

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU

12 November 2010

MEETING: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

**WEDNESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2010
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, 24 November 2010 at 6.00 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

Director of the West Dunbartonshire Community Health and Care Partnership

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

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2010

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are invited to declare if they have an interest in any of the items of business on this agenda and state the reasons for such declarations.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

- (a) Special meeting held on 14 October 2010
- (b) Special meeting held on 27 October 2010
- (c) Ordinary meeting held on 27 October 2010
- (d) Requisitioned meeting on 9 November 2010

4. PRESENTATION BY STRATHCLYDE POLICE ON INTERVENTION OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME GROUPS

Detective Inspector Joe McKerns, Force Tasking and Interventions Unit, Strathclyde Police will give a presentation on intervention opportunities within local authorities for serious and organised crime groups.

5. OPEN FORUM

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

6. MINUTES OF THE WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY HEALTH AND CARE PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2010

Submit for information, the Minutes of the Meeting of the West Dunbartonshire Community Health and Care Partnership held on 20 October 2010.

7. VENUES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS IN CLYDEBANK IN 2011

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council held on 27 October 2010, submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services requesting the Council to consider possible venues for Council meetings in Clydebank in 2011.

8. GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT: PERIOD 6 (2010/11)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services informing the Council of the performance of the General Services Revenue budget for the period ending 30 September 2010.

9. GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT: PERIOD 6 (2010/11)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services providing the Council with an update on the Capital Plan for 2010/2011.

10./

10. KPMG LLP - 2009/10 AUDIT – FINAL REPORT TO MEMBERS

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services advising Council of the findings in relation to the KPMG LLP's final report to Members on the completion of their 2009/10 audit.

Note: Copies of the Appendix to the above report have been enclosed separately with this agenda for Members and Directors. Members of the public and press can access the document on the Council's website at the following web address:

<http://wdccmis.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/CMISWebPublic>

11. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2010/11 - BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2010 (PERIOD 6)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development providing the Council with an update on the financial performance of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the period ending 30 September 2010.

12. HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11 BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2010 (PERIOD 6)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development advising the Council of the progress made on the HRA Capital Programme 2010/11.

13. INTRODUCTION OF SCOTTISH LIVING WAGE

With reference to the Minutes of the Requisitioned Meeting of Council on 9 November 2010, submit report by the Chief Executive outlining the implications associated with West Dunbartonshire Council introducing the Scottish Living Wage of £7.15 per hour.

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14. QUESTIONS

(a) Questions by Councillor Martin Rooney to the Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council will be aware of our legal responsibilities to inform other government agencies and unions as soon as potential redundancies are known. Council notes that the combination of the SNP Administration and the Management Adjustment cuts means that there will be a threat to over 100 posts.

- (1) Can the Leader of the Council advise what action has been taken to meet these legal obligations?
- (2) Specifically when did the Trades Unions receive formal notification?
- (3) What government agencies were advised about the potential redundant posts and when?

(b) Questions by Councillor Casey to the Social Work Spokesperson

- (1) The SNP led Council has decided to cut £975,000 from Housing Support Services.

How will the review be conducted and what impact could this have on Housing Support workers in the Council and the voluntary sector?

- (2) The SNP led Council is to reduce frontline Social Work staff by 3 FTE to save a total of £240,000 between 2011 and 2012.

What measures have been taken to mitigate against the identified risks expected due to increased time for assessments and service delivery?

- (3) The SNP led Council is to restructure the provision of Learning Disabilities in order to save £250,000 between 2011 and 2012.

What impact will this have on voluntary organisations?

(c) Questions by Councillor Martin Rooney to the Social Work Spokesperson

- (1) The SNP led Council has decided to cut £300,000 from a staffing review of care homes staff working patterns and shift allowances etc. What specific changes could be introduced?

- (2) The SNP led Council has decided to introduce new charges of £350,000 from Home Care and Housing Support.

What consultation has taken place with the service users and their carers?

- (3) The SNP led Council has decided to cut the Community Work Service in order to save £164,000, etc.

