

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a Hybrid Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Civic Space, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 22 December 2021 at 10.05 a.m.

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

*Arrived later in the meeting

Attending: Joyce White, Chief Executive; Peter Hessett, Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration (Legal Officer); Stephen West, 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; Malcolm Bennie, Chief Officer – Citizen, Culture and Facilities; Richard Cairns, Strategic Adviser; Laura Mason, Chief Officer – Education; Beth Culshaw, Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership; Gail MacFarlane, Chief Officer – Shared Services Roads and Neighbourhood, Lesley James, Chief Social Work Officer, Jo Gibson, Head of Health and Community Care; George Hawthorn, Manager – Democratic and Registration Services and Christine McCaffary, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Also attending: Christopher Gardner, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Scotland.

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.

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

The Depute Provost advised that she had received a request from Councillor McColl for an urgent item of business to be considered in connection with COVID-19, the new Omicron variant and powers to allow the Provost or Depute Provost to decide if the location of Council meetings be changed. She advised that this item would be considered after the last item of business on the agenda.

MINUTE'S SILENCE

The Council observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the loss of three crewmembers of the Flying Phantom tugboat that sank in the River Clyde on 19 December 2007, and for the loss of three family members from Dumbarton in the Glasgow bin lorry accident on 22 December 2014.

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 MEETINGS

The Minutes of Meetings of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 27 October 2021 (Ordinary) and 9 November 2021 (Special) were submitted and approved as correct records.

OPEN FORUM

The Depute Provost advised that the undernoted Open Forum question had been received from Mr Graham Parton. After hearing Mrs Susan Dick, the Depute Provost agreed that the question be asked by Mrs Dick on behalf of Mr Parton. She then invited Mrs Dick to put the question to Council:-

Question from Graham Parton – Land owned by Susan Dick

My partner Susan Dick owns land which is under threat as result of the Exxon Development.

A meeting was held not long after the August open forum question and Susan and myself were asked for information which was provided and also told we would receive certain bits of information:-

Valuation of Sheepfold;
Answers to queries on the testing; and
A list of Council land which might be suitable – the suitability criteria to be decided by my agents and ourselves

Our agent supplied all the information promptly but here we are 3 months on and we have received no further information or updates.

Could you let us know what the delay is and when we should expect the replies as the information requested should surely be readily available.

Councillor McColl provided the following response:-

I appreciate your frustration, but this is a time consuming process, and it is important that we get it right to ensure a suitable outcome for all, including Mrs Dick.

Our agents have been in contact with your agents recently around the land values for Mrs Dick's land and you should liaise with them directly.

In relation to outcomes from the meeting we had, I would confirm that the valuation of Sheepfold is still ongoing, and our agents will liaise directly with yours.

At the same time agents will be able to discuss any further testing, and we have the details you previously provided in terms of your requirements for testing.

We are still compiling a list of land for both a, new site and interim relocation, and this also will be available in the New Year.

I would add that the meeting we had was very constructive, and I would thank everyone, including yourself, Mrs Dick and your agents for engaging really constructively.

I ask for two things now. Firstly, that we all have patience and allow each other the time needed to pull complex information together and generate options, and secondly, that we continue to use agreed lines of communication, through our agents, to make sure that information and concerns are known to both parties and nothing is lost in translation.

The Depute Provost thanked Mr Parton and Mrs Dick for attending, and they both left the meeting.

ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT TO MEMBERS AND CONTROLLER OF AUDIT AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2020/21

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Resources on the above advising of Audit Scotland’s findings in relation to the audits of the Council and Council administered charities.

Having heard the Chief Executive, Chief Officer – Resources and Mr Gardner, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Scotland in answer to Members’ questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the 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 note the audited Annual Accounts 2020/21 of both the Council and the Council administered charities and that these had been reported to and approved by the Audit Committee on 17 November 2021.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY MID-YEAR REPORT 2020/21

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Resources providing an update on treasury management during the first eight months of 2021/22.

