

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, on Wednesday, 20 December 2006 at 2.00p.m.

Present: Provost Alistair Macdonald, Councillors Denis Agnew, Jim Bollan, Margaret Bootland, Dennis Brogan, Geoff Calvert, Gail Casey, Tony Devine, James Flynn, Jackie Maceira, Douglas McAllister; Linda McColl, Margaret McGregor, Craig McLaughlin, Marie McNair, Iain Robertson, Martin Rooney and Andy White*.

*Arrived later in the meeting.

Attending: David McMillan, Chief Executive; Ronnie Dinnie, Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land and Environmental Services); Irving Hodgson, Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration Services); Liz McGinlay, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Bill Clark, Director of Social Work and Housing Services; David Connell, Head of Finance; Tricia O'Neill, Head of Personnel Services; Terry Lanagan, Head of Service - Schools Estate; Jim Pow, Manager of Finance (Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services); Liz Cochrane, Principal Policy Officer; Stephen Brown, Head of Legal and Administrative Services and George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors George Black, James McCallum, Duncan McDonald and Connie O'Sullivan.

Provost Alistair Macdonald in the Chair

PROVOST'S REMARKS

10961 Provost Macdonald informed the Council that a Special Meeting of Council will take place on 17 January 2007 at 2.00 p.m. to consider the findings of the Accounts Commission Public Hearing which took place on 29 and 30 November 2006. He also advised that the Requisitioned Meeting of Council which was adjourned on 25 October 2006 would be held immediately after the Special Meeting.

10962 The Chief Executive informed the Council that reports on the following issues would also be submitted to the Special Meeting of Council for consideration:-

- (1) Closure of facilities in Renton;
- (2) Partial Stock Housing Transfer; and
- (3) Remedial Plan required of the Council in terms of Chapter 2 Housing (Scotland) Act 2001.

10963 At this point, Councillor McLaughlin asked a question concerning the order of business and in particular the placing of his written questions. In response, the Head of Legal and Administrative Services confirmed that the order of business was as prescribed within the Council's Standing Orders.

RESIGNATION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND DEPUTE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

10964 Provost Macdonald informed the Council that Councillor Andrew White had intimated his intention to resign as Leader of the Council and Councillor James Flynn had intimated his intention to resign as Depute Leader of the Council.

10965 The Council agreed to accept the resignations of both office holders.

10966 Councillor Flynn took the opportunity to make a statement concerning his reasons for resignation.

Note: Councillor White entered the meeting during Councillor Flynn's statement.

10967 Councillor White made a statement following his resignation and wished the new Leader and Depute Leader of Council every success for the future.

10968 Councillor Bollan, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved that Councillor Craig McLaughlin be elected as Leader of the Council.

10969 As an amendment, Councillor Agnew, seconded by Councillor Flynn, moved that Councillor Martin Rooney be appointed as Leader of the Council and Councillor Jackie Maceira be appointed as the Depute Leader of Council.

10970 After hearing Councillor McLaughlin, the Council agreed to proceed by way of a roll call vote.

10971 On a vote being taken, 13 Members voted for the amendment (namely Provost Alistair Macdonald and Councillors Denis Agnew, Margaret Bootland, Geoff Calvert, Gail Casey, Tony Devine, James Flynn, Jackie Maceira, Douglas McAllister; Linda McColl, Marie McNair, Martin Rooney and Andy White) and 5 voted for the motion (namely Councillors Jim Bollan, Dennis Brogan, Margaret McGregor, Craig McLaughlin and Iain Robertson).

10972 Accordingly, the amendment was declared carried.

OPEN FORUM

10973 The Council noted that no open forum questions had been received from members of the public.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Requisitioned Meeting on 25 October 2006

10974 The Minutes of the Requisitioned Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 25 October 2006 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

(b) Ordinary Meeting on 25 October 2006

10975 The Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 25 October 2006 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

10976 Provost Macdonald, seconded by Councillor Rooney, moved:-

10977 That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

10978 As an amendment Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Bollan, moved:-

10979 That under the heading "Abstract of Accounts", the Minutes be amended to include details of the vote which was taken on this item.

