

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank, on Wednesday 26 March 2008 at 7.05 p.m.

Present: Provost Denis Agnew and Councillors George Black, James Bollan, Margaret Bootland, Jim Brown, Geoff Calvert, Gail Casey, Jim Finn, William Hendrie, Douglas McAllister, 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; Bill Clark, Executive Director of Social Work and Health; Elaine Melrose, Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development; Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services; Joyce White, Executive Director of Corporate Services; David Connell, Head of Finance; Tricia O'Neill, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development; David Webster, Section Head (Performance Management); Louisa Mahon, Communications Manager; Stephen Brown, Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services and George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer.

Also

Attending: Mr Tom Divers, Chief Executive and Dr. Brian Cowan, Medical Director, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde; and Mr Keith Redpath, Director of West Dunbartonshire Community Health Partnership.

Provost Denis Agnew in the Chair

PROVOST'S REMARKS

Provost Agnew reminded all Members that, following the last meeting of the Council, the Chief Executive had issued a letter concerning the Code of Conduct of Councillors in Chambers and asked all Members to take cognisance of the advice contained therein.

At this point Provost Agnew informed the Council that a request had been received from Carol Duncan, Chair of the Clydebank High School Parent Council, wishing to speak in support of a motion by Councillor McGlinchey on "Professional Counselling Service Pilot Scheme Clydebank High School". Provost Agnew informed the Council that the deputation would be heard after the item on the Open Forum, separate from the motion which would be debated later in the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 27 February 2008 were submitted and approved as a correct record subject to it being noted that in relation to the item under the heading "Motion by Councillor George Black – Motor Cycles" (Pages 896/897 refer), the additional information provided by Councillor Hendrie was not provided at the meeting and therefore the Minutes should be amended to reflect this.

Thereafter, Councillor C. McLaughlin, the Executive Director of Educational Services and the Executive Director of Social Work and Health were heard in answer to Members' questions.

The Council agreed to note:-

- (1) that with reference to the item headed "HRA Capital Programme 2008/2009, 2009/2010, 2010/2011" (Page 895 refers), the report referred to in paragraph (3) would be submitted to Council as soon as the consultation with tenants had been concluded;
- (2) that with reference to the item headed "Motion by Councillor Rooney – Supporting People Funding" (Page 903 refers), the report referred to in the second paragraph of the motion would be submitted to the meeting of Council to be held in April; and
- (3) that with reference to the item headed "Motion by Councillor McGlinchey – Class Sizes" (Page 905 refers), the costs referred to in the final paragraph of the motion would be reported to the Council in May, or possibly April.

GREATER GLASGOW & CLYDE NHS BOARD VALE OF LEVEN HOSPITAL

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council on 19 December 2007 (Page 668 refers) when it was agreed that the Chair and the Chief Executive of Greater Glasgow & Clyde NHS Board be invited to attend a meeting of this Council, it was noted that Mr Tom Divers, Chief Executive and Dr. Brian Cowan, Medical Director, were present to speak to the Council.

Mr Divers began by explaining the Board's position concerning the future of maternity services at the Vale of Leven Hospital and gave details of the consultation which would be held between 27 March 2008 and 19 June 2008.

Thereafter Mr Divers was heard in response to Members' questions on the future of maternity services at the Vale of Leven Hospital during which the Council noted:-

- (1) that Mr Divers would provide the Council with details of the recovery plan to address the £26 Million deficit in the 'Clyde Budget';

- (2) that Mr Divers would investigate claims that maternity staff were being instructed not to promote the services provided at the unit and that he would ensure that Councillor Jonathan McColl was invited to visit the maternity unit to promote the services provided there; and
- (3) that the Cabinet Secretary would have the final decision on the future of the maternity unit.

Mr Divers then spoke to the Council about the Board's proposals in relation to the provision of mental health services in West Dunbartonshire and in particular the modernisation strategy to rebalance inpatient and community services in line with Greater Glasgow services. He also spoke briefly on the Board's proposals for Unscheduled Medical Care and outlined the consultation process.

After hearing Mr Divers in response to Members' questions, the Council noted that Mr Divers and Mr Cowan would attend another meeting of the Council to discuss, in more detail, the consultation on Unscheduled Medical Care.

