

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 28 January 2009 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Provost Denis Agnew and Councillors George Black, James Bollan, Margaret Bootland, Jim Brown, Geoff Calvert, Gail Casey, Jim Finn, William Hendrie, Douglas McAllister, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Ronnie McColl, Jim McElhill, Patrick McGlinchey, Craig McLaughlin, Willie McLaughlin, Marie McNair, John Millar, Iain Robertson, Martin Rooney and May Smillie.

Attending: David McMillan, Chief Executive; Bill Clark, Executive Director of Social Work and Health; Elaine Melrose, Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development; Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services; Joyce White, Executive Director of Corporate Services; Tricia O'Neill, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development; Liz Cochrane, Head of Service, Policy and Performance; William Gibson, Section Head of Estates; Andrew Fraser, Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services and Craig Stewart, Committee Officer.

Provost Denis Agnew in the Chair

PROVOST'S REMARKS

Prior to the meeting commencing, Provost Agnew sought advice from the Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services concerning the issue of banners/placards being carried by members of the public and on display in the public gallery area and the possible health and safety implications thereto. Having heard the Legal Officer's advice, Provost Agnew ruled that given the dimensions of the banners/placards that they be allowed in the Chamber.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of Meetings of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 17 December 2008 (Ordinary) and 13 January 2009 (Requisitioned) were submitted and approved as a correct record of those meetings.

OPEN FORUM

The following question was submitted to Council for consideration:-

Mrs Rose Harvie, Secretary of Silverton and Overtoun Community Council – Problem of litter and dog mess in Dumbarton

Our community council is very concerned at the problem of litter and dog mess in Dumbarton. The problem of litter is particularly apparent near fast-food outlets and schools. Our councillors frequently see WDC employees doing an excellent job collecting litter. However, despite numerous signs in the streets and parks, none of our councillors can ever recall seeing a Litter Enforcement Officer asking people to pick up dropped litter, not to allow their dogs to deposit mess, or to attempt to hand out a fixed penalty fine, for these offences.

Would the Council tell us whether this situation is because it is cheaper to employ litter pickers than Enforcement Officers?

Councillor Hendrie responded in the undernoted terms:-

The Council's litter control strategy covers both litter and dog fouling and has two threads; prevention, through enforcement and education, and cleaning.

In the last two years there have been 70 fixed penalty tickets issued for dog fouling and 51 for littering.

While we do try to prevent littering, human nature dictates that some people will always ignore the warnings and we as a Council have a responsibility to keep our streets clean.

We believe that we have a good balance between prevention and cleaning which represents value for money and excellent service.

I am happy that Silverton and Overtoun Community Council recognise the significant efforts made by our team to keep the place litter free and I will be sure to pass on your kind comments.

Mrs Harvie asked the undernoted supplementary question:-

A resident of Castlehill, present in the gallery, can confirm that there is a severe problem of litter outside the shops in Castlehill Road at lunchtimes. There are litter bins outside the shops.

The shop staff inform me that Litter Enforcement Officers have been seen observing the school children dropping litter from food purchased in the shops, not intervening, and then telling the shop staff that it is their responsibility to keep the pavement outside the shop clear of litter.

Will the Council clarify the position of the Litter Enforcement Officers with regard to imposing fixed penalty fines on school children, or at the very least, advising them not to drop litter?

Councillor Hendrie advised that a written response would be made to Mrs Harvie on her supplementary question.

MINUTES OF THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE FORUM

The Minutes of Meeting of the Joint Consultative Forum held on 4 December 2008 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

With reference to the item under the heading 'Trade Union Issues' and 'Disciplinary Procedure – Investigatory Stage', it was noted that Councillor Black had not left the meeting during consideration of this item but had declared a non-financial interest in the item and had taken no part in the debate.

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Minutes of Meeting of the Audit and Performance Review Committee held on 14 January 2009 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

NATIONAL PAY AWARD - LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 17 December 2008, a report was submitted by the Chief Executive seeking the Council's approval to implement the National Pay Award with effect from 1 April 2009, as recommended by the Employer's Secretary of the Scottish Joint Council (SJC) for Local Government Employees.

After discussion, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to approve the implementation of the National Pay Award as recommended by the Employers Secretary of the Scottish Joint Council (SJC) on an interim basis; and
- (2) to note that the effect of the award was:-
 - 2.5% increase on all SJC points and all SJC scales for the year 1st April 2009 – 31st March 2010.

Councillor Bollan, having failed to find a seconder for a proposed amendment, asked that his dissent be recorded in respect of this item.

