

## WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Clydebank on Wednesday 27 June 2007 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, 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; Ronnie Dinnie, Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land and Environmental Services); Irving Hodgson, Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration Services); Liz McGinlay, Director of Education and Cultural Services; David Connell, Head of Finance; Tricia O'Neill, Head of Personnel Services; Stephen West, Manager of Resources, Social Work Services; Tommy Gorman, Team Leader, Welfare Rights Section; Liz Cochrane, Principal Policy Officer; Paul McGowan, Pay Modernisation Projects Manager; Alan Douglas, Manager of Best Value and Special Projects and George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer.

**Also**

**Attending:** Allan Cowie, Senior Development Officer, Macmillan Cancer Support, Derek Stewart and Benny McLaughlin, Brodies LLP.

**Apology:** An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Douglas McAllister.

**Provost Denis Agnew in the Chair**

### OPEN FORUM

**Mr Edward Gray, 38 Abbott Crescent, Whitecrock, Clydebank**  
**Issues relating to laminate flooring in Council housing**

**Mr Gray was present and raised the following issue:-**

Request to address members of the Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee and relevant housing officers re anti-social behaviour policies with particular referral to laminate flooring in council housing stock with little or inadequate levels of modern required/needed sound insulation, as is the case with most of the authority's remaining housing stock (approx. 12,000).

As well as the very high level of noise penetration/disturbance there seems to be little or no concern regarding safety issues which can be confirmed by most accident and emergency units, accidents caused by slipping/tripping on this type of surface particularly have increased dramatically and information from major carpet manufacturing companies analysis conducted recently about home safety. Nor does there appear to be any full risk assessment of fire risk with regard to possible fire-spread due to types of materials used to manufacture this flooring. I also believe that similar questions have been raised by Social Justice Committee Members of the last Administration, and I question whether there is any relevance to the Scottish Secure Tenancy Agreement to deal with this, as it is a highly prioritised complaint within the context of noise complaint items in the strategy to help combat anti-social incidents/complaints, and decrease the amount of time officers commit to such matters/inquiries. This is included in the authority's anti-social behaviour adverts/literature/newspaper ads, etc. which at first glance would appear to be a low priority or category.

It appears that this Council's strategy is to allow this type of flooring without any reasonable/realistic considerations for tenants and home owners alike. Unlike other social landlords who have advised their tenants of the unsuitable nature of this type of flooring. And I would look for possible change to the present housing policy in this instance which would bring this authority into the modern housing strategies as most housing associations and new built flats with similar restrictions already have. I have no doubts that the elected members are inundated with similar enquiries from their constituents yet seem unable to find a practical solution even with the resources already committed. With the new councillors elected I would hope to see a realistic change to the present system.

**Councillor J. McColl responded in the following terms:-**

I would like to thank Mr Gray for bringing this matter to the attention of the Council and would give my assurance, as the current Convener of the Social Justice Committee, that this issue will be discussed at a future meeting of the relevant Committee. If, depending on the outcome of decisions taken later in the meeting, I am not Convener then I am sure that the person given that responsibility will also give a commitment that the matter will be considered at a future meeting.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The Minutes of the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 30 May 2007 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

### **ADVICE AND SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY CANCER**

A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work Services in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support to raise cancer poverty issues with the Scottish Executive and other key stakeholders including neighbouring Local authorities.

Mr Allan Cowie, Macmillan Cancer Support and Tommy Gorman, Team Leader, Welfare Rights Section gave a brief presentation on the proposal to develop policies and services to tackle cancer poverty.

Having heard Mr Cowie in answer to Members' questions and having heard a number of Members speak in support of the proposals, Provost Agnew thanked Mr Cowie and Mr Gorman for their presentation.

Thereafter, the Council agreed to support the ongoing partnership working to tackle cancer poverty as detailed within the report.

### **COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY MESOTHELIOMA: THE RIGHTS OF RELATIVES TO DAMAGES (MESOTHELIOMA) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2007**

A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work Services inviting the Council to support the ongoing partnership with Clydebank Asbestos Group to change Scottish personal injury legislation in favour of Mesothelioma sufferers and bereaved relatives.

Following discussion, the Council agreed to support the ongoing partnership with Clydebank Asbestos Group to achieve the outcomes set out within the report.

