

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank, on Wednesday 28 February 2007 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Provost Alistair Macdonald and Councillors Denis Agnew, George Black, Margaret Bootland, Dennis Brogan, Geoff Calvert, James Flynn, Jackie Maceira*, Douglas McAllister, James McCallum*, Linda McColl, Margaret McGregor, Craig McLaughlin, Marie McNair*, Iain Robertson, Martin Rooney and Andy White.

*Arrived later in the meeting.

Attending: David McMillan, Chief Executive; Ronnie Dinnie, Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land and Environmental Services); Irving Hodgson, Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration Services); Liz McGinlay, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Bill Clark, Director of Social Work Services; David Connell, Head of Finance; Stephen Brown, Head of Legal and Administrative Services, Terry Lanagan, Head of Service (Schools' Estate); Anne Laird, Manager of Administrative Services; Jeff Stobo, Manager of Strategy and Jim Pow, Manager of Finance (Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services); Gillian Jump, Manager of Accounting; David Webster, Section Head, Performance Management and George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer.

Also

Attending: Mr Divers, Chief Executive and Dr Linda de Caestecker, Director of Public Health, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (both only in attendance for Items 3 and 4 on the Agenda).

Apologies: Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Gail Casey, Anthony Devine, Duncan McDonald and Connie O'Sullivan.

PROVOST'S REMARKS

11578 Provost Macdonald informed the Council that Mr Allan Cowie, Macmillan Cancer Support, would not give a presentation to this meeting of Council as stated on the Agenda but would do so at a future meeting of the Council.

PRESENTATION BY GREATER GLASGOW AND CLYDE NHS

11579 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council on 20 December 2006, Mr Divers, Chief Executive and Dr Linda de Caestecker, Director of Public Health, Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS, gave a presentation to the Council on the health needs assessment for this area and the likely impact of the assessment on the plans for the future provision of health care in West Dunbartonshire.

Note: Councillor Jackie Maceira entered the meeting at this point.

11580 After hearing Mr Divers and Dr de Caestecker in answer to Members' questions, Provost Macdonald thanked them both for their informative presentation.

**ACUTE HOSPITAL SERVICES – ROYAL ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL AND
INVERCLYDE HOSPITAL CONSULTATION DOCUMENT –
DECEMBER 2006**

11581 A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work Services providing the Council with a copy of the response which was submitted to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde in respect of the consultation document relating to Acute Services in the Royal Alexandria and Inverclyde Hospitals.

11582 Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved:-

11583 This Council acknowledges that the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Board has recommended to the Minister that Acute Hospital Services in Inverclyde and Paisley be sustained.

11584 Council recognises the importance of this to the communities in Inverclyde and Paisley in having made progress in securing the future of their local hospitals. We would hope for a similar outcome for the people of West Dunbartonshire.

11585 Council notes that it is the clear preference of the people of this area to have the majority of their Acute Hospital Services delivered as local as possible. Primarily from the Vale of Leven Hospital, but thereafter if specialist health services are required then these should be delivered north of the river rather than at the Royal Alexandria Hospital, Paisley.

11586 Council will work with NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde to determine the health needs of the people of West Dunbartonshire and how best to address these needs.

- 11587 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Flynn, moved:-
- 11588 The Council notes the report on the response submitted to NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde by the Director of Social Work.
- 11589 The Council further recognises the serious issues raised by the Director concerning the lack of consideration and mention of the Vale of Leven Hospital.
- 11590 The report also highlights that analysis of the consultation document shows that the IRH and RAH rely on the continual transportation of patients from West Dunbartonshire.
- 11591 This Council also congratulates the local Inverclyde MSP and community for their success in protecting the IRH from service cuts.
- 11592 This Council also recognises that Jackie Baillie MSP in contrast has failed to protect services at the Vale of Leven Hospital.
- 11593 To that end this Council agrees that it can no longer have any confidence in Jackie Baillie MSP to protect the Vale of Leven Hospital and therefore calls on the MSP to resign.
- 11594 On a vote being taken, 8 Members voted for the amendment and 6 for the motion. Accordingly, the amendment was declared carried.