STANDING ORDERS – LENGTH AND TIMING OF COUNCIL MEETING

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services asking the Council to consider the timing and length of council Meetings and whether to introduce a new Standing Order to deal with the issue.

Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor Finn, moved:-

That the Council agrees to change Standing Orders to provide that Council Meetings will normally commence at 6 p.m. and that no business shall be introduced after 10 p.m. If items of business remain the Council meeting will reconvene at 10 a.m. the following day in the same venue.

As an amendment, Councillor Black, seconded by Councillor Bollan, moved:-

That the Council meeting times remain unchanged and that the status-quo should apply.

As a second amendment, Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor Bootland, moved:-

That the Council agrees to change Standing Orders to provide that Council Meetings will normally commence at 5 p.m. and that any business remaining under consideration at 10.30 p.m. will be guillotined and will be dealt with at a continued Council meeting commencing the next day at 10 a.m.

On a vote being taken between the second amendment (Councillor Rooney) and first amendment (Councillor Black), 8 Members voted for the second amendment and 2 for the first amendment.

On a second vote being taken between the amendment (Councillor Rooney) and motion (Councillor Robertson), 10 Members voted for the amendment and 10 for the motion. There being an equality of voting, Provost Agnew exercised his casting vote in favour of the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

REVIEW OF PARTS 1 AND 2 OF THE STANDING ORDERS

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services asking the Council to approve changes to parts 1 and 2 of the Standing Orders which related to the Standing Orders for meetings of Council, Committees and other bodies. A seminar for Members on the proposed options and issues was held on 5 December 2008. This report groups the possible changes under 3 categories being those that received unanimous agreement at the seminar, those that received unanimous disagreement at the seminar and those where there were differing views.

Councillor J. McColl, seconded by Councillor Finn, moved:-

Council agrees the following changes to Standing Orders:

Standing orders will be amended in line with Seminar's proposals at 3.2 of the report with these exceptions.

Standing Order 3(a) (3.2.2 of the report) will have the following added to the end,

"If the office of Convener is vacant, or if the Convener is unable to act for any reason, the Depute-Convener of the Council may at any time call such a meeting. If the Offices of Convener and Depute Convener are both vacant or if neither the Convener nor the Depute Convener are able to act for any reason the Leader of the Council in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition may call such a meeting."

Standing Order 6 (3.2.4 of the report) will have the following inserted before the minutes,

"The chair shall be taken in accordance with the provisions of these Standing Orders. The sederunt shall be taken. Any apologies shall be tendered. Any declaration of interest shall be tendered."

The following will be added to Standing Order 8 (3.2.5 of the report),

"(f) If notice is given of any motion that, in the opinion of the Monitoring Officer, if agreed is likely to give rise to a contravention by the Council of any enactment or rule of law or of any code of practice made or approved by or under any enactment, the Monitoring Officer shall immediately submit such notice of motion to the Convener and it shall not be accepted and placed on the agenda without his/her sanction. This will only be used when there is clear illegality and not where the position was other than black and white. In the event of non-acceptance the Monitoring Officer shall so inform the Member who submitted the notice of motion."

Standing Order 14 (3.2.11 of the report) will be amended as per the proposal in the report with the addition of appropriate wording to ensure that delegations arising from the business of a regulatory or quasi-judicial meeting are not allowed where the opportunity has previously been afforded to address the meeting.

Standing order 8 (3.4.1 of the report) will be amended in line with the officer's suggestion and will read,

"(e) Where a notice of motion has been given for any meeting and that motion is in the terms of reference of any Committee of the authority, the motion shall be deemed to have been referred by that meeting to the next meeting of the Committee or Committees within whose terms of reference it falls. If any question arises as to which Committee the motion is to be referred, it shall be

determined by the Convener. Where a motion has been referred, or is deemed to have been referred, to a meeting of a Committee, that Committee shall consider it at their next ordinary meeting.”

Council agrees with the change proposed at 3.4.2 in terms of questions which may be defamatory or in breach of data protection principles.

Standing Order 9(c) (3.4.3 of the report) will be amended in line with the officer’s suggestions and will read,

“A question of order shall relate only to an alleged breach of a specified Standing Order and the way in which the Member raising it considers that it has been broken. Any Member indicating a desire to raise a question of order shall state at the outset the Standing Order considered to be infringed.”

Council agrees with the proposals at 3.4.4 of the report.