### **COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR CLYDEBANK ASBESTOS GROUP CAMPAIGN TO CONTINUE PRESCRIBING ALIMTA**

A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work Services informing the Council of a national campaign supported by Social Work Services in partnership with Clydebank Asbestos Group and other campaigners to ensure the continuation of prescribing Alimta (a type of chemotherapy) for Mesothelioma patients in Scotland.

Having heard Councillor Rooney, Councillor Robertson, as Leader of the Council, agreed to write to all local authorities in Scotland seeking their support for the campaign and to raise the issue at COSLA in order to highlight the campaign and gain the collective support of the Convention.

At this point Provost Agnew informed the Council that some representatives from the Clydebank Asbestos Group were present and invited Mr James Cloughley to address the Council. The Provost also agreed that the information pack which had been produced by the Clydebank Asbestos Group be circulated to Members for information.

Having heard Mr Cloughley in further explanation of the campaign, the Council further agreed:-

- (1) to endorse the aims and activities of this campaign and support the continued involvement of council officers; and
- (2) to note that the Leader of the Council would write to the First Minister, Alex Salmond, MSP asking him to honour his pre-election pledge to give adequate funding to the NHS to ensure that all patients who are deemed suitable to receive Alimta should receive it and not just patients suffering from mesothelioma.

The Provost thanked the representatives from the Clydebank Asbestos Group for their attendance and in so doing gave a personal pledge in his capacity as Provost to support the Campaign.

At this point Mr Gorman and Mr Cowie left the meeting.

### **OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE BUDGET**

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive informing the Council of options available that would deliver a real terms increase to the Old People's Welfare Budget in line with previous years' budgets.

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

That the Council agrees:-

- (1) to approve the increase of £1,670 to the Old People's Welfare Budget for 2007/08 and fund this through balances held, which would result in the Old People's Welfare budget totalling £173,060 for 2007/08; and
- (2) that a report be prepared on the arrangements for the distribution of the monies to the elderly at the next meeting of the relevant Committee.

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

That this matter be continued to the next meeting and that officers be instructed to prepare a report detailing proposals for a more equitable method of distributing the monies to the elderly to ensure that all pensioners receive the same amount and that the current situation where some pensioners receive duplicate payments while others receive no payment does not continue.

On a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the amendment and 18 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors McNair, Casey, Brown and McElhill declared a non-financial interest in the following item of business and left the meeting during the deliberation thereon.

### REMIT FROM THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 13 JUNE 2007 – DEVELOPMENTS AT CLYDEBANK PROGRESS REPORT NO. 2

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee on 13 June 2007 (Page 70 refers), there was submitted for consideration, the relevant excerpt from the Minutes together with a report by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration Services) reporting progress concerning the proposed (i) Leisure and Heritage; (ii) Supermarket; and (iii) other developments at Queen's Quays and other areas within Clydebank.

Councillor Hendrie, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, moved as follows:-

- (1) that the Council notes, with concern, the current position of the ongoing issues in relation to the proposed supermarket/leisure development and, in particular, the level of expenditure that had been committed in respect of land not yet in the Council's ownership;
- (2) that the Council notes, with concern, that risks to the Council had not been properly identified in the report;
- (3) that there be no further expenditure committed, or any expressions of any further funding given, unless with the express prior approval of Council; and
- (4) that the Council's Internal Auditors be requested to investigate the matter, forthwith, and provide a report on their findings to the Council at the appropriate time.

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

This Council agrees to withdraw from the current negotiations in relation to the re-siting of the Playdrome to the Waterfront in Clydebank.

The Council Taxpayer has already spent £602,000 on land WDC does not own in relation to this development and this withdrawal would ensure no further public money is expended on a scheme where the Council has little or no control over the process or outcome.

On a vote being taken, 2 Members voted for the amendment and 19 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

## ADJOURNMENT

Having heard Provost Agnew, the Council agreed to adjourn for a short period of time.

The meeting resumed at 8.20 p.m. with all those Members shown on the Sederunt in attendance.

### WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL – REVIEW OF DECISION MAKING STRUCTURES

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive on the results of the recent external study of the Council's decision making processes and proposing a revised structure for consideration.

Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor Rooney, moved:-

That the Council approves the recommendations of the report (shown at (1) to (3) below), subject to changes to the names of some of the proposed Committees (shown at (4) below):-

- (1) to accept the recommendations of the Brodies' Report and adopt a Thematic Committee system, as outlined in paragraph 7.3 and Figure 4 'Proposed Decision Making Structure';
- (2) to instruct the Chief Executive to prepare a report which details the revised remits and protocols for the Committees to the first meeting of Council following the recess;
- (3) to instruct the Chief Executive to prepare a report that presents proposals for revised scrutiny arrangements to the first meeting of Council following the recess; and
- (4) that the changes to names of the proposed committees are as follows:-

<b>Proposed names of Committees (as per report by Brodies)</b>	<b>Revised names of Committees</b>
Community and Environment	Housing, Environment and Economic Development.
Education, Culture & Lifelong Learning	Education and Lifelong Learning
Social Work and Health	Social Work and Health Improvement
Corporate Resourcing	Corporate & Efficient Governance

In addition to the above Culture and Lifelong Learning Services will now be known as Expressive Arts and the Provost will be Ambassador and Spokesperson for Cultural Development which will mean that he will have responsibility for developing and facilitating major events and large cultural activities in West Dunbartonshire.

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

This Council agrees to introduce Area Committees as the main decision making structure in West Dunbartonshire. Associated with this structure should be a return to service departments.

The CEO is instructed to report back to Council in September 2007 with a report detailing options for the implementation of the above models.

Underpinning the new decision making structure are the principles of full delegation to Area Committees which should have a majority of elected local community members with full voting rights.

Following discussion and having heard the Manager of Best Value and Special Projects, Provost Agnew ruled that the amendment was not competent and could not be considered. There being no other amendment the motion was declared carried.

At this point, Councillors Bollan and Black requested that their dissent be recorded in these minutes.

### **COMMITTEE TIMETABLE**

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive requesting the Council to make arrangements for the preparation of a timetable for future meetings of the Council and its Committees.

Having heard Councillor Robertson, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition, to prepare a timetable in accordance with the outcome of the Council's deliberations on its decision making structures (previous item) and to circulate it to all relevant parties as soon as possible; and
- (2) to make the nominations in respect of spokesperson/chairpersons, as shown on Part 1 of the Appendix to these minutes;
- (3) to the revised political make up of committees and to the Administration Group's nominations for these committees in respect of membership, chairs and vice-chairs of these committees, as shown in Part 2 of the Appendix to these minutes;

- (4) to the changes in memberships of the Working Groups, as shown in Part 3 of the Appendix to these minutes;
- (5) to note that the changes to the Administration Group's nominations, as shown in Parts 3 to 6 of the Appendix to these minutes, are highlighted for Members' information and Opposition Members are invited to notify any changes in their nominations either at this meeting or in writing to the Legal Officer and Committee Administration Team as soon as possible;
- (6) to invite the Opposition (Labour Group) and Opposition (Others) to populate their allocation as specified in this document;
- (7) that the Schools Procurement Committee should have 4 Members: 2 Administration (May Smillie & Jonathan McColl), 1 Opposition (Labour) and 1 opposition (other); and
- (8) to abolish the Community Ownership Programme/Housing Stock Transfer Committee at this time.

### **APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive asking the Council to consider making further nominations to serve on outside bodies.

The Council agreed:-

- (1) to the undernoted nominations to outside bodies:-  
  
Clydebank CCTV Trust – Councillor Marie McNair;  
Scottish Accident Prevention Council Road Safety Committee – Councillor George Black;  
Maid of the Loch Board of Trustees – Councillor Iain Robertson;  
Knowes Housing Association – Councillor Margaret Bootland; and
- (2) that in terms of those outside bodies where no nomination has been made at this juncture, officers should write to those bodies asking if it is a requirement that an elected member should serve on the body and, if not, would it be appropriate for an officer of the Council to attend their meetings.

### **SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES**

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive updating the Council on the approved Scheme of Members' Allowances and asking the Council to consider making further appointments in respect of Senior Councillor positions.



