

Agenda



West Dunbartonshire Council

Date: Wednesday, 23 March 2022

Time: 10:00

Format: Hybrid meeting

Contact: Email: committee.admin@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Dear Member

Please attend a meeting of **West Dunbartonshire Council** as detailed above.

The Convener has directed that the powers contained in Section 43 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 will be used and Members will have the option to attend the meeting remotely or in person at the Civic Space, Church Street, Dumbarton.

The business is shown on the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

JOYCE WHITE

Chief Executive

Distribution:-

Provost William Hendrie
Bailie Denis Agnew
Councillor Jim Bollan
Councillor Jim Brown
Councillor Gail Casey
Councillor Karen Conaghan
Councillor Ian Dickson
Councillor Diane Docherty
Councillor Jim Finn
Councillor Daniel Lennie
Councillor Caroline McAllister

Councillor Douglas McAllister
Councillor David McBride
Councillor Jonathan McColl
Councillor Iain McLaren
Councillor Marie McNair
Councillor John Millar
Councillor John Mooney
Councillor Lawrence O'Neill
Councillor Sally Page
Councillor Martin Rooney
Councillor Brian Walker

Chief Executive
Chief Officers

Date of issue: 10 March 2022

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WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH 2022

AGENDA

1 STATEMENT BY CHAIR – AUDIO STREAMING

2 APOLOGIES

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are invited to declare if they have an interest in any of the items of business on the agenda and the reasons for such declarations.

4 RECORDING OF VOTES

The Council is asked to agree that all votes taken during the meeting will be done by roll call vote to ensure an accurate record.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Submit for approval, as correct records, the Minutes of Meetings of West Dunbartonshire Council held on:-

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| (a) 31 January 2022 – requisitioned meeting; | 9 - 11 |
| (b) 9 February 2022 – ordinary meeting; | 13 - 27 |
| (c) 23 February 2022 – special meeting; and | 29 - 30 |
| (d) 9 March 2022 – budget meeting. | To Follow |

6 MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

Submit for information, and where necessary ratification, the Minutes of Meetings of the Audit Committee held on:-

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| (a) 17 November 2021; and | 31 - 33 |
| (b) 2 March 2022 | To Follow |

7 OPEN FORUM

The Council is asked to note that no open forum questions have been submitted by members of the public.

- 8 GLASGOW CITY REGION CITY DEAL UPDATE 35 - 48**
- Submit report by the Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration noting the progress with the implementation of the Glasgow City Region, City Deal.
- 9 COVID-19 UPDATE To Follow**
- Submit report by the Chief Executive on the above.
- 10 VENTILATION SYSTEMS IN LEARNING ESTABLISHMENTS 49 - 55**
MOTION FROM COUNCIL 22 DECEMBER 2021
- Submit report by the Chief Officer – Supply, Distribution and Property providing an update on the approaches taken to ensure adequate ventilation across our learning estate.
- 11 REINSTATEMENT OF PARTIALLY COLLAPSED WALL To Follow**
MOTION FROM COUNCIL 9 FEBRUARY 2022
- Submit joint report by the Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration and Chief Officer – Roads and Neighbourhood on the above.
- 12 CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER’S MID-YEAR REPORT 57 - 63**
- Submit report by the Chief Social Work Officer providing a progress update in relation to the Chief Social Work Officer’s Annual Report for 2020-21.
- 13 NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES WORKING GROUP 65 – 71**
FINAL REPORT
- Submit report by the Chief Officer – Resources providing a summary of the activity of the Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) Working Group and the conclusions of their considerations.
- 14 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY To Follow**
- Submit report by the Chief Officer – Resources on the above.
- 15/**

15 GENERAL SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT PERIOD 11 To Follow

Submit report by the Chief Officer – Resources on the above.

16 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT PERIOD 11 To Follow

Submit report by the Chief Officer – Resources on the above.

17 MINUTES OF OTHER COMMITTEES

Submit for approval as correct records, the Minutes of Meetings of the following Committees:-

- | | | |
|------------|--|----------------------------------|
| (a) | Vale of Leven Fund Committee held on 20 November 2019; | 73 - 74 |
| (b) | Community Alliance held on 12 March 2020; | 75 - 77 |
| (c) | Appeals Committees held on:-
(i) 23 February 2021 (special); and
(ii) 23 September 2021 (ordinary); | 79
81 - 82 |
| (d) | Housing and Communities Committee held on:-
(i) 5 January 2022 (special); and
(ii) 2 February 2022 (ordinary); | 83 - 84
85 - 89 |
| (e) | Infrastructure, Regeneration and Economic Development Committee held on 16 February 2022; | To Follow |
| (f) | Local Review Body held on 22 February 2022; | To Follow |
| (g) | Alexander Cross Cameron Bequest Committee held on 23 February 2022; | To Follow |
| (h) | Corporate Services Committee held on 23 February 2022; | To Follow |
| (i) | Dumbarton Trust Committee held on 8 March 2022; | To Follow |
| (j) | Joint Consultative Forum held on 10 March 2022; | To Follow |
| (k) | Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held on 15 March 2022; and | To Follow |
| (l) | Educational Services Committee held on 16 March 2022. | To Follow |

18 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Note:- Council will require to suspend Standing Order 20 to allow consideration of Motion (a)

(a) Motion by Councillor Jim Bollan – Platinum Jubilee Event

Council agrees all employees should enjoy the benefits of the additional holiday allocated regarding the Platinum Jubilee event this year.

The method currently being used disadvantages some employees who are not programmed to work on 3.6.2022.

Employees who have condensed their hours to assist during the pandemic, part-time workers and shift workers, predominately home care workers who have gone the extra mile during the last 2 years, are missing out.

Staff working from home will also be impacted.

Council agrees the day/time will be awarded without loss of pay to all employees equally, on a pro rata basis. The costs associated with this motion are currently being worked out and I am advised a figure will be provided to Councillors no later than the Council meeting. Any such costs can be met from unearmarked reserves from the responsible body.

(b) Motion by Councillor Sally Page – Roads Asset Management Plan

This Council calls for an updated Roads Asset Management Plan with the financials attached to be made publicly available as soon as is practical.

This Council calls for the adoption of a meaningful reporting system for road defects. This would make the service more responsive and in doing so improve the image of the Council.

(c) Motion by Councillor Sally Page – Community Councils

This Council wishes to thank all those who serve on Community Councils across West Dunbartonshire. To acknowledge their hard work as volunteers within their Communities.

(d) Motion by Councillor John Millar – Mr Freddie Conroy

This Council notes the passing of Mr Freddy Conroy, a veteran of the second world war and was internationally recognised for his courage and service.

Sadly, he passed away in January and his funeral took place on his hundredth birthday.

This Council asks officers to explore what recognition we could do to honour Mr Conroy by the community that he helped to protect.

(e) Motion by Councillor Jonathan McColl – Political Posters

Council agrees to permit political posters on public street furniture for future elections, including the upcoming Local Government elections. Poster will be permitted from the 1st April each election year and must be down no later than two weeks after polling day.

In agreeing this policy, Council requires Candidates/Agents to adhere to the following rules for posters on public street furniture:

- No poster shall interfere with the primary use of the street furniture.
- No poster shall obstruct pavements or roads.
- No poster shall reduce visibility/sightlines for drivers or pedestrians.
- All posters must be adequately stiff so as not to flap in the wind and be attached with cord/cable ties of sufficient strength to secure the poster. They must not be attached to street furniture using glue or any form of adhesive.
- Posters must not, in any circumstances, be attached to any traffic signal post or control box, or to street furniture in central reservations and pedestrian refuge islands.
- Posters may not obstruct permanent statutory or regulatory signs.
- Posters must not obscure any identifying marks/numbers on lighting columns.
- No poster shall be affixed to any part of the curtilage of any premise being used for voting.
- Only one poster per candidate (or two posters back-to-back), is allowed on each item of street furniture.
- No poster shall remain on public street furniture after the date set in this policy, that being 19th May 2022 for the upcoming local government elections.
- All posters will comply with election rules, including bearing an imprint identifying the candidate, promoter (usually election agent) and printer and their respective contact details.
- Candidates/Agents will comply with all other restrictions imposed reasonably by the Returning Officer or her delegates in respect of polling places and the area immediately surrounding them.
- Candidates will comply with all instructions from the Council.

- Any poster displayed in breach of these rules will be treated as illegal fly posting and the offending Candidate/Agent may face prosecution in terms of Section 100 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984. This carries a maximum fine of £1000 per offence.
 - Permission is granted on the understanding that those concerned indemnify the Council against any third-party claim arising from the attachment of posters to street furniture. The Council also accepts no liability for injury to persons erecting or removing posters.
 - The Council will issue election guidance to all candidates and election agents, which must be complied with. The guidance will include appropriate contact details for candidates to raise concerns regarding election posters, and candidates must not use this in a frivolous or vexatious manner.
 - The Council reserves the right to recover costs from candidates, agents and parties for action taken to enforce compliance with the rules or for time spent handling vexatious or frivolous complaints. Costs may include the cost of removing posters from inappropriate locations or after the deadline for removal. Costs may also include staff time contacting candidates to resolve a breach. These examples are not exhaustive, and it will be the prerogative of the Council Chief Executive to determine what costs require to be recovered by the Council.
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WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a Requisitioned Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held by video conference on Monday, 31 January 2022 at 1.06 p.m.

Present: Depute Provost Karen Conaghan, Bailie Denis Agnew and Councillors Jim Bollan, Jim Brown, Gail Casey, Ian Dickson, Diane Docherty, Jim Finn, Daniel Lennie, Caroline McAllister, Douglas McAllister, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Iain McLaren, Marie McNair, John Mooney, Lawrence O'Neill, Sally Page, Martin Rooney and Brian Walker.

Attending: Joyce White, Chief Executive; Peter Hessett, Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration (Legal Officer); Christine McCaffary, Senior Democratic Services Officer and Lynn Straker, Committee Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Provost William Hendrie and Councillor John Millar

Depute Provost Karen Conaghan in the Chair

STATEMENT BY CHAIR – AUDIO STREAMING

Depute Provost Conaghan advised that the meeting was being audio streamed and broadcast live to the internet and would be available for playback.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

RECORDING OF VOTES

The Council agreed that all votes taken during the meeting would be done by roll call vote to ensure an accurate record.

OPPOSITION TO PLANNED SCOTRAIL TICKET OFFICE REDUCTIONS IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

The Depute Provost advised that, in terms of Standing Order No.3(b), Councillors Douglas McAllister, Martin Rooney, John Millar, David McBride, Lawrence O'Neill, John Mooney, Gail Casey and Daniel Lennie had submitted the following motion:-

Opposition to Planned ScotRail Ticket Office Reductions in West Dunbartonshire.

This Council is concerned with ScotRail's consultation which proposes reductions to train station ticket office and opening hours at the following train stations:

- Clydebank,
- Singer,
- Dalmuir,
- Alexandria,
- Balloch,
- Dumbarton Central, and
- Dalreoch.

Council encourages members of the public to complete the consultation opposing these cuts.

Council notes that a petition has been created by local campaigners against these cuts and members of the public are encouraged to support the petition to protect the services.

Therefore, Council agrees that the Chief Executive should make formal representation to ScotRail's Chief Executive and the Scottish Government's Minister for Transport reaffirming West Dunbartonshire Council's opposition to the ticket office and opening hours reductions in West Dunbartonshire.

Any requisitioned Council meeting must call on or before 2nd Feb 2022, which is the last date to respond to ScotRail's 21 day consultation exercise.

Councillor McColl asked Councillor Douglas McAllister if he would accept the following as an addendum to the motion:-

Insert after the paragraph the references the public petition:-

Council agrees to use its social media to publicise both the consultation and the petition by sharing the following links and asking members of the public to sign and respond.

www.megaphone.org.uk/petitions/stop-the-cuts-to-scotrail-ticket-offices

www.scotrail.co.uk/scotrail-ticket-office-consultation

Council agrees that a 21 day consultation on such major change to services is not enough and calls on ScotRail to extend and properly publicise the consultation.

Bailie Agnew then asked if Drumry Station could added to the list.

Councillor Douglas McAllister confirmed his acceptance to both addendums, and the motion was then seconded by Bailie Agnew.

Following discussion, the Council agreed the motion with addendums.

The meeting closed at 1.53 p.m.

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WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a Hybrid Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Civic Space, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 9 February 2022 at 10.02 a.m.

Present: Depute Provost Karen Conaghan, Bailie Denis Agnew and Councillors Jim Bollan, Jim Brown, Gail Casey, Ian Dickson, Diane Docherty, Jim Finn, Daniel Lennie, Caroline McAllister, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Iain McLaren, John Millar, John Mooney, Lawrence O'Neill, Sally Page, Martin Rooney and Brian Walker.

