

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

At a Meeting of the Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee held in Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday 13 June 2007 at 10.00 a.m.

**Present:** Councillors Jim Bollan, Jim Brown, Gail Casey, Jim Finn, William Hendrie, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Craig McLaughlin, Willie McLaughlin and Marie McNair\*.

\*Arrived later in the meeting.

**Attending:** Ronnie Dinnie, Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services); Irving Hodgson, Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services); Nigel Ettles, Principal Solicitor; Graham Pollock, Manager of Environmental Services; Lynda McLaughlin, Manager of Commercial Operations; Don Findlay, Manager of Technical Services; Alasdair Gregor, Planning Services Manager; Kevin Neeson, Manager of Development Services; Angus Bodie, Manager of Roads; and Craig Stewart, Administrative Assistant.

### **Councillor William Hendrie in the Chair**

#### **REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – PERFORMANCE REPORT**

A report was submitted by the Acting Directors of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services providing information on the performance of Regeneration and Environmental Services. The report contained information on:-

- (a) Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the fourth quarter of 2006/2007;
- (b) Statutory Performance Indicators (SPIs) for the fourth quarter of 2006/07;
- (c) The programme of Best Value Reviews (Appendix 1); and
- (d) the current status of Departmental Actions to meet Departmental Objectives for 2006/2007 i.e. the Service Plan Report (Appendix 2).

After discussion and having heard the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration Services) in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) that officers should look at the possibility of providing a Performance Indicator for Estates, having noted the position with regard to staffing issues in that section; and
- (3) to note that a report providing further information in respect of KPI15 – Number of Businesses Assisted, as referred to in paragraph 3.5.1 of the report, would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee for Members' consideration.

### **DUMBARTON TOWN CENTRE PROJECTS 2007 - 2008**

A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services) providing an update on progress with projects in Dumbarton town centre, seeking retrospective approval for the allocation of additional funds for the preparation of a masterplan for Dumbarton town centre and advising of the intended programme of Dumbarton town centre projects for 2007/2008, to be confirmed following stakeholder consultation.

After discussion and having heard the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services), the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress with projects in Dumbarton town centre;
- (2) to the allocation of additional funds for the preparation of a masterplan for Dumbarton town centre; and
- (3) to the indicative allocation of funds to the identified projects and that allocations for key project(s) would be reported to the Committee following stakeholder consultation events, as part of the masterplanning exercise.

NOTE: Councillor McNair entered the meeting during discussion of the above item.

### **ALEXANDRIA TOWN CENTRE PROJECTS 2007 - 2008**

A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration & Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services) providing an update on progress with projects in Alexandria town centre, seeking retrospective approval for the allocation of additional funds for the preparation of a masterplan for Alexandria town centre and advising of the intended programme of Alexandria town centre projects for 2007/2008, to be confirmed following stakeholder consultation.

After discussion and having heard the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services), the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress with projects in Alexandria town centre;
- (2) to the allocation of additional funds for the preparation of a masterplan for Alexandria town centre;
- (3) to the indicative allocation of funds to the identified projects and that an allocation for further key project(s) would be reported to the Committee following stakeholder consultation events, as part of the masterplanning exercise; and
- (4) that a copy of this report be forwarded to the Regeneration Group, for their information, and that any adverse views be reported back to the Committee.

Councillor Bollan, having failed to obtain a seconder for a proposed motion, asked that his dissent be recorded.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CAPITAL BUDGET 2007 - 2008**

A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services) advising on the proposed programme of access and environmental projects in 2007/2008 and seeking authority for the allocation of funds to undertake the projects listed.

After discussion and having heard the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services), the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to support the proposed programme of capital projects through the following:
  - £66,000 for Access & Environmental Improvements
  - £20,000 for the Enviro Squad
  - £40,000 for Greenspace and Environmental Education
  - £20,000 for Woodland Management; and
- (2) that officers would arrange to liaise with the relevant project partners in order to ensure closer networking.

### **WORKING FOR FAMILIES FUND: PROGRESS**

A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services) providing an update on the progress of the Scottish Executive's Working for Families Fund in West Dunbartonshire.

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

- (1) to note the continued significant progress of the Working for Families Fund in West Dunbartonshire which had been recognised by the Scottish Executive and which was continuing to assist a large number of parents within West Dunbartonshire;
- (2) that the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration Services) be authorised to write to the appropriate Minister (with a copy being sent to local MSP's) indicating the tangible benefits of the Fund and arguing for its extension;
- (3) that a further report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee providing more detailed information on the profile of parents and types of jobs in which the Fund had been instrumental in achieving; and
- (4) to note the comments made by Members in relation to asking whether it would be possible for additional funds to be allocated in order to enhance the Fund.

### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY REVIEW UPDATE**

A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services) providing an update on progress with general energy efficiency issues relating to Council buildings and on the projects and initiatives under development by the Corporate Energy Team (CET) and Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Officer.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report with satisfaction; and
- (2) to commend the officers involved for their success in achieving efficiency measures and savings to the Council.

### **DEVELOPMENTS AT CLYDEBANK - PROGRESS REPORT No. 2**

A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services) informing of progress concerning proposed (i) Leisure and Heritage, (ii) Supermarket, and (iii) Other Developments at Queens' Quays and other areas within Clydebank.