10980 On a vote being taken, 5 Members voted for the amendment and 13 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

MINUTES OF THE RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE

10981 The Minutes of Meeting of the Recruitment Committee held on 10 November 2006 were submitted and noted.

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

10982 The Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held on 15 November 2006 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

MINUTES OF THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE FORUM

- 10983 The Minutes of Meeting of the Joint Consultative Forum held on 28 November 2006 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.
- 10984 Having heard Councillor McLaughlin, the Council agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting of Council detailing the issues concerning the lack of cleaners in Council Buildings.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM TOM MCCABE MSP

- 10985 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 30 August 2006 (Page 2616, paragraph 9809 refers), correspondence was submitted from Tom McCabe MSP, Minister for Finance & Public Service Reform, intimating that he would not be able to attend a meeting of the Council to discuss the issue of public service reform.
- 10986 Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor Devine, moved:-
- 10987 That the Council agrees to note the correspondence.
- 10988 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Robertson, moved:-
- 10989 That the Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Minister and invite him to meet with the Council at a date and time when he is available.
- 10990 On a vote being taken, 5 Members voted for the amendment and 13 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

VALE OF LEVEN INTEGRATED CARE PILOT – NHS GREATER GLASGOW AND CLYDE AND SCOTTISH AMBULANCE SERVICE

- 10991 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council on 25 October 2006 (Page 2769, paragraphs 10433/34 refer), when it was agreed:-
- (a) that the Chairman and Chief Executive of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHS GG&C) be invited to give a presentation to the Council on the services which will be provided from the Vale of Leven Hospital in future years; and
 - (b) that the Scottish Ambulance Service be invited to a meeting of Council to give a presentation on their plans.

- 10992 The Council noted that Mr Divers, Chief Executive, NHS GG&C, had indicated that he did not think it would be appropriate to attend this Council meeting as they were currently embarking on a range of detailed planning work and there would be an opportunity for Council input to that process in a number of ways.
- 10993 Having heard the Senior Administrative Officer, the Council also noted that the Chief Executive of the Scottish Ambulance Service had confirmed that he would not be able to send a representative to attend the December meeting of Council but was willing to attend a future meeting of the Council, along with the Chief Executive of NHS GG&C.
- 10994 Having heard Councillor McLaughlin and Councillor Rooney, the Council agreed that the Chief Executive should write to Mr Divers, Chief Executive of NHS GG&C and remind him of the importance of the issues and concerns which the Council has in relation to the provision of health care in West Dunbartonshire and invite him to attend the next ordinary meeting of Council to be held in February 2007, along with a representative from the Scottish Ambulance Service.

DESIGNATION OF POLLING PLACES

- 10995 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive requesting the Council to consider the designation of polling places for the combined poll on 3 May 2007.
- 10996 The Council agreed that given the urgency of finalising the polling scheme for the May elections, the Council remits delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with elected members, to designate the polling places within West Dunbartonshire Council area for the May 2007 combined polls.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP – KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- 10997 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update on key developments within West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP).
- 10998 Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor Devine, moved:-
- 10999 That the report be noted.
- 11000 The Chief Executive, Director of Education and Cultural Services, Head of Finance and the Principal Policy Officer were heard in response to Members' questions. It was noted that in those circumstances where officers had been unable to provide Members with all of the information requested, Members should contact the relevant officer outwith the meeting.

