

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Special Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, on Thursday, 15 December 2011 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Provost Denis Agnew and Councillors George Black, Jim Bolla, Jim Brown, Geoff Calvert, Gail Casey, Jim Finn, William Hendrie, David McBride *, Jonathan McColl, Ronnie McColl, Jim McElhill, Patrick McGlinchey, Craig McLaughlin, John Millar, Lawrence O'Neill, Iain Robertson, Martin Rooney and May Smillie.

* Arrived later in the meeting

Attending: Joyce White, Chief Executive, David Amos, Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services; Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services; Elaine Melrose, Executive Director of Housing, Environmental & Economic Development; Keith Redpath, Director of West Dunbartonshire Community Health & Care Partnership; Lorraine Coyne, Head of Audit, Performance & Strategic Planning; Stephen West, Head of Finance & Resources; Andrew Fraser, Head of Legal, Democratic & Regulatory Services; Gillian McNeilly, Finance Manager and Christine McCaffary, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apology: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Douglas McAllister and Marie McNair.

Provost Denis Agnew in the Chair

URGENT ITEM

The Head of Legal, Democratic & Regulatory Services advised that the report 'General Services Revenue Estimates 2012/13' had not been available for issue in time to meet the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973 (Access to Information) and accordingly it was for the Provost to determine if the report be accepted by reason of special circumstances and urgency. The Provost confirmed his agreement to this.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest.

GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE ESTIMATES 2012/13

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services providing:-

- (a) Council with the draft revenue estimates for 2012/13, which were presented for consideration and were subject to further consultation prior to being submitted for approval to a special meeting of Council on a date in January/February 2012 still to be confirmed;
- (b) details of the settlement received from the Scottish Government together with the actions taken to reduce the funding gap that had been reported to Council in August 2011; and
- (c) details of the indicative funding positions for 2013/14 and 2014/15. In this respect, a package of savings options had been prepared by the Corporate Management Team for Members' consideration and had been appended to the Draft Budget Book previously issued.

At this point, Councillor C. McLaughlin circulated the SNP Group's Draft 2012/2013 Administration Revenue Budget Proposals – Blueprint for Economic Growth, which was also subject to full public consultation and is shown as an Appendix to these Minutes.

Having heard the Head of Legal, Democratic & Regulatory Services and Chief Executive in answer to Members' questions, it was agreed:-

- (1) to authorise the Council Leader, Councillor R. McColl, to accept, in principle, the additional funding available to West Dunbartonshire Council in 2012/13 on condition of the delivery of the commitments in the Scottish Government's Finance Circular No. 11/2011; and
- (2) to agree to hold a series of public consultation meetings in January 2012, prior to setting the budget, regarding the draft budget proposals and to seek public views on the equalities impact of these: and
- (3) to note that a date for the Budget setting meeting had still to be confirmed.

Note:- Councillor McBride entered the meeting during consideration of the above item.

The meeting closed at 2.25 p.m.