

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU

13 December 2007

MEETING: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

**WEDNESDAY 19 DECEMBER 2007
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
COUNCIL OFFICES
GARSHAKE ROAD
DUMBARTON**

Dear Member,

Please attend a Meeting of **West Dunbartonshire Council** to be held in the **Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, on Wednesday, 19 December 2007 at 7.00 p.m.**

The business is as shown on the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

DAVID MCMILLAN

Chief Executive

Distribution:-

All Members of West Dunbartonshire Council.

Chief Executive

Executive Director of Educational Services

Executive Director of Social Work and Health

Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environmental & Economic Development
(Housing & Regeneration Services)

Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environmental & Economic Development
(Land and Environment)

For information on the following agenda please contact George Hawthorn, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, G82 3PU on Tel: (01389) 737204 or e-mail: george.hawthorn@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

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WEDNESDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2007

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. OPEN FORUM

(a) Mrs Irene McLean, Dumbarton – Condition of Underpass at Greenhead Road, Dumbarton and the cycle path.

The underpass at Greenhead Road, despite being cleaned on a regular basis, continues to have graffiti. Why can't anti-graffiti paint be used? This has been used in Edinburgh. The walkway/cycle path runs at the back of my house, as far as the East End pavilion. No repairs have been carried out. Whose responsibility is it?

(b) Mr Iain Ellis, Knoxland Parent Council – Network Support and Budget Cuts

The current proposals being considered for further budget cuts in education, which include a drastic reduction to a number of staff in the network support team and possible decentralisation of that service, are incredulous especially in light of the recent decisions made significantly and deliberately affecting the learning and teaching in Dumbarton.

How do you propose to deliver an inclusive, accessible education to all of our children and young people in West Dunbartonshire that will enable them to achieve their full potential, given the number of staff cuts proposed at the specialist support centre and more importantly what will this devised model of delivery look like?

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Submit for approval as a correct record, the undernoted Minutes of Meetings of West Dunbartonshire Council:-

(a) Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 28 November 2007; and

(b) Special Meeting held on Tuesday 11 December 2007.

4. MINUTES OF RECRUITMENT AND INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Submit for information, the Minutes of the undernoted Meetings of the Recruitment and Individual Performance Management Committee:-

- (a) 29 October 2007
- (b) 30 October 2007
- (c) 31 October 2007

5. AFFILIATIONS

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 29 August 2007, submit report by the Chief Executive providing the Council with the additional information requested in respect of the work of the organisations to which this Council is affiliate and seeking a decision as to the renewal of those affiliations on an annual basis.

6. FORMATION OF CULTURE COMMITTEE/SUB-COMMITTEE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee held on 7 November 2007, submit report by the Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development (Land and Environment) on the proposed formation of a Culture Sub-Committee, to be chaired by Provost Agnew, the Council's Ambassador for Culture.

7. PROPOSED UTILISATION OF CAPITAL PROCEEDS OF THOMAS HILL PAINTING

Submit report by the Chief Executive:-

- (a) informing the Council of the background to the sale from the Council's Fine Art Collection of 'Sir Donald Peak and Selkirk Glacier' by artist Thomas Hill; and
- (b) presenting a proposal to Council of four spending themes to enhance the Council's fine art assets and museum collections, utilising the residue of the capital proceeds from the sale of the Thomas Hill Painting.

8. PROPOSED LONG TERM LOAN OF COLOURIST WORKS FROM WDC FINE ART COLLECTION

Submit report by the Director of Educational Services advising the Council of a proposed long term loan of Colourist works from the WDC fine art collection to the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority (NPA) and seeking approval to enter into negotiations to facilitate the loan.

9. SCOTLAND EXCEL – THE CENTRE OF PROCUREMENT EXPERTISE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SCOTLAND

Submit report by the Chief Executive asking the Council to approve West Dunbartonshire Council's full participation in Scotland Excel with effect from 1 April 2008.

10. GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT: PERIOD 7 (2007/2008)

Submit report by the Chief Executive advising of the performance of the General Services Revenue Budget for the period to 15 November 2007.

11. GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT: PERIOD 7 (2007/2008)

Submit report by the Chief Executive providing the Council with an update on the General Services Capital Plan for 2007/2008.

12. FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT 2008/2009

The Head of Finance will report on the revenue and capital allocations awarded to the Council by the Scottish Government for 2008/09.