- 11001 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Bolla, moved:-
- 11002 Given the severity of the report before the Council, the deep concerns on the financial implications for West Dunbartonshire Council and the confusion around the workings of the CPP, it is clear to everyone in this room that the organisation has a lack of credibility.
- 11003 Therefore, this Council instructs the newly appointed external auditors 'KPMG' to investigate the financial workings of the CPP and report back to this Council as soon as possible.
- 11004 On a vote being taken, 5 Members voted for the amendment and 13 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

**GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT
2006/2007 (PERIOD 7)**

- 11005 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive on the performance of the General Services Revenue Budget for the period to 15 November 2006.
- 11006 The Chief Executive, Director of Education and Cultural Services and the Manager of Finance (Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services) were heard in response to Members' questions.
- 11007 Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved:-
- 11008 This Council instructs officers that the Early Learning Initiative should be protected from cuts and as such it should not be considered for service reductions when producing options for savings during the preparation of the draft estimates for next year.
- 11009 Any future changes to the service should be done on the basis of delivering an improved service and not for any financial reasons. This will ensure that the Council will retain the key members of staff who deliver the service.
- 11010 As an amendment, Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Rooney, moved:-
- 11011 This Council instructs officers to examine the entire budget for savings and prepare options to be circulated to Members as early as possible to assist them when making decisions on next year's budget.
- 11012 On a vote being taken, 13 Members voted for the amendment and 5 for the motion. The amendment was declared carried.

**GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT
2006/2007 (PERIOD 7)**

- 11013 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive on the progress of the General Services Capital Programme to 15 November 2006.
- 11014 The Council approved the updated capital plan as outlined in Appendices I, II and III of the report (shown as an Appendix to these Minutes), which incorporate the additional spend as detailed in paragraph 3.6 of the report.

UPDATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

- 11015 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update on the report by the Local Government Finance Review Committee (LGFRC) titled 'A Fairer Way'.
- 11016 The Council agreed to note the publication of the report by the LGFRC.

AUDIT SCOTLAND 2005/06 AUDIT – FINAL REPORT TO MEMBERS

- 11017 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive advising of the findings in relation to Audit Scotland's final report to Members on the completion of the 2005/2006 audit.
- 11018 Having heard the Head of Finance in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed to note the findings of the 2005/06 audit as detailed in Audit Scotland's report to Members.

**APPROVED DUTIES FOR PURPOSES OF TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE
ALLOWANCES**

- 11019 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive on the approved duties for purposes of travel and subsistence allowances.
- 11020 Having heard Councillor Devine in further explanation the Council agreed to continue consideration of the matter to the first ordinary meeting of Council following the May elections.
- 11021 It was noted that Members could not claim expenses for attending the Public Hearing on 29 and 30 November 2006.

PAY MODERNISATION – PROPOSALS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SINGLE STATUS AGREEMENT

- 11022 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update on the status of on-going local negotiations and of the national context affecting progress in relation to implementation of the Single Status Agreement and to recommend an “Employer Offer” as a proposal for implementation of the Single Status Agreement in West Dunbartonshire Council.
- 11023 Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Rooney, moved:-
- 11024 That this Council approves the recommendations of the report as follows:-
- (1) to approve the Draft of the Employer’s Proposals (The Offer) for the Implementation of the Single Status Agreement as set out in Appendix 1 (grading structure) and Appendix 2 (terms & conditions);
 - (2) to authorise the Chief Executive to issue West Dunbartonshire’s Proposals to the Trades Unions during January 2007 as the commencement of the formal consultation in accordance with statutory obligations; and
 - (3) to note that a report on progress would be made to the new Council.
- 11025 The Chief Executive, the Head of Personnel Services and the Head of Legal and Administrative Services were heard in answer to Members’ questions.
- 11026 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Bollan, moved:-
- 11027 That this Council agrees to establish a short term working group comprising: Trades Unions, Councillors, and Officers to meet in January to try to reach agreement on the terms of the offer prior to submitting the formal offer to the Trades Unions. Furthermore, this Council is aware that the Trades Unions have expressed grave concerns about aspects of the current offer and therefore there is a need to prevent the Council being put at further financial risk, and this proposal could achieve this.
- 11028 On a vote being taken, 5 Members voted for the amendment and 13 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

ADJOURNMENT

- 11029 Having heard the Provost, the Council agreed to adjourn the meeting for a short period.
- 11030 The meeting reconvened at 4.10 p.m. with all those Members shown on the Sederunt in attendance, with the exception of Councillors Agnew, McNair Casey, White and Calvert.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME CHANGES AND WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL'S POLICY ON DISCRETIONS

- 11031 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update on the considerable regulatory changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme by virtue of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 1998 and the Local Government (Discretionary Payments and Injury Benefits) (Scotland) Regulations 1998.

