

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday 29 August 2007 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Provost Denis Agnew and Councillors George Black, James Bolland, Margaret Bootland, Jim Brown, Geoff Calvert, Gail Casey, Jim Finn, William Hendrie, Douglas McAllister, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Ronnie McColl, Jim McElhill, Patrick McGlinchey, Craig McLaughlin, Willie McLaughlin, Marie McNair, John Millar, Iain Robertson and Martin Rooney.

Attending: David McMillan, Chief Executive; Ronnie Dinnie, Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land and Environmental Services); Liz McGinlay, Director of Education and Cultural Services; David Connell, Head of Finance; Tricia O'Neill, Head of Personnel Services; Stephen West, Manager of Resources, Social Work Services; Liz Cochrane, Principal Policy Officer; David Webster, Section Head, Performance Management, Stephen Brown, Head of Legal and Administrative Services and George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer.

Also Attending: George Gillespie, Chair of the Community Planning Partnership.

Apology: An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor May Smillie.

Provost Denis Agnew in the Chair

OPEN FORUM

The Council noted that no open forum questions had been received from members of the public.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 27 June 2007 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

MINUTES OF THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE FORUM

The Minutes of Meeting of the Joint Consultative Forum held on 21 June 2007 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

REVISED STANDING ORDERS AND REVISED PROTOCOL FOR MEMBER/OFFICER RELATIONS

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council on 27 June 2007 (Page 166 refers), a report was submitted by the Chief Executive recommending approval of the undernoted documents:-

- (a) Revised Standing Orders and Committee Remits; and
- (b) Revised Protocol for Member/Officer Relations.

Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor McElhill, moved:-

That the Council approves the Standing Orders as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, for a six month period, subject to the following alterations:-

- (a) In respect of Standing Orders 32 (3) and 35 (b), replace the references to £60,000 with £30,000.
- (b) Standing Order No. 36 (a) should be amended to read as follows:-

“Where the estimated expenditure is less than £30,000.
Estimated expenditure means the total expenditure incurred over the duration of the contract including all finance and other charges”.
- (c) The quorum of the Audit and Performance Review Committee be increased to 3, two of which should be opposition members.

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

That in addition to the above, Standing Order 1 (b) should be amended to read as follows:-

“Once elected the Convener and Depute Convener of the Council will hold the title of Provost and Depute Provost respectively and will remain in office until the next ordinary election, subject to the right of Council by resolution to remove either the Convener or Depute Convener or both from office.”

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

Note: A revised copy of the Standing Orders which incorporates all of the amendments made during this meeting are shown as Appendix I to these Minutes.

Thereafter, the Council agreed to approve the revised Protocol for Member/Officer Relations (incorporating Guidance on Multi-Member Wards) as shown in Appendix II to these minutes.

COMMITTEE TIMETABLE TO DECEMBER 2008

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Council held on 27 June 2007 (Page 167 refers), a report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing the Council with a proposed timetable of meetings to December 2008.

The Council approved the timetable of meetings as shown in Appendix III to these minutes.

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Council held on 27 June 2007 (Page 168 refers), a report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing the Council with an update on the appointments made to outside bodies.

Having heard Councillor Robertson, the Council agreed to the make the undernoted nominations to outside bodies:-

Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project Joint Committee	Councillor May Smillie (Opposition to nominate a Substitute)
West of Scotland Loan Fund	Invite any interested Member or alternatively ask the Chief Executive to nominate an officer to attend.
Loch Lomond Rescue Boat Management Committee	Councillor Geoff Calvert
Scottish Maritime Museum Trust	Invite any interested Member or alternatively ask the Chief Executive to nominate an officer to attend.
West Dunbartonshire Citizens' Advice Bureau	Councillor Iain Robertson

REPRESENTATION ON COSLA EXECUTIVE GROUPS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive inviting the Council to make nominations to COSLA Executive Groups.