Having heard Councillor Ronnie McColl, the Council agreed to appoint the undernoted Members as Senior Councillors in accordance with the Scheme of Members' Allowances, at an remuneration of £19,360, subject to such annual increases as are approved by the Executive from time:-

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Position</b>
Jim McElhill	Depute Leader of Council
Craig McLaughlin	Spokesperson for the Corporate Services Department
May Smillie	Spokesperson for the Educational Services Department
Willie Hendrie	Spokesperson for Housing, Environment and Economic Development Department
Jonathan McColl	Spokesperson for Social Work and Health Department
Jim Finn	Chair of the Licensing Committee
Ronnie McColl	Chair of the Planning Committee
Opposition Member (to be named later )	Chair of Audit and Performance Review Committee
Martin Rooney	Leader of the Opposition
Jim Brown	Chair of the Community Participation Committee

At this point, Councillor R. McColl informed the Council that, in line with the announcement by the Leader of the Council that he would accept a reduction in his allowance, those Members of the Administration who have been nominated to hold a Senior Councillor position had agreed to accept a reduction of 10% of the difference between their allowance as an ordinary Councillor and their allowance as a Senior Councillor and invited the Leader of the Opposition to do the same.

Councillor Rooney informed the Council that he had no objection to the proposal by Councillor McLaughlin but indicated that he would prefer to donate the monies to a charity of his choice, e.g. Macmillan Cancer Support.

After hearing Councillor McLaughlin, the Council noted that the Senior Councillors from the Administration could also donate their reduction in allowance to a charity of their choice.

### **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL – REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE**

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive presenting the results of the recent study of the Council's management arrangements and proposing a revised structure for consideration.

Councillor Robertson moved:-

That the Council approves the recommendations of the report as follows:-

- (1) to agree to the recommendations of the Brodies report on Management Structures, (as described in paragraphs 6.27 – 6.42 and summarised in paragraph 2 of the report, subject to changes to names of departments to accord with decisions made in the previous item) and delegate authority to the Chief Executive to implement the proposals throughout the Council in consultation with the trades unions;
- (2) to approve an uplift of the notional relationship between the Directors and the Chief Executive payscale to a maximum of 84%, and a similar uplift to the notional relationship between Directors and Heads of Service to a maximum of 76%; and
- (3) to delegate authority for final approval of the proposed changes to the salary structure to the Recruitment Committee.

Having heard Councillor Rooney, Councillor Robertson agreed that the following wording be added to paragraph (1) above:-

“...with a presumption against fixed term contracts.”

Thereafter, Councillor Rooney seconded the above motion, as amended.

The Chief Executive and Mr McLaughlin, Brodies, were heard in answer to Members' questions.

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

That the Council takes no action on this report. The increase in the number of senior manager positions from 102 to 109, resulting in additional costs of £33,500 on top of their existing large salaries is unacceptable.

On a vote being taken, 2 Members voted for the amendment and 19 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

Mr McLaughlin and Mr Stewart from Brodies LLP left the meeting.

### **PROGRESS OF BEST VALUE IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing the Council with an update on the progress made on the Best Value Improvement Plan.

Having heard the Chief Executive in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed to note the contents of the report.

## **NEW CORPORATE PLAN AND 2006/2007 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing the Council with a note of progress made on the production of the Council's new Corporate Plan and the annual review of progress of the current plan.

The Council agreed to note the progress of the new corporate plan and on proposals for the annual review of the previous plan.

## **GENDER EQUALITY SCHEME**

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive seeking the Council's approval of a proposed Gender Equality Scheme, following on from the introduction of the Gender Duty in April 2007.

Having heard the Chief Executive and the Policy & Development Officer in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to continue to work towards the elimination of gender discrimination and harassment and to promote equality of opportunity between women and men;
- (2) to approve the Draft Gender Equality Scheme and support the work of the Policy Unit, and all Directorates in implementing the Scheme;
- (3) to continue to participate in the Equality and Diversity Working Group, membership agreed by the Council on 30 May 2007;
- (4) to ongoing work within departments to implement the scheme and achieve the targets set out in the Action Plan, co-ordinated and monitored via the Gender Equality Working Group;
- (5) that work continues to involve staff and service users in the operation and further development of the scheme; and
- (6) that an initial report on progress be made to tie in with the timescales for reporting on the Race and Disability Equality Schemes in November 2007 to give an overall update on progress.

