

**WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

**Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU**

21 November 2008

**MEETING: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2008  
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, 26 November 2008 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 Corporate Services

Executive Director of Educational Services

Executive Director of Social Work and Health

Executive Director of Housing, Environmental & Economic Development

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](mailto:george.hawthorn@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

**WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2008**

**AGENDA**

**1. APOLOGIES**

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Submit for approval as a correct record, the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 29 October 2008.

**3. CLYDEBANK ASBESTOS GROUP**

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 25 June 2008 when it was agreed that the Clydebank Asbestos Group be invited to address the Council on the issue of compensation for the condition known as pleural plaques, a representative from the Clydebank Asbestos Group will be in attendance to speak to the Council on this issue.

**4. VALE HOSPITAL WATCH – REQUEST FOR DEPUTATION**

The Council is asked to consider a request from Mr Moohan, on behalf of the Vale Hospital Watch, to address the Council on the issue of the Vale of Leven Hospital.

**5. OPEN FORUM**

The Council is asked to consider the undernoted question:-

**Iain Ellis – School Websites**

Can the Council please inform me of a timescale that we are going to be given access to our own websites? This has been going on for well over a year now and as we have the best Educational Services in Scotland, this major delay can only cause it harm.

**6. MINUTES OF THE AUDIT & PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Submit for information, and where necessary ratification, the Minutes of Meeting of the Audit & Performance Review Committee held on 12 November 2008.

**7. REMIT FROM THE AUDIT & PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE – STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR CONSULTATION**

With reference of the Minutes of Meeting of the Audit and Performance Review Committee held on 12 November 2008, submit report by the Chief Executive presenting responses to Audit Scotland's consultation on the Statutory Performance Indicators (SPIs) for 2009-10.

**8. IMPLEMENTATION OF LEARNING DISABILITY CHARGES**

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 27 August 2008, submit report by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health providing an interim update on the implementation of Learning Disability Charges.

**9. DRUG AND ALCOHOL REHABILITATION – UPDATE**

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 30 April 2008, submit report by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health providing an update on two linked programmes which received Council support in April 2008 to increase capacity within, and improve access to, addiction services.

**10. ELECTED MEMBER REPRESENTATION ON WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL ADOPTION AND FOSTERING PANELS**

Submit report by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health seeking the nomination of two elected members to serve on the Adoption Panel and Fostering Panel for this Council area.

**11. CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER CONSULTATION**

Submit report by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health recommending a response to the consultation on the guidance on the role of the Chief Social Work Officer.

**12. COUNCIL TAX INSTALMENT DATES**

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 29 October 2008, submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services on the Council Tax Instalment dates for 2009/10 and beyond.

**13. KPMG ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS 2007/2008**

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services advising the Council of the findings in relation to KPMG LLP's final report to Members on the completion of the 2007/2008 audit.

**14. GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PLAN 2009/10 AND 2010/11**

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services providing information on capital resources and bids for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

**15. BUDGET 2008/09 – ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENTAL SAVINGS**

Submit report by the Chief Executive providing an update on developments to address the budget decision to identify a further 1% efficiency savings by April 2009.

**16./**

**16. WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN  
2009/10 – 2013/14**

Submit report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environment and Economic Development presenting the proposed West Dunbartonshire Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for 2009/10 – 2014 and seeking agreement to submit it to the Scottish Government by the due date of 28 November 2008.

**17. COMMUNITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT**

Submit report by the Chief Executive presenting a progress report on the 2007-2017 Community Plan.

**18. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT**

Submit report by the Chief Executive presenting an update of the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) process along with a progress report on the 2008 SOA.

**19. STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP AND ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE**

Submit report by the Chief Executive:-

- (a) providing proposals on how Elected Members and officers can collectively address some of the issues relating to strategic leadership and organisational culture which were highlighted in the Best Value Audit report of February 2007 and subsequent progress report in January 2008; and
- (b) setting out a number of proposed actions based on an assessment of the Progress report and incorporating the outcomes of the Improvement Service (IS) review of member/officer relations, including the subsequent discussion forums between Members and the IS.

**20./**

**20. CORRESPONDENCE FROM EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL ON THE ISSUE OF UNAUTHORISED SIGNAGE AND FLY POSTING**

Submit correspondence from East Dunbartonshire Council seeking this Council's support of a motion concerning Unauthorised Signage & Fly Posting.