Council agrees that Standing Order 16 (3.4.5 and 3.4.9 of the report) be amended to include the following provisions,

“No motion to alter, delete or rescind either this Standing Order or Standing Order 1 (b) hereof will be competent unless a decision is made prior to consideration of the matter to suspend this Standing Order in terms of Standing Order 24.”

and

“no motion to alter, delete or rescind any provision of Standing Orders will be competent within 2 years from the date of adoption of that Standing Order unless a decision is made prior to consideration of the matter to suspend this Standing Order in terms of Standing Order 24. The only exception will be where Council has implemented Standing Orders for a designated period of time, upon the expiry of which a report will be brought back to Council and Council will be allowed to change Standing Orders, excluding this Standing Order and Standing Order 1(b), by a majority vote”

Council agrees that Standing Order 26 (3.4.6 of the report) be amended to include a provision allowing the Convener of a Committee or Sub-Committee to rearrange the date, time and place of Committees and sub-Committees in cases of urgency, subject to obtaining the agreement of the Council Leader and the Leader of the Opposition.

Council agrees these changes to Standing Orders for a period of 12 months, at which time a report will be brought before Council in terms of the amended Standing Order 16 as above.

In addition, in terms of 3.4.8 of the report, Committee Membership will remain as it is now and a report will be brought to the next Council Meeting presenting options for the replacement of political and independent nominations on Committees.

ADJOURNMENT

Councillor Rooney moved an adjournment. On a vote being taken 11 Members voted to adjourn and 9 Members not to adjourn.

The meeting reconvened at 8.06 p.m. with all those Members shown on the sederunt in attendance.

After discussion, as an amendment, Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved:-

That the status quo be maintained.

On a vote being taken 10 Members voted for the amendment and 12 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

At this point, the Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services was heard in response to Members' questions and, in particular, clarification on when the Standing Orders would take effect. It was agreed that the Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services should revise standing orders in accordance with the Council resolution and subject to the Leaders of the Council and Opposition confirming to accuracy of the wording, the new Standing Orders would take effect at the commencement of the February ordinary Council meeting.

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services asking that consideration be given to making a nomination to the Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances.

The Council agreed to that the appropriate officer be nominated to serve on the Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor George Black declared a non-financial interest in this item of business, as he is a nominated director of the Strathleven Regeneration Company, and remained within the meeting.

STRATHLEVEN REGENERATION COMPANY

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services asking the Council to consider a request from Strathleven Regeneration Company that the Leader of West Dunbartonshire Council become a Director of the Company.

After discussion, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to appoint Councillor Iain Robertson as Leader of West Dunbartonshire Council to become a director of Strathleven Regeneration Company; and
- (2) that Councillor Rooney be appointed a designated alternate director to deputise for Councillor George Black.

THE FUTURE OF SCOTTISH DEVOLUTION WITHIN THE UNION

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services advising of the new consultation issued by the commission on Scottish Devolution and inviting the Council to agree a formal response.

The Council agreed that each political group and other Members should submit their own individual responses to the consultation.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP – KEY DEVELOPMENTS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing the Council with an update on key developments within West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Service, Policy and Performance in further explanation and the Chief Executive in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed to note the contents of the report.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Robertson declared a financial interest in the following item of business (being a member of the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Board) and remained within the meeting.

VISION FOR THE VALE OF LEVEN HOSPITAL (CONSULTATION DOCUMENT OCTOBER 2008 – JANUARY 2009)

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health inviting the Council to consider the draft response, appended to the report, to the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Board's latest consultation on the Vale of Leven Hospital.

Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor J. McColl, moved:-

Council agrees the following as its response to the latest Vale of Leven Hospital consultation:

The council agrees that the Health board consultation document entitled "Vision for the Vale" is a major positive shift in direction for the Vale Hospital.

For the first time in a long number of years the document provides a glimmer of hope for securing the future of services at the Vale.

It has to be recognised that the Vale Vision offers a starting point for the return of services to the Vale site, rather than the centralist policies the board pushed for many years.

It has to be acknowledged that through the direct intervention by the SNP Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon, the service stripping and centralisation policies of this health board will no longer be rubber stamped.

West Dunbartonshire Council acknowledges that the Vale Vision provides a future and a foundation for the Vale of Leven hospital on which to rebuild the services lost over the last 12 years.

We also accept that it is not possible to replace all the services lost at the Vale overnight, but it does not mean that we will stop campaigning for more services to be delivered at the Vale in future. Efforts must be made by the board to ensure parity of care and services throughout its area.

