

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU

23 August 2007

MEETING: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

**WEDNESDAY, 29 AUGUST 2007
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
COUNCIL OFFICES
GARSHAKE ROAD
DUMBARTON**

Dear Member,

Please attend the Meeting of **West Dunbartonshire Council** to be held in the **Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, on Wednesday, 29 August 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

Director of Education and Cultural Services

Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration Services)

Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land and Environmental Services)

Director of Social Work Services

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 29 AUGUST 2007

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. OPEN FORUM

The Council is asked to note that no open forum questions have been received from members of the public.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Submit, for approval as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 27 June 2007.

4. MINUTES OF THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE FORUM

Submit for information, and where necessary ratification, the Minutes of Meeting of the Joint Consultative Forum held on 21 June 2007.

5. REVISED STANDING ORDERS AND REVISED PROTOCOL FOR MEMBER/OFFICER RELATIONS

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council on 27 June 2007, submit report by the Chief Executive recommending approval of the undernoted documents:-

- (a) Revised Standing Orders and Committee Remits; and
- (b) Revised Protocol for Member/Officer Relations.

6. COMMITTEE TIMETABLE TO DECEMBER 2008

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of Council on 27 June 2007, submit report by the Chief Executive providing the Council with a proposed timetable of meetings to December 2008.

7. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of Council on 27 June 2007, submit report by the Chief Executive providing the Council with an update on the appointments made to outside bodies.

8. REPRESENTATION ON COSLA EXECUTIVE GROUPS

Submit report by the Chief Executive inviting the Council to make nominations to COSLA Executive Groups.

9. AFFILIATIONS

Submit report by the Chief Executive providing information on those organisations to which the Council is currently affiliated and asking the Council to consider the renewal of the affiliations on an annual basis.

10. WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY PLAN 2007/17

Submit report by the Chief Executive seeking endorsement of the final draft of the West Dunbartonshire Community Plan 2007/17.

11. WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP – KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Submit report by the Chief Executive updating the Council on key developments within West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership, (CPP).

12. SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS AND THE ROLE OF THE AUDIT & PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Submit report by the Chief Executive updating Council on progress with the review of Scrutiny arrangements and proposals for discussion at the Audit & Performance Review Committee.

13. CORPORATE PLAN ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2006/07

Submit report by the Chief Executive inviting the Council to comment on the annual review of the performance of the Corporate Plan.

14. DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2008-2012

Submit report by the Chief Executive presenting the Council's new Corporate Plan for comment.

15. AUDIT OF BEST VALUE AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

Submit report by the Chief Executive providing the Council with a note of the visit of Audit Scotland in August and the progress of the Best Value Improvement Plan.

16. DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2006/07

Submit report by the Chief Executive providing the Council with a copy of the Draft Annual Accounts for 2006/2007.

**17. GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT:
(PERIOD 3) 2007/08**

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

**18. GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT
(PERIOD 3) 2007/2008**

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

19. GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PLAN 2008/09 and 2009/10

Submit report by the Chief Executive providing information on capital resources and bids for 2008/09 and 2009/10.

20. INDICATIVE FINANCIAL POSITION 2008/09 AND 2009/10

Submit report by the Chief Executive providing information about an indicative revenue position for the Council in 2008/09 and 2009/10.

21. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND APPRAISAL FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Submit report by the Chief Executive recommending a framework of Performance Management and Appraisal for the Chief Executive and Directors of the Council.

22. PROPOSED VISIT TO ARGENTEUIL

Submit report by the Chief Executive seeking approval from Council for a working visit to Argenteuil, West Dunbartonshire's twin town.

23. EMPLOYEE SURVEY

Submit report by the Chief Executive updating the Council on the Employee Attitude survey which was conducted in April and May 2007.

24. HRA 2007/08 BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT TO 15 JULY 2007 (PERIOD 3)

Submit report by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration Services) containing information on the progress of the Housing Revenue Account 2007/2008 up to 15 July 2007 (Period 3),

25. HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/08 – BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT TO 15 JULY 2007 (PERIOD 3)

Submit report by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services) on the progress of the HRA Capital Programme 2007/2008 up to 15 July 2007 (Period 3).

26. FLOODLIGHTING OF DUMBARTON CASTLE AND ROCK

Submit report by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration Services) advising the Council on progress with plans for the reinstatement of floodlighting to Dumbarton Castle and Rock.

27. QUESTIONS

In accordance with the terms of Standing Order No 9 (b), the undernoted question has been submitted:-

(a) Question to the Leader of the Council by Councillor David McBride – Council Tax Freeze

The Leader of the Council will recall that I moved a motion at the June Council Meeting, expressing my concern that any freeze on next years Council Tax imposed by the Scottish Executive, without a compensatory increase in grant funding, would leave this Council facing a potential black hole in our budgets and result in serious detriment to the services we provide.

In order to address this and other long standing concerns about our budget settlements, given that deprivation is not a determine factor in distribution of funds, I called on him to raise these issues with COSLA and lead a cross party delegation to a meeting with Finance Secretary John Swinney.