In the light of this cut, how will Social Work services meet its statutory duties to promote social care and promote Social Inclusion?

(d) Questions by Councillor Patrick McGlinchey to the Social Work Spokesperson

- (1) The SNP led Council has decided to cut £130,000 from residential places for children.

Which Care Homes are to be closed and how many places will be removed? In addition, what are the implications for existing staff?

- (2) The SNP led Council has decided to cut £245,000 from social work by removing the 'identified vacant posts'.

What are the identified vacant posts and what services are to be removed as a result of the deletion?

(e) Questions by Councillor David McBride to the Corporate Services' Spokesperson

- (1) The SNP led Council is to cut £1m as a result of the restructure in Corporate Services which will result in the loss of 30 FTE jobs.

What process will be used to select the 30 FTE staff to leave the Council's employment?

- (2) The SNP led Council has decided to cut £95,000 from the Registration Service with the loss of 3 FTE jobs, which could result in the closure of two Registration offices.

Which Registration offices are to be closed as a result of this decision?

(f) Questions by Councillor Margaret Bootland to the Corporate Services' Spokesperson

- (1) The SNP led Council has decided to centralise the Health & Safety Function in order to save £80,000 and cut 3 FTE posts.

What will be the impact of these changes?

- (2) The SNP led Council has decided to cut £130,000 from the review of the Chief Executive's Department resulting in the loss of 5 FTE posts.

What posts are to be cut?

(g) Questions by Councillor Patrick McGlinchey to the Educational Services' Spokesperson

- (1) The SNP led Council has decided to introduce a 1% cut in teaching staff in Primary and Secondary Schools to save £455,000 and cut 11.5 FTE posts.

Which schools will be affected by the cuts?

- (2) The SNP led Council has decided to cut Special Needs Assistants by 5% to save £165,000.

From which schools will the 13 FTE staff be cut?

- (3) The SNP led Council has decided to cut £157,000 from clerical and support staff in our schools resulting in 8.4 FTE posts being cut.

Which schools will lose their member(s) of staff?

(h) Questions by Councillor Douglas McAllister – Educational Services' Spokesperson

- (1) The SNP led Council has decided to cut £855,250 from centrally deployed staffing, resulting in the loss of 22.5 posts.

How will these savings be achieved and what services will suffer?

- (2) The SNP led Council has decided to cut £121,000 from Community Learning and Development, resulting in the loss of 5.8 FTE posts.

What impact will this cut have on services?

- (3) The SNP led Council has decided to cut £161,250 from the mobile crèche service resulting in the loss of 5 FTE posts.

How will this service be provided in future?

(i) Questions by Councillor John Millar to the Housing, Environment and Economic Development Spokesperson

- (1) The SNP led Council has decided to cut £550,000 from the HEED department following a review with the loss of 20 FTE posts.

What posts will be deleted and how will the deletion of staff be achieved?

- (2) The SNP led Council has decided to cut £340,000 from soft services which will result in the loss of 20 FTE posts.

What posts will be deleted and how will the savings be achieved?

(j) Question by Councillor Geoff Calvert to Housing, Environment and Economic Development Spokesperson

The SNP led Council has decided to cut £350,000 in phase 2 of HEED Management savings which will result in 15 FTE posts being deleted.

How will the savings be achieved and within what timescales?

15. NOTICES OF MOTION

(A) Motion by Councillor Geoff Calvert - Standard Delivery Plan – Housing Stock Transfer

At the meeting of the full Council on 29 October 2008, this Council agreed its commitment to ensure that the condition of all its housing would meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) by 2015 at the latest.

Furthermore this Council also noted that it would continue to adopt a flexible approach to the delivery of wider regeneration opportunities, including consideration of localised stock transfers if appropriate, in partnership with Communities, Registered Social landlords (RSLs) and the Housing and Regeneration Division of the Scottish Government. The Council expressed its commitment to build on existing achievements in master planning and in support of existing community groups in, for example, Castlehill/Westcliff and Haldane.

The Council was clear in its pledge that transfers would be tenant led and the Council also expressed the view that a single receiving landlord was NOT a favoured option.