At this point Mr Divers was heard in response to questions by Councillor McNair on St Margaret's Hospice.

Provost Agnew thanked Mr Divers and his colleagues for their attendance and thereafter they left the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

The Council noted that no open forum questions had been submitted for consideration at this meeting.

REQUEST FOR DEPUTATION – CAROL DUNCAN

In terms of Standing Order No 14, the Council agreed to hear a deputation from Carol Duncan, Chair of Clydebank High School Parents Council, in connection with the motion by Councillor McGlinchey on "Professional Counselling Service Pilot Scheme Clydebank High School".

Ms Duncan was heard in support of Councillor McGlinchey's motion and returned to the public gallery.

Councillor Smillie, Spokesperson for Educational Services, thanked Ms Duncan for her presentation and informed her that the Council would give the matter full consideration when debating Councillor McGlinchey's motion later in the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

After hearing Provost Agnew, the Council agreed to adjourn for a short period.

The meeting reconvened at 9.25 p.m. with all those Members shown on the sederunt in attendance.

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE ON 20 FEBRUARY 2008

The Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held on 20 February 2008 were submitted for information and all decisions contained therein were approved.

With reference to the item under the heading “Gypsy Traveller Strategy” (Page 881 refers), the Council noted that Councillor Black had been contacted by the Sun newspaper concerning the Council’s Strategy and despite the fact that he had given a positive response in support of the Strategy, a derogatory article had appeared in the newspaper. In response to a question by Councillor J. McColl, the Communications Manager confirmed that she was not aware of any communication between the Sun newspaper and her staff on this issue.

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services asking the Council to consider making changes to nominations to outside bodies and to note changes to the membership of Committees.

Councillor Robertson circulated a motion to all Members of the Council. After hearing the Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services, Provost Agnew ruled that the motion was not competent as it did not relate directly to the item of business before the Council.

Thereafter, Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor J. McColl, moved as follows:-

That the Council agrees to approve the recommendations of the report (as shown below) and nominates Councillor Jim Finn to serve as a substitute on the West of Scotland Road Safety Forum:-

- (1) to approve the proposed changes to representation on outside as detailed below:-

Name of Outside Body	Current Nominee	New Nominee
Glasgow Airport Consultative Committee	Councillor McElhill	Councillor Finn
Scottish Maritime Museum Board of Trustees	Vacant	Councillor Robertson
West Dunbartonshire Sports Council	Councillor Smillie	Councillor R. McColl

Name of Outside Body	Current Nominee	New Nominee
COSLA Community Wellbeing and Safety Executive	Councillor Brown	Councillor J. McColl
COSLA Resources and Capacity Executive Group	Councillor C. McLaughlin	Councillor Robertson
COSLA Strategic Human Resources Management Executive Group	Vacant	Councillor C. McLaughlin

(2) to note the undernoted changes to memberships of Committees:-

Appeals Committee – Councillor R. McColl to replace Councillor Hendrie.

Community Participation Committee – Councillor McElhill to rejoin Committee in capacity of Vice-Chair, in place of Councillor Hendrie.

Social Work & Health Improvement Committee – Councillor Finn to replace Councillor C. McLaughlin; and

(3) that the complete list of committee memberships, outside bodies, etc, be updated to include the above changes and that copies be issued to all Members for information.

Councillor Rooney circulated a copy of his amendment to all Members of the Council. After hearing the Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services, Provost Agnew ruled that the motion was not competent as it did not relate directly to the item of business before the Council.

At this point, a number of Members challenged the decision made by Provost Agnew to rule out the amendment. Provost Agnew informed Members that his decision was final and referred to the relevant section of the Scottish Local Government Handbook on which his decision was based. He also reminded Members that prior to the commencement of the Meeting he had requested that they conduct themselves in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Councillors. Despite these warnings Members continued to challenge the Provost and the Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services. During this time, Councillor Bollan made certain accusations about the interference of officers in Council business. In reply, the Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services informed Councillor Bollan that his accusations were unacceptable. The Chief Executive informed Councillor Bollan that he would not tolerate such verbal attacks on his officers and as a consequence he would report him (Councillor Bollan) to the Standards Commission.