After discussion and having heard the Finance Manager in further explanation and in answer to Members’ questions, Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the treasury management stewardship information detailed within the appendix to the report;
- (2) to approve the 2021/22 revised estimates of treasury and prudential indicators as advised within the appendix to the report (Tables A, B, C, D, E, F, H, L and N); and
- (3) that the appendix to the report be remitted to the Audit Committee to ensure further scrutiny takes place.

GLASGOW CITY REGION CITY DEAL UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration providing an update on the Glasgow City Region and the Council’s project for the Exxon site.

After discussion and having heard the Manager, Economic Development in answer to Members’ questions, Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress of the Glasgow City Region; and
- (2) to note progress of the Council's City Deal project for the Exxon site.

COVID-19 UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update in relation to COVID-19 in West Dunbartonshire since the previous update report in October 2021.

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 on 27 October 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 UPDATE

The Chief Officer – Resources provided a verbal update on the General Services budget, following on from the Briefing Note he had issued to Elected Members on 21 December.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Officer in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Council noted the current position and that a further update would be provided to the Council at its meeting in February 2022.

GENERAL SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO PERIOD 8

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Resources advising on both the General Services revenue budget and the approved capital programme to 30 November 2021.

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

- (1) to note that the revenue account currently showed a projected annual favourable variance of £0.224m (0.09% of the total budget), excluding any variance projected for COVID-19 which was expected to be fully funded by Scottish Government funding carried forward from 2020/21 and that to be received in-year 2021/22;

- (2) to note that the capital account showed that expenditure and resource use for 2021/22 was lower than budget by £14.211m (26.02% of budget), made up of £14.111m (25.83% of budget) relating to project slippage, and an in-year net underspend of £0.100m; and
- (3) to note the capital project accelerated from 2022/23 into 2021/22.

VALEDICTORIES

The Depute Provost advised that this was the last meeting of the Council that Stephen West, Chief Officer – Resources would be attending before he retired from West Dunbartonshire Council.

She also advised that this was also the case for Malcolm Bennie, Chief Officer – Citizen, Culture and Facilities who was moving to a promoted post with Falkirk Council.

Councillor McColl, Leader of the Council, was heard acknowledge the excellent work and commitment that both officers had given to the Council over the period of their employment and, on behalf of the Council, he wished them well for the future.

Councillor Rooney, Leader of the Opposition, was heard in similar terms and offered his best wishes to both officers for the future.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO PERIOD 8

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Resources providing an update on the financial performance to 30 November 2021 (Period 8) of the HRA revenue and capital budgets for 2021/22.

The Council agreed:-

- (1) to note that the revenue analysis showed a projected annual favourable variance of £0.004m; and
- (2) to note that the net projected annual position in relation to the capital plan was highlighting an in-year variance of £9.509m which was made up of slippage of £9.723m (20.23%) and overspend of £0.214m (0.46%) as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report.

**DALMUIR GOLF CLUB – MOTION FROM COUNCIL MEETING
16 DECEMBER 2020**

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Roads & Neighbourhood providing an update on the implementation of proposals agreed at the Council meeting held on 29 January 2020, in relation to increasing participation numbers at Dalmuir Municipal Golf Course and reducing the subsidy required to operate the facility.

After discussion, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the increased usage levels and subsequent reduction in the subsidy required to operate the Dalmuir Municipal Golf Course as detailed in sections 4.4 and 4.5 of the report; and
- (2) that officers would continue with the agreed pricing structure and also progress marketing opportunities to maximise participation levels at the facility.

Note: Councillor Walker left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

ADJOURNMENT

The Depute Provost adjourned the meeting for a period of 20 minutes. The meeting reconvened at 1.15 p.m. with those listed in the sederunt present, except for Councillors Marie McNair and Brian Walker.

**SCHOOL CLOTHING GRANTS – MOTION FROM COUNCIL MEETING
26 AUGUST 2021**

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Resources providing information of the qualifying criteria and thresholds for entitlement to school clothing grants.

