

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Community Initiatives Committee held in Dalmuir C.E. Centre, Duntocher Road, Clydebank on Thursday, 21 September 2000 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Linda McColl (LAB) and John Trainer (LAB).

Also Present: Murdoch Cameron and June Todd, West Dunbartonshire Community Council Forum; Frances McGonagle, Lone Parent Group; and Divisional Officer Stuart McDonald and Station Officer Ian Gavin, Strathclyde Fire Brigade.

Attending: Anne Laird, Manager of Administrative Services; Susan Robertson, Solicitor; and Jim Alexander, Section Head of Systems, Information Services.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Andrew White (LAB), James Bollan (SSP) and John Syme (LAB) and Margaret Morrison, Forum on Disability.

Public Gallery: No members of the public were present.

Councillor Linda McColl in the Chair

PRESENTATION ACCESSING INFORMATION FROM NEW TECHNOLOGY

Councillor McColl advised that an invitation had been extended to the Information Services Department to give a presentation to this meeting and introduced Jim Alexander, Information Services Systems Manager to those present.

Mr. Alexander then gave a presentation regarding current levels of use of new technology in West Dunbartonshire and outlined the potential for the future use of such technology by the public to access both Council and governmental services throughout Scotland. He also envisaged that this technology would assist community access to the means of continuing education through mechanisms such as The National Grid for Learning, The Peoples' Network and learning centres.

He advised that the use of new technology and the introduction of " e-government" had been investigated by Digital Taskforce Scotland and that the results of these investigations could be obtained either from the Internet or from the Corporate Services Department. The Digital Taskforce Scotland placed an emphasis on the following areas:-

·1 education and training

- 2 social inclusion
- 3 public services
- 4 telecommunications infrastructures
- 5 public sector networks
- 6 the organisation of information

Following questions, Councillor McColl thanked Mr. Alexander for attending the meeting and giving the presentation. Mr. Alexander then withdrew from the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn at this point and reconvened a short time thereafter, those present being the same as shown in the sederunt with the exception of Mr. Alexander.

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO REVIEW THE COUNCIL'S DECISION MAKING STRUCTURES

There was submitted report by the Chief Executive informing members of the full results of the consultation on the review of the Council's decision making structures, a copy of which was appended to the report.

Following discussion, and having heard the Manager of Administrative Services on the extensive consultation exercise, the Committee noted the report.

REVIEWING THE COUNCIL'S DECISION MAKING PROCESS

There was submitted report by the Chief Executive setting out the Council's position regarding a new decision making process for West Dunbartonshire Council.

The Manager of Administrative Services advised that a timetable for the introduction of the new model of decision making had been agreed and that it would be implemented from 1 November 2000. She informed members that the introduction of the new decision making process would affect the date of the next meeting of the Community Initiatives Committee which it was proposed would now take place in December rather than on 3 November as previously agreed and advised that a revised timetable of meetings of the Committee would be issued to members as soon as it was approved by Council.

Councillor Trainer added that the consultation process on the proposals to review the Council's decision making structures had highlighted the importance of the Community Initiatives

Committee and this was reflected by the fact that this Committee had been left unchanged by the Council's proposals.

He suggested that the new decision making process would be more reactive and flexible in its approach to those issues of importance which required a decision at short notice and that any shortcomings of the new system would be considered by the proposed review to be carried out after 6 months and thereafter at other regular reviews.

Following discussion, the Committee noted the report

REVIEW OF DECISION MAKING STRUCTURE – MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council held on 30 August 2000 (**volume page 6088 refers**) there was submitted report by the Chief Executive reviewing the role and remit of the Community Initiatives Committee and identifying various issues regarding the membership of the Committee which would require further consideration.

One of the West Dunbartonshire Community Council Forum representatives suggested that the first of the two models proposed in the Chief Executive's report be adopted, namely that the Committee membership remain as it is subject to the addition of two representatives from the Tenants/Residents Association Forums, one from Clydebank and the other from Dumbarton/Vale of Leven.

Councillor Trainer agreed that representation on the Committee be as wide as possible and stressed the importance of the review mechanism that would be undertaken as an essential part of the new decision making process.

Following further discussion, the Committee agreed that:-

- (a) in regard to the membership of the Committee, the current quota of four consist of two Neighbourhood Forum representatives, one from Clydebank, the other from Dumbarton/Vale of Leven and two representatives from the Tenants/Residents Association Forums, again, one from each area; and
- (b) the ongoing role and remit of the Community Initiatives Committee be the subject of a more detailed report to be submitted to the Committee after the Council has agreed a new Scheme of Administration.

YOUNG FIREFIGHTER SCHEME

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee of 11 August 2000 (**volume page 6057 refers**), Councillor McColl advised that she had been met with the Firemaster and had been told that a Young Firefighters Scheme would commence in November 2000. This scheme would

involve youths aged between 11 - 17 primarily from deprived areas and would help develop self reliance. She stated that a name for the scheme had still to be finalised.

Possible problems relating to the funding of the scheme still had to be overcome although it was suggested that additional funds may be forthcoming from the Scottish Executive.

Following discussion, and having heard Divisional Officer Stuart McDonald, Strathclyde Fire Brigade's Senior Fire Safety Officer, the Committee noted the position.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee considered several issues raised during the Open Forum session as shown in the Appendix to these Minutes.

The meeting closed at 3.12 p.m.

APPENDIX

OPEN FORUM

VALE OF LEVEN SWIMMING POOL

One of the West Dunbartonshire Community Council Forum representatives advised that he had received several complaints regarding problems of accessibility at Vale of Leven Swimming Pool and suggested that the steps into the pool be improved to allow easier access and egress. He also highlighted several problems relating to hygiene at the pool.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that these concerns be raised with the relevant officer.

NATIONAL FIRE SAFETY WEEK - 23-29 SEPTEMBER 2000

The Divisional Officer , Strathclyde Fire Brigade, advised the Committee that National Fire Safety Week would be commencing on 23 September 2000 and outlined the various activities that would be taking place during that week.

The Committee noted the position.