At this point, Councillor Bollan left the meeting.

In response to a Member's question, the Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services confirmed that changes to committee memberships were not bound by the six month rule (Standing Order No 16 refers).

Provost Agnew informed Members of the Council that their conduct was not acceptable and asked again that they comply with the Code of Conduct when addressing Officers of this Council.

There being no other amendments, Councillor Robertson's motion was approved.

ADJOURNMENT

After hearing Provost Agnew the Council agreed to adjourn for a short period.

The Meeting reconvened at 10.20 p.m. with all those Members of the Sederunt in attendance with the exception of Councillor Bollan.

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS – CHANGES TO POLITICAL COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS, ETC

After hearing Councillor C. McLaughlin, Provost Agnew agreed to accept the paper previously circulated by Councillor Rooney which proposed changes to the political composition and membership of committees, working groups, etc., as an urgent item of business in accordance with the terms of Standing Order No 7. The Provost noted that the business raised in the paper should be debated by Council given the serious nature of the proposals contained therein.

Thereafter, Councillor C. McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor R. McColl, moved that the Council approves the paper circulated by Councillor Rooney, as follows:-

The Council agrees to make the following changes in respect of:-

- (1) spokespersons/chairpersons, as shown on Part 1 of the Appendix (see Appendix to these minutes);
- (2) to the revised political make up of committees and to the Administrations nominations for these committees in respect of membership, chairs and vice-chairs of these committees, as shown in Part 2 of the Appendix (see Appendix to these minutes);
- (3) to the changes in membership of the Working Groups, as shown in Part 3 of the Appendix to these minutes (see Appendix to these minutes);
- (4) to note that the changes, as shown in Part 3 of the Appendix (see Appendix to these minutes);

- (5) Opposition members are invited to notify their nominations in writing to the Legal Officer and Committee Administration Team as soon as possible; and
- (6) to invite the Opposition to populate their allocation as specified in the Appendix (see Appendix to these minutes).

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

That the status quo be maintained.

Thereafter, following some debate, Councillor R. McColl, seconded by Councillor J. McColl, moved closure of the debate.

On a vote being taken, 10 Members voted for the closure of debate and 10 against. There being an equality of votes, Provost Agnew used his casting vote in favour of the closure of debate.

On a vote being taken, 11 Members voted for the amendment and 10 for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

BUDGET 2008/2009 – ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENTAL SAVINGS

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council held on 27 February 2008 (Page 901 refers), a report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing details of the way in which the Chief Executive and the Council's Corporate Management Team (CMT) propose to address the budget decision to identify a further 1% efficiency savings by April 2009 and describing the impact of this activity.

Following discussion and having heard the Chief Executive in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note that current activity (particularly the NSS Diagnostics work) should play a major role in identifying the 1% savings requested – without an impact on service;
- (2) that the Chief Executive should prepare a report to a future meeting of the Council giving further detail of options for the development of a strategic approach to identifying efficiencies;
- (3) that the options (referred to at (2) above) should include the elements noted in paragraph 3.10 – 3.15 of the report, including consideration of the use of external support on a 'spend to save' basis'; and
- (4) that reports be submitted to the Council on a monthly basis providing updates on progress made in achieving the 1% savings target.

RENTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE, RENTON

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council on 27 February 2008 (Page 893 refers), the Council noted that the Council's Legal Section had not heard back from the solicitors representing the Renton Community Development Trust and therefore it had not been possible to submit a report to this meeting.

Having heard Councillor Smillie, the Council agreed to Councillor Smillie's proposal that she should facilitate a meeting between both parties' legal representatives to clarify the situation and reach agreement as soon as possible.

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: WE CAN AND MUST DO MUCH BETTER – THE CORPORATE PARENTING FUNCTION

A joint report was submitted by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health and the Executive Director of Educational Services providing the Council with information on the Report "Looked After Children and Young People – We Can and Must Do Much Better".