Note: Councillors White, Casey and McNair re-entered the meeting at this point.

- 11032 Having heard the Head of Personnel Services in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the changes to the Pension Scheme; and
- (2) to approve the amended Policy on Discretions.

IMPLEMENTATION OF A HUMAN RESOURCE (HR) MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

- 11033 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update on the actions that were being taken to enable the acquisition of a Human Resources (HR) Management Information system for the Authority.

Note: Councillors Agnew and Calvert re-entered the meeting at this point.

- 11034 Having heard the Head of Personnel Services in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the actions that were being taken to enable the acquisition of a Human Resources Management Information System to support effective people management practices; and
- (2) to note that a future report would be submitted to the Corporate Services Committee to update the Council on the progress of the overall project.

**HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2006/2007 – BUDGETARY CONTROL
STATEMENT TO 15 NOVEMBER 2006 (PERIOD 7)**

- 11035 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services) containing information on the progress of the Housing Revenue Account 2006/2007.
- 11036 Having heard the Manager of Finance (Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services) in further explanation, the Council agreed to note the terms of the report.

**HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2006/2007 – BUDGETARY CONTROL
REPORT TO 15 NOVEMBER 2006 (PERIOD 7)**

- 11037 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration Services) on the progress of the HRA Capital Programme 2006/2007 up to 15 November 2006 (Period 7).
- 11038 Having heard the Manager of Finance (Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services), the Council noted that the figure shown under the Heading Projected Outturn to 31 March 2007 (Grand Total) on Page 162 of the Agenda should have read £18,002,000 and not £15,310,000, as stated within the report.
- 11039 The Council agreed to note the terms of the report.

**DECISION MAKING PROCESSES RELATING TO THE SCHOOLS' PPP
PROJECT AND THE ALLOCATION OF SCHOOLS FUND MONIES**

- 11040 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive presenting the findings of the Chief Executive's investigation with regard to decision making processes relating to the Schools' PPP Project and the allocation of Schools fund monies.
- 11041 Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor Flynn, moved:-
- 11042 That the following recommendations of the report be approved:-
- (1) to note that West Dunbartonshire Council's PPP project is making excellent progress and that all available guidance has been followed on matters relating to options appraisal, project specification, costing, value for money and selection of short listed bidders. It was also further noted that it is hoped that the Project Team would be in a position to recommend to Council the appointment of a Preferred Bidder early in 2007;

- (2) to note that £1.775 million of “Schools’ Fund” monies has already been committed to projects at Clydebank High School and Carleith, Goldenhill, St Joseph’s and Knoxland Primary Schools within the current financial year. The primary school projects are all fully justified in terms of Health and Safety, while the work at Clydebank High was required to allow the school to deliver a full curriculum to all pupils in its expanded school roll;
- (3) to note with reference to the £8.605 million which remained unallocated, that the projects approved in February for a new Our Lady of Loretto (LOL) Primary School, an extension to Our Holy Redeemer (OHR) Primary School and work on the playground at Kilbowie Primary School would not feature as high priorities given the information contained in Appendix 1 to the report and the options appraisal provided as Appendix 2 to the report. The Chief Executive therefore recommends that these projects be deferred at the present time and that all preparatory work relating to them be halted forthwith;
- (4) to note that based on all available information, in the longer term, the Council can only fully address problems in the primary schools’ estate if further school amalgamations are approved and if the question of co-location of denominational and non-denominational schools is revisited.