He will recall that he moved a successful amendment noting he had made contact with John Swinney and he intended to arrange a meeting with him, alongside other Councillors and Officers. Can the Leader of the Council update me on what progress was made regarding these concerns following contact with John Swinney; when will this cross party meeting take place; and will both West Dunbartonshire local MSPs be invited to this meeting?

(b) Question to the Leader of Council by Councillor Geoff Calvert – Knowle Burn

The Council welcomes the work being taken forward to address the problems caused by flooding of the Knowle Burn. However, the Council also recognises that some of the options under consideration are giving great concern to the community of Dumbarton.

Will the Leader of the Council confirm categorically that a report on the outcome of the consultation will come before the September meeting of the full Council for consideration and decision before any submission is made to the SE and will he reassure the Council in his personal belief that 'cheapest is not always best'?

28. NOTICES OF MOTION

In accordance with the terms of Standing Order No 8 (a), the Council is requested to consider the undernoted motions:-

(a) Motion by Councillor John Millar – Play Drome

This Council notes the proposal of the planned early closure of the Play Drome in Clydebank.

Council is concerned that the decision to reduce opening times will have a negative impact on individual users and the many community groups in Clydebank that currently use this facility.

Council agrees to put the decision on hold until a report outlining the impact of the planned changes has been considered by the full Council.

In the meantime, the Chief Executive is requested to ensure that interim arrangements are put in place to allow users to continue to use this valuable community facility.

(b) Motion by Councillor John Millar – Sports Facilities

This Council recognises the importance of providing quality sports facilities for all our citizens in West Dunbartonshire.

Council acknowledges that £2.5m of sports facilities are included in the proposed Schools PPP project. Council also notes that in 2006 the previous Labour Administration had allocated £1m of capital spending through the use of prudential borrowing to improve sports provision throughout West Dunbartonshire.

It is further noted that the Council had previously conducted an assessment of the existing sports provision and had identified areas of need that should be addressed through the work of the Council's Sports Strategy Working Group.

Given that some considerable time has passed since many of these decisions were taken, Council instructs the Chief Executive to bring forward an interim report to a future Council meeting in order to update all elected members on progress with the Council's Sports Strategy.

Any report should consider the potential contributions from our partners including funding partners and community groups such as the Clydebank Sports Trust.

(c) Motion by Councillor Jim Bolla – Remploy

This Council agrees to fully support Remploy workers and staff in their attempts to protect their jobs and the services they provide to the wider Community. We call on the Government to urgently review the funding levels required to sustain the Remploy operation.

This Council also instructs the CEO to examine ways in which the Council can maximise the amount of contract and other works we are able to place with Remploy and other supported businesses (where more than 50% of the workers are disabled) as provided for under the new public procurement legislation which became law in January 2006.

(d) Motion by Councillor William McLaughlin - Remploy

West Dunbartonshire Council affirms its support to Remploy as a major employer of disabled people in this area and throughout the country. This Council agrees that Remploy is an essential, though not exclusive organisation that assists disabled people into employment.

(e) Motion by Councillor Jim Finn - Saltire

In keeping with an ever increasing national confidence, this Council agrees to fly our national flag, the Saltire, at all Council buildings that have a flag pole, every day with the exception of the following days or with the agreement of the Provost.

Full Council Meeting	Council Flag (meeting place)
Queen's Birthday (21 st April)	Union Flag
Queen's Official Birthday (to be advised)	Union Flag
Remembrance Sunday (nearest Sunday to 11 th Nov)	Union Flag

St Andrew's Day (30th November)

Saltire

Where there is the ability to fly two flags, the Saltire will remain on the second flagpole. The Council flag should only fly on the building where the Full Council Meeting will take place.

On Council buildings where there are two flagpoles available, the Saltire should remain on the first and the following flags should fly on the second on their respective dates.

Commonwealth Day (13th March)

Commonwealth Flag

Europe Day (9th May)

EU Flag

United Nations Day (24th October)

UN Flag

(f) Motion by Councillor David McBride – Council Tax

Council notes the significant increase in Council Tax collection rates for 2006/07. This Council also notes with satisfaction that this performance places West Dunbartonshire in the top four of all 32 Councils in Scotland for in year Council Tax collection rates.

Council further notes that the following measures introduced by previous Labour Administrations were instrumental in this success:-

1/ Increased debt recovery arrangements following the Council's previous equal pay settlement;

2/ An increase in staffing resources available to the Finance Section to assist in the recovery of unpaid Council Tax; and

3/ A deliberate policy commitment to keep Council Tax levels as low as possible which makes Council Tax relatively more affordable and has resulted in West Dunbartonshire Council having the lowest level of Council Tax increases in the last ten years in the entire UK (Source – Halifax/Bank of Scotland).

Council recognises that without these measures and the commitment and determination of our staff this extra money would not be available to be invested in current service provision.

The improvements in recent years are commendable and Council congratulates all staff involved in this remarkable achievement.

For information on the above agenda please contact George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer, Legal and Administrative Services, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU. Tel: (01389) 737204 or e-mail:

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