Having heard Councillor Robertson, the Council agreed to make the following nominations to the undernoted Executive Groups:-

Health and Well-being	Councillor Jonathan McColl
Education, Children & Young People	Councillor May Smillie
Community Well-Being and Safety	Councillor Jim Brown
Regeneration and Sustainable Development	Councillor William Hendrie
Resources and Capacity	Councillor Craig McLaughlin

AFFILIATIONS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing information on those organisations to which the Council is currently affiliated and asking the Council to consider the renewal of the affiliations on an annual basis.

Having heard Councillor C. McLaughlin and following discussion the Council agreed to continue this item to the next meeting for a full report of all affiliations. The report should clearly state the annual fees for each organisation and include details of the organisations work and input in the West Dunbartonshire area.

It was further agreed that, as an interim arrangement, Councillor McGlinchey be nominated to serve on the Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty, as Chair, until such time as the Council has considered all of its affiliations.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY PLAN 2007/17

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive seeking endorsement of the final draft of the West Dunbartonshire Community Plan 2007/17.

At this point copies of 2 revised pages from the draft Community Plan (Pages 27 and 34 of the document refer) were circulated for Members' information. It was also noted that Mr George Gillespie, Chair of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) was in attendance.

Following discussion, Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor J. McColl, moved:-

That the Council agrees:-

- (1) to endorse the final draft of the Community Plan as detailed in the appendix to the report, subject to the comments made by Members at the meeting concerning the differing levels of detail and targets in certain areas of the document being passed to the CPP by the Chair (George Gillespie) and Vice – Chair of the CPP (Councillor Robertson); and
- (2) to participate in the arrangements for the public launch in September.

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

This Council agrees to continue consideration of this matter until the democratically arrived at formula for the CPP board previously rejected by the previous Labour administration is re-instated.

It is critical that the decision making process is robust and democratically arrived at before we agree the 10 year Community Plan.

On a vote being taken, 2 Members voted for the amendment and 19 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP – KEY DEVELOPMENTS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive updating the Council on key developments within West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership, (CPP).

Having heard Councillor Robertson, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note that Councillor Robertson would ensure that Councillor Calvert would receive a copy of the information that he had requested on the numbers of staff employed by the Partnership, total wage bill, staff costs as a percentage of total expenditure, etc;
- (2) to note that the CPP had approved a motion by Councillor Robertson that all appointments be frozen until all of the information referred to at (1) above was made available to the Partnership for consideration at its October meeting; and
- (3) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS AND THE ROLE OF THE AUDIT & PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive updating the Council on progress with the review of scrutiny arrangements and proposals for discussion at the Audit & Performance Review Committee.

Having heard Councillor Calvert, the Council agreed to note that it would receive recommendations on both the approach to scrutiny and the remit of the Audit & Performance Review Committee, following discussion by that Committee on 18 September 2007.

CORPORATE PLAN ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2006/07

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive inviting the Council to comment on the annual review of the performance of the Corporate Plan.

After discussion and having heard the Section Head, Performance Management in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the annual review of the performance of the Corporate Plan and the comments made by Members in respect of the way in which certain areas of performance are measured; and
- (2) to refer the Plan to the Audit & Performance Review Committee for further scrutiny.

DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2008-2012

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive presenting the Council's new Corporate Plan for comment.

After discussion and having heard the Director of Education and Cultural Services and the Section Head, Performance Management, in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note that Members should submit their comments on the Draft Plan to the Chief Executive by 18 September 2007; and
- (2) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

AUDIT OF BEST VALUE AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing the Council with a note of the visit of Audit Scotland in August and the progress of the Best Value Improvement Plan.

After discussion, the Council agreed to note the progress of the Audit of Best Value and Community Planning.

DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2006/07

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing the Council with a copy of the Draft Annual Accounts for 2006/2007.

After discussion, the Council agreed:-

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

- (2) that the draft accounts be referred to the Audit & Performance Review Committee for analysis.

**GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT:
(PERIOD 3) 2007/08**

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive advising the Council of the performance of the General Services Revenue Budget for the period to 15 July 2007.

Having heard Councillor McLaughlin, the Council approved the undernoted motion:-

As a result of the financial position facing the Council both in the current year and looking ahead to 2008/09, it is necessary as a matter of urgency to take action to reduce expenditure in the remainder of this financial year.

As a result the Council instructs the Chief Executive to put in place, with immediate effect, a freeze on all non essential spending on office equipment, IT equipment and furniture and fittings budgets.

The Council also asks the Corporate Management Team to put in place safeguards for business or health and safety critical issues.

The Council also asks that greater use is made of the internal network and e-mail in order to recycle redundant equipment.

ADJOURNMENT

At this point, the Council agreed to adjourn for a short period of time.

The meeting reconvened at 8.40 p.m. with all those Members shown on the Sederunt in attendance.

**GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT
(PERIOD 3) 2007/2008**

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update on the General Services Capital Plan for 2007/2008.

Having heard the Manager of Resources (Social Work Services), the Head of Finance and the Chief Executive in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed to approve the updated Capital Plan and noted the position to date as outlined in Appendices I, II and III to the report.

GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PLAN 2008/09 AND 2009/10

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing information on capital resources and bids for 2008/09 and 2009/10.

The Council agreed:-

- (1) that in relation to 2008/09:-
 - (a) to note that, at present, the funds available for uncommitted capital bids totalled £2.756m; and
 - (b) that, at present, no uncommitted bids would be considered;
- (2) that in relation to 2009/10:-
 - (a) to note the position as stated within the report; and
 - (b) that, at present, no uncommitted bids would be considered.

INDICATIVE FINANCIAL POSITION 2008/09 AND 2009/10

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing information about an indicative revenue position for the Council in 2008/09 and 2009/10.

Councillor C. McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McElhill, moved:-

This Council agrees that the financial position facing the authority is one of the worst since the 28% rises back in 1996.

To deliver stable council services and a balanced budget this Council agrees that a cross party approach to the budget setting process is essential to ensure effective service delivery.

Therefore the Council asks the Labour Group to nominate 2 Members to serve on a Working Group. The Working Group will look at the various options presented to it by the Corporate Management Team with a view to reducing the deficit which the authority is facing. Thereafter, the proposals will be made available to the press and public and all employees informed via the intranet, prior to consideration by the Council.

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

That the Labour Group will prepare its own budget with the assistance of officers and submit it to Council for consideration at the appropriate time.

After hearing Councillor J. McColl, the Council agreed to proceed by way of a roll call vote.

On a vote being taken, 10 Members voted for the amendment (namely Councillors Margaret Bootland, Geoff Calvert, Gail Casey, Douglas McAllister, David McBride, Patrick McGlinchey, Willie McLaughlin, Marie McNair, John Millar and Martin Rooney) and 11 voted for the motion (namely Provost Denis Agnew, Councillors George Black, Jim Bolland, Jim Brown, Jim Finn, William Hendrie, Jonathan McColl, Ronnie McColl; Jim McElhill, Craig McLaughlin and Iain Robertson).

The motion was accordingly declared carried.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND APPRAISAL FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive recommending a framework of Performance Management and Appraisal for the Chief Executive and Directors of the Council.

The Head of Personnel Services was heard in further explanation of the report.

Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor J. McColl, moved:-

That the Council approves the recommendations of the report, as follows:-

- (1) the Performance Management Framework attached at Appendix 1 to the report, for use with regard to the Chief Executive and Directors;
- (2) the use of an external consultant to support the introduction of the Performance Management Process; and
- (3) the development of the Recruitment Committee remit into a Recruitment and Individual Performance Management Committee as outlined in Appendix 2 to the report (shown as Appendix 3 (i) to the Revised Standing Orders (Appendix I to these Minutes).

