney - West Dunbartonshire Asian Women's Group

The decision of the SNP Administration to remove Playscheme Grants from their Budget was not subjected to an Equality Impact Assessment. It has now become clear that this failure to carry out the assessment has led to a decision that will cause particular hardship and disadvantage to the West Dunbartonshire Asian Women's Group.

Whilst majority ethnic groups will also be adversely affected by the removal of Playscheme Grants, the loss to this minority ethnic group will cause far wider and disproportionate disadvantage to these children and parents.

This Council notes that the Chair of the Equality & Diversity Working Group stated ***'In West Dunbartonshire we celebrate the increasing diversity of our population and we will ensure we provide information and services that meet the needs of those who, live, visit and work in the area.'*** (West Dunbartonshire Race Equality Scheme, 2008-2009, Sept 2008).

If this statement is to have value or worth, it is necessary for this Council to reconsider this budget decision before irreparable damage is caused. Therefore, this Council agrees to suspend Standing Orders and thereafter to reverse its decision to implement cuts to all Playscheme Grants. Council recognises that the resultant £11k approx arising from this proposed cut will be able to be recouped through Management savings.

Note: Members are to note that the Council will be required to suspend Standing Order No 19 (a) in order to consider the above item as a period of six months has not passed since the budget was approved on 12 February 2009.

(d) Motion by Councillor David McBride - NHS Consultation

Council regrets the decision taken by the board of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to remove 24/7 anaesthetics service, coronary care, treatment for strokes, gastrointestinal bleeds and epileptic seizures from the Vale of Leven Hospital to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley; further regrets the decision to close the Christie Ward, which provides invaluable inpatient acute mental health services to the local community; notes that NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde have displayed utter contempt for the views of the local community. We note that this decision is not keeping services local, as promised by the Scottish Government, and therefore calls on the Council Leader to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing urging her to reject these proposals, retain 24/7 anaesthetics and the Christie Ward at the Vale of Leven Hospital.

(e) Motion by Councillor Geoff Calvert - Community Service Volunteers (CSV) – Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme (RSVP) Voluntary Drivers. see <http://www.csv-rsvp.org.uk/site/home.htm>

This Council agrees that the voluntary drivers who operate in West Dunbartonshire, picking up elderly and patients from their homes, taking them to clinics and hospitals and then returning them to their homes provide an invaluable personal service to our residents.

This Council notes that core Grant funding for this service that was previously provided by the Scottish Government will be withdrawn from the end of March 2009. Government Ministers have directed the RSVP to secure alternative funding from local authorities via Community Planning Partnerships.

This Council agrees that it will use all its influence to secure funding through the CPP to sustain this vital service in West Dunbartonshire and, in addition, requests the West Dunbartonshire CVS to liaise with the group in order to give them any advice and support they require.

(f) Motion by Councillor Jim Bollan – Royal Mail

This Council being aware of the Westminster Government's proposals to part privatise the Post Office agrees to write to the business secretary, Peter Mandelson, opposing the part removal of this publicly owned service into private hands. Council also agrees to write to John McFall MP making him aware of our position and calling on him to vote against these proposals when the Bill is tabled in the House of Commons.

In furtherance of adopting this policy position Council agrees to immediately discontinue using the services of TNT and any other private postal providers we currently use, in favour of the Post Office services group of businesses.

(g) Motion by Councillor Craig McLaughlin – Earth Hour

On Saturday 28 March 2009 at 8.30 p.m. people around the world will turn off their lights for one hour as a demonstration to the decision makers of the world about the concerns on climate change.

This event has been initiated by the WWF in 2005, and that the timing would coincide with the international negotiations being held in Copenhagen in December.

There are a number of cities and areas that have already signed up to the event - cities including Bangkok, Copenhagen, Dubai, Edinburgh, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Moscow, Oslo, Poznan, Sydney, Toronto to name a few.

Local authorities are being asked to play their role in leading and championing action on climate change in their respective local areas.

This Council pledges to help and support Earth Hour by promoting the event through our internet, intranet, local communities and schools. The Council also agrees to instruct officers to examine where practical all building lights that can be switched off as part of the Earth Hour Campaign. (It should exclude street lights, emergency and security lighting) on Saturday 28th March 2009 at 8.30pm.