Having heard the Section Head (Revenues & Benefits) in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed to note the contents of the report.

**UPDATE ON NUMBERS OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING A FALL WHICH
REQUIRED HOSPITAL TREATMENT – MOTION FROM COUNCIL MEETING
30 SEPTEMBER 2020**

A report was submitted by the Head of Health and Community providing an update on West Dunbartonshire statistics relating to people who had experienced a fall during winter months, which resulted in a visit to hospital.

Councillor Mooney moved:-

Council is very pleased with the significant reduction in winter falls since 2018 shown in the report.

Council commends our HSCP and our staff in Roads & Greenspace for this co-ordinated action.

Last winter, 32 hospital admissions and 370 accident & emergency visits were avoided by this action, using the Council's power of wellbeing. As well as preventing injury and suffering to our citizens, especially the elderly, the saving to the NHS has been at least 200,000 pounds per year.

Council requests a report detailing how this service might be further enhanced to improve public safety.

Council asks the HSCP to consider transferring 200,000 pounds from the set-aside budget to the innovations budget.

This would reflect the saving to acute services and fund further innovation of more efficient health services, such as the Focused Intervention Team.

The motion was agreed by the Council.

Note: Councillor Douglas McAllister joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE WAVE TRUST'S 70/30 CAMPAIGN – MOTION FROM COUNCIL MEETING 26 AUGUST 2021

A report was submitted by the Head of Strategy and Transformation on the significant work carried out by the Health & Social Care Partnership and partners to date supporting the ambitions of the Wave Trust 70/30 Campaign.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Social Work Officer in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed to note the contents of the report.

COUNCIL CONTACT CENTRE UPDATE – MOTION FROM COUNCIL MEETING 29 SEPTEMBER 2021

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Citizen, Culture and Facilities regarding abandoned calls and outlining ways in which the Council could improve its Contact Centre function.

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

- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) that officers provide further updates on the Contact Centre progress at the Corporate Services Committee; and
- (3) that officers bring a further report on the performance of the Housing Repairs Contact Centre to a future Council meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Depute Provost varied the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

VENTILATION IN LEARNING ESTABLISHMENTS MOTION FROM COUNCIL MEETING 27 OCTOBER 2021

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update on the approaches taken to ensure effective ventilation across the Council's learning estate.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Education Officer and Assets Co-ordinator in answer to Members' questions, Councillor Mooney moved that 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; and
- (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.

The motion was agreed by the Council.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR SERVICE – MOTION FROM COUNCIL MEETING 29 SEPTEMBER 2021

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Housing and Employability providing an update on the current Anti-Social Behaviour Service.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Officer in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed to note the contents of the report.

Note: Provost Hendrie left the meeting at this point.

**CONTROLLED CROSSING – A814 DUMBARTON ROAD AT HALL STREET
CLYDEBANK – MOTION FROM COUNCIL MEETING 9 NOVEMBER 2021**

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Roads and Neighbourhood providing an update on the costs to remove and/or reinstate at an alternative location the installed pedestrian crossing facility located at A814 Dumbarton Road at Hall Street, Clydebank, in the vicinity of Clydebank Town Hall.

Bailie Agnew, seconded by Councillor Bollan, moved:-

That the Council agrees to continue this item.

As an amendment Councillor McColl, seconded by Depute Provost Conaghan moved:-

That Council agrees the recommendations and adds that officers should ensure that, as was achieved at short notice for this year's remembrance service, silencing of the crossing be planned in each year for this and other memorial events annually as determined by the Provost.

Councillor Lennie asked Councillor McColl if he would accept the following addendum to his amendment:-

That paragraph 2.1(iii) of the recommendations in the report be deleted.

Having heard Councillor McColl decline to accept the addendum, Councillor Lennie, seconded by Councillor Casey then moved as a second amendment:-

That Council agrees the recommendations of the report, subject to the deletion of paragraph 2.1(iii)

Councillor McColl asked Councillor Lennie if he would accept the following as an addendum to his amendment:-

That officers should ensure that, as was achieved at short notice for this year's remembrance service, silencing of the crossing be planned in each year for this and other memorial events annually as determined by the Provost.