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

This Council does not approve these recommendations particularly in relation to the appointment (uncosted) of an external consultant to support the introduction of the process but agrees that elected members should review the performance of the Chief Executive and Directors with external assistance as deemed necessary by this group which should include two council taxpayers one of whom should be a council tenant.

After discussion, it was clarified that the group referred to in Councillor Black's amendment was not the Recruitment Committee and therefore there was no conflict with a decision made earlier in the Meeting concerning the Standing Orders and Remits of Committees.

On a vote being taken, 2 Members voted for the amendment and 19 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

PROPOSED VISIT TO ARGENTEUIL

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive seeking approval for a working visit to Argenteuil, West Dunbartonshire's twin town.

After hearing the Head of Legal and Administrative Services and following discussion, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to approve a civic visit to Argenteuil on the basis of the information contained in the report;
- (2) that, in future, all reports concerning the proposed visits by Members to countries should include full details of the cost of the visit and after the visit has taken place, a report be presented to Council highlighting the outcome of the visit and the benefits to West Dunbartonshire Council; and
- (3) to defer the decision on the nomination of the other elected member to accompany the Provost on the visit, to a later date.

EMPLOYEE SURVEY

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive updating the Council on the Employee Attitude Survey which was conducted in April and May 2007.

Having heard Councillor Robertson, the Council approved the undernoted motion:-

The Council welcomes the draft "Employee Attitude Survey" which was carried out by the IBP Consultants during April/May 2007.

Although the report highlights some positive findings there are a number of real challenges which need to be addressed, for example, positive leadership behaviours, staff feeling valued, communication and consultation, dignity at work etc.

It is important that we use this report as a basis to improve the culture within the organisation.

Council notes the content of the report from IBP Consultants and agrees to set up a Member/Officer Working Group to address the issues raised in the survey and look at IBP's recommendations. The Working Group should also look at wider staffing and organisational issues. The Working Group will report back to Council in six months time and will comprise:

- 2 Elected Members (Administration)
- 2 Elected Members (Opposition)
- 3 Trade Union Conveners (Rotational)
- Member of the Corporate Management Team
- Head of Personnel
- Head of Policy & Performance

Thereafter, it was agreed that an interim report be submitted to Council in 3 months time.

**HRA 2007/08 BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT TO 15 JULY 2007
(PERIOD 3)**

A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration Services) containing information on the progress of the Housing Revenue Account 2007/2008 up to 15 July 2007 (Period 3).

Having heard Councillor C. McLaughlin inform the Council that the pending file had reduced from £9,248 to approximately £2000 (paragraph 3.1 (d) of the report refers) and the Manager of Resources (Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services) in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed to note the terms of the report.

**HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/08 – BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT
TO 15 JULY 2007 (PERIOD 3)**

A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services) on the progress of the HRA Capital Programme 2007/2008 up to 15 July 2007 (Period 3).

Having heard Councillor McLaughlin, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note that a further report on the kitchen programme of works would be submitted to the next meeting of the Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee; and
- (2) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

FLOODLIGHTING OF DUMBARTON CASTLE AND ROCK

A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration Services) advising the Council on progress with plans for the reinstatement of floodlighting to Dumbarton Castle and Rock.

Having heard Councillor Calvert in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed to note the formation of a working group to progress the renewal of the floodlighting around Dumbarton Castle and Rock and noted that a further report covering this matter including financial implications would be submitted to the Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee for consideration.

QUESTIONS

The undernoted questions were submitted in terms of Standing Order No 9 (b):-

(a) Question to the Leader of the Council by Councillor David McBride – Council Tax Freeze

The Leader of the Council will recall that I moved a motion at the June Council Meeting, expressing my concern that any freeze on next years' Council Tax imposed by the Scottish Executive, without a compensatory increase in grant funding, would leave this Council facing a potential black hole in our budgets and result in serious detriment to the services we provide.