The consultation also outlines a huge planned capital investment at the Vale of Leven site which is to be welcomed.

There are however still issues that the Health board consultation has failed to address, namely that the population of this area resoundingly voted against patients being sent to Paisley, yet the consultation does not offer alternatives or break that link.

The people of the Vale were promised by the Labour party, and Jackie Baillie MSP in particular, many years ago that a North of the River option could be delivered after the Argyll & Clyde health board was scrapped, this has failed to materialise.

It is the firm view of West Dunbartonshire Council that anaesthetics and so called 'blue light' emergency services must return to the Vale of Leven Hospital as soon as practicable and asks that the Board and Health Secretary consider the impact of the proposed removal of A&E at the Western in 2012 when planning future provision of emergency services in the area.

It must be said that there is a considerable lack of trust both within this Council and in our communities that the Health Board will deliver on the positive aspects of the document, and it is important that the Health Board is monitored to deliver on whatever is finally agreed.

Further to this response, Council agrees the following:

- To congratulate Nicola Sturgeon for stopping the salami slicing of services from the Vale.
- To continue to work with all interested groups and individuals to strive for the return and expansion of services at the Vale of Leven Hospital.
- That a Mental Health facility at the Vale of Leven Hospital is essential.
- That an elderly receiving unit at the Vale of Leven Hospital is essential.
- To welcome the delivery of Dental Services at the Vale of Leven Hospital.
- To welcome the securing of a maternity service at the Vale of Leven Hospital.
- To welcome the potential of new services being delivered at the Vale of Leven Hospital and to lobby for the return of A&E when the Western Service ceases in 2012.
- To continue to campaign for an alternative to Paisley.
- To establish a Health Service Monitoring group with appropriate Officer support to scrutinise the implementation of whatever is finally agreed (2 Administration, 2 Opposition, 1 Hospital Watch, 1 United Campaign).
- To invite individual Councillors and Party groups to submit their own responses in addition to the councils.

The Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services was heard in clarification of the position concerning Councillor Robertson's declaration of interest as a member of the Health Board and it was noted that, in terms of the Guidance issued by the Standards Commission for Scotland, this did not preclude him from remaining within the meeting and taking part in any discussion or vote thereon.

As an amendment, Councillor McBride, seconded by Councillor Millar, moved:-

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 the 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 is deeply disappointed and opposes the plans to remove 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 Vision for the Vale will lead to even more people having to make the journey to the RAH in Paisley.

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

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

Council welcomes the decision to continue with the Community Midwife lead unit. NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board agreed to continue this for three years and to launch a publicity and educational campaign to encourage use. Yet six months on no action has been taken.

This Council notes that the Leader of the Council, a paid member of NHS GG&C Health Board, suggested response to the Vision for the Vale of Leven Hospital Consultation is wholly inadequate. The response notes the NHS Boards planned cuts in services and the negative impact this will have on our communities, it also highlighted our communities continued opposition to cuts in services over many years.

However as a Board member the suggested response appears to accept the inevitability of further cuts in services at the Vale of Leven Hospital. These are political decisions and should be opposed by all Elected Members on West Dunbartonshire Council.

Furthermore Council agrees the following:

1. It is absolutely clear that for this model to have any chance of working and being sustainable in the long term it must have the support of the Consultant Physicians in RAH.

Disappointingly for our community this is clearly not the case as the following comments were included in a response to the "Vision for the Vale of Leven Hospital" consultation document by ten RAH Consultant Physicians -

- (i) "We are of the opinion that the current vision for acute unscheduled medical care is seriously flawed and the key principle to provide "high quality and safe services" is not attainable in the proposed format".
- (ii) "In Sept 2006 the Lomond Integrated Care Pilot was deemed a failure due to safety concerns. The current proposed model is no safer than the Integrated Care Pilot and there is no basis to allay our clinical concerns".
- (iii) " NHSGGC&C proposal runs to counter to the premise of equality of care and indeed they are proposing a two-tiered standard of care within the one health board disadvantaging patients who live within the catchments area of the Vale".

- (iv) “Most telling is we would not wish any of our relatives to be cared for under these circumstances”.
2. Three of the four Physicians that currently serve the Vale are leaving / retiring shortly, their replacements are to be based in Paisley. This causes serious concern for future cover for the Vale.
 3. Chief Executive Tom Divers has made a public statement to examine emergency cover in the Golden Jubilee for the area served by the Vale of Leven Hospital, Clydebank & West Glasgow. This proposal must feature more in the Council's response.
 4. It is recognised that Mental Health, patient service and treatment is better when delivered local. Therefore in support of this the Council agrees that the Christie Ward must therefore be retained.