OPEN FORUM

- 11595 The Council noted that no open forum questions had been received from members of the public.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- (a) Ordinary Meeting held on 20 December 2006
- 11596 The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 20 December 2006 were submitted and approved as a correct record.
- (b) Requisitioned Meeting reconvened on 17 January 2007
- 11597 The Minutes of the Requisitioned Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 17 January 2007 were submitted and approved as a correct record.
- (c) Special Meeting held on 17 January 2007

11598 The Minutes of the Special Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 17 January 2007 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

(d) Special Meeting held on 8 February 2007

11599 The Minutes of the Special Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 8 February 2007 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

11600 The Minutes of the Audit and Performance Review Committee held on 20 December 2006 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

11601 The Minutes of the Community Participation Committee held on 24 January 2007 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

11602 In response to a question from Councillor Black, the Head of Legal and Administrative Services confirmed that it was competent for a representative from the Dumbarton and District Citizen's Advice Bureau to serve on the Community Participation Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

11603 After hearing Provost Macdonald, the Council agreed to adjourn for a short period.

11604 The Meeting reconvened at 3.35 pm with all those Members on the Sederunt present, including Councillor McCallum who arrived during the adjournment but not including Councillor McNair who arrived later in the meeting.

THE LEADER'S OPEN LINE

11605 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive on the operation of the Leader's Open Line which was set up as a monthly "phone-in" on an experimental basis, whereby members of the public would be able to speak to the Leader of the Council about issues of concern.

11606 Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved:-

11607 That the Council approves the recommendation of the report as follows:-

To note the outcome of the six month trial of the Open Line and agree that the decision on whether or not to continue with the Open Line after May 2007 be referred to the new Council.

11608 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Robertson, moved:-

11609 That the Open Line should not continue at all.

11610 Following clarification that Councillor Rooney's motion meant that the Open Line should not continue with immediate effect, Councillor McLaughlin, with the consent of Council withdrew his amendment and accordingly the motion was agreed.

ELECTIONS – MAY 2007

11611 A report was submitted by the Returning Officer providing an update on preparations for the combined Scottish Parliament and Local Government elections to be held on Thursday 3 May 2007.

11612 Having heard the Manager of Administrative Services in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed to note the new arrangements for the elections on 3 May 2007.

PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2007/08 AND 2008/2009 AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2007/2008

11613 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive making recommendations in respect of the proposed:-

- (a) Prudential Indicators for 2007/08 to 2009/10; and
- (b) Treasury Management Strategy for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.

11614 Having heard the Manager of Accounting in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to adopt the Prudential Indicators and Limits set out within Appendix 1 of the report:-
 - Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing Requirements (Tables A and B);
 - Authorised Limits and Operational Boundaries (Table D);
 - Actual and estimates of the ratio of financing costs to Net Revenue Stream (Table E);

- Incremental impact of capital investment decisions on the Band D Council Tax (Table F); and
 - Incremental impact of capital investment decisions Housing Rent levels (Table G);
 -
- (2) to approve the statement by the Head of Finance regarding the external borrowing level in comparison to the Capital Financing Requirement (Appendix 1 - Point 3.4 refers);
 - (3) to approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2007/08 as detailed within Appendix 2 of the report; and
 - (4) to adopt the Treasury Prudential Indicators and Limits set out in Appendix 2 of the report (Table K refers).

11615 It was also noted that the Manager of Accounting would provide Councillor Black with further details on the above, outwith the meeting.

PROGRESS OF BEST VALUE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

11616 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update on the progress made on the Best Value Improvement Plan.

11617 Having heard the Head of Finance in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed to note the progress made and that a further report on progress would be brought to the April Council meeting.

COMMUNITIES SCOTLAND INSPECTION OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT SERVICES

(a) Comments by Working Group on the Inspection of Housing Services Management: Remedial Plan

11618 A note was submitted by the Chief Executive informing the Council of comments made at the meeting of the Working Group on the Inspection of Housing Services Management: Remedial Plan on 21 February 2007.