However, Council agrees to accept that the time restrictions placed on the spending of Schools’ Fund monies, combined with the requirement to enter a period of formal consultation on any proposed amalgamation or co-location, are factors which render any merger or amalgamation of primary schools difficult to achieve at the present time;

- (5) to note the priority projects listed in Appendix 2 to the report and to approve the proposal that priorities 1 and 2 be selected, namely that:-
- a new Bonhill Primary School be constructed on the Council-owned land opposite its current site, as previously agreed, with the additional proviso that the design of the new school should allow for possible future expansion; and
 - a new Goldenhill Primary School be constructed within the curtilage of its present campus, also with the proviso that the design of the new school should allow for possible future expansion; and

- (6) to instruct officers to commence the processes required to achieve the goals described in paragraph 7.5 of the report, including all tasks relating to planning, tendering, design and construction.

11043 The Chief Executive and the Head of Service - Schools Estate were heard in answer to Members' questions.

11044 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Robertson, moved:-

11045 This Council agrees that the previous decision made in respect of the School Improvement Fund was flawed as is clearly indicated within this report. This Council expresses deep concern that officers were compromised by the Labour Administration which put them in an intolerable position.

11046 It is therefore proposed that a short term cross party working group be formed to look at the needs of the whole schools estate and consider all of the options and report back to Council in February with its recommendations. Furthermore, the Working Group should consult with all educational stakeholders prior to making its recommendations to Council. All spending should be prioritised on the basis of need and not on political preference.

11047 Further more to ensure credibility and continued support of the PPP programme this Council agrees to instruct the new external auditors 'KPMG' to investigate the proposals fully and report back to Council in April. If necessary, the Council should write to Scottish Executive and ask for more time to review these matters.

11048 On a vote being taken, 5 Members voted for the amendment and 13 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

QUESTIONS

11049 In response to a question by Councillor Rooney, the Head of Legal and Administrative Services confirmed that the questions were valid. It was noted that Councillors McDonald and O'Sullivan were absent and therefore unable to respond.

(a) In terms of Standing Order 9, Councillor McLaughlin submitted the following questions to the following Service Conveners:-

11050 (i) Does the Convener fully support the current council leadership?

Councillor Denis Agnew responded in the following terms:-

Yes.

Councillor Margaret Bootland responded in the following terms:-

Yes.

Councillor Gail Casey responded in the following terms:-

Yes.

Councillor Tony Devine responded in the following terms:-

Yes.

Councillor Jackie Maceira responded in the following terms:-

Yes.

Councillor Marie McNair responded in the following terms:-

Yes.

Councillor Martin Rooney responded in the following terms:-

Yes.

11051

(ii) Does the Convener believe that all decisions made in relation to their department have been fully transparent?

Councillor Denis Agnew responded in the following terms:-

Yes.

Councillor Margaret Bootland responded in the following terms:-

Yes.

Councillor Gail Casey responded in the following terms:-

Yes.

Councillor Tony Devine responded in the following terms:-

Yes.

Councillor Jackie Maceira responded in the following terms:-

Yes.

Councillor Marie McNair responded in the following terms:-

Yes.

Councillor Martin Rooney responded in the following terms:-

Yes.

- 11052 (iii) Has the Convener ever received any complaints of bullying in their department?

Councillor Denis Agnew responded in the following terms:-

No.

Councillor Margaret Bootland responded in the following terms:-

No.

Councillor Gail Casey responded in the following terms:-

No.

Councillor Tony Devine responded in the following terms:-

No.

Councillor Jackie Maceira responded in the following terms:-

No.

Councillor Marie McNair responded in the following terms:-

No.

Councillor Martin Rooney responded in the following terms:-

No.

- (b)** In terms of Standing Order 9, Councillor McLaughlin submitted the following questions to the Leader of the Council:-

- 11053 (i) Did the Leader instruct the former Chief Executive to prepare plans to restructure the Council to reduce the number of corporate directors from 5 to 3?

Councillor Martin Rooney responded in the following terms:-

No.

