

INFRASTRUCTURE, REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Infrastructure, Regeneration and Economic Development Committee held by Zoom Video Conference on Wednesday, 16 September at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Provost William Hendrie and Councillors Gail Casey, Karen Conaghan, Diane Docherty, Caroline McAllister, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Iain McLaren, Marie McNair, John Mooney, Lawrence O'Neill and Martin Rooney.

Attending: Richard Cairns, Strategic Director – Regeneration, Environment & Growth; Peter Barry, Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability; Gail MacFarlane, Strategic Lead – Roads and Neighbourhood; Jim McAloon, Strategic Lead – Regeneration; Ian Bain, Greenspace Manager; Craig Jardine, Corporate Assets Manager; Michael McGuinness, Manager, Economic Development; Michelle Lynn, Assets Co-ordinator; Janice Rainey, Business Unit Finance Partner; Sally Michael, Principal Solicitor; and Scott Kelly and Lynn Straker, Committee Officers.

Councillor Iain McLaren in the Chair

STATEMENT BY CHAIR – AUDIO STREAMING

Councillor Iain McLaren, Chair, advised that the meeting was being audio streamed and broadcast live to the internet and would be available for playback.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors McNair and Mooney declared a non-financial interest in the item under the heading 'Disposal of 0.057ha Land at Attlee Avenue, Clydebank G81 2SH', being members of the Clydebank Housing Association Management Committee, and intimated that they would not participate in the consideration of that item.

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS – DUMBARTON HIGH STREET

Councillor McLaren, Chair, advised the Committee that he was raising an urgent item of business and requested that the Strategic Lead – Roads and Neighbourhood provide an update in terms of pedestrian safety in relation to the recent felling of trees in Dumbarton High Street.

Following discussion and having heard the Strategic Lead in response, and the Principal Solicitor in clarification of certain matters, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note: (i) that, following the removal of dead trees in the High Street, cones had immediately been placed on the stumps to remove the risk of tripping; (ii) that regular checks were being carried out to reposition the cones should they have been moved; (iii) that the stumps would be completely removed in the near future; and (iv) that consideration was being given to the planting of appropriate new trees during the winter planting season; and
- (2) to note that, ordinarily, any urgent items of business should relate to an item which was already present on the agenda for the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Infrastructure, Regeneration and Economic Development Committee held on 12 February 2020 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee noted that no open forum questions had been submitted by members of the public.

FOOD GROWING STRATEGY

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Roads and Neighbourhood seeking approval for the adoption of the West Dunbartonshire Council Food Growing Strategy.

After discussion and having heard the Strategic Lead and the Greenspace Manager in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, Councillor McLaren moved:-

That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) the contents of the West Dunbartonshire Council Food Growing Strategy which reflects the Council's duties arising from Part 9 (Allotments) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015;
- (2) that a report will be brought to the next meeting of the Committee that details the Constitution of the Food Growing Strategy working group, which is to include details of the make up of the Board, how often it will meet, how it will report back to the Committee, which Community Groups will be invited to join it and how nominations for the Board membership will be processed;

- (3) that a progress report on the Food Growing Strategy will be brought to every meeting of the Committee meeting for the next six months and that the Committee may choose to reduce the frequency of these reports once the working group is established and running;
- (4) the Food Growing Strategy's aspirational targets will be used to create a timetable and framework of goals that the Food Growing Strategy sets out to achieve; these should follow the SMART criteria, or equivalent, and the report should be brought to the first meeting of the Committee in 2021; and
- (5) the progress of the Food Growing Strategy will be made visible on the Council's website, to allow interested parties to monitor achievements.

Councillor Rooney asked Councillor McLaren is he would be willing to accept an addendum to his motion. Councillor McLaren declined to accept the proposed addendum.