11619 The Council noted the comments made at the meeting of the Working Group on the Inspection of Housing Management Services: Remedial Plan.

(b) Report by Chief Executive

11620 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive advising the Council of the action required to prepare and progress a remedial plan in relation to Housing Services and seeking approval to deliver these actions.

11621 Councillor Maceira, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved:-

11622 That the recommendations of the report be approved as follows:-

- (1) to approve the outline remedial plan as shown at Appendix 1 of the report and the provisional project plan shown at Appendix 2 of the report;
- (2) to approve the following work to be undertaken by consultants in 2007/08, in accordance with Standing Orders:-
 - a supply and demand study;
 - a study of current processes relating to empty homes;
 - the production of an Asset Management Plan for the Council's housing stock;
 - a stock condition survey; and
- (3) to instruct the Chief Executive to present the remedial plan for approval to a Special Council Meeting of Council for submission to Communities Scotland by 10 April 2007.

11623 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved:-

11624 That the Council agrees:-

- (1) to approve the outline remedial plan as shown at Appendix 1 of the report and the provisional project plan shown at Appendix 2 of the report;
- (2) that the works referred to in Recommendation 7(b) of the report should be subject to future consultation with tenants prior to any decision being made by the Council; and
- (3) to instruct the Chief Executive to present the remedial plan for approval to a Special Council Meeting of Council for submission to Communities Scotland by 10 April 2007.

11625 On a vote being taken, 6 Members voted for the amendment and 9 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

**GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT
2006/2007 (PERIOD 9)**

- 11626 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive on the performance of the General Services Revenue Budget for the period to 15 January 2007.
- 11627 The Council agreed to note the contents of the report.

**GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT
2006/2007 (PERIOD 9)**

- 11628 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive on the performance of the General Services Capital Programme for the period up to 15 January 2007.
- 11629 The Council agreed to approve the updated plan as outlined in Appendices I, II and III of the report.

**HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2006/2007 – BUDGETARY CONTROL
STATEMENT TO 15 JANUARY 2007 (PERIOD 9)**

- 11630 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services) containing information on the progress of the Housing Revenue Account 2006/2007 up to 15 January 2007 (Period 9).
- 11631 The Council agreed to note the contents of the report.

**HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2006/2007 – BUDGETARY CONTROL
REPORT TO 15 JANUARY 2007 (PERIOD 9)**

- 11632 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration Services) on the progress of the HRA Capital Programme 2006/2007 up to 15 January 2007 (Period 9).
- 11633 The Council agreed:-
- (1) approve the budget virement as referred to in Paragraph 3.8 and detailed on Appendix D of the report; and
 - (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008/2009 AND 2009/2010

- 11634 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration Services) seeking approval in principle for the 2008/09 and 2009/10 HRA Capital Programme.
- 11635 The Council approved, in principle, the proposed capital budgets for 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 as shown in the Appendix to these minutes.

CREATION OF A MEMORIAL WALL IN CLYDEBANK

- 11636 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land and Environmental Services) outlining proposals for the creation of a Memorial Wall in Clydebank to commemorate service personnel who lost their lives during active service with the armed forces.
- 11637 Having heard Provost Macdonald, the Council unanimously agreed to approve the undernoted motion:-
- 11638 This Council agrees to the proposals for the creation of a Memorial Wall in Solidarity Plaza, Clydebank to commemorate all those service personnel who lost their lives in defence of their country since 1914.
- 11639 Council also agrees that the Memorial Wall should include the hundreds of civilian victims of the Clydebank Blitz of 13th and 14th March 1941.
- 11640 Council agrees that a working group, chaired by Provost Macdonald be established to co-ordinate an official opening ceremony to take place on Veterans Day, 27th June, 2007.
- 11641 Membership of the working group should be widened in order to maximise community involvement and could include MP and MSPs, Church representatives and representatives of the Royal British Legion.
- 11642 In addition the Provost will ensure that appropriate dignitaries are invited to the official opening of the Clydebank Memorial Wall on Veterans Day.
- 11643 Council notes that Veterans Day will be celebrated across the whole of West Dunbartonshire and the Provost will use the additional £6,000 allocation of funds to support Veterans Day events in Clydebank, Dumbarton and the Vale of Leven area.