Following discussion, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the priority being given to the implementation of outcomes for Looked After Children as contained in the report "Looked after Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Much Better";
- (2) to endorse the actions proposed to implement the work required within West Dunbartonshire, in particular, the use of the additional funding to increase the capacity of the Council to respond;
- (3) to invite Anna Fowlie, Head of Corporate Parenting at the Scottish Government to visit the Council at a mutually convenient time to brief Members and officers; and
- (4) that a report should be submitted to the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee detailing the permanent structures that are in place which allow our Looked After Young People to communicate with decision makers and have direct input, both individually and collectively, into strategies and policies developed by West Dunbartonshire Council and the Scottish Government which affects the way this Council cares for Young People.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL REHABILITATION

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council held on 19 December 2007 (Page 688 refers), a report was submitted by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health providing an overview of the scope of drug and alcohol rehabilitation in West Dunbartonshire and highlighting deficits in the current service provision.

Having heard Councillor J. McColl, the Council agreed to approve the undernoted motion:-

Council recognises the good work of our Addictions Services personnel who work in a very demanding and often frustrating service. As demand increases, our staff continue to deliver a good service within tight budgets. When a person realises they have a problem and asks for help, that person is given all the support we can provide them.

Council notes that while we are near the Scottish target of 90% of people asking for an Addictions Services appointment receiving one within 21 days, (we are at 85.9%), we are far from achieving our local target of 90% in 14 days, (currently achieving 72.8%).

Council further notes that the Corporate Culture Sub-Committee last week indicated a potential underspend of £80,000 for 2007/08.

With this in mind, Council instructs officers to bring a report to the next Council meeting with a proposal to increase resources and capacity within our Addictions Services using some of this unspent money.

The report should highlight how we can maximise the impact of this extra investment by acquiring match funding from our partners.

SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENTS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive presenting the first draft of the new Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) and making recommendations thereon.

Having heard Councillor Rooney, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note that Members should provide any comments they have on the SOA by 28 March 2008;
- (2) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to allow him to submit the revised SOA to the Scottish Government by 1 April 2008;
- (3) that, in terms of the next steps in the process, Members should be given the opportunity to have as much input as possible, whether it be by attending seminars organised by officers or other forms of involvement; and
- (4) that elected members should be given as much notice as possible when officers are organising any meetings or seminars to discuss the SOA.

PRIORITY AREAS FOR REGENERATION

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development on the findings of the Housing Regeneration Working Group in relation to priority areas for regeneration.

Having heard Councillor C. McLaughlin and following discussion, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the list of areas identified as key priority areas for regeneration as identified in the report as follows:-

Bellsmyre, Brucehill, Castlehill, Central Alexandria, Central/Radnor Park, Clydebank East, Haldane, North Mountblow, South Drumry and Westcliff; and

- (2) that, if possible, the regeneration work should commence as soon as possible, in tandem with the finalisation of the asset management plan, housing needs study and standard delivery plan.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors McNair, Casey, McElhill and Brown declared a non-financial interest (membership of Clydebank Rebuilt) in the following item of business and remained within the Chamber.

CIVIC QUARTER DEVELOPMENT, CLYDEBANK

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development updating the Council on progress made to date with respect to proposals for the creation of a civic quarter within Clydebank and recommending the next steps to progress this project.

The Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress with the proposals for the creation of a Civic Quarter Development in Clydebank; and
- (2) that Clydebank Rebuilt should commission a limited feasibility study to firm up on the development brief and to establish outline costs, with the cost of this study being met from budgets already available to Clydebank Rebuilt.

COUNCIL'S LOCAL ADVERTISING CONTRACT

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive on the Council's Advertising Contract and how this could be expanded to include all local media, maximise audience reach and remain cost-effective.

The Council agreed:-

- (1) to discontinue the current Advertising Contract, which restricted Council advertising to the Clydebank Post and Dumbarton Reporter, resulting in a fairer distribution of Council advertising expenditure across all local media and added value in terms of audience penetration. This would involve the inclusion of the Lennox Herald as part of the media mix (Option C, paragraph 3.11 of the report);
- (2) that officers manage advertising arrangements based on both target audience, type of advert (PN, RoP) and cost on a campaign by campaign basis, to ensure added value and maximise the response rate to advertising for each Department;
- (3) that officers utilise the Barkers ABC Contract to place recruitment advertising and general advertising in order to benefit from additional Agency discounts with local and national media, with immediate effect. This would involve all advertising spend being co-ordinated by Corporate Communications and placed with Barkers; and
- (4) that officers develop new rate card prices and publication dates for West Dunbartonshire News to increase flexibility and maximise the potential for Departments to use this medium as part of their overall advertising spend.