Attending: Joyce White, Chief Executive; Peter Hessett, Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration (Legal Officer); Laurence Slavin, Chief Officer – Resources and Section 95 Officer; Angela Wilson, Chief Officer – Supply, Distribution and Property; Victoria Rogers, Chief Officer – People and Technology; Peter Barry, Chief Officer – Housing and Employability; Amanda Graham, Chief Officer – Citizen, Culture and Facilities; Laura Mason, Chief Officer – Education; Beth Culshaw, Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership; Gail MacFarlane, Chief Officer – Shared Services Roads and Neighbourhood, George Hawthorn, Manager – Democratic and Registration Services and Christine McCaffary, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Provost William Hendrie and Councillors Douglas McAllister and Marie McNair.

Depute Provost Karen Conaghan in the Chair

STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Depute Provost Conaghan advised that the meeting was being audio streamed and broadcast live to the internet and would be available for playback.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

RECORDING OF VOTES

The Council agreed that all votes taken during the meeting would be done by roll call vote to ensure an accurate record.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 22 December 2021 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Minutes of Meeting of the Audit Committee held on 15 September 2021 were submitted for information and the content noted.

OPEN FORUM

The Council noted that no open forum questions had been submitted by members of the public.

VARIATION IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

Having heard the Depute Provost, the Council agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

(b) Motion by Councillor David McBride – Reinstatement of Partially Collapsed Wall

Councillor McBride moved:-

This Council notes the Planning Committee granted permission on 8/12/21 to application DC21/268/FUL – “Reinstatement of partially collapsed wall with a gabion basket retaining wall and railings on top at 2 & 4 Williamson Ave, Dumbarton.

Planning Committee members were informed that the application for the work to reinstate the collapsed wall is only a partial solution to the wall. There is still no resolution to repair the earlier section of the wall that collapsed around 3 years ago.

The lack of any action to this part of the wall has now endangered the structure of the public road and pavement of Williamson Ave, following an

assessment towards the end of 2021 barriers and restrictions have been introduced.

Notwithstanding the inconvenience to residents and the reduced parking available, local residents of the tenement flats have grave concerns that the foundations and structure of their property is at risk.

Residents have been raising their fears and concerns and believe West Dunbartonshire Council inaction in failing to enforce the dangerous building notices and shore up the public footway and road in the last three years has had a direct impact on their property.

Furthermore, residents are concerned many homes could become dangerous and uninhabitable and they potentially could end up homeless and owning debt on worthless properties.

In addition a further wall collapse could potentially cause injury or worse to an area which is part of a "safe walking route" to Braehead Primary School.

Council agrees West Dunbartonshire Council are part of the solution to safeguard and protect the residents homes in Williamson Ave and to ensure the footway and public road in Williamson Ave is made safe and secure.

Residents patience is running out and after three years waiting, this Council agrees that urgent action is long overdue.

Council therefore calls on the Chief Executive to:

1. Arrange for an urgent meeting (virtual if required) of local residents to listen and hear their concerns. The meeting should be attended by the relevant Council departments including senior officers from Building Services, Planning, Roads and Legal Services.
2. To provide a full report back to the next ordinary Council Meeting on the history since the initial wall collapse and what action has been taken by West Dunbartonshire Council. What action WDC proposes to take to safeguard the public pathway & road in Williamson Ave.
3. Provide options and related costs and recommendations for Council to make an informed decision on how to proceed in this matter.

It is an undoubtable fact that earlier action in the initial wall collapse would have resolved this problem, delay is not an option and a solution must be found as soon as possible.

The Depute Provost asked if Councillor McBride would accept the following as a addendum to his motion:-

That a fourth point be added, that the Council letter residents of Williamson Avenue providing them with a summary of what is happening and the other points that are being asked of the Council.

Councillor McBride confirmed his acceptance to the addendum and the motion was agreed by the Council.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) ESTIMATES RENT LEVELS 2022/2023

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Housing and Employability seeking approval of the level of weekly rent increase for 2022/23.

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

- (1) the weekly rent increase for 2022/23 at an average £1.65 on a 52 week basis (£1.83 on a 47 week basis), equating to 2%;
- (2) to increase rents at the Gypsy Travellers site by the 2%;
- (3) to agree to maintain the existing level of lock-up rent at £5.44 per week on a 52 week basis (£6.02 on a 47 week basis) at the same level as for 2021/22; and
- (4) to note the outcome of the tenant consultation process detailed in Appendix 1 of the report to retain a Tenant Priority Budget of £400K and redirect the remaining £400K to accelerate the External Wall Insulation (EWI) programme (32 properties).

COVID-19 UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update in relation to COVID-19 in West Dunbartonshire.

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

- (1) to note the information provided on COVID-19 in West Dunbartonshire since the update provided to the Council in December 2021; and
- (2) to note the information provided in relation to the additional support and advice that the Council was providing to communities and businesses across West Dunbartonshire to help alleviate the impact of COVID-19.

GENERAL SERVICES BUDGET 2022/23 UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Resources providing an update on the 2022/23 budget process.

Councillor Dickson seconded by Councillor McColl moved:-

That Council agrees:-

- (1) to note the updated projected budget gap for 2022/23 as £5.509m; and
- (2) to note the appended list of savings options and additional potential measures to help deliver a balanced 2022/23 budget when Council convenes to agree the budget on 9 March 2022.

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

Council thanks officers for the report and acknowledges all the hard work that has gone into preparing this.

Council notes that the updated projected budget gap is £5.509m without the 3% assumed Council Tax.

Each 1% of Council Tax equals £370,000 so the 3% assumed adds another £1.110m to the updated projected budget gap.

The real gap therefore is £6.624m.

As well as the above, the Scottish Government has chosen not to fund the 1.25% National Insurance Contributions (NIC) increase. Instead, this Council has only received a share of the UK consequential of £2.160 which is only for one year at present. So the SNP Scottish Government is building in service cuts for future years.

We have had fourteen years of underfunding by the SNP, forcing councils to cut services.

The Scottish Parliament starts stage 3 of its budget process on 10th February.

Therefore, we call on the Scottish Government to properly fund West Dunbartonshire Council.

Asking local taxpayers to shoulder the additional burden through increased Council Tax during the cost of living crisis and at the same time expecting councillors to cut local services is not acceptable to this council.

Council therefore asks the Chief Executive to contact the Cabinet Secretary for Finance as a matter of urgency to convey our request for fair funding for West Dunbartonshire.

On a roll call vote being taken 11 Members voted for the amendment, namely Councillors Bollan, Casey, Lennie, Caroline McAllister, McBride, Millar, Mooney, O'Neill, Page, Rooney and Walker and 8 Members voted for the motion, namely Depute Provost Conaghan, Bailie Agnew and Councillors Brown, Dickson, Docherty, Finn, McColl and McLaren. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The Depute Provost adjourned the meeting for a period of 30 minutes. The meeting reconvened at 12.58 p.m. with all those listed in the sederunt present.

GENERAL SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO PERIOD 9

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Resources providing an update on the General Services revenue budget and the approved capital programme to 31 December 2021.

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

- (1) to note a current projected annual favourable variance on the revenue account of £0.079m (0.03% of total budget), excluding any variance as a consequence of COVID which was expected to be fully funded by Scottish Government (SG) COVID funding carried forward from 2020/21 and allocated in 2021/22;
- (2) to note that projected expenditure on the capital account was lower than the 2021/22 budget by £16.963m (31% of budget), made up of £17.777m (32.49% of budget) of project slippage, and an in-year net overspend of £0.813m; and
- (3) to note the further spend on a capital project to be accelerated from 2022/23 into 2021/22 (£0.052m).

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO PERIOD 9

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Resources providing an update on the financial performance to 31 December 2021 (Period 9) of the HRA revenue and capital budgets for 2021/22.

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

- (1) to note that the revenue analysis showed a projected annual favourable variance of £0.008m; and

- (2) to note that the net projected annual position in relation to the capital plan was highlighting an in-year variance of £10.812m, which was made up of slippage of £11.076m (22.92%) and overspend of £0.264m (0.55%) as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report.

MEMORIAL GARDENS PROPOSAL – MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL 24 JUNE 2020 AND 26 MAY 2021

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Roads and Neighbourhood regarding Covid memorial garden proposals.

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

- (1) to approve in principle the memorial garden locations identified as Levensgrove Park, Dumbarton; Dalmuir Park, Clydebank and Christie Park, Alexandria as noted in section 4.3 of the report;
- (2) that officers commence with the public consultation exercise to develop and shape the memorial garden proposals; and
- (3) to note the national Covid Community Memorial programme managed by Greenspace Scotland and the opportunities for West Dunbartonshire communities to participate in the project.

UPDATE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING CONTROLS AT KILPATRICK HILLS – MOTION FROM COUNCIL 26 MAY 2021

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Roads and Neighbourhood providing an update on actions taken in relation to vehicular access and the use of the Kilpatrick Hills.

The Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the update on actions contained within the report; and
- (2) that monitoring continue during the summer season 2022.

WATER SAFETY POLICY AND LIDO ON LOCH LOMOND MOTION FROM COUNCIL 26 AUGUST 2021

A joint report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Supply, Distribution and Property and the Chief Officer - Roads and Neighbourhood providing an update on a proposed Water Safety Policy and the feasibility of a Loch Lomond Lido.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Officer - Roads and Neighbourhood, in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report and no further action be taken that at this time in respect of any formation of a lido due to the significant cost implications;
- (2) to enter into a procurement process to engage with a consultant to deliver a Water Safety Policy;
- (3) that additional budget in the sum £30,000 be included in the budget for the financial year 2022/23 to cover the consultancy appointment for the proposed Water Safety Policy; and
- (4) that the Council become a member of Water Safety Scotland.

ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE FUNDING REDUCTION

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer advising of new information and data regarding Primary School educational attainment and the impacts of the pandemic on communities with challenging circumstances.

Councillor Mooney moved:-

This Council is appalled by the Scottish Government's planned cuts to the Council's share of the Scottish Attainment Fund.

The Scottish Attainment Fund is a highly targeted fund which was designed to address the poverty-related attainment gap and improve outcomes for learners while embedding sustainable change.

The Council would have received £8,175,260 between 2022/23 and 2025/26 if the Scottish Government had maintained the current funding level.

However, they have decided to cut the funding which means that the Council will now receive £5,195,080.

Therefore, we will lose out on £2,980,180 over the four year period.

By year four the annual allocation will have reduced from the original £2,043,815 down to £851,743.

The SNP cuts are wholly unacceptable and this council therefore completely rejects them.

The report shows that the Scottish Government cuts would damage outcomes for learners, widen the poverty-related attainment gap, and disrupt sustainable change.

Between 2015 and 2019, we made steady progress in improving outcomes for learners and narrowing the poverty-related attainment gap.

This was interrupted by the pandemic.

The Scottish Government's report of December 2021 confirmed that the attainment gap for pupils in literacy and numeracy has generally widened, and pupils from the poorest areas have seen the biggest decrease.

Moreover, it is clear from our local data at 4.5.3 of the report that pupils in deprived areas have been more adversely affected.

It is also clear that more, not less, targeting of funding to deprived areas is needed to sustain progress in narrowing the poverty-related attainment gap.

Given the above, this Council rejects the proposed SNP cuts and calls on the Chief Executive to write to the Scottish Government to request that the current funding level to West Dunbartonshire is maintained.

Councillor McColl asked if Councillor Mooney would accept the following addendum to the motion:-

That the last paragraph be changed to 'Given the above, this Council rejects the proposed SNP cuts and calls on the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition to sign a joint letter to the Scottish Government. The letter should also request a meeting with the relevant cabinet secretary or ministers to discuss the impact of this reduction on educational services in West Dunbartonshire.'

Councillor Mooney accepted the addendum, and the motion was agreed by the Council.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Having heard the Legal Officer, the Council agreed to suspend Standing Order 20(d) to allow consideration of the following item of business.

SCOTTISH YOUTH PARLIAMENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer requesting consideration if Scottish Youth Parliament members should be nominated to serve on the Educational Services Committee.

Councillor McColl seconded by Councillor Dickson moved:-

That Council agree:-

- (1) to approve the recommendation of the Educational Services Committee by permitting the addition of two Scottish Youth Parliament members on the Education Services Committee;

- (2) that voting members of the Committee require to be over the age of sixteen years old;
- (3) that such members should be excluded from consideration of matters covered by consultation under the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010, or any matter, which may directly involve the management of their particular school, rather than more general educational matters or matters which effect all schools or particular stages of education, generically; and
- (4) to amend the Council's Standing Orders to give effect the above proposals.

As an amendment, Councillor O'Neill seconded by Councillor Mooney moved:-

That Council agree that provided there is no legal impediment the two Scottish Youth Parliament members (aged 14 – 16 years) become voting members of the Educational Services Committee.

