

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU

19 August 2011

MEETING: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

**WEDNESDAY, 31 AUGUST 2011
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, 31 August 2011 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

Executive Director of Housing, Environmental & Economic Development

Director of West Dunbartonshire Community Health and Care Partnership

For information on the following agenda please contact Craig Stewart, Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, G82 3PU on Tel: (01389) 737251 or e-mail: craig.stewart@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 31 AUGUST 2011

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 MEETING

Submit for approval as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 29 June 2011.

4. OPEN FORUM

(A) Sheila Cowan on behalf of the Good Companions' Club – Elderly People's Welfare Grant

Without any meaningful or sensible consultation, West Dunbartonshire Council has imposed a new and flawed method of distribution of the Elderly People's Welfare Grant. What protection will the Council provide to individual volunteers who are being expected to obtain personal and private information such as Bank Details and National Insurance Numbers, on behalf of the Council, should this information somehow become public knowledge?

(B) Elizabeth Hartley on behalf of the Good Companions' Club – Elderly People's Welfare Grant

Without any meaningful or sensible consultation, West Dunbartonshire Council has imposed a new and flawed method of distribution of the Elderly People's Welfare Grant. We are told that the proposed new system of grants is supposed to prevent an individual from enjoying the benefits of more than one club/group. How does the Council expect clubs run by volunteers to know who is a member of more than one club/group?

(C) Wendy Hutchinson on behalf of Age Concern 'Dumbarton' – Elderly People's Welfare Grant

We condemn the decision by West Dunbartonshire Council to change the Elderly People's Welfare Grant without constructive consultation with groups from Dumbarton.

The groups provide throughout the year but especially at Christmas companionship and support to vulnerable elderly people. Although this is mostly done with money we fundraise we need the help of Council (as has been given in previous years) to provide some form of financial security to facilitate Christmas events. We realise that this new policy was intended to benefit more elderly people throughout the area, however it will have the opposite effect.

How can this policy work given that it was poorly advertised; many elderly residents as well as being disabled, have memory loss, are confused and do not understand how to claim this money and at the same time ensure there will be no negative impact on the groups who focus on providing social wellbeing and support for vulnerable elderly people within the community?

5. MINUTES OF THE WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY HEALTH AND CARE PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 22 JUNE 2011

Submit for information, the Minutes of the Meeting of the West Dunbartonshire Community Health and Care Partnership held on 22 June 2011.

6. MINUTES OF THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE FORUM HELD ON 23 JUNE 2011

Submit for information, and where necessary ratification, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Joint Consultative Forum held on 23 June 2011.

7. MINUTES OF THE AUDIT & PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON 10 AUGUST 2011

Submit for information, and where necessary ratification, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit & Performance Review Committee held on 10 August 2011.

8. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE RE-PROVISION OF AUCHENTOSHAN DAY CENTRE

Submit report by the Chief Executive providing an update on the re-provision of Auchentoshan Day Services.

9. CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT

(copy to follow)

Submit report by the Director of West Dunbartonshire Community Health and Care Partnership on the above.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

Submit report by the Chief Executive:-

- (a) advising of the progress made in revitalising the risk management process;
- (b) advising of the Strategic Risk identification session at a recent meeting of the Strategic Leadership Group (SLG) meeting; and
- (c) advising of the next phase of work needed to complete the Strategic Risk identification process and progress the risk revitalisation process across the Council.

11. CORPORATE PLAN 2012/17

Submit report by the Chief Executive seeking agreement on the priorities and objectives for the 2012/17 Corporate Plan.

12. KEY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR 2010/11

Submit report by the Chief Executive reviewing the performance of the Key Corporate Performance Indicators for 2010/11.

13. DRAFT FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2011/12 TO 2020/21

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services seeking approval of the Council's draft Financial Strategy 2011/12 to 2020/21.

14. SPEND TO SAVE BIDS

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services advising of the Spend to Save project bids received from Departments, which are recommended by the Corporate Management Team to be funded through the remaining additional Supporting People funds received in 2010/11.

15. HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/2012 BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2011 (PERIOD 3)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development advising the Council of the progress made on the HRA Capital Programme 2011/12.

16. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2011/12 - BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT TO 30 JUNE 2011 (PERIOD 3)

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 June 2011.

17. GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2011 (PERIOD 3)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services providing the Council with an update on the General Services Capital Plan for 2011/12.

18. GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT: PERIOD 3 (2011/12)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services informing the Council of the performance of the General Services revenue budget for the period to 30 June 2011.

19. STANDING ORDERS - AMENDMENT

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services recommending certain changes to the Council's Standing Orders in relation to Contracts, following on from the issues raised at the Council meeting on 24 March 2010, and the publication of the Scottish Government's guidance on the Procurement of Care and Support Services, in September 2010.

20. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2011

Submit report by the Chief Executive advising of the requirement on the Council to conduct a review of polling districts and places within its area and outlining the timetable and processes for carrying out this review.

21. WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services recommending the nomination of two appointments to the West Dunbartonshire Local Licensing Forum.