THE ONE PLUS ORGANISATION – SERVICES PROVIDED IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

11644 A joint report was submitted by the Director of Social Work Services, the Director of Education and Cultural Services and the Acting Director of Housing Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services) informing the Council of Contingency plans for continuity of services in West Dunbartonshire following the liquidation of the voluntary sector provider One Plus.

11645 The Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the significant partnership working undertaken to ensure continuity of services to vulnerable service users; and
- (2) to approve the actions taken as outlined within the report.

UPDATE ON SCHOOLS' PPP PROJECT

11646 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services informing the Council of the decision by the PPP Project Board to proceed to a Best and Final Offer (BaFO) phase for the West Dunbartonshire Schools' PPP project.

11647 After hearing the Head of Service (Schools' Estate) in answer to Members' questions, Councillor Maceira, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved:-

11648 That the recommendations of the report be approved as follows:-

- (1) to note the decision of the Project Team, Council Advisers and PPP Project Board to proceed to issue a BaFO invitation to all three bidders with a submission deadline of 23 February 2007; and
- (2) to note that a further progress report would be provided to the next meeting of Council and that the recommendation for the naming of a Preferred Bidder would be presented to a future Council meeting for consideration and ratification.

11649 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Black, moved:-

11650 That this Council does not proceed with the issue of the BaFO at the moment as there are still legal and technical questions to be answered.

11651 Furthermore, the project should not proceed until the designs/layouts of the proposed new schools have been submitted to the Architecture Design School Scotland Limited for their comment, as this organisation had already criticised the layouts of existing PPP funded schools.

- 11652 On a vote being taken, 5 Members voted for the amendment and 11 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/07

- 11653 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing information on the additional allocation of funds to Education and Cultural services from the Scottish Executive.
- 11654 Having heard the Director of Education and Cultural Services in answer to Members' questions and following discussion, the Council agreed:-
- (1) that, in future and where possible, the allocations of additional school funds should be weighted in favour of schools in areas of deprivation; and
 - (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

CHANGES TO SERVICE SPOKESPERSONS, COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

- 11655 The Council was asked to consider making changes to the list of Service Spokespersons, Committees and Outside Bodies.
- 11656 Councillor Bootland, seconded by Councillor Rooney, moved:-
- 11657 That Councillor Gail Casey should replace Councillor James Flynn as Spokesperson for Housing Services.
- 11658 As an amendment, Councillor Flynn, seconded by Councillor Craig McLaughlin, moved:-
- 11659 That the Council approves the following:-

Service Spokespersons

Economic Development -	Connie O'Sullivan
Corporate Services -	Tony Devine
Equal Opportunities -	Marie McNair
Planning and Licensing -	Douglas McAllister
Housing -	James Flynn
Audit and Performance Review –	Denis Agnew
Social Work -	Margaret McGregor
Community Participation -	George Black
Education and Cultural Services -	Jackie Maceira
Licensing Board -	Dennis Brogan
Technical Services -	Duncan McDonald

- 11660 On a vote being taken, 9 Members voted for the amendment and 7 for the motion. Accordingly, the amendment was declared carried.
- 11661 The Head of Legal and Administrative Services informed the Council that it did not have the power to appoint the Chairman of the Licensing Board and the decision of Council would therefore be read as a recommendation to the Licensing Board.