**21. QUESTIONS**

**(a) Question by Councillor William McLaughlin to the Convener of Housing, Environment and Economic Development – Wheelie bins**

Could the Convener inform me of the number of wheelie bins destroyed during the bonfire celebrations earlier this month and the cost of replacement?

**(b) Question by Councillor John Millar to the Convener of Housing, Environment and Economic Development – Proposed Transfer of Housing Stock**

I attended the Central Alexandria Tenants and Residents Association (CATRA) Annual General Meeting on Thursday 13 November; the Tenants raised concerns about the Council's proposals to transfer 50% of the housing stock to private housing associations.

In particular, tenants are worried that the Council is investing in new kitchens, bathrooms and other improvement works on housing stock which the Council has now identified for demolition or transfer. Tenants are concerned that these much needed resources will be wasted on these houses while other areas which are earmarked to remain with the Council will be denied much needed investment. What action is the Council taking to avoid wasting tenants' money and resources in housing in the regeneration and stock transfer areas?

Tenants also expressed concern about housing with multiple occupants and wanted to know what actions will be taken in relation to the owner occupiers who are unwilling to transfer to a private housing association?

Finally it is noted that only three tenants attended the Public consultation meeting to discuss the Council's Standard Delivery Plan, yet councillors took a decision to transfer up to 50% of the housing stock. What assurances can the Convener give that CATRA will be properly consulted in future?

**(c)/**

**(c) Question by Councillor Patrick McGlinchey to the Convener of Education and Lifelong Learning – Free School Meals**

Can the Convener of Education explain to the Council how the SNP administration plan to fund the implementation of the Scottish Government free school meal policy without additional funds from the government to do so, and, can the Convener give a guarantee to the Council that no other service within West Dunbartonshire will be cut in order to fund the policy?

**(d) Question by Councillor Geoff Calvert to the Leader of the Council – Community Forum in Dumbarton.**

This Council notes that the West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership has not yet instituted a fully functioning Dumbarton Forum. What action is the Leader of the Council taking to ensure that the Community Planning Partnership complies with its own decision to institute a Community Forum in Dumbarton as it has done in Clydebank and the Vale of Leven and by what date will the Forum be in place?

**22. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**(a) Motion by Councillor Geoff Calvert – Transfer of approximately 50% of the Council's Housing Stock to Housing Associations and effect on Council's DLO**

This Council notes that the Council decision of 29 October 2008 to deliver the Scottish Housing Quality Standard 2015 will result in the transfer of approximately 50% of the Council's housing stock to Housing Associations. Housing Associations do not have Direct Labour Organisations and therefore there is no mechanism for transfer of DLO employees under the protection of TUPE along with the transfer of the stock.

Therefore, this Council notes that, at a stroke, this decision driven through by the SNP-led Administration, supported by Councillor Black, has placed the livelihoods of 50% of our DLO employees under direct threat.

This Council has stated time and time again that its staff are its most important resource and yet the SNP-led Administration is proceeding in a direction that will lead to the removal of a considerable number of jobs and inevitable compulsory redundancies. This Council believes that the sacrifice of 50% of DLO jobs and the consequent devastating effect on hundreds of families is unacceptable and it has a duty to take action to avoid this happening.

This Council is supportive of the principle that the DLO be given the opportunity to bid for work outside of the Council and is aware of approaches from Cordale Housing Association in this regard.



Therefore, in order to safeguard the livelihoods of our Housing Staff, this Council requests the Chief Executive, supported by the Executive Director of Housing, Environment and Economic Development, to bring forward a report to Council within three months that will make recommendations as to how the DLO can be given the opportunity to contract for work outside the Council, with particular attention being given to opportunities to carry out work for Housing Associations.

In addition, this Council asks the Chief Executive and the Executive Director to instigate discussions with local Housing Associations in order to identify a willing partner Association that would be prepared to work with the Council in order to make this opportunity a reality and the outcomes of these discussions should be outlined in the report.

**(b) Motion by Councillor Margaret Bootland – Lack of public accountability in relation to the administration of the Council’s Grants Budget**

This Council is concerned about the lack of public accountability in relation to the administration of the Council’s Grants Budget.

The new system means that decisions are taken in private by members of CVS. This does not allow for proper political oversight or effective scrutiny of Council grants and it does not provide sufficient protection for the volunteers who are making the decisions on behalf of the Council.