Having heard Councillor J. McColl, the Council also agreed that officers should work towards the preparation of a unified equality policy which would bring together all of the Council's various policy documents on equality issues.

## **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Councillor Jonathan McColl declared a financial interest in the following item of business and left the meeting during the deliberation thereon.

## **PAY MODERNISATION – PROPOSALS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SINGLE STATUS AGREEMENT**

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive:-

- (a) providing an update on the status of on-going local negotiations and of the national context affecting progress in relation to implementation of the Single Status Agreement;
- (b) recommending an 'Employers' Offer' as a proposal for implementation of the Single Status agreement in West Dunbartonshire Council; and
- (c) detailing the necessary steps that require to be taken to meet the Council's obligations in relation to employee consultation and statutory obligations.

Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor Rooney, moved:-

That the Council agrees:-

- (1) to approve the Draft of the Employer's Proposals (The Offer) for the Implementation of the Single Status Agreement as set out in Appendix 1; - Pay and Grading structure and Appendix 2; Terms & Conditions;
- (2) to authorise the Chief Executive to issue West Dunbartonshire's Proposals to the Trades Unions during July 2007 as the commencement of the formal consultation in accordance with statutory obligations;
- (3) as a precautionary measure, to authorise the Chief Executive to notify the Department of Trade & Industry at the appropriate juncture of the possibility of terminations of employment contracts and re-engagement should a collective agreement not be reached;
- (4) to note that a report on the consultation process would be made to Council at the earliest opportunity;
- (5) to authorise the Chief Executive to make appropriate arrangements to terminate existing bonus schemes to coincide with implementation of the Single Status agreement; and
- (6) that officers should work towards achieving zero detriment to staff before the end of the 3 year protection period.

At this point, Provost Agnew invited representatives from the trades unions to address the Council, namely Denise McLafferty (UNISON), Charlie McDonald (T&G) and Duncan Borland (GMB). All three trades unions representatives addressed the Council and urged Members to instruct the Corporate Management Team to work with Trades Unions in order to achieve an agreement whereby no members of staff should suffer detriment after the 3 year protection period and that where possible existing conditions of service should be protected.

The Chief Executive and Head of Service were heard in answer to Members' questions.

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

This Council agrees that the pay modernisation package being put forward for implementation should contain a no detriment clause to cover all existing employees.

The current management proposals are unacceptable.

Officers are instructed to continue to work with the Trades Unions to eradicate the detriment within the pay protection period. There should also be a harmonisation of terms and conditions with meaningful negotiations and agreement with all Trades Unions. These discussions should start immediately and continue until agreement is reached.

On a vote being taken, 2 Members voted for the amendment and 18 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

Councillor J. McColl returned to the meeting at this point.

### **DILLICHIP FOOTBRIDGE (BLACK BRIDGE), BONHILL**

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council on 30 May 2007 (Page 23 refers), a report was submitted by the Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land and Environmental Services) providing the Council with information on the structural condition of Dillichip Bridge (Black Bridge), Bonhill and providing options for consideration.

In response to a question by Councillor Robertson, the Manager of Best Value and Special Projects confirmed that it was competent for the Council to consider the report and that the suspension of standing orders was not required as the Council had agreed at its previous meeting that a report be submitted on the issue of the Black Bridge.

Councillor Bollan, seconded by Councillor Black, moved:-

This Council agrees to retain the Black Bridge as a main pedestrian route between Bonhill, Alexandria and Renton.

This Council further agrees to adopt Option 1 in the enclosed report.

Funding for this project should be drawn from unbudgeted capital receipts and reserves (sinking fund).

As an amendment, Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor J. McColl, moved:-

That the Council approves Option 1 within the report and instructs officers to include the project in the list of future capital bids to be considered as part of the Council's future Capital Programme in order that it can be judged and prioritised against the needs of other capital projects.

On a vote being taken, 19 Members voted for the amendment and 2 for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

### **CONTAMINATED LAND REMEDIATION PROJECT AT THE FORMER INDUSTRIAL SITE, DALQUHURN ESTATE, RENTON**

A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) informing the Council that the Scottish Executive had provided a capital grant funding award of £2 million to remediate the former industrial site at Dalquhurn in Renton and seeking the Council's approval to spend the £2 million grant allocation.