Councillor Lennie confirmed his acceptance to the addendum and, with the agreement of the Council, Councillor McColl withdrew his amendment.

On a roll call vote being taken 17 Members voted for the amendment, namely Depute Provost Conaghan and Councillors Brown, Casey, Dickson, Docherty, Finn, Lennie, Caroline McAllister, Douglas McAllister, McBride, McColl, McLaren, Millar, Mooney, O'Neill, Page and Rooney, and 2 Members voted for the motion, namely Bailie Agnew and Councillor Bollan. Councillor Lennie's amendment with addendum was declared carried.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

(a) **Motion by Councillor Martin Rooney – Local Government Pay Award and Back-Pay**

Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor Casey, moved:-

This Council recognises the dedication and commitment of our local government employees to provide quality public services in West Dunbartonshire and in particular the sterling efforts of our staff during the public health emergency. Council notes that, following eleven months of negotiations, the outcome of the recent ballot was for local authority workers to accept the pay rise on the understanding that the backdated pay should be in pay packets in December.

Unfortunately, it appears that the pay rise and associated backdated pay will not be in the December pay packet and instead hard working staff will have to wait until late January or early February to receive their back-pay.

- For Monthly Paid Staff they will receive the backdated pay on 28th January.
- For staff who are paid on a four weekly basis they will have to wait until 4th February

The delays mean that there is a risk that some lower paid staff will be in hardship in the run up to Christmas, while other staff who were expecting the December deadline to be met may have already made plans to use some of their back-pay during the festive period, may have to rearrange their plans.

This Council is disappointed about the length of time it has taken to conclude the negotiations; and the further delay in getting back-pay into wage packets. Council recognises that the delays will affect different workers in different ways.

Therefore, this Council calls on the Chief Executive to explore options to assist staff to access their back-pay through an advance of pay or another appropriate mechanism so that they can avoid unnecessary detriment over the festive period.

As an amendment Councillor McColl, seconded by Depute Provost Conaghan moved:-

COSLA Leaders were clear and had the understanding and agreement of negotiating trades unions that it would be extremely challenging for most Councils to make back payments before Christmas due to the timescales and complexity of calculating sums over two financial years.

COSLA Leaders agreed that Councils would make “best endeavours” to pay out before Christmas, but that even if Trades Unions’ ballot processes could be sped up, this would be unlikely; with Unison unable to formally notify acceptance until the beginning of December, it was impossible for West Dunbartonshire and most other Councils to achieve this ambitious ask.

That not every Trades Union communicated this clear message to their members is extremely regrettable and if expectations were falsely raised by some, it is for those Trades Unions to answer to their members.

It is entirely legitimate for Trades Unions to properly follow their democratic processes to ensure fair and transparent decisions are made and notified properly. It is not fair to raise expectations of staff and fail to communicate accurately the timescales for payment locally that have been discussed and agreed nationally.

Council notes that our frontline staff in payroll have been working extremely hard to calculate payments for their colleagues as fast as possible and these are planned to be made during January and the first week in February, dependant on which pay run staff are part of.

Details are available on the Council intranet or via line managers.

On a roll call vote being taken 9 Members voted for the amendment, namely Depute Provost Conaghan, Bailie Agnew and Councillors Brown, Dickson, Docherty, Finn, McColl, McLaren and Page, and 9 voted for the motion, namely Councillors Bollan, Casey, Lennie, Douglas McAllister, McBride, Millar, Mooney, O’Neill and Rooney, with one member abstaining from voting, namely Councillor Caroline McAllister.

There being an equality of votes, Depute Provost Conaghan, Chair, used her casting vote in favour of the amendment which was accordingly declared carried.

(b) Motion by Councillor David McBride - New Fire and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Standards

Councillor McBride, seconded by Councillor Douglas McAllister, moved:-

This Council welcomes the planned improvements to fire safety and protection against the risks of carbon monoxide poisoning.