15. QUESTION

Question to Councillor May Smillie from Councillor Patrick McGlinchey - Phase-Two Regeneration

Can the Convener of Education please give the Council a full and detailed update of the work undertaken by her with regards to the phase-two schools regeneration consultation? In particular, please list which schools and which community groups have thus far been consulted, and in what form the consultation took place?

Councillor Smillie responded in the following terms:-

Council took the decision in January to move forward with Phase-Two in an open and inclusive manner. It agreed that we should hold consultation meetings with all schools and that a working group should be formed to administer the consultation process and collate the responses.

Committee Administration has now been informed of Group and Independent membership to the Phase-Two Schools Working Group and the first meeting will be held on 7 April 2008.

16. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Motion by Councillor Jim Bollan – Taxi Card Scheme

This Council agrees to research and collate information in relation to the introduction of a "Taxi Card Scheme" which can be used by persons across West Dunbartonshire who have severe mobility problems which do not allow them to travel safely or comfortably on public transport. A "Taxi Card" entitles the holder to travel by taxi at a reduced rate.

Officers should look at any other schemes being operated and bring forward a report to the June 2008 Council meeting for consideration. The report should detail how such a scheme may operate within West Dunbartonshire.

In preparing the report officers should consult with all appropriate groups in West Dunbartonshire to seek their views.

In the absence of Councillor Bollan, Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor Robertson moved the above motion.

The Council agreed to approve the motion.

Suspension of Standing Orders

In terms of Standing Order No 24, the Council agreed to suspend Standing Order No 15 in order to allow the undernoted item to be considered, as a period of six months had not passed since a decision had been taken in respect of this matter.

(b) Motion by Councillor Geoff Calvert – A Place for Milton

This Council notes the support being offered to the community of Milton in order to assist them in delivering a community meeting place in the village. This Council commends the Bowling and Milton Community Council for its initiative in contacting every resident in Milton with a view to addressing community issues and identifying volunteers to take forward this worthwhile project.

As a consequence, a Residents' Action Group, under the auspices of the Community Council, has been formed and it held its first meeting on Thursday 6 March. With this Action Group in place, it is appropriate that this Council lends its support.

Therefore, this Council requests that the Chief Executive instructs that a Feasibility Study, resulting in a robust delivery plan, be carried out. It is anticipated that Consultants will require to be involved and Council understands that a tendering exercise is likely to be necessary.

In assembling detail required for inclusion in any tendering documentation, this Council requires full consultation to be carried out with the Action Group and that a condition of the Feasibility Study be that Consultants consult widely with as many residents as possible.

In recognition that the Council has provided funding within the revenue estimates for the next three years, all costs of the Feasibility Study are to be met within existing budgets.

Finally, this Council requests the Chief Executive to bring forward a progress report to the June meeting of the Council.

Councillor Calvert was heard in support of his motion, which was seconded by Councillor McBride.

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

This Council is appalled that the previous Labour Administration, whose ill considered, and we feel, vindictive action caused the village of Milton to be without any community facilities.

The Labour Group are to be condemned for their actions which effectively created this vacuum.

We further state that all their actions, and inactions, since 2004 have contributed to a deterioration of village life. The present position of the Labour Group should be seen for what it is; political posturing and nothing more.

This Council requires the Chief Executive to expedite the report to Council, generated by the Council decision taken on the 30 January 2008, in relation to the village of Milton.

This would require a feasibility study to be produced, resulting in a delivery plan to Council at the earliest opportunity.

It is expected that this feasibility study will be carried out by officers of the Council to reduce the cost to the public purse, given the work already undertaken on this subject.

We know that there is a need for this facility.

We have identified a potential site.

We know the population and therefore the capacity required.

We know that there is expertise in house to generate such a report.

All local groups have now been contacted. It is anticipated that the completed report to Council would therefore go to these groups and then to a public consultation with all villagers taking part.