13. HRA 2007/2008 BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT TO 15 NOVEMBER 2007: PERIOD 7 (2007/2008)

Submit report by the Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development (Housing & Regeneration Services) containing information on the progress of the Housing Revenue Account 2007/2008 up to 15 November 2007 (Period 7).

14. HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/2008 BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT TO 15 NOVEMBER: PERIOD 7 (2007/2008)

Submit report by the Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development (Housing & Regeneration Services) on the progress of the HRA Capital Programme 2007/2008 up to 15 November 2007 (Period 7).

15. ADAPTATIONS AND EQUIPMENT

Submit report by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health:-

- (a) providing the Council with information on a decision made by the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee on 21 November 2007 concerning the permanent commitment of additional resources towards special needs adaptations and equipment;
- (b) providing the Council with information on the performance in his area relating to waiting lists and progress towards reducing waiting lists arising from the increase of the capital budget for this to £1 million for 2007/2008; and
- (c) providing the Council with options on the future funding of this area of work.

16. SINGLE STATUS – UPDATE

Submit report by the Chief Executive:-

- (a) provide an update on the progress of the implementation of the Single Status Agreement within West Dunbartonshire Council;
- (b) providing an update on consultations with Trades Unions and the barriers that exist to securing a collective agreement; and
- (c) detailing work undertaken since June 2007 and the outstanding work required to implement Single Status and fulfil the Council's statutory responsibilities to meet equal pay.

17. RENTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE, RENTON

Submit report by the Chief Executive updating the Council on progress in relation to the disposal of Renton Community Education Centre and seeking a decision on a way ahead.

18. QUESTIONS

(a) Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Gail Casey

On 13 November the Leader of the Council agreed to freeze Council Tax in 2008, without knowing the details of the Council's financial settlement. However by 19 December we will know how much West Dunbartonshire Council needs to run local public services and we will also know exactly how much we will get from the Scottish Government to do this.

Given that the Leader of the Council now has the full facts and in the spirit of openness and transparency will he now tell the people of West Dunbartonshire:

- What services he will cut?
- How many jobs he will sacrifice?
- What funding will be removed from partner organisations?

(b) Question to Councillor Jonathan McColl from Councillor Marie McNair

For the past six years West Dunbartonshire Council has supported the West Dunbartonshire Violence Against Women Partnership. (Formerly the West Dunbartonshire Domestic Abuse Partnership).

What assurances will Councillor Jonathan McColl give Council that the funding levels for the West Dunbartonshire Violence Against Women Partnership will at least be retained to the same levels as the previous Administration?

(c) Question to Councillor May Smillie from Councillor John Millar

In 2005 the then Labour Administration agreed to a £1m capital spend to improve sports facilities throughout West Dunbartonshire.

In 2006 it was agreed that this additional investment should be spent as part of the Council's Sports Strategy.

Despite a request for a progress reports in June 2007, no reports have been presented to elected members.

Given that Labour's flagship PPP project has achieved a satisfactory conclusion with the support of SNP colleagues; in the interest of openness and transparency, what assurances can Councillor Smillie give to ensure that a progress report is presented to elected members early in the New Year?

19. NOTICES OF MOTION

The Council is requested to consider the undernoted motions which have been submitted in accordance with Standing Order No. 8:-

(a) Motion by Councillor Jonathan McColl – Health Improvement Agenda

This Council notes the corporate objective to increase levels of physical activity in our communities on page 19 of our corporate plan.

With this in mind, the Council instructs officers to bring a report to the January Housing, Environment & Economic Development Committee meeting. This report should explore the feasibility of running a six month pilot to extend the employee discount scheme to the immediate families* of our employees.

The purpose of this will be to:-

- Increase ease of access to leisure and fitness services.
- Increase volume of users of leisure and fitness services.
- Promote exercise.
- Improve the health of our communities.
- Work towards our corporate objective to increase levels of physical activity in our communities.

**Employee's Immediate Family is defined here as Spouses, Civil Partners, Co-Habiting Partners, Parents, Children and Siblings of employees.*

(b) Kippen Dairy Site

(i) Report by Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development (Housing & Regeneration Services)

Submit report by the Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development (Housing & Regeneration Services) providing the Council with background information, option appraisal and recommendations in respect of the undernoted motion concerning the Kippen Dairy site, Alexandria.

(ii) Motion by Councillor Bollan

This Council agrees to sell the Kippen Dairy site to Greater Glasgow Health Board for £1. The value of the site is around £500,000. The Kippen Dairy site includes the small site in Susannah Street recently donated at no cost to WDC by Dunbritton Housing Association.

