

COMMUNITY SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Safety & Environmental Services Committee held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday 1 March 2006 at 11.30 a.m.

Present: Councillors George Black, Geoff Calvert, Gail Casey, Linda McColl, Duncan McDonald, Craig McLaughlin and Connie O'Sullivan.

Attending: David McMillan, Director of Housing & Technical Services; Dan Henderson, Director of Development and Environmental Services; Nigel Ettles, Principal Solicitor; Ronald Dinnie, Head of Land Services; Jim Pow, Finance Manager, Housing & Technical Services; Don Findlay, Manager of Technical Services; Graham Pollock, Environmental Services Manager; Alasdair Gregor, Planning Services Manager; Kevin Neeson, Manager of Development Services; William Gibson, Section Head (Estates); and Craig Stewart, Administrative Assistant.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Provost Alistair Macdonald and Councillors Jim Bolland and Marie McNair.

Councillor O'Sullivan in the Chair

VALEDICTORY - DAN HENDERSON

8372 The Convener, Councillor O'Sullivan, informed the Committee that this would be the last meeting which Dan Henderson, Director of Development and Environmental Services, would attend as he would shortly be retiring from Council service on 31 March 2006.

8373 Councillor O'Sullivan, on behalf of the Committee, expressed her appreciation for the help and advice that Mr. Henderson had given throughout his time with West Dunbartonshire Council and praised his dedication and commitment which had contributed to significant improvements being made to Council services.

8374 The Committee concurred with Councillor O'Sullivan's remarks.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

8375 The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 11 January 2006 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

REQUEST FROM CLYDEBANK RUGBY CLUB FOR AN EXTENSION TO THEIR LEASE OF SUBJECTS AT DEAN STREET, CLYDEBANK

8376 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 11 January 2006 (Page 2138, paragraph 7916 refers), a report was resubmitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services advising of a request from Clydebank Rugby Club for an extension to their existing lease of the subjects at Dean Street, Clydebank and recommending that the request be granted subject to conditions.

8377 After discussion and having heard the Director of Development and Environmental Services, Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Councillor McDonald, moved:-

8378 That the report be continued to the next meeting of the Committee in order to enable further information to be obtained in respect of the incorporation of future sports development opportunities into the facility including how these would fit into the overall sports development strategy in West Dunbartonshire.

8379 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Black, moved:-

8380 That the report be continued to the next meeting of the Council in order that further information could be brought forward in relation to maintenance issues/concerns and any development plans that have been prepared for this facility.

8381 On a vote being taken, 2 Members voted for the amendment and 5 Members voted for the motion. The motion was accordingly declared carried.

HOUSING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES – FINANCIAL REPORT 2005/2006 TO 15 JANUARY 2006 (PERIOD 9)

8382 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services providing an update on the financial performance of the Housing and Technical Services Department to 15 January 2006 (Period 9).

8383 After discussion and having heard the Director of Housing and Technical Services in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the financial performance of the Housing and Technical Services Department.

HOUSING & TECHNICAL SERVICES – PERFORMANCE REPORT

8384 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services informing on the performance of areas within the Department of Housing and Technical Services and providing information on:-

- (a) Statutory Performance Indicators which show comparisons with Scottish Councils in 2004/05; and
- (b) the Department's programme of Best Value Reviews.

8385 The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

AUDIT SCOTLAND – DRAFT REVIEW OF TRADING ACCOUNTS 2004/2005

8386 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services providing an update on the recent actions taken by Housing and Technical Services to complete the department's input to the corrective action plan developed to address the issues raised by Audit Scotland in their Draft Report on the Review of Trading Accounts.

8387 The Committee agreed to note the updates to the Trading Account Business Plans in the form of Action Plan Appendices to the original documentation.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE GP EXERCISE REFERRAL SCHEMES

8388 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services advising of the success of the GP Exercise Referral Schemes operating within leisure centres in West Dunbartonshire.

8389 The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contribution of the two GP Referral Schemes in terms of actively promoting health and well-being; and
- (2) to note that funding had been secured for both schemes for a further year until 2007.

PROVISION OF FREE SWIMMING FOR WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE SCHOOLCHILDREN DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAY PERIODS 2006

8390 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services providing an update on the success of the free swimming for schoolchildren during holiday periods in 2005 and advising of plans to continue providing this initiative in 2006.

8391 After discussion and having heard the Head of Land Services in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the success of the initiative to offer free swimming to West Dunbartonshire schoolchildren during the school holidays in terms of achieving greater participation in swimming by juveniles in West Dunbartonshire during 2005; and
- (2) to note that plans are in place to ensure that this successful initiative would continue to be delivered in 2006.