On a roll call vote being taken 8 Members voted for the amendment, namely Councillors Bollan, Casey, Lennie, McBride, Millar, Mooney, O'Neill and Rooney and 11 voted for the motion, namely Depute Provost Conaghan, Bailie Agnew and Councillors Brown, Dickson, Docherty, Finn, Caroline McAllister, McColl, McLaren, Page and Walker. The motion was accordingly declared carried.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

(a) Motion by Councillor Jim Bollan – International Labour Organisation's Violence and Harassment

Councillor Bollan moved:-

On 13 December 2021 Parliament gave the Government the green light to sign up to the first treaty to address harassment and violence in the world of work. The International Labour Organisation's Violence and Harassment Convention (ILO C190).

In advance of this becoming law in around one year time Council agrees to:

- Review all staff policies to mitigate the risk of harassment and violence at work.
- Ensure a clear and transparent policy against harassment and violence is known and available to employees, and acted upon if complaints are received.
- Use its influence to encourage local businesses to review and improve their policies on violence and harassment.

A full report by the CEO to be provided detailing our current policies and changes that are required to meet the terms of the new treaty to the first meeting of the new Council elected on 5 May 2022, immediately after the inaugural meeting of the new Council.

Councillor McColl asked if Councillor Bollan would accept the following addendum to the motion:-

That at the end of the last paragraph the words 'or as soon as possible' be added.

Councillor Bollan confirmed his acceptance and the motion was agreed by the Council.

(c) Motion by Councillor John Mooney – Emergency Graffiti Removal

Councillor Mooney moved:-

Council is very concerned about the recent spate of sectarian graffiti in the area. The recent conflation with anti-vax sentiment at the Hub in Clydebank, which is a vaccination centre, is particularly worrying.

The Council has a responsibility to remove such offensive graffiti as quickly as possible.

Council thanks our Roads & Greenspace Team and Y-Sort-It for the removal next day of the graffiti on the Hub.

In order to facilitate speedy removal in future, Council agrees to allocate £15k from free reserves to the Anti-social behaviour (ASB) budget for emergency removal of offensive graffiti in the evenings and at weekends. Council also agrees that these funds be used to cover the costs of any additional call-out charges.

The Council agreed the motion.

(d) Motion by Councillor John Millar - Appointment of New Chief Executive

Councillor Millar seconded by Councillor Lennie moved:-

Council notes the decision of the Chief Executive to retire later this year. Council will take the opportunity to thank the Chief Executive for her service to West Dunbartonshire at a future Council meeting.

Council believes that the decision to recruit and appoint the new Chief Executive will be an obviously crucial factor for the future strategic direction of

the Council, and we agree that it is vital to start the recruitment process as soon as possible.

However, as we are fewer than 100 days until the Council election, the final recruitment stages should be held as soon as possible following the May elections.

As an amendment, Councillor McColl seconded by Councillor Dickson moved:-

That no action be taken.

On a roll call vote being taken 9 Members voted for the amendment, namely Depute Provost Conaghan and Councillors Brown, Dickson, Docherty, Finn, Caroline McAllister, McColl, McLaren and Page and 10 for the motion, namely Bailie Agnew and Councillors Bollan, Casey, Lennie, McBride, Millar, Mooney, O'Neill, Rooney and Walker. The motion was accordingly declared carried.

(e) Motion by Councillor Sally Page – Woodland Management Plan for Balloch Country Park

Councillor Page moved:-

This Council supports the updating of the 2014 plan of West Dunbartonshire Council and the National Tree Collections of Scotland for a Woodland Management Plan for Balloch Country Park.

This Council will support grant applications being sought through the Loch Lomond and Trossachs Countryside Trust, National Tree Collections of Scotland and Royal Forestry Scotland to enable the Management plan to be put into action.

The Council agreed the motion.

Note:- Councillor Page left the meeting at this point. Councillor O'Neill left the meeting during consideration of the following item, but before the vote was taken.

(f) Motion by Councillor Caroline McAllister – LGBT School Guidance

Councillor Caroline McAllister seconded by Councillor Bollan moved:-

Council reaffirms its commitment to equality law assuring concerned parents that across the education establishment in West Dunbartonshire all pupils matter.

Council acknowledges the concerns expressed by parents regarding the latest Scottish Government non-statutory guidance on LGBT School Guidance.

Council is reminded that the previous version of said guidance was decreed to be unlawful as stated by the Cabinet Minister at the time in the chamber of the Scottish Parliament in June 2019.

Unfortunately, the recent guidance appears to contain similar recommendations as the previous and ignores the exemptions in the Equality Act 2010 that affords young women and girls the right to privacy and dignity in certain situations, e.g. single sex toilets and changing facilities.

It is also noted that significant and unreasonable responsibility is placed on teaching staff; who may not have the skill set or expertise, to support a child with these complex issues and are instructed to affirm school children's 'gender identity' regardless of age, maturity and capacity to fully understand the implications; including children as young as four years of age.

The guidance states that schools are not obliged to disclose said changes to parents. As non-statutory guidance this places head teachers and schools at risk of law suits as well as eroding parents confidence and trust in teaching staff.

This is yet another sign of Government's overreach into family life by excluding parents in this serious matter. Affirmation without sensitive, appropriate, age related, expert talking therapies has serious implications for individual children who may be unhappy or distressed about other underlying issues.

More and more evidence is coming to light of young people being affirmed and a couple of years down the line, experiencing "transition regret".

Sadly for many young people who were put on a medical pathway without due care and expert psychotherapy intervention, went on to have double mastectomies and hysterectomies and are left to mourn their decision, their infertility and the irreversible changes to their body.

Research shows that children and young people who are put on puberty blockers, an experimental treatment; go on to cross sex hormones, whereas young people who are sensitively and expertly supported through puberty grow out of their distress and desist, often realising as they mature that they are gay and not trans.

Council is fully committed to ensuring all children and young people do not face discrimination or prejudice in their school life and calls upon the Education Department to explore other LGBT School Guidance available that ensures dignity and respect for all pupils.

Council calls upon the Education Department to consider Sex Matters, Transgender Trend, Gen Spect and Safe Schools Alliance UK guidance, in conjunction with Scottish Government school guidance and to bring a report back to a Council meeting on their findings.

As an amendment Councillor McColl seconded by Councillor Mooney moved:-

Council agrees that every child and young person in our schools must be treated with dignity, respect and understanding and we are fully committed to ensuring children and young people do not face discrimination or prejudice in their school life.

Council notes that guidance for schools, including the 'Supporting Transgender Pupils In Schools' guidance (herein referred to as 'the guidance'), has the aim of ensuring that every child and young person feels happy, safe, respected and included in their learning environment.

Council agrees that these aims and principles apply to all pupils and in creating our policies, we must be aware and take account of everyone's rights, particularly in relation to all protected characteristics.

The guidance is intended to help school staff to provide transgender and non-binary young people with the best possible educational experiences.

The guidance provides practical advice, information and signposts to age and stage appropriate resources to support schools and their staff.

Throughout the guidance, reference is made to important legislation/guidance, including but not limited to Data Protection legislation, the Equality Act 2010 & 2014, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Our own policies must be developed through the lens of these important documents.

The guidance also stresses the importance of involving and supporting both young people and their families in an appropriate way and in compliance with existing laws.

The document is complex, reflecting the complexity of gender identity.

It should be noted that as with all non-statutory guidance received by the Council from central Government, professional officers are in the process of developing our own policies and handbook based on the guidance, and consultation is still on going.

It is expected that officers will still be consulting with a wide range of people, including parents, pupils, staff and youth organisations well into May 2022, and Council agrees that this process must continue without prejudice and without being rushed.

Only by gathering the views of those who will be directly impacted by this guidance can we develop fit for purpose policy that will meet the needs of our young people and provide appropriate support for the staff carrying out our Council's duty of care.

Council agrees that following completion of the consultation, and when our professional officers have had ample time to consider the responses and draft appropriate guidance, a report will be brought to Council, or the appropriate committee for members to approve.

On a roll call vote being taken 14 Members voted for the amendment, namely Depute Provost Conaghan, Bailie Agnew and Councillors Brown, Casey, Dickson, Finn, Lennie, McBride, McColl, McLaren, Millar, Mooney, Rooney and Walker and 3 Members for the motion, namely Councillors Bollan, Docherty and Caroline McAllister. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

The meeting closed at 4.40 p.m.

draft

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a Hybrid Special Meeting of the West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Civic Space, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 23 February 2022 at 2.02 p.m.

Present: Depute Provost Karen Conaghan, Bailie Denis Agnew and Councillors Jim Bolla, Jim Brown, Gail Casey, Ian Dickson, Diane Docherty, Jim Finn, Douglas McAllister*, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Iain McLaren, John Millar, Lawrence O'Neill, Sally Page, Martin Rooney and Brian Walker.

* arrived later in the meeting

Attending: Joyce White, Chief Executive; Alan Douglas, Manager of Legal; Peter Barry, Chief Officer – Housing and Employability, Elaine Troup, Communities Manager, Suzanne Mason, Community Empowerment Officer; George Hawthorn, Manager – Democratic and Registration Services and Christine McCaffary, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Also Attending: Mick Doyle, Scottish Community Development Centre.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Provost William Hendrie and Councillors Daniel Lennie, Marie McNair and John Mooney.

Depute Provost Karen Conaghan in the Chair

STATEMENT BY CHAIR – AUDIO STREAMING

Depute Provost Conaghan advised that the meeting was being audio streamed and broadcast live to the internet and would be available for playback.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in the item of business on the agenda.

RECORDING OF VOTES

The Council agreed that all votes taken during the meeting would be done by roll call vote to ensure an accurate record.

REVIEW OF THE SCHEME OF ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Housing and Employability providing an update on the second phase of consultation on the Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils, and outlining the proposals for phase three.

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

- (1) to note the findings of the second phase of consultation, as outlined in the Scottish Community Development Centre report attached as Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) to approve the draft Scheme, Draft Constitution and Standing Orders subject to the typos noted being corrected;
- (3) to approve the proposals for stage 3 consultation to conclude the process and finalise the new updated Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils; and
- (4) to note the amended timescales to conclude the process in May 2022 and to hold the Community Council elections in October 2022, following the local elections in May.

The meeting closed at 2.41 p.m.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

At a Hybrid Meeting of the Audit Committee held in the Civic Space, 16 Church Street, Dunbarton on Wednesday, 17 November 2021 at 2.06 p.m.

Present: Councillors Jim Brown, Karen Conaghan, Daniel Lennie, Jonathan McColl, John Millar, John Mooney, Martin Rooney, and Lay Members Mr Christopher Todd and Mr Christopher Johnstone.

Attending: Joyce White, Chief Executive; Angela Wilson, Chief Officer – Supply, Distribution & Property; Malcolm Bennie, Chief Officer – Citizen, Culture & Facilities; Andi Priestman, Shared Service Manager – Audit and Fraud; Julie Slavin, Chief Financial Officer; Andrew Brown, Senior Education Officer; and Ashley MacIntyre, Committee Officer.

Also Attending: Fiona Mitchell-Knight, Christopher Gardner and Sanya Ahmed, Audit Scotland.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Brian Walker.

Councillor John Mooney in the Chair

STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Councillor Mooney, Chair, welcomed all those present to the meeting which was being held in hybrid format.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

RECORDING OF VOTES

The Committee agreed that all votes taken during the meeting be done by roll call vote to ensure an accurate record.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Audit Committee held on 15 September 2021 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee noted that no open forum questions had been submitted by members of the public.

PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2020/21 TO 2030/31 AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2021/22 TO 2030/31

The Chief Officer – Resources noted that this report had previously been approved by Members at the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 16 June 2021, and therefore further consideration was not required today.

The Committee agreed to note that a Treasury Management Annual Report would be brought to the Audit Committee meeting in March 2022.

ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT TO MEMBERS AND CONTROLLER OF AUDIT AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2020/2021

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Resources advising of Audit Scotland's findings in relation to the audit of the Council and the audit of Council administered charities; submitting the audited 2020/21 Financial Statements of the Council for 2020/2021 and highlighting matters of interest; and submitting the audited 2020/21 Financial Statements of the Charities administered by the Council and highlighting matters of interest.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Officer – Resources in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of this report;
- (2) to note the clean audit opinions and the findings of the audits as detailed in Audit Scotland's report dated 17 November 2021; and
- (3) to approve the audited Annual Accounts 2020/21 of both the Council and the Council administered Charities and note that these would be reported to the Council on 22 December 2021.

**INTERNAL AUDIT PLANS 2020/21 AND 2021/22 PROGRESS TO
18 OCTOBER 2021**

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Resources advising of progress as at 18 October 2021 against the Internal Audit Plans for 2020/21 and 2021/22.

After discussion and having heard the Shared Service Manager – Audit & Fraud in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed to note the contents of this report.

VALEDICTORY – STEPHEN WEST

Councillor Mooney, Chair, informed the Committee that this was the last meeting which Mr Stephen West, Chief Officer – Resources would attend before his retirement in December. On behalf of the Committee, Councillor Mooney thanked Mr West for all his hard work, dedication and commitment over the years and wished him well in his retirement.

