

COMMUNITY SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Safety & Environmental Services Committee held in the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings, Station Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 3 March 2004 at 11.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Geoff Calvert, Jack Duffy, Linda McColl, Duncan McDonald and Connie O'Sullivan.

Attending: David McMillan, Director of Commercial & Technical Services; Dan Henderson, Director of Economic, Planning & Environmental Services; Ronald Dinnie, Head of Roads, Transport & Environmental Services; Russell Fleming, Resource Manager, Commercial & Technical Services; John McKerracher, Head of Leisure, Property, Catering & Cleaning Services; Irving Hodgson, Head of Planning and Development; Alasdair Gregor, Planning and Development Manager; Graham Pollock, Section Head (Protective Services); David McCulloch, Section Head (Trading Standards); and Craig Stewart, Administrative Assistant.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Provost Alistair Macdonald and Councillors Jim Bolland and Gail Casey.

Councillor Connie O'Sullivan in the Chair

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2033 The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 7 January 2004 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BILL

2034 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 5 November 2003 (Page 378, paragraph 1101 refers), a report was submitted by the Chief Executive advising that the Sustainable Energy Bill received the Royal Assent on 21 October 2003 and was now in force as the Sustainable Energy Act.

2035 The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

**THE ROYAL SCOTTISH PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS 2004 –
NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP**

- 2036 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 5 November 2003 (Pages 379/380, paragraph 1107 refers), the Committee was requested to consider nominations for the Member/Officer Working Group which will oversee arrangements for the Scottish Pipe Band Championships in May 2004.
- 2037 The Committee agreed that Provost Macdonald and Councillor Linda McColl be nominated to serve on the Working Group.

WORKING FOR FAMILIES – PROGRESS & SUBMISSION

- 2038 A report was submitted by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services providing an update on the progress of the Council's proposals for this Fund and seeking delegated authority to approve a final submission to the Scottish Executive, which would be required before the date of the next meeting of the Committee.
- 2039 The Committee agreed that authority be delegated to the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services, in consultation with the Convener, to agree the content of the Council's submission to the Scottish Executive.

THE OLD ACADEMY BUILDING, CHURCH STREET, DUMBARTON

- 2040 A report was submitted by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services proposing a strategy for promoting an appropriate development at the Old Academy Building and its surroundings at Church Street, Dumbarton.
- 2041 After hearing Councillor O'Sullivan, Convener, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) that a development brief be prepared for the whole of the site within Council ownership bounded by Church Street, Castle Street and Glasgow Road, having regard to the strip of privately owned land separating the Council's ownerships;
 - (2) that at the appropriate time the Council should consider seeking waiver of the title restrictions concerning land and buildings affected by Dumbarton Common Good Fund; including obtaining any necessary consent that may be required from the Sheriff;
 - (3) that a report be commissioned on the feasibility of re-use of the existing building for modern uses and assessing the practicality of promoting a façade retention only scheme in respect of the Old Academy Building;

- (4) that approval be given to the submission of appropriate applications seeking the demolition of those parts of the property which would facilitate the promotion of a façade retention scheme;
- (5) that consideration be given by the Council to proposals which would, if necessary, facilitate the demolition of the existing Burgh Hall;
- (6) that a report be prepared in early course for consideration by the Corporate Management Team in respect of the Council's possible requirements for office accommodation within this location;
- (7) that approaches be made to known interests who may have a requirement for property within Dumbarton Town Centre; and
- (8) that the Council agrees at the appropriate time to put the site within its ownership at this location on the market subject to an appropriate planning brief seeking a private sector interest willing to undertake a development at this location, either itself or in partnership with the Council. The terms of any offer from the private sector would be submitted to the Council for consideration and agreement at a future date.

SALE OF 2.52 ACRES OR THEREBY OF LAND AT BEARDMORE PLACE, CLYDEBANK TO LINK GROUP LTD.

2042 A report was submitted by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services proposing the sale of Council land at Beardmore Place, Clydebank for the purpose of residential development by Link Group Ltd.

2043 The Committee agreed:-

- (1) that 2.52 acres or thereby of land at Beardmore Place, as shown on the plan attached to the report, be sold to Link Group Ltd. on the basis detailed in the report; and
- (2) that authority be delegated to the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services to agree appropriate terms and to finalise the disposal in consultation with the Head of Legal and Administrative Services.

HALDANE GREEN CORRIDOR

2044 A report was submitted by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services seeking authority for the Council to be the lead agency for the implementation of a landscaping and access project at the Haldane Green Corridor.

2045 The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the Council being the lead partner for the purpose of letting and administering the contract; and
- (2) that the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services be authorised to take on the role of lead officer in relation to this project.

**PRIVATE SECTOR REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT GRANTS –
BID FOR PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING GRANT (PSHG)
FUNDING FROM COMMUNITIES SCOTLAND**

2046 A report was submitted by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services informing of the bidding process for grant funding for private sector repair and improvement grants and seeking approval of the bid to be submitted to Communities Scotland by 3 March 2004.

2047 After hearing the Planning and Development Manager in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) to endorse the bid made by officers to the Scottish Executive by the required deadline date.

DEBT COUNSELLING POLICY

2048 A report was submitted by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services seeking approval of a debt counselling policy for the Trading Standards section.

2049 After hearing Councillor O'Sullivan, Convener, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve, in principle, the Debt Counselling Policy as detailed in the Appendix to the report;
- (2) to remit the report to the Corporate Services Committee for consideration; and
- (3) that a copy of the policy be sent to all relevant departments for comment, prior to the final version of the policy being submitted to a future meeting of the Committee, for approval, if necessary.

**CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE
LEGAL CONTROLS ON FIREWORKS**

2050 A report was submitted by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services on proposed changes to the legal controls regulating the sale of fireworks.

2051 After hearing Councillor O'Sullivan, Convener, the Committee agreed to reaffirm the Council's policy of calling for an outright ban on the sale of all fireworks to the general public.

LICENSING OF HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMO) 2003/05

2052 A report was submitted by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services seeking approval of the strategy to be employed to identify all Houses in Multiple Occupation and to agree the associated charges.

2053 It was noted:-

- (a) that additional grant funding of £15,000 had been secured from the Scottish Executive, through Communities Scotland, to assist in the identification and licensing of all HMO in West Dunbartonshire for the periods 2003/04 and 2004/05; and
- (b) that the funding had been made available subject to various conditions of grant being satisfied, the main condition of which was a requirement to devise and implement a formal strategy to identify all HMO in the area including those which did not voluntarily come forward and thus ensure that all pertinent premises are licensed.

2054 The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the additional funding that had been secured on the basis outlined in the report;
- (2) to approve the proposed HMO Licensing Strategy; and
- (3) to recommend approval of the proposed revised licensing fees and remit consideration of this aspect to the Council as the setting of fees was outwith the delegated powers of the Committee.

**ECONOMIC, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES –
BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT (PERIOD 9)**

- 2055 A report was submitted by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services informing on how the budgets controlled by the Economic, Planning and Environmental Services Department performed against projections for the period up to 31 December 2003 (Period 9).
- 2056 The Committee agreed to note the report.

**COMMERCIAL & TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT –
FINANCIAL REPORT (PERIOD 9)**

- 2057 A report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services providing an update on the financial performance of the Commercial and Technical Services Department's Probable Outturns for the period up to 31 December 2003 (Period 9).
- 2058 The Committee agreed to note the report.

CYCLING, WALKING AND SAFER STREETS PROJECTS 2004/2005

- 2059 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 7 January 2004 (Page 484, paragraph 1567 refers), a report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services seeking approval to undertake a list of schemes which will be funded from the public transport budget of the Scottish Executive.
- 2060 Having heard Councillor McDonald, Service Spokesperson for Commercial and Technical Services, it was agreed:-
- (1) that the projects detailed in the Appendix to the report be approved, with the exception of the proposal for West Bridgend; and
 - (2) to note that further consideration would require to be given to the proposal for West Bridgend in order that a more appropriate solution could be identified and taken forward in consultation with the local Member.

FAIRGROUND AT DUMBARTON COMMON, MAY 2004

- 2061 A report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services providing an update on progress in arranging an alternative fairground at Dumbarton Common for the May Bank Holiday period 2004.
- 2062 Having heard Councillor McDonald, Service Spokesperson for Commercial and Technical Services and following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that a small scale funfair, consisting solely of children's rides and stalls operating on a restricted hours basis, closing at 8.00 p.m., would be staged at Dumbarton Common on the May Bank Holiday period 2004; and
- (2) that the Director of Commercial and Technical Services would liaise with the local Member concerning arrangements for the event, in order to ensure that disruption was kept to a minimum.

FIREWORKS DISPLAY AT CLYDEBANK

2063 A report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services providing an update on progress in arranging a proposed fireworks display in Clydebank on 6 November 2004.

2064 After discussion and having heard the Director of Commercial and Technical Services, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that a Fireworks display be staged at Dalmuir Park, Clydebank on the evening of Saturday, 6 November 2004 in addition to the event which would be held at Levensgrove Park, Dumbarton on Friday, 5 November 2004; and
- (2) to note that the issue of identifying the funding source for an additional event would require to be considered and determined in due course.

PROPOSED APPLICATION TO SPORTSCOTLAND LOTTERY FUND FOR GRANT ASSISTANCE TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ATHLETICS FACILITY AT POSTIES PARK, DUMBARTON

2065 A report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services providing an update on proposals for a synthetic, all-weather athletics track and field facility at Posties Park, Dumbarton and exploring the viability in proceeding further with development of this project.

2066 Having heard Councillor McDonald, Service Spokesperson for Commercial and Technical Services and following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the likely substantial funding shortfall which would require to be financed by the Council to ensure successful completion of the project;
- (2) that the Director of Commercial and Technical Services be instructed not to proceed with the sportscotland application, at the current time, for economic reasons; and

- (3) that the Director of Commercial and Technical Services be requested to submit a further report to a future meeting of the Committee outlining possible alternative provision for an athletics facility in West Dunbartonshire.

LITTER CONTROL IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

- 2067 A report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services providing information on the development and implementation of Council-wide improvements in the control and management of litter.
- 2068 After discussion, the Committee agreed to note the progress made to date on this matter.

LANDFILL ALLOWANCE SCHEME

- 2069 A report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services informing on the Landfill Allowance Scheme and providing an updated report on issues relating to the Landfill Directive (99/31/EC).
- 2070 It was agreed:-
- (1) that the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) that the Director of Commercial and Technical Services be requested to submit a further report to a future meeting of the Committee, following the publication of proposed Regulations.

20 MPH SPEED LIMITS AROUND SCHOOLS AND RELATED ROAD SAFETY WORKS

- 2071 A report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services advising of the proposed programme of works to introduce mandatory 20mph speed limits around all schools within West Dunbartonshire.
- 2072 After discussion and having heard the Director of Commercial and Technical Services in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) to approve the programme of works for the next two financial years; and

- (3) to remit the report to the meeting of Council to be held on 31 March 2004 in order that consideration could be given to the funding shortfall within the General Services Capital Programme of £56,200 for 2004/05 and £116,700 for 2005/06.

The meeting closed at 11.30 a.m.