

CORPORATE AND EFFICIENT GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee held on Wednesday, 21 September 2011 in the Education Centre, St. Margaret of Scotland Hospice, East Barns Street, Clydebank at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Jim Bollan, Jim Brown, David McBride, Ronnie McColl, Patrick McGlinchey, Craig McLaughlin, Marie McNair, Lawrence O'Neill and Iain Robertson.

Attending: Joyce White, Executive Director of Corporate Services; Andrew Fraser Head of Legal, Democratic & Regulatory Services; Stephen West, Head of Finance & Resources; Lorraine Coyne, Head of Audit, Performance & Strategic Planning; Vincent Gardiner, Client & Support Manager; Gillian McNeilly, Finance Manager; Peter Barry, Manager of Community Planning & Policy; John Duffy, Section Head, Risk and Christine McCaffary, Senior Administrative Officer.

Councillor Craig McLaughlin in the Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee held on 22 June 2011 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

FOOD ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLAN 2011/2012

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services seeking approval of the Food Enforcement Service Plan 2011/12, which was attached as an Appendix to the report.

The Committee agreed to approve the Food Enforcement Service Plan 2011/12.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLAN 2011/2012

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services seeking approval of the Health and Safety Enforcement Service Plan 2011/12, which was attached as an Appendix to the report.

The Committee agreed to approve the Health and Safety Enforcement Service Plan 2011/12.

RENT ARREARS WRITE OFF – QUARTER 1 2011/12

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services seeking approval of rent arrears write-offs for the first quarter of 2011/12.

The Committee agreed to approve rent arrears write-offs totalling £8,098.46 for 2011/2012, as shown in the Appendix to the report.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services providing an update on grants to community councils from the Trust Fund and Dumbarton Common Good budgets.

Having heard the Finance Manager in answer to a Member's question, the Committee approved the grants for community councils totalling £7,125, as shown in the Appendix to the report.

COUNCIL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE PORTFOLIO

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services seeking approval to invite tenders for the sale of the Council's Home Loan Mortgage portfolio.

Having heard the Executive Director of Corporate Services and Client & Support Manager in answer to Members' questions, Councillor McGlinchey, seconded by Councillor McBride, moved that no action be taken and the Council retain its Home Loan Mortgage portfolio.

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

- (1) that the matter be continued to a future meeting of the Committee to allow a further report to be produced detailing the mechanisms that would be put in place at the tendering stage to safeguard homeowners whose loans would be transferred to a private lender; and
- (2) that the report provides information on how the sale of home loan mortgage portfolios had operated, in practice, by other local authorities who had already sold off their mortgage portfolios.

On a vote being taken, 5 Members voted for the amendment and 4 for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

CHILDREN'S HEARINGS SCOTLAND - CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CHILDREN'S PANEL AREA SUPPORT TEAMS

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services seeking permission to respond to the National Convener of Children's Hearings Scotland's proposals for the future support of the system in West Dunbartonshire.

The Committee agreed to support the response to the consultation paper by the West Dunbartonshire Children's Panel Advisory Committee, which was attached as Appendix 2 to the report, subject to clarification on the delegation of powers to Sub-Committees as referred to in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

TREASURY UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services advising of interest rates and treasury transactions of the Council which had taken place during the period 1 April to 31 July 2011.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT P4 2011/12

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive advising of the performance of the department's budget for the period to 31 July 2011.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

CORPORATE SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT P4 2011/12

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services advising of the performance of the department's budget for the period to 31 July 2011.

Having heard the Executive Director of Corporate Services in answer to a Member's question, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

DUMBARTON COMMON GOOD FUND – MONITORING REPORT TO 31 JULY 2011

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services providing details of income and expenditure on the Dumbarton Common Good Fund Account to 31 July 2011.

Having heard the Finance Manager in answer to a Member's question, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that future Statements of Income and Expenditure should show accurate descriptions of the transactions; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

ANNUAL HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT 2010/11

There was submitted and noted an Excerpt from the Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit & Performance Review Committee held on 10 August 2011 and a report by the Chief Executive on the Council's health and safety performance for the period April 2010 to March 2011.

Having heard the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Section Head, Risk in further explanation, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and the health and safety improvements made.

CORPORATE PLAN 2010/14 YEAR END PROGRESS REPORT – FURTHER INFORMATION ON THOSE PIs ASSIGNED TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT WHICH SIGNIFICANTLY MISSED THEIR TARGETS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing further details on the department's nine performance indicators (PIs) in the Corporate Plan which had significantly missed their targets.

Having heard the Executive Director of Corporate Services in answer to a Member's question the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

ARMS-LENGTH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (ALEOs)

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive advising of the Audit Scotland report on Arm's-length External Organisations. A copy of Audit Scotland's report was attached as an Appendix to the report.

Having heard the Executive Director of Corporate Services in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that development sessions would be designed by Organisational Development and delivered to Members, as appropriate, to help them consider the issues raised in the Audit Scotland report; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

**EXTENSION TO PERIOD OF CONTRACT FOR DELIVERY OF
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP (CPP) –
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERVICES**

There was submitted an Excerpt from the Minutes of Meeting of the Tendering Committee held on 6 September 2011 (Page XXX refers) together with a report by the Chief Executive seeking approval for an extension of nine months to the period contracted to Organisational Development Services (ODS) to provide further support for community engagement in Community Planning and setting out the reasons for the extension.

Having heard the Manager of Community Planning & Policy in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, Councillor C. McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor R. McColl, moved:-

That the contract with ODS be extended for just over nine months, until 30 June 2012, to allow further evaluation and assessment of the future direction of community engagement.

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

That there be no extension to the contract currently in place with ODS when it expired on 12 October 2011 and that any additional work required in relation to community engagement be carried out by the Council's Community Learning and Development Team.

On a vote being taken 4 Members voted for the amendment and 5 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

The meeting closed at 10.46 a.m.