The other Members present were heard in similar terms, thanking Mr West.

The meeting closed at 2.40 p.m.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Officer (Regulatory & Regeneration)

Council: 23 March 2022

Subject: Glasgow City Region City Deal - Update

1. Purpose

1.1 To note the progress with the implementation of the Glasgow City Region, City Deal.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that Council:

- i) notes the progress of the Glasgow City Region (GCR), and
- ii) notes progress of the Council's City Deal project for the Exxon site.

3. Background

3.1 The Glasgow City Region City Deal Infrastructure programme equates to £1.13bn of investment during period 2015-2035. Projects are progressing and have reached various stages from Strategic, Outline and Full Business Case stages of approval.

4. Main Issues

4.1 The Council is progressing our Exxon Project, which includes working with Balfour Beatty via the Scape Framework as part of the pre-construction agreement to allow the detailed design elements of the project to commence and provide greater certainty regarding the budget position. ExxonMobil are currently remediating the site with extensive plant, equipment, and personnel on site.

5. Glasgow City Region City Deal Update

5.1 The GCR Cabinet met on 15 February 2022. The performance report for Quarter 3 of 2021/22 was presented and approved and is provided at link: [GCR Q3 Performance Report- 2021/22](#), and is available as a background paper on request. The report provides key highlights completed during the period, a comprehensive update across the City Region groups and sub-groups, highlights of each City Deal infrastructure funded project and any associated approval, a project status report, the overall budget position, and the programme risks and issues.

5.2 The Glasgow City Region Clyde metro project is progressing with alignment to the Transport Scotland- Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 (STPR2). A presentation briefing and next steps was provided to the GCR Chief

Executive Group on 3 February 2022 and GCR Cabinet on 15 February 2022. This presentation can be found at Appendix 1. Officers will continue to engage in the process to ensure the Metro extensions being considered benefits as many of our communities across West Dunbartonshire.

- 5.3** The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) which is replacing the European structural funds across the UK is being developed and an announcement is anticipated in the spring 2022. At the GCR Cabinet meeting of 15 February 2022 an update paper on SPF was presented for noting. This can be found at the following link: [GCR Shared Prosperity Briefing Paper](#). The UK government approach in allocating the £2.6bn funding up to March 2025 is still to be determined. One route being considered is through a regional governance with delivery of project locally across the 8 Local Authorities. The Glasgow City region has a mature mechanism in using this approach and this does align with both Scottish and UK Government preferences. The Council will ensure it is positioned to present suitable projects for consideration as the fund details emerge.
- 5.4** The UK and Scottish Government (SG) have agreed that Scotland would benefit from what is being entitled as 'Green Freeports'. The understanding is that a prospectus will be published by SG in March 2022 seeking competitive bids to secure the status of 'Green Freeport' in two locations in Scotland. The Council has been in discussion as part of the Glasgow City Region with Inverclyde, Renfrewshire, and North Lanarkshire considering responding positively to a Green Freeport which would include Peel Ports at Inverclyde, Glasgow International Airport in Renfrewshire, Mossend Rail freight facility in North Lanarkshire and to consider the future potential of the Council's Exxon project site. Any direct participation and associated Council expenditure would be brought to committee for determination prior to making any Council commitments.
- 5.5** The GCR Chief Executive's Group met on 3 February 2022 approved two final business case request as follows:
- i) South Lanarkshire Council - East Kilbride Community Growth Area - Jackton Primary School - Final Business Case (FBC). The final approval for the FBC would be sought from the Chief Executives by email following the approval of a related change control request by Cabinet on 15 February 2022, Cabinet approval was secured (see 5.7 below). The approved budget at 3 February 2022 was £10.936m.
 - ii) North Lanarkshire Council – Ravenscraig access Infrastructure – West Coast Mainline Crossing project – Final Business Case (FBC). This was approved with a budget of £22.3m.
- 5.6** The GCR Chief Executive's Group also on 3 February 2022 approved two change control request as follows:
- i) North Lanarkshire Council – A8/M8 Orchard Farm Roundabout. The minor change is to highlight that the Outline Business Case will be submitted in June 2022, four months later than anticipated to reflect and updated programme and to confirm key elements within the OBC. The change control indicates that there is not any impact on the Final Business Case and construction end date.

- ii) Renfrewshire Council – Clyde Waterfront & Renfrew Riverside (CWRR). A moderate change control request where the project wishes to restate its Construction end date from September 2023 to May 2024, a delay of 8 months. This is due to uncertain market conditions, material costs fluctuations and associated risks which have resulted in a delay to the contract finalisation and consequentially delay on the commencement of works. The change control indicates no additional funding is required at present.

5.7 The GCR Cabinet in 15 February 2022 and approved two change control request as follows:

- i) South Lanarkshire Council – East Kilbride Community Growth Area (CGA) – Jackton Primary School. Increased funding required for the project which will be met by savings achieved across other SLC City Deal projects. Project was estimated at £14.25m, however tendering has returned a cost of £18.11m. The timeline has also changed with FBC moved from November 2021 to February 2022 (+3 Months), see 5.5 above. Despite changes SLC have identified that all projects will be delivered and all benefits associated with the CGA programme remain the same, however delivered 12 months later.
- ii) East Renfrewshire Council M77 Strategic Corridor. Change control permission sought to increase the funding approved for grant payments from that currently approved via the business case approval process from £11.61m to £13.1m. This will allow the project to progress with development of the Final Business Case. This change control request has no impact on project scope, timeframe or benefits realisation.

5.8 Renfrew Bridge Project

5.8.1 The £90.6m City Deal funded Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside (CWRR) Project consists of a new “opening bridge” in the location of Meadowside Street, Renfrew linked to a new road network which links to Dock Street in the north and the new Renfrew North Development Road (RNDR), to the south. The RNDR will run between Meadowside Street, and Argyll Avenue Renfrew to link with Inchinnan Road.

5.8.2 The Contractor has completed some additional investigations on site to inform the detailed design process over last few months. Compilation of quality plans and dialogue with SEPA on the process to allow surrender of the Pollution Prevention Control Licence are on-going.

5.8.3 Next stages of works includes site clearances which commenced in early 2022 and this will be followed by site establishment.

5.8.4 The first Project newsletter has been compiled and posted to over 3,500 residents and businesses in the local area. This newsletter provides links to the project website and gives an opportunity to sign up to future digital newsletters. This is available online at the following link: www.CWRR-Newsletter-Issue-1. Posters advising the website address are also being delivered to public buildings in the project area.

5.8.5 The Elected Member briefing took place on 15 December 2021 and provided members the opportunity to hear about progress and ask any question regarding the project. Updates can be provided on request and a further briefing session will be set up after the local elections.

6. West Dunbartonshire Council City Deal Project

6.1 The Council approved budget for the project is £34.05m, however with delays in completing the final business case and price increases globally due to the Pandemic and Brexit there is high risk of increased costs.

6.2 Officers continue to monitor the budget position and as identified in the Council update in December 2021 continue to explore a range of options to manage the budget and anticipated project expenditure.

6.3 The pre-construction agreement with our selected main contract Balfour Beatty has been entered into in early December 2021. This allows officers to progress the project design elements of works and determine more certainty around costs estimates for the project.

6.4 Asset Management continue to progress agreements which are being drawn up with the 3rd party land owners. Once agreements in principal are agreed these will be brought before Council for consideration.

7. People Implications

7.1 There are a number of senior officers involved in the Glasgow City Region wider programme as identified at City Region Update paper at Council on 26 August 2021.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The expenditure for the City Deal project for 2021/22 is currently £314,042 as at February 2022, the total project Capital budget expenditure is £2.550m.

8.2 The approved budget to date for the City Deal Exxon project is £3.448m. This will provide sufficient funding to take us to the Final Business Case in November 2022. The overall Council approved project budget is £34.05m. This is continually monitored and any changes to this will be reported to Council.

9. Risk Analysis

9.1 There are a number of project risks associated with the development at the ExxonMobil project site and these are contained within the risk register of the refreshed Outline Business Case and updated by the project board on a regular basis.

10. Equalities Impact Assessment

10.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment is not necessary for this report as it is providing an update on previously agreed actions.

11. Consultation

- 11.1 Consultation with all key stakeholders is progressing as we continue to work as part of the Glasgow City Region.
- 11.2 Legal services, finance and procurement are regularly consulted through their participation in the Exxon project board.
- 11.3 Wider communication is produced regarding progress of the Glasgow City Region at its website <http://www.glasgowcityregion.co.uk/>

12. Strategic Assessment

- 12.1 At its meeting on 25 October 2017, the Council agreed that one of its main strategic priorities for 2017 - 2022 is:
- A Strong local economy and improved employment opportunities
- 12.2 The proposals within this report are specifically designed to deliver on this priority.

Peter Hessett
Chief Officer – Regulatory & Regeneration
Date: 1 March 2021

Person to Contact: Michael McGuinness - Manager, Economic Development. T: 0777 442 8294
michael.mcguinness@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendix: Appendix 1- Clyde Metro Update presentation

Background Papers: [GCR Interim Performance Report- 18 Nov 2021](#), [GCR Education Improvement Collaborative/West Partnership Improvement Plan 2021/22](#), Glasgow City Region City Deal – 28 Council updates since February 2016, March 2021 Elected Members briefing- Renfrew Bridge, July 2020 Members Bulletin.
ExxonMobil Commercial Agreement 24 June 2020.
Glasgow City Region City Deal - Exxon Site Outline Business Cases 22 Feb 2017 and 28 Nov 2018 (Refreshed).
Clyde Valley City Deal - Update and Strategic Business Case- Council 24 June 2015.
Clyde Valley City Deal Update- Council 25 Aug 2015 and 16 Dec 2015.
Clyde Valley City Deal- Governance- Council 17 Dec 2014.
Glasgow City Region City Deal- Council 13 August 2014.
“City Deal Initiative” Clyde Valley Investment Fund- Council 30 April 2014 (Memorandum of Understanding).

Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership – City Deal Initiative – Council 28 August 2013.
Equalities Impact Assessment November 2018.
Environmental Impact Assessment - [DC20/088 – Planning Application – Documents.](#)

Wards Affected: All

Clyde Metro STPR2 Announcement Briefing & Next Steps

Update to CEG 03 Feb 22



The Metro journey so far



Clyde Metro

Clyde Metro will offer an **integrated public transport system** for the City Region where **bus rapid transit, tram, light rail and/or metro rail** will complement the existing subway, bus and heavy rail networks offering effective alternatives to car. It will target at **improving connectivity** whilst contributing to the **City Region's ambitions** to improve the health and wellbeing of its people by delivering an inclusive, net zero and climate resilient economy.



Clyde Metro focuses on:

- i. Unserved and underserved areas with relatively poor connectivity;
- ii. Improving access to key hubs such as the city centre, hospitals, major education facilities, key employment centres, retail hubs, and major leisure/sports facilities; and
- iii. Integrating with major transport hubs and creation of new interchange opportunities.



Metro Plus: Putting links in place to transform



Housing Strategies - Deliver high quality, innovative, spacious and sustainable homes within active travel neighbourhoods. Connect communities, including those areas in greatest need to employment, leisure and culture and opportunities



NPF4, Place making, LDPs, City Deal, City Centre Population Strategy, Vacant and Derelict Land, 20 Min Neighbourhoods, Clyde Mission Themes, Scottish Future's Trust.



PHS Strategic Plan 2020-23
UN Sustainable Goals: Health and Wellbeing - access to hospitals, healthcare, transport and poverty reduction, air and noise pollution, mental health.



Local / City Transport Strategies.
National / Regional Transport Strategies. Integrated ticketing, affordable travel
Bus Partnership Fund.