This Council is further resolved that the running costs already dedicated to this project be protected on a rolling basis and that money not spent in a financial year would be rolled over to succeeding years. (i.e. - £90k may be spent over the next 3 years.)

At this point, Councillor Rooney asked Councillor Black if he was willing to drop the first three paragraphs of his amendment. Councillor Black indicated that he was if his seconder was willing (Councillor Robertson confirmed he was) and providing that it would receive the full support of Council. The matter did not proceed further.

Following discussion and debate, on a vote being taken, 11 Members voted for the amendment and 10 for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

In response to a question by Councillor Black, Provost Agnew confirmed that the amendment, including the first three paragraphs had been approved as Councillor Calvert had not withdrawn his motion.

(c) Motion by Councillor Patrick McGlinchey - Professional Counselling Service Pilot Scheme Clydebank High School

Council notes that all schools in East Dunbartonshire offer a professional counselling service to those pupils who feel they need it, provided through Strathclyde University.

Council notes that only Clydebank High School within West Dunbartonshire has offered their pupils access to a professional counselling service over the last four years. This service has proven exceptionally popular, with the feedback from pupils reinforcing how much it is valued and needed.

Council also notes that the offering of professional counselling to all pupils who need it is not the policy of the Education Department; rather, this service has previously been funded from Clydebank High's own devolved budget.

Council further notes that due to budget pressures there is no longer money available in the Clydebank High devolved budget to be able to provide this much used, valuable and needed service. Additionally, Council notes that Clydebank High Parent Council have taken the position that they shall lobby to save this service as they believe it is in the best interests of the school and their children.

In the knowledge that there are pupils who now rely on this service, Council resolves that funding will be made available to retain the professional counselling service at Clydebank High, and that this will be monitored as a

West Dunbartonshire pilot project with the option of rolling it out throughout the local authority in the next financial year if successful.

Councillor McGlinchey was heard in support of his motion which was seconded by Councillor W. McLaughlin.

Councillor Smillie circulated a proposed change to the wording of the above motion which she withdrew after hearing the Executive Director of Educational Services in answer to Members' questions.

Thereafter, Councillor C. McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Robertson, moved:-

That a full report on the wider implications of expanding the counselling service to all secondary schools throughout West Dunbartonshire be submitted to the next meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee.

Having heard Councillor Black, Councillor C. McLaughlin, agreed to accept the undernoted addendum to his amendment:-

That the service provided at Clydebank High School be continued in the interim period.

On a vote being taken, 11 Members voted for the amendment (as amended to include the addendum) and 10 for the motion. The amendment (and the addendum) was accordingly declared carried.

(d) Motion by Councillor Patrick McGlinchey - School University Twinning

This Council believes:-

- The transition from high school to further or high education should be made as easy as possible for those who aspire to make it.
- That this is especially important for pupils from areas of high deprivation due to the additional barriers they face in getting a place at university and often still face once at university.

This Council notes:-

- The below average Higher Education rate of entry from West Dunbartonshire pupils.
- The below average results at both Standard Grade and Higher for pupils in West Dunbartonshire
- That most universities have widening participation policies which set targets and encourage young people from deprived backgrounds to apply to university.

In light of this, this Council resolves:-

- That we will explore the viability of developing a mutually beneficial school-university twinning scheme in West Dunbartonshire as a pilot project.
- As an example only; the physics department at Dumbarton High School could be twinned with the physics department at Glasgow University.
- Possible benefits could include such things as:-
 - The Higher physics class visiting the physics department at the university.
 - The Higher physics pupils receiving guest lectures from university professors.
 - A subject specific buddying scheme between school pupils and university students.
 - Lending of resources from the university to the school.
 - Research updates to school staff; keeping their knowledge up-to-date.
 - Teacher-lecture forum on teaching techniques, etc.

Councillor McGlinchey was heard in support of his motion which was seconded by Councillor Bootland.

Having heard Councillor Smillie, Councillor McGlinchey agreed to accept the undernoted addendum to his motion, provided the twinning referred to therein would bring real benefits and would not be symbolic:-

Council further agrees to investigate the possibility of aligning current town twinning funding or accessing new funding sources from the European Union to enable us to twin with Universities in other EU countries.

The Council agreed to approve the above motion and the addendum.