In order to address this and other long standing concerns about our budget settlements, given that deprivation is not a determining factor in the distribution of funds, I called on him to raise these issues with COSLA and lead a cross party delegation to a meeting with Finance Secretary John Swinney.

He will recall that he moved a successful amendment noting he had made contact with John Swinney and he intended to arrange a meeting with him, alongside other Councillors and Officers. Can the Leader of the Council update me on what progress was made regarding these concerns following contact with John Swinney; when will this cross party meeting take place; and will both West Dunbartonshire local MSPs be invited to this meeting?

Response from Councillor Robertson

I am happy to provide the Council with an update on the situation. I do not have a date for the proposed meeting with the Cabinet Secretary yet. Due to holidays and the recess in July I have not had a chance to agree a date just yet. However, this is not a bad thing as it has given Mr Connell more time to flesh out some of the financial details and prepare a detailed briefing which would be required for the meeting.

With regard to COSLA, I have asked Councillor Lyle, SNP Group Leader on COSLA, to raise this issue on my behalf. I understand that the SNP Group at COSLA has arranged a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary on 24 September and the issues will be raised at that time.

As far as MSPs are concerned, I do not think that it is necessary to involve them in the meeting. This is a local government matter and I think that Councillors Ronnie McColl, Martin Rooney, Craig McLaughlin, the Labour Group Finance Spokesperson and myself would be more than capable to handle the meeting on our own.

(b) Question to the Leader of Council by Councillor Geoff Calvert – Knowle Burn

The Council welcomes the work being taken forward to address the problems caused by flooding of the Knowle Burn. However, the Council also recognises that some of the options under consideration are giving great concern to the community of Dumbarton.

Will the Leader of the Council confirm categorically that a report on the outcome of the consultation will come before the September meeting of the full Council for consideration and decision before any submission is made to the SE and will he reassure the Council in his personal belief that 'cheapest is not always best'?

Response from Councillor Robertson

A meeting was organised by Silverton and Overtoun Community Council to discuss the proposed flood prevention plan. The meeting was attended by an officer and some of the consultants involved in the preparation of the plan. Professor Black, attending on behalf of an objector, was also present and he made a very good contribution to the meeting. A lot of concerns were expressed by objectors about the loss of trees in the proposed site but it was pointed out that a number of trees have come to the end of their natural life and some are diseased and therefore would need to be taken down anyway.

In terms of consultation this matter would need to be dealt with as part of the normal planning process. However, it is intended that a full report on the matter will be presented to Council in October which will outline the full consultation model.

NOTICES OF MOTION

In accordance with the terms of Standing Order No 8 (a), the Council considered the undernoted motions:-

(a) Motion by Councillor John Millar – Play Drome

This Council notes the proposal of the planned early closure of the Play Drome in Clydebank.

Council is concerned that the decision to reduce opening times will have a negative impact on individual users and the many community groups in Clydebank that currently use this facility.

Council agrees to put the decision on hold until a report outlining the impact of the planned changes has been considered by the full Council.

In the meantime, the Chief Executive is requested to ensure that interim arrangements are put in place to allow users to continue to use this valuable community facility.

The motion was seconded by Councillor P. McGlinchey.

As an amendment, Councillor Bootland, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved:-

This Council notes the early closure of the Play Drome in Clydebank.

Council is concerned that the decision to reduce opening times will have a negative impact on individual users and the many community groups in Clydebank that currently use this facility.

Council agrees to bring forward a report outlining the impact of the changes.

As a second amendment, Councillor Hendrie, seconded by Councillor C. McLaughlin, moved:-

The proposal to review weekend opening hours was approved by Elected Members in Nov 2005 as part of the Leisure Services Best Value Review – Improvement Action Plan.

Members further agreed to detailed proposals to close the facility as part of the 2007/08 Budget setting exercise in Feb 2007.