'BUZZING FOR HEALTH' AWARDS CEREMONY

8392 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services advising of the forthcoming 'Buzzing for Health' school meals awards ceremony.

8393 The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the success of the Awards Evening in 2005; and
- (2) to endorse the plans for the 2006 event on the basis outlined in the report.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

8394 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services advising of the ongoing provision and upgrading of play areas and equipment throughout West Dunbartonshire.

8395 The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the work undertaken to date to progress the Council's Playground Development Plan; and
- (2) that the Director of Housing and Technical Services be instructed to continue to deliver the Playground Development Plan within existing budgets by maximising partnership working and external funding.

**JOINT WORKING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GROUNDS
MAINTENANCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTIONS TO TACKLE
FLY-TIPPING**

8396 A joint report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services and the Director of Development and Environmental Services advising of the joint working agreement in place between the Grounds Maintenance section of Housing and Technical Services and the Environmental Health section of Development and Environmental Services in order to tackle fly-tipping.

8397 After discussion and having heard the Director of Development and Environmental Services, Councillor McDonald, seconded by Councillor McColl, moved:-

8398 That the Committee agrees to note the implementation of joint working arrangements between officers in the Grounds Maintenance and Environmental Health Sections to tackle the problem of fly-tipping across West Dunbartonshire.

8399 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Black, moved:-

8400 That the Committee agrees to note the report and that a further report be requested dealing with the implementation of the £34 charge levied for certain special uplifts and associated problems in this regard and, in the meantime, that a moratorium be agreed on the current charge.

8401 On a vote being taken, 2 Members voted for the amendment and 5 Members voted for the motion. The motion was accordingly declared carried.

YOKER RELIEF ROAD UPDATE

8402 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services providing an update on progress with the development of the Yoker Relief Road project.

8403 The Committee agreed to note the progress that had been made to date with the development of the project that had been renamed 'North Clydeside Development Route'.

ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2006/2007

8404 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services seeking approval for the proposed programme of road maintenance works to be carried out in 2006/2007.

8405 After discussion and having heard the Head of Land Services in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the Road Maintenance Programme 2006/2007 as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, subject to confirmation of funding allocation; and
- (2) that authority be delegated to the Director of Housing and Technical Services to take appropriate action in the event of the programme being delayed as a consequence of public utility operations and/or adverse weather conditions.

8406 In relation to a point raised by Councillor McLaughlin concerning the proposed programme of proprietary surface treatment on Heather Avenue, Alexandria, it was noted that he would receive an update from the Director in respect of this matter.

PAVEMENTS FOR PEDESTRIANS

8407 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services seeking approval to initiate a "Pavements for Pedestrians" campaign to target the illegal obstruction of footways and footpaths.

8408 After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the start of a West Dunbartonshire-wide campaign based around the leaflets shown in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (2) that such a campaign could include areas around hospital car parks, but that agreement would require to be reached with the relevant NHS Authorities in the first instance; and
- (3) to approve the recommendation that physical measures be used only when all other measures had failed to bring about behavioural change, and where budget constraints permitted.

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR VEHICLE PROCUREMENT

8409 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services informing on the current position of the Authorities Buying Consortium framework agreement for vehicle procurement.

8410 The Committee agreed to note the progress in developing Framework Agreements for Vehicle Procurement.

VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME – 2006/2007

- 8411 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services seeking approval to purchase Council vehicles through the Authorities Buying Consortium (ABC) framework agreements and, where required, to initiate tendering procedures for vehicles/plant which are not available through the ABC.
- 8412 The Committee agreed, following discussions and agreement with Client Departments, that authority be delegated to the Director of Housing and Technical Services, in consultation with the Director of Corporate Services, to purchase vehicles through the ABC framework agreement(s) or by a West Dunbartonshire Council tender, whichever was most advantageous.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY REVIEW UPDATE

- 8413 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services advising of the progress with general energy efficiency issues relating to Council buildings and on the projects and initiatives under development by the Corporate Energy Team (CET) and the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Officer.
- 8414 The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – BUDGETARY CONTROL

- 8415 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services informing on how the budgets controlled by the Development and Environmental Services Department were performing against projections for the period up until 15 January 2006.
- 8416 The Committee agreed to note the report.

DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOR OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2005

- 8417 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services informing on the performance of the Development and Environmental Services Department for the period October to December 2005.
- 8418 The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

DECLARATION OF NON-FINANCIAL INTEREST

8419 Councillor O’Sullivan declared a non-financial interest in the following item and took no part in the decision thereon.

DEVELOPMENTS AT CLYDEBANK – PROGRESS REPORT No. 1

8420 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services on progress concerning proposed (i) leisure and heritage; (ii) supermarket; and (iii) other developments at Queens Quays; and other areas within Clydebank and seeking endorsement/agreement in respect of the actions taken and proposed.

8421 Having heard the Director of Development and Environmental Services, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note and endorse the actions taken, and proposed, to progress developments; and
- (2) that a further detailed report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee dealing with the site known as Hospital Gate, which was located adjacent to Cable Depot Road/Agamemnon Street, Clydebank.

DECLARATION OF NON-FINANCIAL INTEREST

8422 Councillors Calvert, McColl and O’Sullivan declared a non-financial interest in the following item. The Convener, Councillor O’Sullivan, advised that she had taken advice from the Head of Legal and Administrative Services and that it had been confirmed that Members who had declared an interest in relation to this particular item could still take part in the deliberation and decision thereon.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE TOWN CENTRES INITIATIVE REVIEW

8423 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services setting out the content of an independent Consultant’s review of the West Dunbartonshire Town Centres Initiative.

8424 After discussion, Councillor O’Sullivan, seconded by Councillor McDonald, moved:-

8425 That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) to note the content of the Consultant’s review of the West Dunbartonshire Town Centres Initiative;

- (2) that the Council resolve to seek the agreement of Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire to wind up West Dunbartonshire Town Centres Initiative Limited;
- (3) to commend the work of the West Dunbartonshire Town Centres Initiative since its inception, which had contributed to significant improvements being made to the quality of the Town Centres; and
- (4) to an appropriate mechanism being put in place to ensure effective engagement with local businesses, marketing and that any resources remaining within the accounts of the Town Centres Initiative would be retained for the promotion of Dumbarton and Alexandria Town Centres.

8426 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Black, moved:-

8427 That the Committee does not agree to the winding up of the West Dunbartonshire Town Centres Initiative at the current time, in view of concerns that it was premature and not in the best interests of the Town Centres to do so.

8428 On a vote being taken, 2 Members voted for the amendment and 5 Members voted for the motion. The motion was accordingly declared carried.

PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING GRANT

8429 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services informing of a delay in the announcement by Communities Scotland of the Private Sector Housing Grant allocation for 2006/07 and seeking approval of provisional spending arrangements.

8430 After discussion and having heard the Planning Services Manager in elaboration, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) to approve the allocation of £50,000 for disabled grants and £20,000 for general repair grants from the allocation for 2006/07, with the proviso that no grants would be approved until Communities Scotland had made known the Council's allocation and that it had been formally accepted; and
- (3) that a letter be sent to Communities Scotland expressing the Committee's severe concerns at the delay that has taken place in relation to this matter.

EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL FUNDS AND ASSISTED AREAS (REGIONAL STATE AID) AFTER 2006

- 8431 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services providing an update on the current situation with regard to discussions on new European rules, structures and areas for Structural Funds and Assisted Areas (Regional State Aid) to be implemented from 1 January 2007.
- 8432 The Committee agreed:-
- (1) to note the position regarding Structural Funds and State Aid on the basis outlined in the report;
 - (2) to participate in the consultation exercise for the Assisted Area map in order to ensure maximum coverage for West Dunbartonshire; and
 - (3) to continue to participate in the West of Scotland European Consortium (WoSEC) and the Alliance for Regional Aid (ARA) and, where relevant, participate in lobbying activity.

GAMBLING ACT 2005 – CASINO ADVISORY PANEL

- 8433 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services advising of the progress which has been made since the resolution by Council at its meeting on 21 December 2005, to submit an expression of interest to the Casino Advisory Panel (CAP), supporting in principle the siting of a Regional Casino within West Dunbartonshire and seeking approval to progress to the next stage of responding to the “Call for Proposals” to the CAP.
- 8434 Having heard Councillor Black, it was agreed that a copy of an email from Mr. Jim Thomson, Bowling and Milton Community Council, to Councillor Andy White be circulated to Members, for information, in relation to this matter.
- 8435 After discussion and having heard the relevant officers in further explanation and in answer to Members’ questions, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) that the work undertaken to date by officers of the Council, in partnership with Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire, particularly in relation to the public consultation exercise be homologated;
 - (2) to respond formally to the “Call for Proposals” from the Casino Advisory Panel; and
 - (3) that a further report giving details of the consultation exercise carried out by the consultants would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

8436 After hearing the Convener, Councillor O'Sullivan, it was agreed that the meeting be adjourned for a period of 5 minutes.