Policies - Active Travel, Car Km Reduction Plan, Active Freeways, Car Free Zones, Modal Shift, Staff Travel Plans



Climate Change Plan Update 2020. Climate Ready Clyde - Climate Mitigation, Climate Adaptation, Net Zero Targets, Environmental Protection, Carbon Reduction, Noise Pollution, Air Quality,



Economy Investment

Regional Economic Strategy- attract and retain skills, address long standing barriers, increase housing and commercial completions, support investment, entrepreneurship,

Clyde Metro (11): Wider STPR2 Recommendations Relationship

Recommendation	Direct	Enabling	Supporting
Improving active travel infrastructure			
(1) Connected neighbourhoods (2) Active freeways (3) Village-town active travel connections (4) Connecting towns by active travel			+
Influencing travel choices and behaviour			
(6) Behaviour change initiatives (7) Changing road user behaviour (8) Increasing active travel to school (9) Improving access to bikes			+
Enhancing access to affordable public transport			
(12, 13) Edinburgh & South East Scotland, Aberdeen Mass Transit (14) Provision of strategic bus priority measures (19) Infrastructure to provide access for all at railway stations (20) Investment in DRT and MaaS (21) Improved public transport passenger interchange facilities (23) Smart integrated public transport ticketing	+	+	+
Decarbonising Transport			
(25, 26) Decarbonisation of Rail and Bus network		+	
Strengthening Strategic Connections			
(45) High speed and cross border rail enhancements			+



Clyde Metro Next Steps

Area:	Task:
Public Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support promotion of consultation process. • Review all the STPR2 published reports across 45 interventions and provide consultation feedback to support their assessment. • Consolidate MSAG feedback to STPR2 Consultation – cross referencing to ensure Metro Plus and ‘Metro First’ approach. • Consultation period: 20 Jan – 15 Apr
Communication / Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support TS Comms Plan. Continue to build pace and momentum. Engage with key stakeholders to realise the ‘bolder ambition’ of Metro. • TCPG – 4 Feb • GCR Cabinet – 15 Feb • MSAG (+TCPG) – 16 Feb • RTS – March • Glasgow LTS – March • Regional engagement – March/April
Collaborative / Partnership Working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with TS and SPT to develop preparatory work to support the interim phase and work towards securing Clyde Metro as a final recommendation with funding to progress the OBC/FBC. • The final STPR2 recommendations expected to be confirmed in Autumn 2022 • Scope out early interim governance arrangements and OBC work plan • Clyde Metro Programme Steering Group to be established to meet in Feb/Mar 22.



Clyde Metro – Emerging Programme Considerations

Major complex development programme

- Bold transformational focus, multi – mode and multi – partner
- Large ambition (c. 2 x Manchester MetroLink)
- Significant funding ask - est £11 – 16Bn
- Multi – decade implementation
- Needs credible delivery approach, manage expectations and transition challenges and with quick wins

Interim governance arrangements and OBC work plan

- Political Oversight, Programme Steering Group, Client Delivery Group and **Delivery teams**
- Programmes covering: strategic governance, transformation, stakeholder/partner engagement, network development, commercials & funding



Questions?



WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**Report by Chief Officer: Supply, Distribution and Property****Council 23 March 2022**

Subject: Ventilation in Learning Establishments**1. Purpose**

- 1.1** This report provides an update for members on the approaches taken to ensure adequate ventilation across our learning estate.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that Council:

2.1.1 notes the contents of the report and agrees that no further action is required at present.

3.1 Background

At Council meeting on 22 December 2021 Councillor Mooney moved the following Motion:

Council agrees:-

- (a) to note the types of ventilation systems across the Council's learning estate;
- (b) to note the processes in place for monitoring levels of CO2 present in learning and teaching spaces across the learning estate and with our partner providers;
- (c) to note that processes in place to escalate any area of concern and steps taken to improve ventilation; and
- (d) that a further report would come to Council with more detail on the adequacy of ventilation systems in schools and the costs of improving these.

- 3.2** The Motion was agreed by Council.

4 Main Issues

- 4.1** Following Council on 22 December 2021 officers were asked to provide updated report detailing the adequacy of ventilation systems in schools and any costs of improving the systems.

- 4.2** Throughout the Council's Learning Estate there is a variety of natural and mechanical ventilation systems. This depends on when the building was constructed and whether there has been any changes to the use of spaces since construction. Examples of systems and locations can be found in Appendix 1.
- 4.3** Our newer constructed buildings have a mix of both mechanical and natural ventilation throughout the building in learning and teaching spaces, gym halls, kitchen's and toilet areas.
- 4.4** Our older more traditional buildings are predominately naturally ventilated with window vents and mechanical ventilation mostly confined to kitchen areas or areas, which may have been refurbished since the original construction. Examples of where buildings may have been refurbished are as follows:-
- where an internal room not previously used as a teaching space changes to form a teaching space due to an increase in the school roll and requires mechanical ventilation to be installed.
 - refurbishment of toilets and a mechanical ventilation is installed as a requirement for building standards purposes.
- 4.5** The Council were proactive in measuring the levels of CO₂ prior to the HSE guidance. Towards the end of session 2020/21 the Council started a process of measuring levels of CO₂ present in teaching and learning spaces across the learning estate. This activity ran until November 2021 and gave base readings across all of our establishments.
- 4.6** By December 2021 following Scottish Government funding CO₂ monitoring devices were installed in all our buildings across the learning estate to cover learning and teaching spaces and other areas such as offices and staff rooms. In addition devices were distributed to partner providers.
- 4.7** As previously advised to Council in December 2021 our baseline readings showed that all of our learning and teaching spaces fell within an acceptable range of 400 -1,000 ppm levels of CO₂ concentration and therefore indicating that the current ventilation within the learning estate was more than adequate.
- 4.8** By end of January 2022 there had been 3 locations where we had incidents of raised levels. Investigations showed:-
- one device was poorly positioned with several people within 2 meters of the device and breathing towards it;
 - one was remedied by adjusting the ventilation in the room i.e. opening window/door; and

- one incident was where the monitors was inaccurate, reading 1,500 ppm in the middle of the night where there was no occupancy of the building. In this incident the monitors were recalibrated and correct readings were then achieved.

4.9 The Council received correspondence from Scottish Government on 28 January 2022 advising that an award of £84,000 had been allocated to further support ventilation requirements. Within the award letter it was advised that these funds could be used for installation of additional mechanical ventilation and/or adjustment of windows and doors.

4.10 As advised to Council on 22 December 2021 a working group has been established and will meet prior to 31 March 2022 in order that the return can be made to Scottish Government for use of the award money. It is envisaged that this will highlight any additional interventions, which may assist in more comfortable learning and teaching conditions. Improving ventilation has reduced temperatures in some spaces and improved heating for winter months may be required.

4.11 It is the conclusion following review of the learning estate that current ventilation is sufficient and compliant. In addition, no issues emerged as a result of the review with the current ventilation within the learning estate and this is demonstrated in the collected data to date. The review also considered the costs to install mechanical ventilation retrospectively and on the basis of recent new building installations this could be in the region of £290k per building. Nevertheless, the collected data does not support this as a requirement.

5 People Implications

5.1 There are no people implications arising from this report.

6 Financial and Procurement Implications

6.1 There are no financial or procurement implications arising from this report.

7 Risk Analysis

7.1 The current ventilation systems in place are adequate, compliant and sufficient, however should council fail to agree the recommendation, costs to introduce different mechanical systems would be significant.

8 Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 An equalities screening has been carried out for this report and there are no equalities issues identified.

9 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

A Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required for the purposes of this report

10 Consultation

10.1 Consultation was undertaken with various officers across a number of services including Resources, Education Services, Corporate Health & Safety and Corporate Asset Management.

11 Strategic Assessment

11.1 The provision of adequate ventilation in learning and teaching spaces ensures healthy working and learning environments for our staff and children, assisting us in delivering the strategic priority of efficient and effective frontline services that improve the everyday lives of residents.

Angela Wilson
Chief Officer, Supply, Distribution and Property
Date: 4 March 2022

Person to Contact:	Michelle Lynn, Assets Co-ordinator Email: michelle.lynn@west-dunbarton.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix 1
Background Papers:	Council – 22 December 2021. Motion by Councillor John Mooney
Wards Affected:	All wards

Site	System/No. fans	Locations
Andrew Cameron	7	2 x Children’s toilets , Utility Room, Kitchen, WCs, Cleaning Cupboard
Auchnacraig	1	Kitchen
Bellysmyre Campus	Extractor Fans	Throughout
Braehead	Extract Fans in WCs	WCs and kitchen
Brucehill ELCC	7x extractor fans	WCs and kitchen
Carleith PS	6x extractor fans	WCs and kitchen
Choices	Extractor Fans	WCs, kitchen, teaching spaces and dining area
Christie Park	extractor fans	WCs and kitchen
Clydebank	4	Kitchen, WCs and Laundry
Clydemuir	Extractor Fans	WCs and kitchen
Dalmonach	2	Playrooms
Dalmuir	2	Playroom/ staff room
Dalreoch PS	2x Vents in accessible WCs	WCs and kitchen
Edinbarnet	10x	WCs and kitchen
Ferryfield	1	Office
Gartocharn	3	Kitchen, toilet and staff room
Gartocharn PS	9x Extract fans in WCs and kitchen	WCs & Kitchen
Gavinburn	Extractor fans in WCs	WCs & Kitchen
Kilbowie ELCC	Extractor Fans	WCs & Kitchen

Kilbowie PS	Extractor Fans	Throughout
Kilpatrick PS	Extractor Fans	Throughout
Knoxland PS	13x extractor fans in WCs	WCs & Kitchen
Ladyton	3	WCs, Kitchen and Laundry
Lennox PS	4x extractor fans in WCs	WCs & Kitchen
Lennox(Faifley)	3	WCs & Kitchen
Levenvale	2	WCs and kitchen
Levenvale PS	3x Extractor Fans	Kitchen
Linnvale	8x Extractor fans	WCs & Kitchen
Meadowview	2	WCs & Kitchen
Our Holy Redeemer	20x extractor fans	16 in classrooms, 4 in WCs
Our Lady of Loretto	Extractor Fans	WCs & Kitchen
Renton PS	12x Extract fans	WCs & Kitchen
Riverside	2 x extractor fans	WCs & Kitchen
St Josephs	12 x extractor fans	WCs & Kitchen
St Martins PS	7x extractor fans	WCs & Kitchen
St Marys (Alex)	4x extractor fans	WCs & Kitchen
St Michaels PS	10x Extractor Fans	WCs & Kitchen
St Patricks PS	12 x Extract fans	WCs & Kitchen
St Stephens PS	14x extractor fans	WCs & Kitchen
Whitcreek ELC	8x extractor fans high level	WCs, Kitchen and playrooms
Whitcreek PS	11x extractor fans	WCs, Kitchen and ELC
Kilpartick Secondary	Air Handling Units and Extractor Fans	Swimming pool, gymnasium
St Marys Duntochar	Air Handling Unit	Throughout
Goldenhill	Air Handling Unit VES	Throughout
Bonhill	Air Handling Unit VES	Throughout
Balloch Campus	Air Handling Unit	Throughout

Dumbarton Academy	20x AC Units 1x Air Handling Unit	Fans in WCs, AC throughout
Kilbowie PS	Air Handling unit	dining hall and reception area
St Stephens PS	14x extractor fans	WCs & Kitchen
St Michaels PS	Air Handling Unit	Throughout

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**Report by the Chief Social Work Officer****Council: 23 March 2022**

Subject: Update - Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2020-21**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a progress update to the Council in relation to the [Chief Social Work Officer \(CSWO\) Annual Report for 2020-21](#) (Background Paper) which provides information on the statutory work undertaken on the Council's behalf which includes a summary of governance arrangements, service delivery, resources and workforce.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Council is asked to note the content of the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2020-21 and note the progress and updates provided.

3. Background

- 3.1 The requirement for each Council to have a Chief Social Work Officer was initially set out in section 3 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 and is also contained within section 45 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994.
- 3.2 The role of the CSWO is to provide professional guidance, leadership and accountability for the delivery of social work and social care services – both those provided directly by the HSCP and also those commissioned or purchased from other providers.
- 3.3 The CSWO Annual Report is prepared in line with national guidance: 'The Role of the Chief Social Work Officer' (Scottish Government: 2016). This report also fulfils the statutory requirement for each CSWO to produce an annual report on the activities and performance of social work services within the local area. It should be noted that an amended report template was again agreed with the Office of the Chief Social Work Advisor to ensure local reporting arrangements continue whilst having due regard to current pressures being experienced across the sector and workload implications as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic
- 3.5 Since the 2020-21 CSWO was published no sooner was planning to move back into offices commenced than this required to again be halted due to a new variant Omicron which emerged late in 2021.

