

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held in the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 26 April 2006 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Denis Agnew, Dennis Brogan, Geoff Calvert, Duncan McDonald, Craig McLaughlin and Martin Rooney.

Attending: Tim Huntingford, Chief Executive; Stephen Brown, Head of Legal and Administrative Services; David Connell, Head of Finance; Angela Clements, Head of Information Services; Liz McGinley, Head of Service, Education and Cultural Services; Gillian Jump, Manager of Accounting; Vincent Gardiner, Manager of Exchequer; Stephen West, Manager of Resources, Social Work Services; Lesley-Anne Haigh, Grants Administrator and Lorraine Beveridge, Administrative Assistant.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Margaret Bootland, Tony Devine and Andy White.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

8764 Before commencing with the business of the Meeting the Committee agreed that in the absence of Councillor Devine, Convener, the Meeting would be chaired by Councillor Rooney.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

8765 The Minutes of Meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held on 22 February 2006 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

8766 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

8767 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Social Work Services providing a further update on proposals for the remodelling of information and advice giving services within West Dunbartonshire.

8768 After discussion and having heard Councillor Rooney in explanation of the report and officers in answer to Members' questions, Councillor McDonald, seconded by Councillor Agnew, moved:-

8769 That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) to note with concern the actions of the previous Board of Clydebank CAB and asks the Chief Executive to instruct that investigations be carried out to examine the management and disposal of the resources and assets to Clydebank CAB by the council and partners; and to take legal advice to consider if action should be taken to investigate the conduct of the Board of Clydebank CAB;
- (2) that the Chief Executive submits a report on the results of the aforementioned investigations to a future meeting of the Committee;
- (3) to recognise the support and assistance to the Council's anti-poverty policy by the Board of the Dumbarton/Vale of Leven CAB during this trying period; and
- (4) to endorse the future developments of the combined partnership on advice and information throughout West Dunbartonshire.

8770 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Brogan, moved:-

8771 That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) to note with concern the actions of the previous Board of Clydebank CAB and asks the Chief Executive to instruct that investigations be carried out to examine the management and disposal of the resources and assets to Clydebank CAB by the Council and partners; and to take legal advice to consider if action should be taken to investigate the conduct of the Board of Clydebank CAB;
- (2) that the Chief Executive submits a report on the results of the aforementioned investigations to a future meeting of the Council; and

- (3) that a report, detailing previous costs of all West Dunbartonshire CABs in comparison to West Dunbartonshire Council's Welfare Rights, how many cases have been dealt with and the costs per client/case, be submitted to a future meeting of the Council.

8772 On a vote being taken, 2 Members voted for the amendment and 3 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

ONLINE PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

8773 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing information on the launch of a new online information service which is now available to members of the public via the Council's website.

8774 After discussion and having heard Councillor Rooney in explanation of the report and the Head of Legal and Administrative Services in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the report and welcomed the new online information service.

PERFORMANCE OF REGISTRATION SERVICE

8775 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing information on:-

- (a) the performance of Registration Service in West Dunbartonshire in terms of the national enhanced performance indicators produced by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) for 2003;
- (b) the outcome of a recent Registration customer service survey carried out earlier this year and making recommendations thereon.

8776 After discussion and having heard Councillor Rooney in explanation of the report and the Head of Legal and Administrative Services in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that all Registration Staff be congratulated on their excellent level of performance and service to customers; and
- (2) to note that a capital bid would be made next year for monies to improve the accommodation at Alexandria Registration Office.

RENEWAL OF INSURANCE CONTRACTS

- 8777 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive seeking authority to renew and, where appropriate, re-tender the Council's Insurance Contracts.
- 8778 After discussion and having heard the Head of Legal & Administrative Services in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Convener of the Corporate Services Committee, to renew Insurance Contracts which were subject to Long Term Agreements;
 - (2) to authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Convener of the Corporate Services Committee, to re-tender particular Insurance Contracts where this was considered to be in the best interests of the Council;
 - (3) to authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Convener of the Corporate Services Committee, to accept the most economically advantageous Tenders, the outcome of which would be reported to the Corporate Services Committee; and
 - (4) to note the position with regard to the re-tendering of the Mortgage Property Blanket Insurance Policy.

COSLA STAFFING WATCH SURVEY

- 8779 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive advising on the size of the Council's workforce as at 11 December 2005.
- 8780 After hearing Councillor Rooney, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the report.

UPDATE ON FINANCE REVENUES COLLECTION

- 8781 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update on the collection of the local Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR).
- 8782 After discussion and having heard Councillor Rooney in explanation of the report and the Manager of Exchequer in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to note the Council Tax and NNDR collection performance, which in both cases had exceeded targets; and
 - (2) to congratulate all staff involved in the collection of Council Tax for their achievement in exceeding the targets set for 2005/06.

TREASURY TRANSACTIONS (1 APRIL 2005 – 31 MARCH 2006)

- 8783 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive advising of the Treasury transactions of the Council for the period from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006.
- 8784 After hearing Councillor Rooney, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the report.

INTEREST RATE REPORTS (1 APRIL 2005 – 1 APRIL 2006)

- 8785 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing information on interest rates during the period from 1 April 2005 to 1 April 2006.
- 8786 After hearing Councillor Rooney, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the report.

DEBT RESCHEDULING

- 8787 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing information on debt rescheduling which had taken place.
- 8788 After discussion and having heard Councillor Rooney in explanation of the report and officers in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the report.

TRANSFORMATIONAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE

- 8789 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update on the progress of the implementation of One Stop Shops for West Dunbartonshire.
- 8790 After discussion and having heard Councillor Rooney in explanation of the report and the Head of Information Services in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the progress made towards the implementation of a Pilot One Stop Shop facility at Rosebery Place, Clydebank.

ICT & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- 8791 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive seeking approval for the Draft Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Business Development Strategy.
- 8792 After debate and having heard officers in answer to Members' questions, Councillor McDonald, seconded by Councillor Agnew, moved:-

8793 That the Committee approve the ICT and Business Development Strategy with associated support strategies, attached as an Appendix to the report.

8794 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Brogan, moved:-

8795 That Members express concern that the document entitled 'the Implementation and Resourcing Plan' as detailed in Paragraph 4.2 of the report, was not listed as a background paper nor attached to the report. Members expressed concerns at the missing report, as Members should not decide on a departmental restructuring without the correct information therefore consideration of the report should be continued to the next meeting of the Committee.

8796 On a vote being taken, 2 Members voted for the amendment and 4 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

8797 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update on the budget position of Grants to Voluntary Organisations and providing details of grant applications for consideration.

8798 Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved:-

That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) to note the current budgetary position on Local, General and Community Council Grants as detailed in Appendix A to the report;
- (2) to approve the Local Grant Applications to Voluntary Organisation for 2006/2007 together with Dumbarton Common Good fund Grants for 2006/2007, as shown in Appendix 1 to these Minutes;
- (3) to approve the Social Work Grant Applications to Voluntary Organisations for 2006/2007, as shown in Appendix 2 to these Minutes;
- (4) to approve the Education Grants for 2006/2007, as shown in Appendix 3 to these Minutes; and
- (5) to note the outcome for Brucehill Action Group as detailed in Paragraph 3.5 of the report.

8799 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Brogan, moved:-

8800 That Members should review grants on an individual basis and on their own merits and that furthermore the Committee expresses concern on the cuts in funding to these groups.

8801 On a vote being taken, 2 Members voted for the amendment and 3 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

The meeting closed at 11.20 a.m.