8437 The meeting resumed at 1.20 p.m. with all those listed on the sederunt being present, with the exception of officers from Housing and Technical Services.

EXTENSION TO OUT OF HOURS NOISE SERVICE

8438 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services seeking approval to extend the out of hours noise service from four nights per week to seven nights per week.

8439 After discussion and having heard the Manager of Environmental Services in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the proposal to extend the existing out of hours noise service to cover seven nights per week, operating from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m., from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2008; and
- (2) that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee dealing with the hours when noise disturbance was at its highest.

THE SMOKING, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005 AND THE PROHIBITION OF SMOKING IN CERTAIN PREMISES (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2006

8440 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services seeking approval of the Enforcement Policy for smoking in public places.

8441 The Committee agreed to approve the Enforcement Policy for smoking in public places.

CONTAMINATED LAND INSPECTION STRATEGY

8442 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services seeking approval of the second edition of West Dunbartonshire Council's inspection strategy for the identification of potentially contaminated land.

8443 The Committee agreed to approve the second edition of West Dunbartonshire Council's inspection strategy for the identification of potentially contaminated land.

ANIMATING THE CANAL PROJECT AND CITY GROWTH FUND 2006-08

- 8444 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services informing of the preparation of the Animating the Canal Report and the granting of £1 million funding from the Cities Growth Fund 2006-08 towards the projects detailed in the report.
- 8445 After discussion, it was agreed to continue consideration of the matter to the next meeting of the Committee, pending the preparation of a further report giving details on the nature and scope of how this money could be spent.

EVENT STRATEGY

- 8446 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services presenting a draft Event Strategy for West Dunbartonshire Council.
- 8447 After hearing the Convener, Councillor O'Sullivan, it was agreed to continue consideration of the report to the next meeting of the Committee in order that the Convener of Cultural Services could be consulted on the proposals.

LOCH LOMOND HIGHLAND GAMES 2006

- 8448 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services seeking approval for the Events & Halls Section to agree to the provision of greater assistance to the Loch Lomond Highland Games Committee in terms of staging the above event.
- 8449 After discussion and having heard the relevant officers in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Councillor McColl, moved:-
- 8450 That the Committee agrees:-
- (1) to the provision of a greater level of support to the Loch Lomond Highland Games Committee with regard to staging the 2006 Highland Games; and
 - (2) that, once the Games have taken place, a further report be presented to Members on the outcomes and arrangements for future years.
- 8451 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Black, moved:-
- 8452 That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) to the provision of a greater level of support to the Loch Lomond Highland Games Committee with regard to staging the 2006 Highland Games;
- (2) that, once the Games have taken place, a further report be presented to Members on the outcomes and arrangements for future years; and
- (3) that a further report be submitted to the Committee on levels of support to other festivals and events which take place in West Dunbartonshire.

8453 On a vote being taken, 2 Members voted for the amendment and 5 Members voted for the motion. The motion was accordingly declared carried.

MANAGEMENT RULES FOR WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL BURIAL GROUNDS

8454 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services seeking approval for revised Management Rules for West Dunbartonshire Council Burial Grounds.

8455 The Committee agreed to approve the revised Management Rules for West Dunbartonshire Council Cemeteries on the basis outlined in the Appendix to the report.

ESTATES SECTION BUSINESS PLAN

8456 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services seeking approval of the Business Plan for the Estates Section of Development and Environmental Services.

8457 Having heard the Director of Development and Environmental Services, the Committee agreed to approve the Estates Section Business Plan, subject to some adjustments being made by the Director.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE LAND (0.08 ACRES OR THEREBY) AND THE VACANT WORKSHOP AT 29 CABLE DEPOT ROAD, CLYDEBANK BY THE ADJOINING OWNER

8458 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services recommending the sale of a small area of land and a vacant workshop at 29 Cable Depot Road, Clydebank to Clydeside Property Services Limited.

8459 The Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the Director of Development and Environmental Services be authorised to agree the sale of the land and vacant workshop at 29 Cable Depot Road, Clydebank to Clydeside Property Services Ltd. on the terms and conditions stated in paragraph 3.3 of the report; and
- (2) that the Head of Legal and Administrative Services be authorised to conclude this transaction subject to such legal conditions as are considered appropriate.

The meeting closed at 1.36 p.m.