4/

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** As West Dunbartonshire HSCP goes forward as a fully mature integrated partnership, this report reinforces some of the achievements and diversity of the collaborative relationship in which social work practice and values have, and the significant impact on shaping service delivery. Social Work has a vital role to play in the continued development of the partnership into the future.
- 4.2** The report notes that the programme of national inspection activity was largely paused due to the pandemic, however the CSWO report (appendix 1) makes reference to this recommencing more recently, particularly the Joint Inspection of adult support and protection in 2020. We continue to work on the improvement activity which was developed from the recent inspection regarding Adult Support and Protection.
- 4.3** Both the Independent Audit and the Care Inspectorate Inspection identified several key strengths and West Dunbartonshire scored particularly high on multi-agency participation and involvement. There was clear evidence of good practice in complex case work where there were chronic, un-resolvable problems in the day to day lives of some of the vulnerable adults involved in the asp process. The Care Inspectorate highlighted that the Partnership had made a sound decision to increase the capacity of their duty service at the beginning of the Covid -19 Pandemic. As a result screening and triage of Adult Support & Protection referrals was accurate, timely, effective, and collaborative. Care inspectorate noted the following :staff from the partnership had a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities in relation to adult support & protection, adult support & protection investigations were routinely undertaken and effectively determined if the Adult was at risk of harm, Partnership Leaders responded well to the unprecedented strategic and operational demands of the Covid 19 Pandemic, support was provided to staff and the partnership ensured good oversight of protection risks and recovery planning.
- 4.4** An improvement plan is now in place following the adult support inspection and is aimed at the development of all adult support & protection front line and support services with a clear focus on providing enhanced outcomes for adults at risk and their families across West Dunbartonshire Council. The priority objectives have been agreed based on the recommendations made by the Care Inspectorate.
- 4.5** In September 2021 the Joint Inspection of Services for Children at Risk of Harm in West Dunbartonshire commenced and has only been possible to partially complete with some aspects of the inspection not able to be progressed due to the Covid Pandemic. Verbal feedback from the Joint Inspection of Services for Children at Risk of Harm in West Dunbartonshire is planned for March 2022. It is uncertain at this time whether a full written report will be produced.
- 4.6** The CSWO report for 2020-21 appropriately, makes significant reference to the work of teams across Children, Adults and Justice Services in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The dedication and work of front line staff during the pandemic who have not stopped to deliver services to our most vulnerable citizens requires the utmost recognition for their persistent, flexibility and resilience demonstrated by social work

staff. The adaptability of staff, managers and users of services has been paramount to the continued provision of social work services in local communities

- 4.7** Enhanced oversight arrangements, public protection activity and information pertaining to demand, performance and achievements is balanced by recognition of the challenges faced by services during 2020-21.
Having recently been appointed to the role CSWO in West Dunbartonshire it is my intention to further develop our use of data and performance measure to be able better understand the impact and outcomes for our services users. Areas of further improvement for adult, older people, Justice and children services are in relation to strengthening our self -evaluation to ensure a continued improvement cycle is embedded moving forward through recovery.
- 4.8** The Adult Mental Health Service has continued to operate as an integrated team including social work and health colleagues to support a holistic model of delivery where joint working is embedded. An immediate same day response service continued during the last year and joint working with Police housing, criminal justice, Addiction Services and third sector partners were key to the assertive outreach model for people with complex needs. Throughout the year there have been challenges with staffing due to impact of the pandemic however we have worked with our partners in Greater Glasgow and Clyde to ensure that consistent services remain open and individuals are seen in a timely manner.
- 4.9** Learning Disabilities Services continued to provide support throughout the pandemic although face to face contact was reduced. However staff have worked flexibly to ensure that service users were prioritised for support as required. The Day Service although closed in the main however did continue to provide support to critical cases and staff provided outreach support to those service users who had to remain at home. The integrated approach to service delivery across community health and care, as well as third sector providers, has supported the delivery of effective and targeted specialist services which are prioritised around the key aims of people with a learning disability using an outcome-focussed approach to promote person-centred assessment and planning.
- 4.10** Care homes environments have proven to be particularly susceptible to the corona virus with elderly residents at risk of poorer outcomes due to pre-existing conditions. Sadly a number of our care homes experienced deaths of older residents due to Covid 19.
- 4.11** The need for additional whole system support to protect residents and staff was identified. There were no changes to Chief Officers or Chief Social Work Officer Responsibilities or accountabilities. However, additional requirements regarding accountability for provision of nursing leadership, professional oversight, implementation of infection prevention control measures, use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and quality of care required a new model of support to be developed.
- 4.12** An enhanced system of care assurance was developed around the safety and wellbeing of care home residents and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. This support included establishing a West Dunbartonshire multiagency professional oversight group. The role of the group is to analyse issues, develop and implement

solutions, and ensure care homes remain able to sustain services during the pandemic. The group provides access to expert advice on infection prevention and control and enabled care homes to secure responsive clinical support when required.

- 4.13** Clinical and care governance is the process by which accountability for the quality of health and social care is monitored and assured, supporting staff in continuously improving the quality and safety of care and ensuring that wherever possible good performance is highlighted and poor performance is identified and addressed. The HSCP Clinical and Care Governance Group has maintained oversight of the key areas of clinical risk and quality, creating connections with all governance structures in the Partnership to assure the quality of care provided throughout the pandemic.
- 4.14** Despite the pandemic widespread activity is evident across the HSCP and hosted services in pursuit of the key quality ambitions of delivering safe, effective, high quality person centred care. The use of technology had been instrumental in mitigating risks to service delivery and the learning from this will inform future service developments.
- 4.15** The scrutiny oversight and diligence provided to protect our most physically vulnerable citizens those in care home and older people requiring packages of home support has been unprecedented. Currently only one care home has an outbreak of Covid and at times daily quality assurance and scrutiny has taken place within the partnership. The HSCP multi-agency care home group continues to meet weekly to provide oversight and support to care homes to provide assurance that care quality is of the highest possible standard and any risks to this are identified early and addressed timeously.
- 4.16** Multiagency Care assurance visits to care homes are conducted by a Senior Nurse and Senior Social Worker and have allowed the HSCP to build on previously good relationships and partnership working with all local care home providers. Reflecting the significant work undertaken during the pandemic these assurance visits now adopt an approach of appreciative enquiry. The last cycle was undertaken between September and November 2021. No significant areas of concern were identified and many areas of good practice were evident.
- 4.17** Where homes were identified as having support requirements we are now able to augment HSCP support with input from the NHSSGHC Care Home Collaborative Hub which is a recently established resource that will enhance capacity to accelerate and support continuous improvement across all our care homes. Examples include support from specialist infection control nurses to provide an additional layer of assurance regarding practice within care homes as we adapt to life with Covid 19.
- 4.18** Our care homes continue to experience challenges in relation to Covid 19 outbreaks reflecting the position in the wider community. Encouragingly we have 100% uptake of the vaccine in all eligible residents. This has greatly reduced the impact of Covid 19 infections on residents, with most thankfully now experiencing only mild cold symptoms. The impact on staffing continues but this has also been ameliorated by vaccine uptake and changes to isolation requirements following infection.
- 4.19** Looking forward there are the clear opportunities for improvement in how we evaluate impact of services and ensure the voices of service users is at the centre of co-produced and designed services with and for adults and children who use them. Reporting on outcomes for people arising both from national policy commitments and building on the recent inspections across adult and children's service will enable

development of highly personalised services to meet the needs of our most vulnerable citizens. There are acknowledged challenges associated with service and workforce pressures and level of change, and capacity required, as well as the uncertainties about future structural reform in relation to the National Care Service. The importance of collaboration to overcome challenges in key areas as well as a clear focus on best value and aligns resource to our strategic priorities

4.20 Significant policy and legislative changes in Children's services present real opportunities, with associated challenges both in relation to the culture and practice shift aligned to implementation of 'the Promise' enabling relation based practice and establishing a rights based approach with strengthened UNCRC legislation to ensure children and young people receive help and support they are entitled to

4.21 Government Policy and Legislative drivers for Strategic drivers for Children services:

- Implementation of National Child Protection Guidance
- National Transfer Scheme / UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers)
- Scottish Model for Joint Investigative model for Scotland 2022/23
- National Care Service
- United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the child UNCRC embedded in Scots law 2021
- Age of Criminal Responsibility (2019)
- Better Hearings Programme across Scotland
- Support to Kinship carers and Kinship Payments
- GIRFEC Getting It Right for Every Child (Refresh) planned 2022.

Scoping our strategic drivers within protection services in adults older people and justice has commenced and interim strategic plan developed for 2022/23 to ensure the transformation and strategic direction of our social work and social care services is clear, communicated to our service users and workforce and deliverable aligned to a busy National policy context.

4.22 Person centred, rights based services with an emphasis on early help, holistic family and community support enabling families to remain together wherever possible through the right community based support aligns with our themed local strategic HSCP Strategic Priorities – Early Intervention, Access, Resilience, Assets. Addressing Inequalities effectively and improve outcomes for those most vulnerable in our communities requires both capacity and effective resources across the system. As CSWO, and Head of Service for Children's Health Care and Justice, it is my intention to work closely with Heads of service in Adult and Older People's services to review both these key areas including services access.

In essence, 'shifting the balance of care' aligned to our transformation and improvement agenda and asking our staff to consider 'what would it take' to keep children and adults safely within community settings.

4.23 Figures released in November 2021 indicate West Dunbartonshire as the second highest area for prevalence of Domestic Abuse in Scotland. National figures indicate 119 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by police per 10,000 population in 20-21. WDC sits at 168 per 10,000, an increase on the previous year from 150.

- 4.24** Discussions held between Justice/Children and Families Services and the National Caledonian Team have developed the Caledonian 1-1 programme being implemented in West Dunbartonshire. Whilst pandemic has resulted in delayed implementation and we are now in a position to confirm WDC as one of the authorities in Scotland to host a court and non-court mandated 1-1 programme later in 2022.
- 4.25** In January 2021 West Dunbartonshire's Community Planning Partnership has agreed the approach and implementation of a Community Justice Partnership within West Dunbartonshire. In February 2021 the first workshop has taken place bringing together Senior Officer and Leaders from across the HSCP and wider council with contributions from Community Justice Scotland.
- 4.26** This vital focus on prevention and improving outcomes for those individual and victims who have been involved or affected by offending behaviour is delivered in line with Community Justice (Scotland) 2016 legislation. This whole systems approach is a key priority for Community Planning moving forward in order to more effectively address cycles of offending behaviour within our communities in West Dunbartonshire.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** The CSWO Annual Report refers to workforce planning and development which recognises activity to support staff compliance with professional registration as well as recruitment and retention activity.
- 5.2** Recruitment to a range of posts across services has continued, reflecting both the continued commitment to practice and performance improvement within a shift for much activity to online working. The opportunities that relaxation of Coved measures and ability to move to a hybrid model of working brings greater opportunities to engage in more face to face contact with services users to deliver relational based practice, with services users. As a profession based on building relationships to engage with and support individuals, families and carers towards better outcomes, where relational practice is pivotal to comprehensive, rights-focussed assessment and interventions.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 6.1** There are no financial or procurement implications arising from the CSWO annual report, however the report highlights the financial implications upon the HSCP budget and the importance of spend that is compliant with procurement arrangements.
- 6.2** Budgetary oversight of services provided by the HSCP continues to be provided by the HSCP Board and senior officers continue to address these issues to meet statutory duties

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** Provision of statutory social work services requires appropriately qualified and skilled staff; analysis of activity and future demand is intended to inform future service planning to continue to meet statutory duties.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** There is no equalities impact as the report does not recommend a change to existing policy, function or strategy.

9. Environmental Sustainability

- 9.1** There are no implications for environmental sustainability.

10. Consultation

- 10.1** The CSWO Annual Report has been informed by information provided by managers across the HSCP; members of the HSCP Senior Management Team have also been consulted on the report content.

11. Strategic Assessment

- 11.1** Analysis of activity, resources and performance within the CSWO Annual Report provides assurance that the planning and delivery of social work services in West Dunbartonshire continue to reflect statutory requirements.
- 11.2** The strategic direction of services will undoubtedly continue to reflect the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic during 2022 and shape how services are able to be prioritised and designed to meet the needs of our communities in West Dunbartonshire.

Lesley James
Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice
Chief Social Work Officer
14 February 2022

Person to Contact: **Lesley James**
Chief Social Work Officer
Head of Service Children's Health Care and Justice

Appendices: **N/A**

Background Papers: [Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2020-21](#)

Wards Affected: **All**

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**Report by Chief Officer - Resources****Council 23 March 2022**

Subject: Non-Domestic Rates Working Group Final Report**1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of the activity of the Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) Working Group and the conclusions of their considerations.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that Council:
- note content of this report
 - note the conclusions and recommendations detailed at paragraph 4.7.

3. Background

- 3.1** The Working Group met six times, as follows:

- 12 June 2019
- 25 September 2019
- 27 November 2019
- 18 March 2020
- 16 June 2021
- 2 February 2022.

- 3.2** The aim of the Working Group was to review issues linked to the collection of NDR within West Dunbartonshire Council and consider approaches linked to NDR and economic recovery within the Council area. Once considered the Group agreed to report its conclusions to the Audit Committee including any recommendations for the Audit Committee to make to Council.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** The Working Group reviewed reports in respect of the following:

- Collection and write-off of NDR, potentially linking non-payment of NDR to Licensing applications – they were advised that this was not possible under current legislation.
- The publicising of non-payers – agreed and implemented.

- New powers to the Council arising from the Scottish Government legislation on account of the Barclay Review.
- Discussion on the Fresh Start Scheme and how this could be promoted more widely to local businesses.
- Scottish Government Reliefs and Council powers to vary Rates.
- Details of properties currently rented out by WDC and rates payable.

4.2 In respect of decisions the following was agreed:

(1) (a) Collection of NDR, Licensing legislation and the possibility of publicising non-payers - Noted (a) the terms of the report that there was currently no legal mechanism to restrict someone's ability to obtain a licence where non-domestic rates have not been paid and a clear example of 'phoenixing' was known.