The new system does not appear to include a register of interests of the CVS members or a record of what grant applications have been denied. Also to date it appears that the CVS have not generated any additional funding as a result of them taking over the administration of the Grants Budget. Furthermore it appears that the Council is now to make two posts redundant following the transfer of this responsibility.

Given the Council’s commitment to openness and transparency, its duty to protect public money and to follow the public pound, Council agrees that the Chief Executive brings forward a report making recommendations outlining how these shortcomings can be addressed.

**(c) Motion by Councillor Patrick McGlinchey – Phase Two Consultation: Schools Estate**

This Council notes the investment in the school estate over the past years, which has totaled more than thirty-three-and-a-half million pounds, and included new builds for St Michael’s, St Stephen’s, Bonhill, Goldenhill, St Mary’s and soon to be, St Eunan’s, Clydebank High, Vale of Leven Academy, and St Peter the Apostle.

Council wishes for the investment and regeneration to continue and grow, but notes that we must always seek to improve our methods and means of consultation to get the best results, and to properly represent the people of West Dunbartonshire

This Council believes that the informal consultation this far as been lopsided in its focus; primarily seeking opinion on co-location, but without going far enough to inform those taking part of the details *all* possible option.

This Council believes that consultations work best when those being consulted have the correct and full information and knowledge to make an informed decision - knowledge is power. That's why Council will aim to fully inform stakeholders before we go any further in the consultation process, formal or informal.

We want all stakeholders to have the opportunity to understand the financial options available to the Council, the likely constraints on the local authority, and the political context that phase-2 schools will be built within.

To explain all of this to parents, Council instructs officers to:-

- Develop a West Dunbartonshire "school regeneration website".
- Send every child home with a detailed school regeneration information-booklet.
- Run a regional information 'open-day' drop-in event.
- Work with the media to inform the wider public.

Our website, newsletter, and open-day event will seek to inform and educate stakeholders by providing them with detailed information on the following:-

a) All potential funding options: (e.g. development of the Scottish Futures Trust, and alternative methods)

b) Current situation of every school: (e.g. condition, sustainability, placing capacity, actual & projected roll, summary of the most recent HMle Report etc)

c) Details of the options for all school in their community: (e.g. refurbishment, adaptation, extension, merger/ amalgamation, co-location of denominational and non-denominational school, closure etc)

d) The financial & political Context we are working in: (e.g. government pledge to reduce class sizes to 18 in P1-P3, W.D.C. pledge that Dumbarton Academy is our number one priority etc)

### The Website

The Website address will be publicised in the local media, in West Dunbartonshire Council's own newspaper, and in flyers which can be placed within our libraries, leisure centres and community centres.

The website would be accessible for not only parents, but the local business community and the residents who may also be affected by new-build schools in their area.

The website should have a clean and easily navigatable design. Information should be split in sections, and the language used on the website should be, as far as possible, jargon-free.

### Information-booklet

Council understands that not every parent in West Dunbartonshire will have access to the internet; that is why an information-booklet will be produced. The booklet will contain similar information as the website and will be sent home with every child from every school affected in the community.

As with the website the info-booklet should have a clear, user-friendly design. Information should be split in sections allowing users to delve in and out on the booklet as they wish, and to extract the information they require; again the language used in the booklet should be, as far as possible, jargon-free.

### Open-Day

The region based Open-Days will provide a further change for members of the public to obtain information in a more interactive setting. The Open-day will be run as a day long drop-in, to enhance turnout. The Open-Day may be publicised on the website and in the information-booklet; flyers placed in public buildings could also be used to publicise the Open-Day.

The Open-Day may partly be an exhibition, and could involve visual aids, and interactive methods of communicating information.

Council believes implementation of the above – the website, information booklet, open-day, and media work - will deliver better informed parents and public at large, resulting in a more robust consultation process where knowledge is more accessible, and is shared more equally and freely; therefore the consulted are in a stronger position to draw conclusions on what they believe to be in the best interests for their children and their community.

## **2. Consult**

Once we feel we have done everything we can to make the information available to stakeholders, giving them the knowledge required to make a realistic and informed decision we will begin consulting and recording opinions informally.

We will start consultation by:-

- Sending every parent a personally addressed letter, with survey attached
- Administering an online consultation

### Online Consultation

Our online consultation will be run by an independent, professional organisation which specialises in online consultations.

Once both of the above steps are complete a report will come back to the Council before we proceed.