Detailed analysis of the facility usage after 4.30 pm at weekends demonstrated that the facility is extremely poorly utilised at weekend evenings.

Early closing of the facility commenced Sat 7 July following detailed negotiations with staff to alter their working patterns and an exercise to accommodate the resident clubs and user groups.

To date, all previous club bookings have been successfully accommodated elsewhere within the programme with the exception of the local swimming club. Negotiations with this club are still ongoing however it is considered that an acceptable arrangement can be reached in the near future.

Given the negotiations with staff to develop acceptable shift patterns to accommodate the earlier close, it would not be possible to re-open the centre on weekend evenings at short notice. The majority of staff have indicated that they have experienced social benefits from working the revised shift patterns and indicated that they would not wish to return to working later on weekend evenings. This would involve detailed negotiations between management, staff and trade unions. Council duly notes the current Play Drome opening hours.

Council also instructs the Chief Executive to ask internal audit to launch an investigation into the unusual booking patterns at the facility prior to the changes.

Following discussion and debate, Councillor Millar, with the consent of the Council, withdrew his motion. Accordingly, the amendment by Councillor Bootland became the motion and the second amendment became the amendment.

After hearing Councillor J. McColl, the Council agreed to proceed by way of a roll call vote.

On a vote being taken, 10 Members voted for the amendment (namely Provost Denis Agnew, Councillors Jim Bolland, Jim Brown, Jim Finn, William Hendrie, Jonathan McColl, Ronnie McColl; Jim McElhill, Craig McLaughlin and Iain Robertson) and 11 voted for the motion (namely Councillors George Black, Margaret Bootland, Geoff Calvert, Gail Casey, Douglas McAllister, David McBride, Patrick McGlinchey, Willie McLaughlin, Marie McNair, John Millar and Martin Rooney).

The motion was accordingly declared carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At this point, the Council agreed to adjourn for a short period of time.

The Meeting reconvened at 10.30 p.m. with all those Members shown on the Sederunt in attendance with the exception of Councillor McAllister.

(b) Motion by Councillor John Millar – Sports Facilities

This Council recognises the importance of providing quality sports facilities for all our citizens in West Dunbartonshire.

Council acknowledges that £2.5m of sports facilities are included in the proposed Schools PPP project. Council also notes that in 2006 the previous Labour Administration had allocated £1m of capital spending through the use of prudential borrowing to improve sports provision throughout West Dunbartonshire.

It is further noted that the Council had previously conducted an assessment of the existing sports provision and had identified areas of need that should be addressed through the work of the Council's Sports Strategy Working Group.

Given that some considerable time has passed since many of these decisions were taken, Council instructs the Chief Executive to bring forward an interim report to a future Council meeting in order to update all elected members on progress with the Council's Sports Strategy.

Any report should consider the potential contributions from our partners including funding partners and community groups such as the Clydebank Sports Trust.

Councillor Millar was heard in support of the above motion which was seconded by Councillor Calvert.

As an amendment, Councillor Hendrie, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, moved:-

The assessment of existing sports provision and identification of requirements for the future is work which is currently being undertaken by PMP (UK) Ltd – a sports consultancy engaged to assist the Council in developing a Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and a Sports Pitch Strategy.

The work of the group, and that of the consultants, is entering the final stages. It is anticipated that the final draft strategies will be presented to Elected Members in October 2007. The draft strategies will incorporate action plans which will identify a range of actions and delivery options in line with the strategy. The draft Strategy is informed following member and public consultation.

The extent of the action plans, and associated costs to deliver, have yet to be finalised therefore it is not possible, at this stage, to identify potential contributions from funding partners. It is however recognised that successful delivery of the action plans will require financial support from key partners and community organisations and such opportunities will be incorporated into the plans. Community sports clubs have been considered as part of the strategy and groups involved have been fully consulted.

Council duly notes this work and awaits the report due in October.