After discussion and having heard the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services) in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Finn, moved:-

- (1) that the Committee notes, with concern, the current position of the ongoing issues in relation to the proposed supermarket/leisure development and, in particular, the level of expenditure that had been committed in respect of land not yet in the Council's ownership;

- (2) that the Committee notes, with concern, that risks to the Council had not been properly identified in the report;
- (3) that there should be no further expenditure committed, or any expressions of any further funding given, unless with the express prior approval of Council;
- (4) that a further report be submitted to the next appropriate Council meeting giving full and comprehensive information on all decisions taken in regard to this issue, with particular reference to the expenditure committed by the Council, through Clydebank Rebuilt Ltd., for site investigations and fees in respect of the new leisure facility;
- (5) that the Council's Internal Auditors be requested to investigate this matter, forthwith, and provide a report on their findings to the Committee/Council at the appropriate time; and
- (6) otherwise, to continue this report to the meeting of Council on 27 June 2007 in order to enable further consideration to be undertaken.

Councillor Bollan, having failed to obtain a seconder for a proposed amendment, asked that his dissent be recorded.

At this point in the proceedings, the Principal Solicitor was heard in clarification of certain matters, following which, as an amendment, Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor McNair, moved:-

That the Committee agrees to note the report and, in particular, the actions which are being taken by officers in pursuit of securing the supermarket and leisure development as outlined in the Main Issues section of the report.

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

### **WESTERN SCOTLAND EUROPEAN FORUM**

A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services) advising on the establishment of a Western Scotland European Forum and seeking agreement for the Council to become a member.

After discussion and having heard the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services) in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to join the Western Scotland European Forum;
- (2) that the Council's membership of the European Forum would be reviewed after one year in order to determine the benefits and costs involved of membership; and

- (3) that regular reports on the Forum would be submitted to the Committee.

### **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL – LITTER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) advising of a forthcoming Litter Awareness Campaign which had been arranged to promote continuous improvements to the local environment.

The Committee agreed to note, with satisfaction, the contents of the report which highlighted additional resources being employed in the fight against Litter, Dog Fouling, Fly Tipping and Graffiti.

### **FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY AUDIT OF FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES**

A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) providing information on the findings of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) audit undertaken between 19 and 22 February 2007 and advising of the action plan agreed between Environmental Services and the FSA arising from the Audit.

Having heard the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services), it was noted that the report contained a typographical error in respect of paragraph 3.3. In this respect, the word “foot” should read “food”.

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the content of the audit report; and
- (2) to approve the action plan detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

### **ATTAINMENT OF CHARTER MARK ACCREDITATION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) advising of the progress made by numerous sections within the Department of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services in achieving Charter Mark accreditation.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to convey its thanks to the staff involved for their hard work and commitment; and

- (2) to note, with satisfaction, the success of the Department in delivering a successful Charter Mark accreditation programme across a wide range of services.

### **APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC ANALYST, AGRICULTURAL ANALYST AND FOOD EXAMINER**

A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) seeking approval for the statutory appointments of Public Analyst, Agricultural Analyst and Food Examiner for West Dunbartonshire Council.

It was agreed that the changes outlined in the report be approved as undernoted:-

- (a) that the following be deleted:

Dr. C. McDonald	Public Analyst, Agricultural Analyst, Food Examiner
Mr. G. Walker	Deputy Agricultural Analyst

- (b) that the following appointments be made:

Mr. G. Walker	Public Analyst, Agricultural Analyst, Food Examiner
Mrs. J. White	Public Analyst, Deputy Agricultural Analyst, Food Examiner

It was also agreed to note that the following appointments previously made are still valid:

#### Head of Consumer Group

Mr. S. Joyce	Public Analyst, Deputy Agricultural Analyst
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#### Food Examiner

Gary Walker	Head of Laboratory
Stuart Joyce	Head of Consumer Group
John Waddell	Senior Microbiologist
Jane White	Chemist (Food)
Karen Platt	Microbiologist
Alison Aitken	Microbiologist
Dawn Nelson	Microbiologist

#### Approved Signatories

James Lister	Senior Chemist (Food)
Timothy Platt	Senior Chemist (Quality)
Jane White	Chemist (Food)
Brian McDonald	Chemist (Food)

## **SPT TRANSPORTATION FUNDING 2007/08**

A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) advising of the recent award of grant funding totalling £240,000 from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) and the projects to be undertaken.

After discussion and having heard the Manager of Roads in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the award of grant and the projects selected and approved for implementation by SPT as detailed in the report;
- (2) to note that officers would take on board comments made by Members in relation to certain of the projects detailed in the report; and
- (3) that the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) would provide Members with a briefing note on the Faifley/Baillieston Quality Bus Corridor.

## **LEISURE SERVICES GENERIC TRAINING PROGRAMME**

A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) providing an update on the success of the Leisure Services generic training programme.

After discussion and having heard the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the success of the generic training programme in contributing to continued service improvement within Leisure Services; and
- (2) that a further report on the opening times of the Council's three main leisure centres would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee for consideration.

## **TRAVELLING GREEN INITIATIVE**

A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) providing an update on the ongoing success of the Travelling Green initiative developed and first introduced within West Dunbartonshire in 2001.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report and in particular the national recognition the Council had received as a result of the West Dunbartonshire initiative; and



(2) to commend the officers involved in this worthwhile initiative.

The meeting closed at 11.09 a.m.