NOTICE OF MOTION

- 11662 In accordance with the terms of Standing Order 8, the Council considered the undernoted notice of motion which was submitted by Councillor Jackie Maceira:-
- 11663 This Council agrees to support the 'see me' anti-stigma campaign by signing the 'see me' Pledge. The 'see me' campaign features a programme of events and local and national media initiatives to reduce the stigma faced by people with mental health problems throughout Scotland. The campaign is run by an alliance of five Scottish mental health organisations and is funded by the Scottish Executive as part of the Executive's National Programme for Improving the Mental Health and well-being of the Scottish Population.
- 11664 By agreeing to adopt this Pledge the Council will help to eliminate the stigma and discrimination experienced by those with mental health problems across West Dunbartonshire.
- 11665 This Pledge is supported by Choose Life Suicide Prevention and the Council's Health @ Work Group.
- 11666 This Council agrees that the Chief Executive and Convener of Equal Opportunities should sign the anti-stigma Pledge on behalf of West Dunbartonshire Council.
- 11667 The Council unanimously agreed to approve the above motion.

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS – RENTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE

- 11668 In terms of Standing Order No 7, Provost Alistair Macdonald informed the Council that, as a matter of urgency, he had decided that an additional item would be considered at this meeting on the issue of the Renton Community Education Centre.
- 11669 After hearing Provost Macdonald in response to Members' questions, the Council agreed to suspend Standing Order No.16 in order to consider this item, as a period of 6 months had not passed since a decision had been made in respect of the future of the Renton Community Education Centre.

Note: Councillor McNair entered the meeting at this point.

11670 Thereafter, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved:-

11671 The loss of the centre has been a hammer blow to villagers and other people further a field. Jackie Baillie MSP could not save Renton CE Centre and failed to deliver on her promises made to the community.

11672 To that end this Council agrees to transfer the Renton CE Centre at nil cost into Renton Community Ownership.

11673 I would urge all Councillors at the eleventh hour of this Council to save the Renton CE Centre for the benefit of the community.

11674 In transferring the centre, this simple action will start to repair relationships between the local community and the local Council.

11675 The Council unanimously agreed to approve the above motion.

11676 At this point Councillor McLaughlin asked Provost Macdonald to consider moving the next ordinary meeting of Council, scheduled to take place on 25 April 2007, given its close proximity to the elections on 3 May 2007. Provost Macdonald agreed to give the matter consideration.

The meeting closed at 4.25 p.m.

Proposed HRA Capital Programme 2008/2009 and 2009/2010

Report to Council 28 February 2007

Budget Heading	Agreed 2007/08 Budget	Proposed 2008/09 Budget	Proposed 2009/10 Budget
Tenement Demolition	£150,000	£100,000	£100,000
Kitchen Upgrades	£4,000,000	£3,800,000	£3,800,000
Environmental improvements	£1,250,000	£1,000,000	£1,000,000
CCTV Projects	£25,000	£20,000	£20,000
Safety/Security Projects	£70,000	£70,000	£50,000
Close Upgrades	£300,000	£300,000	£300,000
Special Needs - Major Projects	£325,000	£200,000	£200,000
Communal/Digital TV Systems	£280,000	£280,000	£0
Building Improvement/Painterwork	£600,000	£600,000	£600,000
Re - roofing	£650,000	£650,000	£650,000
Bathroom Upgrades	£1,350,000	£1,250,000	£1,250,000
Minor Capital Projects	£300,000	£200,000	£300,000
Void House Strategy	£2,000,000	£1,500,000	£1,700,000
Feasibility Studies, Surveys, etc.	£220,000	£100,000	£100,000
Central Heating	£950,000	£950,000	£950,000
Metal Roof/Overclad Projects (Non - Trad. Insulation)	£250,000	£250,000	£250,000
HECA/Fuel Poverty Activity	£100,000	£70,000	£70,000
Lead Pipe Upgrades	£40,000	£20,000	£20,000
Asbestos Contingency	£200,000	£200,000	£200,000
Lift Upgrades	£400,000	£400,000	£400,000
Multi-Storey Comp Area Renewal	£1,500,000	£2,000,000	£2,000,000
Mortgage Lending	£70,000	£70,000	£70,000
House Sales Costs, Capitalised Salaries and Central Support, etc	£1,872,000	£1,872,000	£1,872,000
Carry Forward of Committed Projects	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000
Total	£17,002,000	£16,002,000	£16,002,000