(b) Collection of Non Domestic Rates and Licensing - When reporting to the Council's Audit Committee, to recommend that the Committee recommend the Council asks the Scottish Government to propose amendments to the licensing legislation so that failure to pay NDR may become a relevant matter in a licensing context and also to recommend that any business operator who is trading in the area would require some sort of a licence for trading so that before granting the licence the local authority can check the history of the applicant in order to consider issues around 'phoenix' businesses.

(2) New powers to the Council arising from the Scottish Government legislation on account of the Barclay Review - Noted, with regard to the Fresh Start scheme, that an area for review and to be reported back would be to identify Landlords, who have empty premises and were currently in receipt of empty property relief for a period of 6 months or more. The intention would be to contact Landlords direct, to make them aware of the scheme and they in turn promote the availability of 100% relief for the first 12 months of new occupation, to all categories of property with a Rateable Value under £65,000 to prospective new tenants. Since July 2021 the Council has awarded 2 ratepayers Fresh Start scheme reliefs within Clydebank.

(3) Scottish Government Reliefs and Council powers to vary Non-Domestic Rates - to note the terms of the discussion that had taken place in respect of Clydebank Town Centre and to note the updated position in relation to Clydebank Town Centre as discussed at the Infrastructure, Regeneration and Economic Development Committee on 20 November 2019, and as detailed in the report and relevant Minute to that Committee.

(4) Scottish Government Reliefs and Council powers to vary Non-Domestic Rates – following discussion on reliefs that are available to ratepayers to encourage economic activity and regeneration that are

funded by the Scottish Government the working group agreed to note content of report and appendix.

4.3 Barclay Review Implementation Update

The Working Group reviewed the following aspects of the Barclay Review implementation that impact local authorities which have been reviewed and changed by the Scottish Government:

- Section 33 allows for Local Authorities to issue civil penalties for the failure to comply with information notices, where the Council ask proprietors for information on a property, within 21 days or failure to notify of a change in circumstances, such as vacating a property, within 42 days. Failure to comply with these may result in civil penalties being issued of £95 and £370 respectively. A decision was taken on 22 March 2021 at Committee and Members agreed not to implement the civil penalties for 2021/22; however this will be reconsidered for the financial year 2022/23.
- Implementation of the Barclay Review Recommendation 10: A full list of recipients of rates relief should be published to improve transparency. Local Government Finance Circular No. 13/2020 published in December 2020 provided guidance on the periodic publication of non-domestic rates relief recipients by local authorities and includes a publication template and privacy. In line with the recommendation the Council published, via the Council website, the full list of recipients from 1 July 2021. This information can be found along with other Council NDR data here: <https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/business/business-rates/business-rates-statistics/>
- The Small Business Bonus Scheme (SBBS) has been amended to restrict the relief only to properties that are occupied (i.e. not eligible for empty property relief). Having undertaken a full review, the Council identified and removed the relief to the more appropriate Empty Property Relief with effect from 1 April 21.
- The Barclay Review recommended that the effectiveness of SBBS be evaluated. The Barclay Review called for the SBBS Review to be concluded and recommendations addressed in 2022. The SBBS Review was due to report in Spring 2021 but this is now unavoidably delayed due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.
- Charitable rates relief will now only be removed from mainstream independent schools on 1 April 2022, instead of 1 April 2021 as previously planned.

- The next NDR revaluation in Scotland will take effect in 2023 instead of 2022, the same year as in England and Wales, but will be based on rental values pertaining as at 1 April 2022, and not 1 April 2020. This will mean that properties' rateable values will better reflect true market conditions, taking into account any COVID-19 effects; and
- Consideration will have to be given to empty property relief being devolved to local authorities at the next Revaluation on 1 April 2023.

4.4 Legislative Update

Since the Working Group met in June 2021 the following NDR legislative changes have been implemented by the Scottish Government:

- To provide financial assistance to businesses due to COVID-19 - the introduction from 1 April 2020 of the new 100% Retail, Hospitality, Leisure & Aviation Relief which has now been extended in 2021/22 up to 31 March 2022.
- Day Nursery Relief - for all standalone nurseries in the public, private and charitable sectors has been extended to at least 30 June 2023.
- Fresh Start 100% - relief available for up to 12 months for certain occupied properties, which previously have been vacant for 6 months with a RV £65,000, now increased to £95,000 to encourage the use of empty property from 1 April 2021.

4.5 Council powers to vary Non-Domestic rates

A separate report was prepared and discussed at the Working Group identifying the potential for the Council to vary rates by providing additional discretionary reliefs. That report identified that there are financial consequences of the Council taking such a decision and, in doing so, would need to demonstrate it delivered Best Value for the Council as a whole including an understanding of the expected benefits of any such move compared to the financial impact on the general fund. A significant piece of work would be required to understand this as any regeneration gain in NDR yield in the area arising from such a change may not flow through to the Council due to the national rates pooling process operated by the Scottish Government.

Appendix 1 provided shows an estimated cost of £1.781m. It should be further noted that the additional administration costs would have to be factored in any new scheme costs.

4.6 Town Centre Regeneration Areas

Council should ask the Scottish Government to consider business rates relief for Town Centre Regeneration Areas. Given the ongoing trend in contraction of retail, maintaining vibrancy of these areas is a key priority for West Dunbartonshire. The Council, in response to issues across Town Centre Regeneration areas, have agreed frameworks and masterplans which address a number of related issues.

4.7 Conclusions

Following the conclusion of their review the Working Group has considered a number of aspects of NDR particularly in relation to the West Dunbartonshire area and issues of non-payment. A report was submitted by the Chief Officer, Resources to Audit Committee on 2 March 2022 identifying the following recommendations:

- to note there is no legal mechanism to restrict someone's ability to obtain a licence to trade where non-domestic rates have not been paid and a clear example of 'phoenixing' is known and the Council should consider asking the Scottish Government to propose amendments to the licensing legislation so that failure to pay non-domestic rates may become a relevant matter in a licensing context.
- linked to the above recommendation the Council should ask the Scottish Government that any business operator who is trading in the area would require some sort of a licence for trading so that before granting the licence the local authority can check the history of the applicant in order to consider issues around 'phoenix' businesses.
- note the option available to the Council to vary non-domestic rates for particular purposes will have a financial impact on the Council and as such any such option would need significant consideration prior to being considered.
- the Council should ask the Scottish Government to consider business rates relief for Town Centre Regeneration Areas.

5. People Implications

5.1 There are no people implications.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

6.1 There are financial implications from the information contained in the report however these are negated due to the recommendations.

6.2 There are no procurement implications.

7. Risk Analysis

7.1 None

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of this report.

9. Consultation

9.1 No consultation was required for this report.

10. Strategic Assessment

10.1 Proper budgetary control and sound financial practice are cornerstones of good governance and support Council and officers to pursue the 5 strategic priorities of the Council's Strategic Plan. This report has no direct implications for the Strategic priorities, though is linked due to the loss of rateable income arising from phoenix businesses and the potential impact of non-domestic rates on the financial sustainability of local businesses.

Laurence Slavin
Chief Officer – Resources
Date: 23 March 2022

Person to Contact: Laurence Slavin
Chief Officer - Resources
16 Church Street, Dumbarton. Telephone (01389) 737191.
laurence.slavin@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendices: Appendix 1

Background Papers: Previous reports and minutes of the NDR Working Group

Report by Chief Officer – Resources, Audit Committee 2
March 2022

Wards Affected: All

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**NON-DOMESTIC RATES SUB-GROUP****Retail, Hospitality, Leisure and Aviation Relief 2021/22**

AREA	BASIC			INTERMEDIATE			HIGHER		
	No Of Properties	Value of Relief (£)	% of all Properties in Band/Area	No Of Properties	Value of Relief (£)	% of all Properties in Band/Area	No Of Properties	Value of Relief (£)	% of all Properties in Band/Area
Alexandria Town Centre	2	17,812	8%	2	61,165	100%			
Clydebank Town Centre	51	640,790	59%	9	295,110	50%	6	492,522	67%
Dumbarton Town Centre	20	146,441	18%	2	64,635	67%			
TOTALS	73	805,043	31%	13	420,910	57%	6	492,522	55%
ALL	92	1,718,475	34%						

At April 2022 the number of properties which will hold no relief following end of RHL relief. The remaining properties will retain an alternate relief, for example SBB at 25% relief.

AREA	BASIC	INTERMEDIATE	HIGHER	RHL Values
Alexandria	No Of Properties 2	No Of Properties 2	No Of Properties 6	£78,976
Clydebank	45	8		£1,399,576
Dumbarton	16	2		£195,759
TOTAL		81		£1,674,311

VALE OF LEVEN FUND COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Vale of Leven Fund Committee held in the Council Chamber, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 20 November 2019 at 1.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Jim Bollan, Ian Dickson, Jonathan McColl, Sally Page* and Martin Rooney.

*Attended later in the meeting.

Attending: Adrian Gray, Finance Business Partner (Corporate Functions); Sally Michael, Principal Solicitor and Nuala Borthwick, Committee Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors John Millar and Caroline McAllister.

Councillor Martin Rooney in the Chair**DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Councillor Bollan declared a non-financial interest in Item 5 - Grant Application, stating that he would remain in the meeting during discussion and would take part in any discussion if he had the need to do so.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minute of Meeting of the Vale of Leven Fund Committee held on 5 November 2018 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee noted that no open forum questions had been submitted by members of the public.

GRANT APPLICATION

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources requesting that consideration be given to a grant application submitted by Oakbank Tenants Social Club, in relation to the Vale of Leven Fund.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that a £1,500 award be made to the organisation for the reasons provided within the Appendix to the report;
- (2) that applications be sought from the two main foodbanks for the area, Food for Thought – West Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare, for equal shares of the remaining Vale of Leven Trust Fund and thereafter granted to both organisations; and
- (3) that, following disbursement of the remaining fund to Food for Thought – West Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare, the Vale of Leven Fund be wound up.

Note: Councillor Page entered the meeting during consideration of the above item.

AUDITED ANNUAL REPORT AND FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2019

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources presenting the audited Annual Report and Final Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2019.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report, the financial activity and the Trust balance as at 31 March 2019;
- (2) to note the audit actions following the audit of the Trust Fund Accounts; and
- (3) to note that the Audited Annual Report and Financial Statements, together with External Audit comments (through the Council's main audit report), had been submitted to Council on 30 October 2019.

The meeting closed at 1.06 p.m.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

At a Meeting of the Community Alliance held in The Denny Meeting Room, Council Offices, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Thursday, 12 March 2020 at 2.03 p.m.

Present: Anne MacDougall, Chair; Councillor Sally Page; Barbara Barnes, Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP) Locality Engagement Network; Frances McGonagle and Polly Wheelans, WDTR0.

Attending: Suzanne Greer, Acting Communities Manager/Community Empowerment Officer; Ric Rea, Performance and Strategy Officer; Stephen Burns, Communities Project Worker - Communities Team and Craig Stewart, Committee Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf Councillor Caroline McAllister; Brenda Pasquire, West Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice Bureau; Jackie Maceira, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel; Rhona Young, Clydebank Seniors Forum; and Neil Etherington, Clydebank Mens Shed.

Ms Anne MacDougall 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.

NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Note of Meeting of the Community Alliance held on 12 November 2019 was submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to noting that the next meeting date of 15 January 2020 was rearranged, to today's meeting date instead.

In terms of matters arising from the Note of previous meeting, it was noted that any actions in relation to any points contained therein would be taken forward as necessary by officers.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE CONFERENCE: SUMMARY REPORT AND KEY OUTCOMES/NEXT STEPS

A report was submitted by the Acting Communities Manager/Community Empowerment Officer providing an update on the Community Alliance Conference held on Saturday, 22 February 2020 in Clydebank Town Hall.

After discussion and having heard the Communities Project Worker and the Community Empowerment Officer in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Alliance agreed:-

- (1) to note the terms of the verbal update given;
- (2) otherwise to note the content of the report and to continue consideration to a future meeting on the key outcomes from the Conference and the next steps moving forward;
- (3) in view of (2) above, that there was an identified need to build on the key findings and to promote the Alliance more widely. This could be done using a variety of methods, social media and the development of a communications and marketing plan. Also, there was a key need to consider the timing, format and location of meetings in reaching out to new members and ways of including young people and increasing the representativeness of the Alliance; and
- (4) to note the discussion that had taken place on 'Your Community', the Community Alliance and how it links into the wider strategic aims of the Community Planning West Dunbartonshire (CPWD) Management Board.

REVIEW OF SCHEME OF ESTABLISHMENT FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILS

The Community Empowerment Officer gave a verbal update in relation to the process of reviewing the Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils and advised that this was the formal part of the process (including a nine month review timetable). The officer also gave an outline of what was planned in relation to the review, which would then be proceeded by new community council elections.

After discussion, the position was noted in respect of this matter.