Having heard Councillor Robertson, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the award of capital grant for £2 million to fund the remediation of the Dalquhurn site;
- (2) to approve the spending of the £2 million capital grant on the remediation of the Dalquhurn site; and
- (3) to approve the development of a contract between West Dunbartonshire Council and Cordale Housing Association to formalise the project management of the remediation programme at Dalquhurn.

### **PILOT PROJECT TO ESTABLISH A SCHOOL BASED CAMPUS OFFICER**

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services seeking Council approval to establish a School Based Campus Officer in a secondary school as a pilot project for one year between August 2007 and June 2008.

The Council welcomed the pilot project and agreed that a report be submitted to the relevant Committee on the evaluation of the pilot project.

### **NOTICES OF MOTION**

In accordance with the terms of Standing Order No 8 (a), the Council considered the undernoted motions:-

**(a) Motion by Councillor David McBride – Council Finance**

This Council notes that demand on the Council's finances is increasing against a potential shortfall should a freeze on Council Tax rates be imposed by the Scottish Executive without a compensatory increase in grant funding.

Against this background, this Council requests the Leader of the Council to lead a cross-party delegation, to include both of our MSPs, to meet with John Swinney, MSP in order to re-iterate the justifiable needs of our communities and to seek both a redistribution of resources for long term sustainability and an increase in short-term grant to meet the Council's immediate needs.

Furthermore, this Council requests the Leader of the Council to bring Local Government Finance in its widest context to the attention of COSLA and to drive forward a commitment to ensure support within COSLA for deprivation to be recognised as a determining factor in the distribution formula.

This Council asks the Leader of the Council to report back to Council on the outcome of his initiatives before the budget process begins in earnest for the next financial year.

Councillor McBride was heard in support of the above motion which was seconded by Councillor Millar.

As an amendment, Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor C. McLaughlin, moved:-

This Council notes that the Leader of the Council has already contacted Mr John Swinney, MSP, Cabinet Secretary, concerning the Council's finances and intends to arrange a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary, Chief Executive, Leader of the Opposition and the Chair of the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee, as soon as possible.

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

**(b) Motion by Councillor Geoff Calvert – Dumbarton Castle**

This Council recognises that Dumbarton Rock is the most awe-inspiring geographical feature within West Dunbartonshire. With its associated castle, Dumbarton Rock's place in history is assured. Its status as a "Royal" castle places it amongst the most prestigious castles in Scotland alongside Stirling and Edinburgh.

In order to enhance the status and stunning visual attraction of Dumbarton Rock and Castle, this Council believes that the Rock should be floodlit to a standard befitting its status and equal to the best in Scotland. This Council will strive to achieve this objective by mid 2008.

This Council understands fully that successful implementation of such prestigious project will depend on a sustainable income stream being identified to provide funding for ongoing maintenance and repair over the long term as well as initial capital costs.

Therefore, this Council resolves to initiate and give leadership to a Partnership and requests the Chief Executive to invite Colonel Donald Ross, the Lord Lieutenant of Dunbartonshire, Brigadier Donald Hardie, the Keeper of Dumbarton Castle, Historic Scotland, the Dumbarton Castle Society, Turnberry Homes and any other partner who can contribute to the successful completion of this project to an inaugural meeting in early August as a prelude to the creation of a plan of action.

In addition the Chief Executive is to seek nominations for elected member involvement and to nominate a lead officer from the Council, together with appropriate support as necessary in order to ensure that the Partnership is both efficient and effective.

Finally, the Chief Executive is to bring forward a progress report to the August meeting of the Council.

Having heard Councillor Calvert in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed to approve the above motion.

#### **PROVOST'S REMARKS – VETERAN'S DAY**

Provost Agnew took the opportunity to thank the Chief Executive, the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land and Environmental Services) and their staff for all their efforts which ensured that the memorial services held to commemorate Veteran's Day earlier in the day were successful. Provost Agnew intimated that the services were both poignant and memorable and invited Members and officers to record their comments in the book of remembrance which had been placed in the Foyer.

The meeting ended at 11.00 p.m.