

## **CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

At a Meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 26 October 2005 at 10.00 a.m.

**Present:** Councillors Denis Agnew, Jim Bolland, Margaret Bootland, Dennis Brogan, Geoff Calvert, Tony Devine, Duncan MacDonald, Craig McLaughlin, Martin Rooney and Andy White.

**Attending:** Gerry McInerney, Director of Corporate Services; Bill Clark, Acting Director of Social Work Services; David Connell, Head of Finance; Angela Clements, Head of Information Services; Vincent Gardiner, Manager of Exchequer; Gillian Jump, Manager of Accounting; David Logan, Principal Solicitor; Marion Smith, Section Head, Revenue Services; John Hepburn, Welfare Rights Development Officer; Lesley-Anne Haigh, Grants Administrator and Shona Barton, Administrative Officer.

### **Councillor Tony Devine in the Chair**

#### **CONVENER'S REMARKS**

- 7303 Convener, Councillor Devine, advised the Committee that Councillor Gail Casey had resigned as a Member of the Committee and that Councillor Martin Rooney had taken her place.
- 7304 Councillor Devine then welcomed Councillor Rooney to his first meeting of the Corporate Services Committee.

#### **PRESENTATION ON DEBT MANAGEMENT**

- 7305 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held on 30 March 2005 (page 1524, paragraph 5463 refers), a presentation was given by the Manager of Exchequer and the Section Head, Revenue Services which provided information on the systems in place to support people incurring debt with the Council. Both officers were then heard in answer to Members' questions.
- 7306 Councillor Devine, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the officers for their informative presentation and for taking questions.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

7307 Minutes of Meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held on 31 August 2005 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

**IT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS 2005**

7308 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services informing of the achievements of Information Services at the British Computer Society's IT Professional Awards 2005.

7309 Having heard the Head of Information Services in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) to pass on congratulations to the employees of Information Services for these impressive achievements.

**CORPORATE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY**

7310 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services seeking approval for a Corporate Procurement strategy.

7311 A copy of Appendix 2 to the report which had been omitted from the papers was circulated to Members.

7312 After discussion, and having heard the Director of Corporate Services in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to approve the proposed Corporate Procurement Strategy and Procurement Unit Structure.

**CORPORATE SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT:  
PERIOD 5 (2005/2006)**

7313 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services advising of the performance of the Corporate Services budget for the period to 15 September 2005.

7314 After discussion and having heard the Director of Corporate Services in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and

- (2) that with regard to a question raised by Councillor McLaughlin regarding the taxi licensing budget, the Principal Solicitor would contact Councillor McLaughlin directly with an answer to his question.

#### **UPDATE ON FINANCE REVENUES COLLECTION**

- 7315 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing an update on the progress of the collection of the local Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR).
- 7316 The Committee agreed to note the Council Tax and NNDR collection performance to date.

#### **TREASURY TRANSACTIONS (1 APRIL 2005 – 15 SEPTEMBER 2005)**

- 7317 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services advising of the treasury transactions of the Council for the period from 1 April 2005 to 15 September 2005.
- 7318 The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

#### **INTEREST RATES (1 APRIL 2005 – 1 OCTOBER 2005)**

- 7319 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing information on interest rates during the period from 1 April 2005 to 1 October 2005.
- 7320 The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

#### **DUMBARTON COMMON GOOD FUND – MONITORING REPORT TO 15 SEPTEMBER 2005**

- 7321 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing details of income and expenditure on the Dumbarton Common Good Fund to 15 September 2005.
- 7322 An updated statement of income and expenditure was circulated to Members.
- 7323 After discussion and having heard the Manager of Accounting in further explanation, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

#### **COMPLETION OF MICROSOFT ACTIVE DIRECTORY PROJECT**

- 7324 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing an update on the completion of the Active Directory Project.

7325 Having heard the Head of Information Services and Councillor Devine in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

### **DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST**

7326 Councillor Calvert declared a financial interest in the following item of business and took no part in the discussion or deliberation thereof.

### **REVIEW OF INFORMATION AND ADVICE GIVING SERVICES**

7327 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Social Work Services:-

- (a) providing details on the review of information and advice giving services within the West Dunbartonshire area; and
- (b) making recommendations regarding the ongoing funding provided by West Dunbartonshire Council and the West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership to the various information and advice giving services in the West Dunbartonshire area.

7328 After discussion and having heard the Acting Director of Social Work Services and the Welfare Rights Development Officer in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, Councillor Bootland, seconded by Councillor Bollan, moved:-

7329 That this item be continued until the next meeting of the Committee to allow Members further time to consider the report.

7330 As an amendment, Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Agnew, moved:-

7331 That the item be continued until the next meeting of the Committee to allow Members to look in detail at the report and to find out further information on the Financial Inclusion Fund, this would also give Members the opportunity to visit the organisations affected to obtain more information. In the meantime the Director of Corporate Services should be instructed to put in place funding for these organisations to allow their services to continue until the matter is reconsidered at the next meeting.

7332 Councillor Bootland with the support of her seconder, Councillor Bollan, requested consent to withdraw her motion. The Committee agreed to allow Councillor Bootland to withdraw her motion. Consequently, Councillor White's amendment became the motion.

7333 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin seconded by Councillor Brogan, moved:-

7334 That this item be continued until the next meeting of the Committee to allow for a cross party group to be set up to meet with the representatives of the affected organisations to look at making changes and developing the services provided and that funding is continued until this review is completed and a report comes back to the Committee.

7335 On a vote being taken 3 Members voted for the amendment and 6 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

### **CHRISTMAS PAYMENTS TO ELDERLY PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION**

7336 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services seeking approval to make Christmas payments to elderly people's organisations.

7337 Having heard Councillor Devine, the Committee agreed to approve the Christmas contribution to elderly people's organisations as outlined in the report.

### **URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS**

7338 The Convener, in terms of Section 50 B (4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as inserted by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, requested that the Committee consider an additional item of business concerning a Local Grant Application submitted by the Clydebank Seniors Forum.

7339 The Committee agreed that this item be considered as a matter of urgency on the grounds that the action to be taken required early consideration. It was noted that this item would be considered with the grant applications in the following item on the agenda.

### **LOCAL, GENERAL, AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL GRANTS 2005/2006**

7340 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing an update on the budget position of Local Grants, General Grants and Grants to Community Councils and providing details of grant applications for consideration.

7341 Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Agnew, moved:-

7342 That the grant applications be dealt with as detailed in the report in line with the officer recommendations.

7343 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Bollan, moved:-

7344 That the grant applications be dealt with as detailed in the report, but without the reduction of 1.5%.

7345 On a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the amendment and 7 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

7346 Therefore, it was agreed:-

- (1) to note the current budgetary position on Local, General and Community Council Grants as detailed in Appendix A to the report;
- (2) that the Local Grant applications for 2005/2006 be dealt with as shown in Appendix 1 to these Minutes;
- (3) that the Community Council Grant Applications for 2005/2006 be dealt with as shown in Appendix 2 to these Minutes;
- (4) that the Dumbarton Common Good Fund Application for 2005/2006 be dealt with as shown in Appendix 3 to these Minutes; and
- (5) that the additional item concerning the Local Grant Application from Clydebank Seniors Forum be dealt with as shown in Appendix 4 to these Minutes.

The meeting closed at 12.21 p.m.