At this point Councillor Millar, with the consent of Council withdrew his motion and the matter was not considered further.

(c) Motion by Councillor Jim Bolla – Remploy

This Council agrees to fully support Remploy workers and staff in their attempts to protect their jobs and the services they provide to the wider Community. We call on the Government to urgently review the funding levels required to sustain the Remploy operation.

This Council also instructs the CEO to examine ways in which the Council can maximise the amount of contract and other works we are able to place with Remploy and other supported businesses (where more than 50% of the workers are disabled) as provided for under the new public procurement legislation which became law in January 2006.

Councillor Bollan moved the above motion which was unanimously approved by the Council.

(d) Motion by Councillor William McLaughlin - Remploy

West Dunbartonshire Council affirms its support to Remploy as a major employer of disabled people in this area and throughout the country. This Council agrees that Remploy is an essential, though not exclusive organisation that assists disabled people into employment.

Councillor W. McLaughlin, with the consent of Council, withdrew his motion.

(e) Motion by Councillor Jim Finn - Saltire

In keeping with an ever increasing national confidence, this Council agrees to fly our national flag, the Saltire, at all Council buildings that have a flag pole, every day with the exception of the following days or with the agreement of the Provost.

Full Council Meeting	Council Flag (meeting place)
Queen's Birthday (21 st April)	Union Flag
Queen's Official Birthday (to be advised)	Union Flag
Remembrance Sunday (nearest Sunday to 11 th Nov)	Union Flag
St Andrew's Day (30 th November)	Saltire

Where there is the ability to fly two flags, the Saltire will remain on the second flagpole. The Council flag should only fly on the building where the Full Council Meeting will take place.

On Council buildings where there are two flagpoles available, the Saltire should remain on the first and the following flags should fly on the second on their respective dates.

Commonwealth Day (13 th March)	Commonwealth Flag
Europe Day (9 th May)	EU Flag
United Nations Day (24 th October)	UN Flag

Councillor Finn was heard in support of the above motion which was seconded by Councillor McLaughlin.

Having heard Councillor Bollan, Councillor Finn agreed to accept the undernoted addendum to his motion:-

This Council also agrees to fly the red flag on workers day May 1st from each of the following 3 Council Buildings, namely:-

Clydebank Town Hall
Dumbarton Municipal Buildings
Alexandria Library

Thereafter, the Council unanimously approved the above motion as amended to include the addendum.

(f) Motion by Councillor David McBride – Council Tax

Council notes the significant increase in Council Tax collection rates for 2006/07. This Council also notes with satisfaction that this performance places West Dunbartonshire in the top four of all 32 Councils in Scotland for in year Council Tax collection rates.

Council further notes that the following measures introduced by previous Labour Administrations were instrumental in this success:-

- 1/ Increased debt recovery arrangements following the Council's previous equal pay settlement;
- 2/ An increase in staffing resources available to the Finance Section to assist in the recovery of unpaid Council Tax; and
- 3/ A deliberate policy commitment to keep Council Tax levels as low as possible which makes Council Tax relatively more affordable and has resulted in West Dunbartonshire Council having the lowest level of Council Tax increases in the last ten years in the entire UK (Source – Halifax/Bank of Scotland).

Council recognises that without these measures and the commitment and determination of our staff this extra money would not be available to be invested in current service provision.

The improvements in recent years are commendable and Council congratulates all staff involved in this remarkable achievement.

Councillor McBride was heard in support of the above motion which was seconded by Councillor Millar.

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

This Council recognises and congratulates all the staff in revenue collections for achieving a remarkable increase in collection against the trends of other larger local authorities.

The Council recognises that the achievement made by staff have been entirely down to the continual improvement and commitment they make.

This Council agrees that the Chief Executive, together with the Head of Revenue should write personally to the staff to thank them.

On a vote being taken, 11 Members voted for the amendment and 9 for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

The meeting closed at 11.30 p.m.