All homeowners will be required to have interlinked alarms under legislation brought forward after Grenfell Tower tragedy in 2017. The Smoke and heat alarms must support interlinking, either via hardwire or cable or wireless radio frequency. These alarms significantly reduce casualties by alerting everybody in a property to a fire. This Council notes that all homes in Scotland must be fitted with interlinking smoke and heat alarms from February 2022.

In addition, all homes in Scotland where there is a carbon-fuelled appliance or flue will require a carbon monoxide alarm. Private rented and new-build homes must already meet these standards, but from February 2022 they will apply to every home in Scotland, regardless of age or tenure.

An average three-bedroom house would require 5 interlinked alarms, made up of three smoke alarms, one heat alarm and one carbon monoxide detector, at an estimated cost of £220. This is based on using the type of alarms that can be installed by the homeowner, without the need for an electrician. All these alarms can be either long-life sealed and battery operated, or mains operated. If a homeowner opts to install tamper proof long-life lithium battery alarms, the average total cost is estimated to be about £220 incur an additional cost.

Council notes that, the Scottish Government is providing £500,000 to help eligible older and disabled homeowners with installation, in partnership with Care and Repair Scotland. The Scottish Government guidance states that homeowners who have questions about how this change in the law might affect their home insurance should check with their provider.

This Council notes the deadline of February 2022, for all homeowners and landlords in Scotland, to ensure that their property is compliant with the required standards of specified equipment.

The Council notes that there is a high degree of uncertainty and anxiety regarding the availability of skilled trades and equipment and about ensuring that the fire safety equipment gets installed by the prescribed deadline, especially as failure to do so could invalidate house insurance.

Given the above, this Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to the First Minister requesting that the legal deadline be extended by a full year, as it would be unacceptable to leave many in our community without effective insurance cover.

In addition, the Council requests that appropriate financial assistance be made available by the Scottish Government for people on low incomes to enable them to meet the cost of required installation. The Council also agrees consider how it could match-fund any financial assistance through the Private Sector Housing Grant. This could be allocated to Care & Repair to support the installation of safety measures for households on low incomes.

Council also agrees to run an information campaign during January to raise awareness of the new requirements, the Scottish Government deadline of February 2022 and to actively support the transition to the new safety standards. The campaign in January would assume the deadline remains unchanged.

This Council further agrees to update the above information on its website page with links to advice and guidance supplied by the Scottish Government.

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

This Council welcomes the planned improvements to fire safety and protection against the risks of carbon monoxide poisoning.

One death from a house fire is one too many and improving fire safety remains our utmost priority. This legislation has already been delayed for 12 months and it is imperative that there are no further delays, which risk the lives of our citizens.

Homeowners are generally responsible for paying for works to protect their property, however, for those who may not be able to meet the expected costs, the Scottish Government is providing £500,000 to assist disabled and older people, in partnership with Care & Repair Scotland. This on top of the £1 million already provided to the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service to install alarms in owner-occupied homes identified as being at highest risk.

The Council agrees to consider how it could match-fund any financial assistance through the Private Sector Housing Grant. This could be allocated to Care & Repair to support the installation of safety measures for households on low incomes in line with the route followed by the Scottish Government.

Council also agrees to run an information campaign during January to raise awareness of the new requirements and the Scottish Government deadline of February 2022 and to actively support the transition to the new safety standards however we can.

This Council further agrees to update the above information on its website page with links to advice and guidance supplied by the Scottish Government.

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

(c) Motion by Councillor Douglas McAllister - Scottish Government's Health and Well-being Census

Councillor Douglas McAllister moved:-

This Council is concerned with the controversial content of the Scottish Government's Health and Well Being Census.

The school survey seeks to ask our children to give details of their experience of explicit sexual acts. The Scottish Government's survey is overly intrusive and unsuitable for our children.

Therefore, this Council rejects the Scottish Government's survey in its current form and agrees that it is not fit for purpose. This Council agrees that pupils in West Dunbartonshire will not be issued with the survey.