Council acknowledges that the suggested Leaders response represents a continuation of the decline and removal for services from the hospital. Council restates its full political support for the retention of services at the Vale of Leven Hospital.

On a vote being taken, 9 Members voted for the amendment and 11 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

ADJOURNMENT

After hearing Provost Agnew, the Council agreed to adjourn for a short period.

The meeting reconvened at 9.53 p.m. with all those Members shown on the sederunt in attendance.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Black (being a member of Cordale Housing Association) declared a non-financial interest in this item of business and remained within the meeting.

CORDALE HOUSING ASSOCIATION – PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF KIPPEN DAIRY SITE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development informing the Council of a legal offer that has been received from Messrs, T.C. Young, Solicitors, acting on behalf of Cordale Housing Association Limited, to purchase land at Main Street/North Street, Alexandria from West Dunbartonshire Council.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Executive, Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services and the Section Head (Estates), Councillor C. McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Hendrie, moved:-

The Council accepts that the Kippen Dairy area is a key development site for the future regeneration of both the commercial and community centre of Alexandria.

It is accepted that the Council cannot be seen to dispose of assets seemingly below the "market value" without fully justifying the full impact of such a decision.

The previous decision to sell the site for private residential accommodation is a view no longer supported by the local community groups, the commercial association, or the council led Alexandria Regeneration Group. The council agrees that a fresh look at the development options for the site may required to be looked at.

The current offer from the housing association is not unexpected, as the Alexandria regeneration forum accepted that this particular association should be the lead developer in any future regeneration of the area.

The Council believes that by using a partnership development approach for this site that the development will kick-start the wider regeneration of the Central Alexandria and Mitchell Way areas.

It is also noted that the council as yet does not have full ownership of the site and would require working without with any potential partner to address these issues.

Given the views expressed by the Council led Alexandria Regeneration Forum and the outcome of the Regeneration Working group in relation to Central Alexandria the council agrees a full options appraisal taking the following issues into consideration;

- To examine the development options for the site such as a mixed social, private and commercial development
- The advantages of a partnership approach for the disposal of this site.
- The support of the local community for the options
- The ability of any partner to assist the council in re-provisioning of tenants from neighbouring properties.
- That if a mixed commercial development is the final option for the site the appraisals must examine a partner's ability to work with the council to re-provision commercial tenants from Mitchell Way.
- The ability of any potential partner to work with the council to resolve the sites title issues.
- The wider benefits in terms of the delivery of the SHIP and SQHS.

The council therefore agrees that a full options appraisal of the current bid to be prepared for the February Council meeting taking the above into consideration.

In addition the director of HEED writes to Communities Scotland to ask for their views on the bid and the future of the site, which should also be included in the report to Council.

In response to a question, Councillor C. McLaughlin confirmed that the reference to Communities Scotland was intended to refer to its successor body.

The Chief Executive was heard in relation to the extremely tight timescales in which a report with a full options appraisal could be prepared in time for the February Council meeting, and if this was not possible then he would endeavour to keep Members informed of the position.

As an amendment, Councillor Calvert, seconded by Councillor Casey, moved:-

This Council confirms its commitment to work in partnership to deliver social rented housing and to regenerate our Town Centres. This council confirms also its commitment to the Alexandria Town Centre Masterplan that has been adopted as supplementary planning guidance after considerable consultation over along period with all stakeholders

This Council notes that the proposal from Cordale Housing Association would be to acquire the Kippen Dairy site at significantly below the open market value, as outlined in para 3.5 of this report.

This Council is aware that a substantial argument must be put forward to assure both Scottish Ministers, and the residents of West Dunbartonshire, that the Council has satisfied all Best Value requirements regarding sound management of resources. Since there has been no Options Appraisal process carried out in relation to this proposal, Council agrees that there is no evidence that will support an argument to satisfy Best Value and therefore it is likely that Scottish Ministers would have little option other than to refuse support.

Therefore this Council agrees the following Recommendations as detailed in para 8.1 of the report:

Sub – paras (a), (b) and (c)

New sub para (d):

That a report be brought back to a future meeting of the Council on completion of sub paras (a), (b) and (c) to seek further authority from Council before concluding any transaction with regard to this site.

Finally, given the sensitivity surrounding this issue, Council agrees that a roll call vote is appropriate in recording its decision.