Thereafter, as an amendment, Councillor Rooney moved:-

That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) the contents of the West Dunbartonshire Council Food Growing Strategy which reflects the Council's duties arising from Part 9 (Allotments) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015;
- (2) that a report will be brought to the next meeting of the Committee that details the Constitution of the Food Growing Strategy working group, which is to include details of the make up of the Board, how often it will meet, how it will report back to the Committee, which Community Groups will be invited to join it and how nominations for the Board membership will be processed;
- (3) that a progress report on the Food Growing Strategy will be brought to every meeting of the Committee meeting for the next six months and that the Committee may choose to reduce the frequency of these reports once the working group is established and running;
- (4) the Food Growing Strategy's aspirational targets will be used to create a timetable and framework of goals that the Food Growing Strategy sets out to achieve; these should follow the SMART criteria, or equivalent, and the report should be brought to the first meeting of the Committee in 2021;
- (5) the progress of the Food Growing Strategy will be made visible on the Council's website, to allow interested parties to monitor achievements; and

- (6) that in order to achieve the vision to inspire people to make West Dunbartonshire the best community for food growing and garden location in Scotland, this Council commits a further £500,000 to the project to make sure that we can drive the Food Growing Strategy across the whole of West Dunbartonshire and address the backlog of people waiting to get into the allotments.

Councillor McNair then seconded Councillor McLaren's motion and Councillor Casey seconded Councillor Rooney's amendment.

On a roll call vote being taken, 5 Members, namely Councillors Casey, McBride, Mooney, O'Neill and Rooney voted for the amendment and 7 Members, namely Provost Hendrie and Councillors Conaghan, Docherty, Caroline McAllister, McColl, McLaren and McNair voted for the motion.

The motion was accordingly declared carried.

PROPOSED REVISALS TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE CEMETERIES

A report was submitted by the Strategic Leads – Regulatory and Roads and Neighbourhood seeking approval for the proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations for Management of West Dunbartonshire Cemeteries.

After discussion and having heard the Strategic Lead – Roads and Neighbourhood and the Greenspace Manager in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to approve the revised Rules and Regulations for the Management of West Dunbartonshire Cemeteries following on from public consultation.

SALE OF 87/89 BANK STREET, ALEXANDRIA, G83 0LZ

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Regeneration providing an update on the re-marketing of the property at 87/89 Bank Street, Alexandria, detailing the offers received and seeking approval to conclude the disposal of the property.

After discussion and having heard from the Assets Co-ordinator in further explanation and in answer to a Member's question, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the disposal of the property at 87/89 Bank Street, Alexandria for a consideration of a gross purchase price of £130,000 (One hundred and thirty thousand pounds) to two individuals;
- (2) to authorise the Strategic Lead, Regeneration to conclude negotiations; and
- (3) to authorise the Strategic Lead, Regulatory to conclude the transaction on such conditions as considered appropriate.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Having earlier declared an interest in the following item of business, Councillors McNair and Mooney left the meeting at this point.

DISPOSAL OF 0.057HA LAND AT ATTLEE AVENUE, CLYDEBANK G81 2SH

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Regeneration seeking approval to dispose of 0.057ha land at Attlee Avenue, Clydebank to Clydebank Housing Association so that it can combine it with its adjacent site and increase social housing provision.

After discussion and having heard the Assets Co-ordinator in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the disposal of 0.057ha land at Attlee Avenue, Linnvale for a consideration of a gross purchase price of £30,000 (Thirty Thousand Pounds) to Clydebank Housing Association;
- (2) to authorise the Strategic Lead, Regeneration to conclude negotiations; and
- (3) to authorise the Strategic Lead, Regulatory to conclude the transaction on such conditions as considered appropriate.

Note: Councillors McNair and Mooney returned to the meeting at this point.

BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 31 JULY 2020 (PERIOD 4)

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Regeneration providing an update on the financial performance to 31 July 2020 (Period 4) of those services under the auspices of the Infrastructure, Regeneration and Economic Development Committee.

After discussion and having heard the Strategic Director – Regeneration, Environment & Growth and relevant officers in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report which showed the revenue budget forecast to overspend against budget by £0.125m (0.5%) at the year-end of which £0.250m (1.1%) was COVID-19 related;
- (2) to note the net projected annual position in relation to relevant capital projects which highlighted a projected variance of £15.947m (-35.41%) due to slippage of £16.045m (-35.63%) and an overspend of £0.098 (0.22%); and
- (3) to note the progress on efficiencies incorporated into budgets for 2020/21.

The meeting closed at 3:40 p.m.

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