

HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Housing, Environment & Economic Development Committee held in Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 7 September 2011 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Jim Bollan, Jim Brown, Geoff Calvert, Gail Casey, William Hendrie, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Jim McElhill, Craig McLaughlin and William McLaughlin.

Attending: Elaine Melrose, Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development; Ronald Dinnie, Head of Neighbourhood Services; Jim McAloon, Head of Regeneration and Economic Development; Helen Turley, Head of Housing and Community Safety; David Allan, Estates Surveyor; Cheryl Marshall, Sustainability Officer; Sally Michael, Principal Solicitor and Nuala Quinn-Ross, Committee Officer, Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services.

Councillor William Hendrie 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 MEETINGS

(a) Special Meeting held on 26 May 2011

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Housing, Environment & Economic Development Committee held on 26 May 2011 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

(b) Ordinary Meeting held on 8 June 2011

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Housing, Environment & Economic Development Committee held on 8 June 2011 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

Having heard the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development and the Head of Neighbourhood Services and in answer to Members' questions in relation to the item under the heading "Leisure Trust Governance Arrangements" (Page 3692 refers), the Committee agreed to note the position in relation to the composition of the membership of the Board of Trustees of West Dunbartonshire Leisure Trust and to note that at the meeting of Council on 29 June 2011 (Page 3747 refers), Council had agreed its nominations to the Board of Trustees.

(c) Special Meeting held on 29 June 2011

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Housing, Environment & Economic Development Committee held on 29 June 2011 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

DALMUIR PARK HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND REGENERATION PROJECT

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development providing an update on the progress of the Council's Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application in relation to the Dalmuir Park Regeneration project.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Neighbourhood Services in answer to Members' questions, the Committee congratulated officers for all their hard work and agreed to note the content of the report.

CRC ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCHEME

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development providing information on West Dunbartonshire Council's first Annual Report as required by the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (formerly known as the Carbon Reduction Commitment).

After discussion, and having heard the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development and the Sustainability Officer in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that annual updates on CRC reporting submissions would be presented to Committee for Members' consideration; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

**PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF FORMER RENTON EARLY EDUCATION AND
CHILDCARE CENTRE (EECC), STATION STREET, RENTON**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development:-

- (a) advising of the expressions of interest received from local community groups regarding the former Renton Early Education and Childcare Centre (EECC);
- (b) providing details of the outcome of the option appraisal of the proposals received; and
- (c) seeking consent to the proposed disposal of the property.

After discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development and the Estates Surveyor in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development, in consultation with the Executive Director of Educational Services, provide a Briefing Note containing details on what effect, if any, the opening of a new nursery by Renton Community Development Trust would have on the existing nursery provision at St Martin's Primary;
- (2) that the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development would now conclude negotiations with Renton Community Development Trust (RCDT) to dispose of the property for the amount of £25,000; and
- (3) that the Head of Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services conclude the transaction subject to such legal conditions that are considered appropriate.

HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - FORWARD PLAN

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development highlighting those issues that would come to the Committee for decision over the course of the next six months.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that reports on the key departmental objectives set out in the 2011/15 plan, as detailed within the report, would be presented to the Committee for decision no later than January 2012; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

HOUSING INSPECTION IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development informing of the department's progress towards the achievement of the outcomes of the Housing Inspection Improvement Plan which was agreed with the Scottish Housing Regulator in June 2010.

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) that updates on the Housing Inspection Improvement Plan would be brought to the Committee at regular 6 monthly intervals for scrutiny; and
- (2) to note the progress made in implementing the Housing Inspection Improvement Plan.

ALEXANDRIA MASTERPLAN: MITCHELL WAY REDEVELOPMENT SITE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development:-

- (a) advising of progress towards marketing land within and adjacent to Mitchell Way, Alexandria with a view to selling or leasing the site for up to 125 years; and
- (b) seeking agreement to the site being marketed using the appropriate mechanism to appoint a preferred developer.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Regeneration and Economic Development in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress made in marketing land within and adjacent to Mitchell Way, Alexandria;
- (2) that the site be marketed using the appropriate mechanism to appoint a developer;
- (3) that the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development would write to the Central Alexandria Tenants and Residents Association (CATRA) to inform them of the Committee's decision; and
- (3) to note that a further report would be submitted to the Committee in spring 2012, informing of the selected preferred bidder and outlining the process to be followed to gain final Committee approval for the sale or ground lease of the development opportunity.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2011/12 TO 31 JULY 2011 (PERIOD 4)

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development providing an update on the financial performance of the Housing, Environmental and Economic Development Department to 31 July 2011 (Period 4).

After discussion and having heard the relevant officers in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that future reports on this matter would be presented to the Committee in the same format as Council to ensure consistency; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

HOUSING CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2012 – 2015

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development providing an update on Housing Capital Investment proposals for the period 2012 to 2015 for current stock.

After discussion and having heard the relevant officers in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee providing an update on the progress in Capital Investment Planning and Compliance with Scottish Housing Quality Standards; and
- (2) otherwise to note the positive progress made to date, on this matter.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2011/2012 BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT TO 31 JULY 2011 (PERIOD 4)

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development providing an update on the financial performance of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to the period ended 31 July 2011.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/12 BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2011(PERIOD 4)

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development advising on the progress of the HRA Capital Programme 2011/2012 and to allow the Committee to monitor performance.

The Committee agreed to note the position to date as outlined in Appendices A, B and C of the report.

**DEPUTATION BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE OF DALMONACH CE CENTRE**

The Chair, Councillor Hendrie, advised the Committee that he had been informed by Councillor Bollan that the Management Advisory Committee of Dalmonach CE Centre would not be in attendance as the report into the review of the Council's CE Centres had been delayed to the January 2012 meeting of the Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee. Accordingly, the Management Advisory Committee had indicated that they would like their request to address the Committee on this issue to be held over until such a time as the matter was being discussed by the Committee.

Thereafter, it was agreed that the Management Advisory Committee of Dalmonach CE would be notified of their request for a deputation at the appropriate time.

The meeting closed at 10.55 a.m.