Depute Provost Conaghan asked if Councillor McAllister would accept the following addendum to his motion:-

Council notes that the Chief Education Officer in consultation with the Convener of the Educational Services Committee had already decided not to issue the survey in its current form as it was felt that the questions as written were not appropriate. Council notes that parents will be consulted and elected members will get sight of the questions before any survey is issued. Our survey will be age appropriate and only seeking information the Council feels is relevant.

Councillor Douglas McAllister declined to accept Depute Provost Conaghan's addendum.

Councillor Caroline McAllister then asked if Councillor Douglas McAllister would accept the following as an addendum to his motion:-

Council commends the Chief Officer for Education and senior officer's caution around the roll out of the Health and Well Being Census.

Scotland's Children and Young People's Commissioner has called for the pausing of the governments controversial census stating "Any survey conducted in schools needs to be administered using an approach that respects young people's rights, including their right to privacy and informed consent.

A number of Local Authorities have already raised serious concerns about the governance, appropriateness and effectiveness of this method of processing any such survey specifically around the privacy and confidentiality of data. Young people are presently compelled to enter their pupil's Scottish Candidate Number allowing them to be personally identifiable.

Council is concerned that the survey's publicly available privacy notice states information may be shared with unnamed third parties for unspecified purposes. Furthermore, once a child has participated in the survey they will have surrendered any right to access or control over their data, including asking for their data to be deleted.

Further concerns have been raised around teachers having to deal with any distressing reactions from pupils as a result of this census being delivered at school yet they may not have the necessary expertise & knowledge to deal with such sensitive matters. This is not a criticism of our teaching staff but a recognition our teachers are first and foremost educators and not therapeutic experts in the specialised field of child trauma.

Council respects young people's rights as established by Article 16 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as well the right to privacy and family life as laid out in Article 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Council recognises that all questions should be disclosed to parents/carers and young people prior to participation in order to secure and evidence their informed consent.

Councillor Douglas McAllister confirmed his acceptance of Councillor Caroline McAllister's addendum and the motion with addendum was agreed by the Council.

(d) Motion by Councillor Ian Dickson - Respectful Funeral Service

Councillor Dickson moved:-

Council asks officers to bring a report to a future Council meeting detailing options that work closely with our Procurement team and local funeral directors to provide a 'Respectful Funeral Service', which should enable families to access a tailored funeral package that is dignified, professional and affordable.

We want to make a difference to the lives of our residents and provide support to each other during the most difficult times. We believe everyone should have access to support which helps to provide a respectful and dignified funeral service, while keeping the financial costs to a minimum. Designed to remove unnecessary pressures and money worries after the loss of a loved one, similar packages have already been delivered in some other local authorities in Scotland with savings of up to half of the Scottish average cost of a funeral.

The core elements of these packages should endeavour to include where appropriate as a minimum:

- collection of the deceased from within WDC or any NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde property
- care and preparation of the deceased
- a choice of coffin including environmentally friendly options
- cremation and return of ashes

- a place of rest and viewing facilities
- a hearse and one family car
- arrangements on the day of the funeral

Bailie Agnew asked if Councillor Dickson would accept the following addendum to his motion:-

That bullet point 4 be amended to read 'interment or cremation and return of ashes'.

Councillor Dickson confirmed his acceptance and the motion with addendum was agreed by the Council.

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS COVID-19 – POWER TO VARY LOCATION OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Councillor McColl moved:-

Council agrees that given the current situation with COVID-19 and the new Omicron variant, the Provost (or Depute Provost in the Provost's absence), will have the power to vary the location of Council meetings for the remainder of the current Council term, to enable fully remote meetings to take place in line with public health guidance, to protect the Public, Council staff and Councillors. The Chief Executive will have delegated power to determine the location of the statutory meeting in May 2022.

The Council agreed the motion.

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

Before closing the meeting, Depute Provost Conaghan wished everyone at the meeting and all Council staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The meeting closed at 4.46 p.m.