As a second amendment, Councillor Bollan, seconded by Councillor Black, moved:-

That the Council agrees:-

- (1) that the formal legal offer submitted by Messrs T.C. Young, Solicitors, on behalf of Cordale Housing Association Limited to purchase land at Main Street/ North Street, Alexandria be accepted;
- (2) that delegated authority be given to the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development to negotiate and agree the purchase price of the remaining legal interests within the boundaries of the site and thereafter authorise the Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services to conclude these transactions subject to such legal conditions considered appropriate; and
- (3) that delegated authority thereafter be given to the Executive Director of Housing Environmental and Economic Development in consultation with the Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services to conclude the transaction subject to such Legal conditions considered appropriate.

On a vote being taken between the second amendment (Councillor Bollan) and first amendment (Councillor Calvert), 2 Members voted for the second amendment and 8 for the first amendment.

On a second vote being taken between the amendment (Councillor Calvert) and motion (Councillor McLaughlin), 8 Members voted for the amendment and 10 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

PROPOSAL TO ADMIT SIR JACKIE STEWART OBE AS AN HONORARY FREEMAN OF WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive proposing the admission of Sir Jackie Stewart OBE as an Honorary Freeman of West Dunbartonshire.

After discussion, the Council unanimously agreed to resolve to admit Sir Jackie Stewart OBE as an honorary Freeman of West Dunbartonshire and to remit arrangements for the official ceremony to the Chief Executive, subject to the approval of the Provost.

NOTICES OF MOTION

(A) Motion by Councillor Jim Bollan – Proposed Boycott of Israeli Goods

This Council deplores the loss of life in Palestine which now numbers well over 1,000. This Council also recognises the disproportionate force used by the IDF in Palestine and agrees to boycott all Israeli goods as a consequence. Officers should immediately cease the purchase of any goods we currently source, which were made or grown in Israel. Officers should also ensure we procure no new goods or produce from Israel until this boycott is formally lifted by WDC.

Councillor Bollan was heard in support of the above motion.

After hearing Councillor J. McColl, Councillor Bollan agreed to accept the undernoted wording as an addendum to his motion:-

That the Chief Executive be instructed to write to all other Councils in Scotland with regard to seeking their endorsement of the motion.

Councillor McGlinchey asked Councillor Bollan to accept a further addendum to his motion. After hearing the Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services, Provost Agnew ruled that this addendum did not arise directly out of the motion. However he would accept it as a separate motion in light of urgency. Thereafter, Councillor McGlinchey seconded the motion.

The Council unanimously agreed to approve the above motion, as amended.

Councillor McGlinchey, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved:-

That the Chief Executive be instructed to prepare a letter to be signed by the Leaders of the Council and Opposition to the Director General of the BBC and the Chief Executive of Sky News requesting that they reconsider their decision not to screen the Disasters Emergency Appeal concerning humanitarian aid to Gaza.

The Council unanimously agreed to approve the motion.

(B) Motion by Councillor Geoff Calvert – Experian Research on Economic Downturn

This Council notes that the independent research company Experian has identified Clydebank as one of only five Scottish towns that will be affected disproportionately due to the economic downturn.

This Council notes also that the Scottish Government has brought forward £230 million of spend to specifically target the effects of the downturn and to aim to mitigate them. This Council feels that this spend ought to be targeted at the areas where the downturn is expected to have most negative impact.

Therefore, this Council agrees that the Leader of the Council will write to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance to argue the specific justification for a proportion of this funding to be directed to address the results of the Experian research and, in so doing, this Council will project a strong voice for Clydebank.

Councillor Calvert was heard in support of the above motion which was seconded by Councillor McGlinchey.

As an amendment, Councillor McElhill, seconded by Councillor Hendrie, moved:-

Council thanks Councillor Calvert for highlighting the interests of Experian. It is a global company only interested in big business with scant regard for workers.

Council further accepts that the Scottish government, despite financial constraints placed upon it by the British Labour government has frozen council tax, reduced prescription charges and removed or reduced business rates for 150,000 companies in Scotland, including in Clydebank.

Council condemns the Draconian moves by the British Labour government to reduce Scotland's budget by £500 million next year and a further £500 million the following year without identifying where these cuts will impact.

Council does however appreciate Councillor Calvert's interest in Clydebank over and above his own constituents but agrees that it is inappropriate to favour one area in these difficult times, difficult times caused by a British Labour government.

On a vote being taken, 10 Members voted for the amendment and 12 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

The meeting closed at 12 midnight.