This land transfer will facilitate the building of a new Health Centre on the Kippen Dairy site, if approved by GGHB & the Health Minister, Nicola Sturgeon.

There is almost universal support amongst local people, groups and small businesses for the new Health Centre to be built in the Town Centre.

WDC agrees to make this investment in the health of the local population as our contribution to ensuring the retention of this vital primary health care service in a Town Centre location which not only best meets the needs of health care patients, but will also assist in the economic regeneration of Alexandria Town Centre.

(c) Motion by Councillor Jim Bollan – Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum

Historically, as per the constitution of Bellsmyre Neighborhood Forum, WDC has provided committee admin support to this group for minute taking etc. This has been discontinued due to a lack of resources within the Committee Admin section.

Therefore as an interim measure for one year to allow BNF to secure replacement admin services previously provided by WDC, this Council agrees to award a grant of £750 from Dumbarton Common Good Fund to BNF. This will allow the admin support to be provided for the one year period after which it is hoped alternative arrangements can be put in place.

(d) Motion by Councillor Margaret Bootland – Single Status & Equal Pay

This Council notes with extreme concern the conflicting information regarding Single Status that is emerging in ways that are causing distress to staff.

Council therefore calls on the Chief Executive, in conjunction with the recognised Trades Unions, to bring forward a progress report to the next Council Meeting.

The report is to include:

- A statement of progress to date.
- The strategy being applied to achieve an agreed resolution of all outstanding issues.
- An estimate of current & future costs.

(e) Motion by Councillor David McBride – Manifesto Commitments

This Council notes the promises of the SNP Government and Administration to deliver on their manifesto commitments, specifically to deliver:

- a decrease in class sizes for P1 to P3 by 2010;
- an increase of 50% in nursery provision;
- increased sports facilities in all schools;
- an additional support fund for children with additional support needs;
- the provision of new school buildings throughout West Dunbartonshire;
- an increase in funding for free personal care;
- extra support for carers; and
- tackling drug rehabilitation.

Council therefore calls on the minority SNP Administration to bring forward fully costed and timetabled plans for implementation of these commitments to the January Council meeting for consideration as an integral part of the budget process.

(f) Motion by Councillor Geoff Calvert – Compulsory Redundancies

This Council agrees that it will not impose compulsory redundancies on Council staff or partner organisations by default as a consequence of this budget round.

(g) Motion by Councillor Patrick McGlinchey – Dumbarton Academy Secondary School

The absolute commitment to build a new Dumbarton Academy as the Council's highest priority for a large-scale capital spending project is welcomed by all Councillors and the entirety of the Dumbarton schools communities.

Council therefore instructs the Leader of the Council and the Convener of Education & Lifelong Learning, with appropriate officer support, to meet with relevant Scottish Ministers to discuss the possible funding sources for a new build Dumbarton Academy.

A full report of the meeting and the funding options is to be presented to a future meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council at the earliest opportunity.

(h) Motion by Councillor Martin Rooney – Management & Control of Housing

This Council notes that for almost 30 years small scale stock transfer and the 'right to buy' has encouraged the transfer of the management & control of housing from the Public sector to the Private sector.

Council acknowledges that the transfer of 4,205 council houses from public control to private control, between May 1996 and May 2007, clearly demonstrates that the principle of public ownership of housing has been severely undermined over the last three decades by national housing policies.

Council further notes that the completion of the Housing Needs Study and the imminent production of the Standard Delivery Plan to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard by 2015, means that West Dunbartonshire Council will soon be in a position to consider the future of our housing stock. The future of housing in West Dunbartonshire will depend on an agreement either to endorse full stock transfer, or partial stock transfer or full retention of stock by the Council.

In order to reach agreement, this Council affirms that all Council tenants will be given all relevant information and will be encouraged to engage with the consultation process. The preferred option of the tenants will direct the Council in its decision making.

Should tenants agree to either full or partial stock transfer, then the Council must consider whether to transfer to one receiving Registered Social Landlord (RSL) or to consider multiple transfers to a combination of RSLs. This Council agrees that it will only consider multiple transfers if a Common Housing Register is in place between all the receiving Registered Social Landlords.

Given the above, this Council instructs the Chief Executive to bring forward a report containing a full options appraisal which looks to any possible transfer of Council housing stock being considered on a strategic rather than a piecemeal basis.

In order to ensure elected member involvement and support of the process a short term working group comprising: 2 Labour; 2 SNP and 1 Independent/SSP Councillors should be formed to help develop the strategy.