22. CATERING MANAGERS - RESTRUCTURE

Submit report by the Chief Executive outlining the decision making process and providing full details of the proposed changes to Catering Managers as requested by Council on 29 June 2011.

23. CLYDE VALLEY COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP – OPTIONS FOR SHARED SERVICES

Submit report by the Chief Executive:-

- (a) providing information on progress made by the Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership (CVCPP) approach to generating options for sharing services; and
- (b) seeking Members' views as to the position of West Dunbartonshire Council in relation to future participation of the Council in the options being generated.

24. HOUSING MAINTENANCE TRADING ACCOUNT - TREATMENT OF SURPLUS

Submit report by the Chief Executive advising of the options for current contract prices provided by Housing Maintenance Trading Operation to undertake repair and maintenance work to be adjusted, the consequences of this action and the financial implications for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and General Services Accounts.

25. QUESTIONS

(A) Question by Councillor Geoff Calvert to Leader of the Council

This Council notes with great concern the distress being caused to members and office bearers of Elderly groups within Duntocher, Dumbarton and the Vale of Leven following the imposition of a new mechanism for distribution of the Elderly People's Welfare Grant. This Council is aware of the considerable amount of confusing information being distributed to groups and the considerable administrative burden being placed upon them. This Council is aware that the new policy has determined that unless groups obtain signatures of members who wish to have the grant paid to the groups, then no money will be paid out to the groups.

Therefore,

1. Will the Leader of the Council explain why Age Concern Dumbarton has been told by Councillor Craig McLaughlin in an email dated 27th June 11 that, 'The new system will involve the Council creating a list of all the pensioners within the West Dunbartonshire area. Membership lists of existing groups such as yours will help form the basis of that global list of pensioners. All the members' names that you provide to the Council will *automatically* (my italics) have their grant payment routed to the respective Group.'?
2. Will the Leader of the Council confirm whether a simple list of members supplied by groups as stated by Councillor McLaughlin is an accurate explanation of the new policy or not?
3. Given that there is likely to be over 19,000 people over the age of 60 living in West Dunbartonshire (2001 census), will the Leader of the Council confirm whether or not those over the age of 60, as outlined in the correspondence being distributed by the Council as being eligible for a grant, are required to be 'pensioners' as stated in Councillor McLaughlin's email?

4. If so, who is required to provide the information on an individual's financial status?

(B) Question by Councillor Douglas McAllister to Leader of the Council

Can the SNP Administration confirm that the Christmas cash payout to the elderly citizens of Clydebank will remain at the current amount of £15.00, if not, how much does the Administration anticipate the payment will be?

26. NOTICES OF MOTION

(A) Motion by Councillor Martin Rooney – Clyde Valley Shared Services

This Council notes that in the best interests of its residents and staff South Lanarkshire Council has already withdrawn from the Clyde Valley Shared Services Community Planning Project.

Council notes that there will be limited benefit in progressing with the Waste Management Workstream, the Fleet Management Workstream, or the Health and Social Care Workstream.

Council also notes that the Support Services Workstream will require Two Million Six Hundred Thousand Pounds worth of investment and is unlikely to achieve a significant return until 2015.

Also the involvement in the Support Services Workstream would result in the transfer of around 280 staff members out of a workforce of approximately 430.

Council further notes that the transferred services staffing levels would be reduced by 25 percent and a similar reduction could be applied to the residual 150 council staff members.

This Council is not convinced that the Support Services Workstream will represent best value for West Dunbartonshire residents.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to initiate the process to withdraw West Dunbartonshire Council from the Shared Services project and to develop alternative proposals which best suit the needs of West Dunbartonshire and its residents.

(B) Motion by Councillor John Millar – Christmas Lights, Alexandria

Council notes the SNP budget decision to cut the Christmas Lights Switch On in Alexandria and agrees to reverse the planned cuts by taking the required funding from the General Reserve.

(C) Motion by Councillor Martin Rooney – Elderly Welfare Grants

This Council notes with great concern the distress being caused to members and office bearers of Elderly groups within Duntocher, Dumbarton and the Vale of Leven following the imposition of a new mechanism for distribution of the Elderly people's Welfare Grant.

This Council is aware of the considerable amount of confusing information being distributed to groups and the considerable administrative burden being placed upon them.

This Council is aware that the new policy has determined that unless groups obtain signatures of members who wish to have the grant paid to the groups, then no money will be paid out to the groups.

This Council accepts that proceeding further with these flawed proposals will cause undue and unnecessary hardship to our vulnerable and elderly residents in West Dunbartonshire to no practical advantage.

Therefore,

This Council agrees to suspend Standing Orders and to cancel any arrangements to change the current system of distribution of the Elderly People's Welfare Grant. This Council agrees that any decision on possible changes in future ought to fall to the new Council Administration after the Council elections in 2012.

Note: Members are asked to note that the Council is required to suspend Standing Order 19 (a) prior to consideration of the above motion as a period of six months has not passed since the Council made a decision on this matter at the meeting of the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee on 22 June 2011.