Progress to deliver the Standard Delivery Plan over the last two years has now led to the decision having been taken by the Housing, Environment and Economic Development (HEED) Committee on 6 October 2010 to 'package' potential stock for transfer into four geographical areas – Dumbarton, Vale of Leven, Clydebank East and Clydebank West. Furthermore, because in Clydebank the areas agreed for transfer in October 2008 will be 'too risky' for local RSLs to consider, the HEED Committee agreed to consider adding more Green/Amber properties to the mix in Clydebank to make a more attractive proposition for RSLs.

These decisions confirm that the pledges given to tenants by this Administration that any ballot would be local and tenant-led have been overturned. What is more, the move to 'sweeten the pill' for potential bidders means that the initiative has now shifted from the customer (tenants) to the supplier (RSLs). This Council does not accept these fundamental changes in policy as being in the best interests of its tenants.

Therefore, this Council, in assessing the likelihood of 100% tenant support at a ballot in these changed circumstances, accepts that tenants are most unlikely to agree and for Council to proceed for the next 12–18 months in pursuit of an ever-diminishing chance of success, with no other option as a contingency, would be a dereliction of its duty to its tenants.

Given that this Council has rejected the Labour Opposition's view that it would be preferable to retain all stock as opposed to the partial Stock Transfer SDP as promulgated by the SNP Administration, this Council believes that it is time for an additional option that will achieve the SHQS 2015 to be worked up for consideration.

This Council agrees that the Executive Director for HEED be requested to prepare a new option that will deliver the SHQS 2015 based on full-scale stock transfer proposal. This Council wishes the Director's report, which should not be constrained by pre-conditions, to be brought back to Council for consideration rather than the HEED Committee, given that the existing policy was agreed by Council.

(B) Motion by Councillor Geoff Calvert – Housing DLO Surplus

This Council agrees that the West Dunbartonshire Tenants and Residents Organisation (WDTRO) has made a strong case to retain all or part of the annual Housing DLO surplus within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) in order to speed up work required to bring Council housing stock up to the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) 2015.

This Council recognises that any Housing DLO surplus not transferred to the General Services Account as happens at present would require the resulting shortfall in the General Services account to be made up through efficiency savings and/or increased charges.

In balancing the need to make up any shortfall with the case put forward by the WDTRO, this Council regrets that it does not feel able to return the Housing DLO Surplus in full to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) at this time.

Therefore, this Council agrees that an amount equivalent to any Housing DLO surplus for the financial year 2010/11 and future years will be apportioned on a 50:50 basis between the General Services Account and the HRA.

(C) Motion by Councillor Jim Bolla – Partial Housing Stock Transfer

Council agrees that the next scheduled report to the Housing Environment and Economic Development Committee on the partial stock transfer will come to full Council for decision.

(D) Motion by Councillor David McBride – Living Wage

Council notes that the campaign for a living wage is gathering momentum across the UK. The living wage campaign is backed by Trades Unions, voluntary organisations such as charities and churches; public organisations such as Glasgow City Council and many universities; and a wide range of employers. Council notes the Leader of the Council's recent statement at the Special Council meeting that: 'It's the right thing to do, if we can afford it.'

The Living Wage is a genuinely cross party campaign which is designed to increase the wages for the lowest paid workers in order to ensure that they can participate at an acceptable level in society. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has set out a methodology to calculate the level of pay that an average family with two working adults and two children would need to earn to fulfill basic needs.

We therefore call on all elected members on West Dunbartonshire Council to support the introduction of the Living Wage, which is currently £7.15 per hour for all Council employees, and to enter into discussions with the trades unions with a view to reaching a collective agreement and to consider backdating the increase to October, 2010.

Council also agrees to extend the support for the Living Wage Campaign by encouraging all employers within West Dunbartonshire to introduce the Living Wage for the benefit of their workforce and the wider community of West Dunbartonshire. In addition, all private and third sector organisations, working on Council contracts, should be expected to subscribe to the Scottish Living Wage.