- 11054 (ii) Did the Council Leader ever discuss possible extensions to the Chief Executive's fixed term contract?

Councillor Martin Rooney responded in the following terms:-

No.

- 11055 (iii) Did the Council Leader make any commitments to the former Chief Executive to seek agreement of the labour group to extend his contract?

Councillor Martin Rooney responded in the following terms:-

No.

- 11056 (iv) Has the Leader ever stated at any meetings that he is not in favour of transferring any housing stock – but that he only wants access to the early action fund?

Councillor Martin Rooney responded in the following terms:-

No.

- 11057 (v) In relation to the publication of the Best Value report, did the Council Leader sanction legal action against its publication?

Councillor Martin Rooney responded in the following terms:-

No.

- 11058 (vi) Was the Council Leader aware that failing to distribute the Audit Report was a breach of the Council's statutory obligations?

Councillor Martin Rooney responded in the following terms:-

No.

- 11059 (vii) Did the Council Leader sanction the former Chief Executive's decision not to distribute the report on arrival to all Members?

Councillor Martin Rooney responded in the following terms:-

No.

(c) In terms of Standing Order No 9, Councillor McLaughlin submitted the following questions to the Convener of Housing Services:-

- 11060 (i) Could the Convener of Housing give a brief report on the rent setting meeting with tenants groups – in particular the discussion on the measured term contract?

Councillor Jim Flynn responded in the following terms:-

Yes, I met with tenants. We discussed the possibility of transferring the surplus from the HRA to the General Fund and agreed to meet again on 16 January 2007. We also discussed the Measured Term Contract, in particular the cost of repairs to rent payers and agreed that information be passed to Rosshead Tenants' Association.

- 11061 (ii) Could the Convener of Housing indicate why a special invite was made to the Convenor of Finance to attend the meetings?

Councillor Jim Flynn responded in the following terms:-

He wasn't invited but I believe he gave a lift to 2 or 3 persons who were attending the meeting and decided to stay. These meetings are open to all Councillors. In fact, Councillor Bolla attended one in the Vale.

- 11062 (iii) Has the Convener ever stated at any meetings that he is not in favour of transferring any housing stock – but that he only wants access to the early action fund?

Councillor Jim Flynn responded in the following terms:-

Yes, I have stated on numerous occasions that I am not in favour of transferring the housing stock but I did not say that I only want access to the early action fund. That is not the only reason.

NOTICES OF MOTION

- 11063 The Council considered the undernoted notices of motion:-

(a) Motion by Councillor Rooney – The GIVEME5 Campaign

- 11064 This Council is concerned about the current level of disregard for permitted earnings as this restricts the amount of hours people on benefits can work before their benefits are affected.

- 11065 GIVEME5 is campaigning to increase the £20 Permitted Earnings disregard by £5. The current £20 disregard has not been increased in line with inflation or the National Minimum wage since its introduction in 2001.

- 11066 This Council resolves to support the GIVEME5 campaign run by the Richmond Fellowship Scotland and will write to John Hutton MP, Secretary of State for the Department of Work and Pensions to express our concerns.

- 11067 The Council agreed to approve the above motion.
; **(b) Motion by Councillor White – Place of Public Remembrance**

- 11068 This Council recognises the desire of descendants and relatives to have a permanent record of their loved ones who died serving as part of the armed services. The existing Town Hall Memorial acts as a reminder of the sacrifice and service that all the fallen, as a group, have made on behalf of the people of Clydebank.
- 11069 Council believes a memorial that displays the names and other details of those members of the armed forces would help those families by remembering the individual.
- 11070 This Council resolves that Clydebank should have a place of public remembrance where the names of the Clydebank fallen can be recorded and instructs the Chief Executive to bring forward a report to the next Council meeting on how this is to be achieved.
- 11071 The Council agreed to approve the above motion.

PROVOST'S REMARKS

- 11072 Provost Macdonald wished all elected members, members of staff, press and members of the public in the gallery a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The meeting closed at 5.20 p.m.