WORKPLAN FOR COMMUNITY ALLIANCE/FORWARD PLANNER

Discussion took place on what measures might be most effective in ensuring a better attendance at future meetings of the Community Alliance (CA), and it was noted that the timing, location of meetings should not be a barrier for members who wished to attend. The use of social media was also discussed as this could be used to advertise the existence of the Community Alliance and make more community groups aware of how they could interface with the CA, to the benefits to themselves and to the wider community of West Dunbartonshire.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Having heard Anne MacDougall, Chair, it was noted that there had been no intimation of any items to be taken forward under this.

DATE(S) OF NEXT/FUTURE MEETINGS

Anne MacDougall Chair, Chair, thanked Stephen Burns, Communities Project Worker, Suzanne Greer, Community Empowerment Officer and Craig Stewart, Committee Officer for their work in taking matters forward with regard to raising the profile and making the Community Alliance generally more effective and fit-for-purpose.

Anne also took the opportunity to welcome back Elaine Troup, Communities Manager. It was noted that officers would take away and consider the key themes that emerged from the recent conference which would inform the workplan for the Alliance for 2020/21 and allow planning of meetings and inviting speakers and making the meetings more accessible and appealing to new members.

The meeting closed at 3.23 p.m.

APPEALS COMMITTEE

At a Special Meeting of the Appeals Committee held via video conferencing on Tuesday, 23 February 2021 at 1.03 p.m.

Present: Councillors Ian Dickson, Jonathan McColl and Caroline McAllister.

Attending: Victoria Rogers, Chief Officer – People & Technology and Lynn Straker, Committee Officer.

Councillor Ian Dickson in the Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee agreed to approve the following resolution:-

“That under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act”.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of Meetings of the Appeals Committee held on the undernoted dates were submitted and approved as correct records:-

- (a) 19 November 2018 at 9.30 a.m;
- (b) 19 November 2018 at 4.25 p.m; and
- (c) 20 November 2018 at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting closed at 1.07 p.m.

APPEALS COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Appeals Committee held via video conference on Thursday, 23 September 2021 at 9.33 a.m.

Present: Councillors Karen Conaghan, Jonathan McColl and Brian Walker.

Attending: Victoria Rogers, Chief Officer – People & Technology; Nigel Ettles, Principal Solicitor; and Lynn Straker and Ashley MacIntyre, Committee Officers.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Lawrence O'Neill.

Councillor Karen Conaghan in the Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee agreed to approve the following resolution:-

“That under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act”.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of Meetings of the Appeals Committee held on 22 October 2020 and 28 January 2021 were submitted and approved as correct records.

PROCEDURE

The Committee agreed to note the Appeals Committee Hearings – Appeals Process would be followed at this Hearing of Appeal.

APPEAL AGAINST DISMISSAL (REF: APP/21/01)

There were submitted background papers relating to an appeal that had been submitted to the Council in relation to a dismissal.

The Appellant was present and represented by Ms Claire Greer, GMB. Ms Bernadette Smith, Integrated Operations Manager, was in attendance to present the case on behalf of Management. Ms LEEANNE Galasso, People and Change Partner, was in attendance as an Adviser to Ms Smith.

Ms Smith presented the case for Management and thereafter answered questions from Ms Greer and Members of the Committee.

Ms Greer then presented the case for the Appellant. Ms Greer and the Appellant then answered questions from Ms Smith and Members of the Committee.

Ms Smith and then Ms Greer and the Appellant summed up their respective cases and thereafter both parties withdrew from the meeting.

After the Committee had deliberated the matter in private, both parties were re-admitted to the meeting and advised that the grounds of the appeal had been substantiated and the appeal was upheld with the decision taken to reinstate the Appellant.

The Chair, Councillor Conaghan, advised that the Appellant would be reinstated to the third attendance advisory period which would run for 12 calendar months from the day following the Appellant's last day of absence (i.e. from 8 May 2021).

Councillor Conaghan also advised that due to the dismissal being on capability grounds, the Appellant had received 12 weeks' pay in lieu of notice which required to be recovered. HR would contact the Appellant to confirm how this would be managed.

The meeting closed at 12.56 p.m.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

At a Special Meeting of the Housing and Communities Committee held by video conference on Wednesday, 5 January 2022 at 2.02 p.m.

Present: Councillors Gail Casey, Karen Conaghan, Ian Dickson, Diane Docherty, Jim Finn, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Iain McLaren, John Mooney and Sally Page.

Attending: Peter Barry, Chief Officer – Housing and Employability; Angela Wilson, Chief Officer – Supply, Distribution and Property; John Kerr, Housing Development and Homelessness Manager; Angus Cameron, Business Partner – Strategic Procurement; Michelle Lynn, Asset Co-ordinator; Sally Michael, Principal Solicitor; and Gabriella Gonda, Committee Officer.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Provost William Hendrie.

Councillor Diane Docherty in the Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any item of business on the agenda.

RECORDING OF VOTES

The Committee agreed that all votes taken during the meeting would be done by roll call vote to ensure an accurate record.

REMIT FROM TENDERING COMMITTEE – CONTRACT AUTHORISATION REPORT – PASSIVHAUS / NET ZERO PILOT NEW BUILD DEVELOPMENT

With reference to the minutes of meeting of the Tendering Committee held on 1 December 2021, a report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Supply, Distribution and Property Services seeking approval to authorise the Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration to conclude the award of the contract for Passivhaus / Net Zero Pilot New Build Development.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Officer – Housing and Employability in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to authorise the Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration to conclude on behalf of West Dunbartonshire Council (the Council), the award of the contract for Pappert, Bonhill – Passivhaus / Net Zero Pilot New Build Development to CCG (Scotland) Ltd.;
- (2) to note that the contract shall be for a period of three years and at a value of £6m ex VAT. The estimated commencement date of the contract to be 31 January 2022; and
- (3) in line with the Council’s recognition of the global climate crisis, the Committee asks that a report is brought to a future meeting of the Housing and Communities Committee detailing how our current standard of New Build Council Houses can be further improved to ensure we remain ahead of our Net Zero target for carbon emissions. This Council has historically gone well beyond the minimum standards for social housing set by the Scottish Government and in asking for this report to set out its intent to continue to do so as those standards catch up with our current policies.

The meeting closed at 2:43 p.m.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Housing and Communities Committee held by video conference on Wednesday, 2 February 2022 at 2.02 p.m.

Present: Councillors Gail Casey, Karen Conaghan, Ian Dickson, Diane Docherty, Jim Finn, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Iain McLaren, John Millar, John Mooney and Sally Page.

Attending: Peter Barry, Chief Officer – Housing and Employability; Angela Wilson, Chief Officer – Supply, Distribution and Property; John Kerr, Housing Development and Homelessness Manager; Nicola Pettigrew, Housing Operations Manager; Martin Feeney, Building Services Manager; Alan Young, Housing Asset and Investment Manager; Michelle Lynn, Asset Co-ordinator; Sally Michael, Principal Solicitor; and Gabriella Gonda, Committee Officer.

Also attending: Chief Inspector Coleen Wylie and Chief Superintendent Lynn Ratcliff, Police Scotland; and Area Commander Joe McKay, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Provost William Hendrie.

Councillor Diane Docherty in the Chair

STATEMENT BY CHAIR – AUDIO STREAMING

Councillor Docherty, Chair, advised that the meeting was being audio streamed and broadcast live to the internet and would be available for playback.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

RECORDING OF VOTES

The Committee agreed that all votes taken during the meeting would be done by roll call vote to ensure an accurate record.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Housing and Communities Committee held on 3 November 2021 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee noted that no open forum questions have been submitted by members of the public.

MORE HOMES WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE – WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLY DELIVERY PROGRAMME

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer, Housing and Employability providing an update on progress with West Dunbartonshire's More Homes Programme which oversees the delivery of the Council's new home programme.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Officer, Housing and Employability and the Housing Development and Homelessness Manager in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the content of the report and the progress made to date in the delivery of the Council's More Homes West Dunbartonshire approach including the practical completion and handover of the full projects at Creveul Court, Aitkenbar, St Andrews, Haldane and Dumbarton Harbour within 2021; and
- (2) to note that a refreshed More Home West Dunbartonshire delivery programme would be submitted to the next meeting of the Housing and Communities Committee.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICY REVIEW

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer, Housing and Employability seeking approval for changes to the Housing Allocations Policy resulting from a full review of the policy that was carried out during 2021 and which was the subject of a formal consultation which ended in autumn 2021.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Officer, Housing and Employability in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the proposed changes to the West Dunbartonshire Council Housing Allocation Policy and updated policy attached as Appendix 1 to the report with the exception of para 4.17 to the report; and
- (2) that the Chief Officer, Housing and Employability would ensure the effective implementation of the updated Housing Allocation Policy including an appropriate communications plan.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY 2022-2027 – MORE HOMES BETTER HOMES WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer, Housing and Employability presenting and seeking final approval of the Council's new Local Housing Strategy (LHS) for the five year period 2022 to 2027.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Officer, Housing and Employability and the Housing Development and Homelessness Manager in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the final West Dunbartonshire Local Housing Strategy 2022-2027 as appended to the report;
- (2) to note the establishment of the Local Housing Strategy Delivery Board which would oversee the implementation of the Local Housing Strategy; and
- (3) to note that an Annual update report would be presented to the Housing and Communities Committee in May of each year.

“HOME AT THE HEART 2019-24” WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE’S RAPID REHOUSING TRANSITION PLAN UPDATE AND NEW APPROACHES TO HOMELESSNESS PROGRESS REPORT

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer, Housing and Employability:-

- (a) providing an update in terms of the progress and challenges in delivering Year 3 of “Home at the Heart”, our Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP), and outlining the key findings from the review of our residential supported accommodation; and
- (b) providing an update regarding the Scottish Government funding and our local response to the recommendations made by the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG).

After discussion and having heard the Chief Officer, Housing and Employability and the Housing Development and Homelessness Manager in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress and challenges in delivering Year 3 of our Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan;
- (2) to note the key findings from the review of residential supported accommodation highlighted within para 4.17- 4.22 of the report;
- (3) to note that Scottish Government funding of £238k has been awarded for 2022/23 for the specific delivery of the West Dunbartonshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan;

- (4) to approve that the Council's housing allocation letting target for homeless households is amended to 69% for 2022/23 as set out in para 4.20 and 4.21 of the report and note the Chief Officer, Housing and Employability would keep this target under close review based on current modelling projections;
- (5) to note the continued uncertainty around future funding and specifically the risk to our Housing First approach; and
- (6) to note that a full annual update and progress report would be provided to the Housing and Communities Committee in autumn 2022, including a fully updated Year 4 plan based on the identified 2022/23 funding.

EMPLOYABILITY SERVICE PROVISION

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer, Housing and Employability providing an update on the progress for the delivery of employability programmes and support that is set within the context of 'No One Left Behind', a new approach to employability services that requires partner input to services.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Officer, Housing and Employability in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the proposed approach for West Dunbartonshire to establish an Employability Grant Programme delivered through the West Dunbartonshire Local Employability Partnership as the primary model for commissioning employability services from external service providers in 2021-24; and
- (2) to note that regular progress would be reported through the Community Planning Partnership Delivery Improvement Group.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 31 DECEMBER 2021 (PERIOD 9)

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer, Resources providing an update on the financial performance to 31 December 2021 (Period 9) of the HRA revenue and capital budgets for 2021/22.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Officer, Housing and Employability in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the revenue analysis showed a projected annual favourable variance of £0.008m; and
- (2) to note the net projected annual position in relation to the capital plan was highlighting an in-year variance of £10.812m which was made up of slippage of £11.076m (22.92%) and overspend of £0.264m (0.55%) as detailed in Appendix 4 to the report.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2021/22 AS AT PERIOD 9 (31 DECEMBER 2021)

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer, Resources providing an update on the financial performance to 31 December 2021 (Period 9) of those services under the auspices of the Housing and Communities Committee.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Officer, Housing and Employability in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report which showed the revenue budget forecast to overspend against budget by £0.676m (20.0%) at the year-end, of which £0.539m was COVID-19 related;
- (2) to note the net projected annual position in relation to relevant capital projects which showed no projected variance; and
- (3) to note the progress on efficiencies incorporated into budgets for 2021/22.

SCRUTINY REPORTS

(A) POLICE SCRUTINY REPORT

A report was submitted by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland providing members with an update on progress against the Local Police Plan.

After discussion and having heard Chief Superintendent Ratcliff, Police Scotland, the Committee agreed to note the update provided.

(B) FIRE AND RESCUE SCRUTINY QUARTER 3 REPORT

A report was submitted by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing appropriate performance data measured against priorities in the West Dunbartonshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan.

After discussion and having heard Area Commander McKay, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, the Committee agreed to note the content of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service West Dunbartonshire Council Year to Date Report.

The meeting closed at 4.15 p.m.