(e) Motion by Councillor Ronnie McColl – Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board

This Council is concerned that once again Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board has seen fit to attack jobs and service provision at the Vale of Leven Hospital.

This Council has no confidence in the Health Board's ability or willingness to protect and deliver for staff or the people of West Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute.

This Council agrees that it is time for political intervention. We see it as the only way to halt the systematic and clinical destruction of our hospital and the services and jobs it provides to our community.

Therefore, Council instructs the Leader of the Council to seek an early meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Health & Wellbeing, Nicola Sturgeon, to seek her assistance with this matter.

This should be a cross party Council delegation to include the Leader of the Council, Local Government Spokesperson for Health & Wellbeing, Leader of the Opposition, one other Member and the relevant officers.

The Council agreed to approve the above motion.

(f) Motion by Councillor Jonathan McColl – Free to Use Cash Machines

Council notes the Prime Minister and Chancellor's plans to change legislation surrounding the printing of currency, which Scottish banks have indicated would effectively mean the loss of Scottish notes.

Council is troubled by what is yet another attack on Scotland's identity.

Council notes with extreme concern that research undertaken suggests that this decision would have the knock on effect of rendering around 300 free to use cash machines in Scotland unviable.

Given John McFall MP's claims to have secured free to use cash machines in West Dunbartonshire, Council notes with extreme concern the duplicity exhibited by John McFall MP, who in his position as Chairman of the Treasury Select Committee, has been a leading figure in the development of policy in the fallout from the Northern Rock debacle.

As with John McFall's votes to close Post Offices, we once again see our Westminster representative ignoring the needs of his constituents. Council instructs the Leader of the Council to write to John McFall MP asking him to explain his actions.

Councillor J. McColl was heard in support of his motion which was seconded by Councillor Finn.

As an amendment, Councillor McBride, seconded by Councillor Rooney, moved:-

This Council notes the ill-researched Motion as presented by Councillor J. McColl. Council notes that the decision to continue to produce Scottish notes by the Clydesdale Bank, Halifax Bank of Scotland or the Royal Bank of Scotland, or not, is entirely within the capacity of these multi-billion pound private-sector businesses. Councillor McColl's concern for the shareholders of these money-makers is noteworthy.

This Council notes that it was through the personal dedication of our MP, the Rt. Hon John McFall, that free cash machines have been supplied in areas of high deprivation. There is no threat by Government to them and this Council repudiates Councillor McColl's scaremongering.

The Northern Rock debacle was brought about by greed, incompetence and the failings of the ill-regulated capitalist banking system. Council encourages members to study the House of Commons Treasury Committee Fifth report of Session 2007/08 – 'the Run on the Rock' – <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmtreasy/56/56ii.pdf> and commends the Rt. Hon John McFall, MP for his vigorous criticism of the failings of the FSA, members of the FSA, the Bank of England and the banking practices of the Northern Rock.

It is clear from Councillor McColl's concern for the shareholders of the Big Banks and his attempts to divert attention from the true capitalist architects of the Northern Rock debacle that the Tartan Tories are alive and well in West Dunbartonshire Council.

On a vote being taken 10 Members voted for the amendment and 11 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS
REMIT FROM CORPORATE AND EFFICIENT GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
CARRYING OF OFFENSIVE WEAPONS – MOTION BY INVERCLYDE COUNCIL

Provost Agnew informed the Council that, in terms of Standing Order No 7, he had agreed to accept an additional item of business, as a matter of urgency. It was noted that the item had been remitted to the Council by the Corporate and Efficiency Governance Committee at its meeting on 26 March 2008 and concerned a motion by Inverclyde Council on the carrying of offensive weapons, as follows:-

That any person convicted of carrying an offensive weapon receives a minimum custodial sentence whether the weapon was used or not. The minimum sentence can be decided by the Scottish Government after consultation with the judiciary who could implement a statute (Act).

That other local authorities be asked to support this motion before it is forwarded to the Scottish Government for consideration.

Note: Councillors Rooney, Bootland, Millar, McGlinchey, Calvert and McBride left the meeting at this point.

The Council agreed to support the above motion by Inverclyde Council.

The meeting closed at 12.15 a.m.