

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 23 June 2004 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Denis Agnew, Jim Bollan, Margaret Bootland, Dennis Brogan, Geoff Calvert, Gail Casey, Tony Devine, Jack Duffy, Jackie Maceira, Douglas McAllister, James McCallum, Craig McLaughlin, Marie McNair, Connie O'Sullivan, Martin Rooney, Andy White and Raymond Young.

Attending: Tim Huntingford, Chief Executive; Eric Walker, Director of Corporate Services; Dan Henderson, Director of Development and Environmental Services; Bob Cook, Acting Director of Education and Cultural Services; David McMillan, Director of Housing and Technical Services; Frank Newall, Head of Service (Schools' Estate); Jeff Stobo, Strategy Manager (Housing and Technical Services); Gerry McInerney, Head of Personnel Services; Stephen Brown, Head of Legal and Administrative Services and George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer.

Also

Attending: Mr John Mullin, Chair of NHS Argyll and Clyde Board; Neil Campbell, Chief Executive, NHS Argyll and Clyde; and Karen Murray, Divisional Director, Lomond and Argyll Division, NHS Argyll and Clyde.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Provost Alistair Macdonald, Depute Provost Linda McColl and Councillors James Flynn, Duncan McDonald and Margaret McGregor.

CHAIR

3138 Mr Huntingford, Chief Executive, informed the Council that both Provost Macdonald and Depute Provost McColl were unable to attend the meeting and thereafter invited the Council to nominate a Chair for this meeting.

3139 Councillor Bollan, seconded by Councillor Young, moved that Councillor Craig McLaughlin should take the Chair.

3140 As an amendment, Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Maceira, moved that Councillor Agnew should take the Chair.

- 3141 On a vote being taken, 12 Members voted for Councillor Agnew to take the Chair and 3 for Councillor McLaughlin. Accordingly, Councillor Agnew was appointed to chair the meeting.

CONSULTATION ON “SHAPING THE FUTURE”: THE CLINICAL STRATEGY FOR NHS ARGYLL AND CLYDE – PRESENTATION

- 3142 Councillor Agnew informed the Council that Mr John Mullin, Chair of NHS Argyll and Clyde Board, Neil Campbell, Chief Executive, NHS Argyll and Clyde and Karen Murray, Divisional Director, Lomond and Argyll Division, NHS Argyll and Clyde were present to answer Members’ questions on the consultation paper “Shaping the Future”: The Clinical Strategy for NHS Argyll and Clyde.
- 3143 Mr Mullin briefly introduced the consultation paper and thereafter Mr Campbell gave a presentation in which he highlighted the 12 key drivers for change which had prompted the consultation and explained the two options which were presented within the document for comment. Mr Campbell emphasised that the Board would consider alternatives to the options presented but pointed out that any alternative proposal would need to address all the issues raised and would need to be supported by evidence. He also informed the Council that residents in the Argyll and Clyde area would be able to choose which hospital they wanted to be treated in (including Glasgow hospitals) providing the service they required was available in that hospital. In that respect, he made clear that at present NHS Greater Glasgow had no plans for Gartnavel Hospital to provide an Accident and Emergency Service and therefore this service would be provided from the Royal Alexandria Hospital in Paisley.
- 3144 At this point Councillors Rooney, McLaughlin and Bollan voiced a number of concerns over the proposal contained within the document, a summary of which is noted below:-
- (1) concern was expressed that the independent review referred to within the consultation paper would not take into account the views of the local community and would only consider an academic medical argument;
 - (2) concern was expressed on the proposals to close the Joint Hospital in Dumbarton and the Victoria Infirmary in Helensburgh, which currently care for a number of elderly patients who would not receive the same level of care if based in the community;

- (3) concern was expressed over the lack of consultation with local authorities on proposals which would impact on local authority services such as community care;
- (4) concern was expressed on the impact of hospital closures on out-patient clinics;
- (5) concern was expressed on the lack of acute services to be provided locally by the Vale of Leven Hospital and the implications for patients;
- (6) concern was expressed over the high level of dependency on General Practitioners and their ability to undertake such an increase in workload; and
- (7) concern was expressed that the Royal Alexandria Hospital would not be able to cope with the additional workload.

3145 After hearing Mr Campbell in answer to Members' questions and in response to some of the issues raised above, Councillor Agnew, on behalf of the Council, thanked Mr Campbell, Mr Mullin and Ms Murray for their attendance and thereafter they left the meeting.

Adjournment

3146 Having heard Councillor Agnew, the Council agreed to adjourn for a short period to allow the representatives from NHS Argyll and Clyde to leave the meeting.

3147 The meeting reconvened at 7.55 p.m. with all Members and Officers shown on the Sederunt in attendance.

OPEN FORUM

3148 The following question was submitted to Council for consideration:-

Mr Tony Coultas, 8 Dean Street, Clydebank – St Andrew’s High School – Outline Business Case

3149 Since, in the dialogue between the St. Andrew’s High School Board and the Council, the case for the Council’s proposals for St Andrew’s has been discredited, being based on false school roll assumptions, will the Council undertake not to proceed with the Outline Business Case in so far as it affects St Andrew’s and instead bring forward new proposals based on transparent and shared information that will, to the satisfaction of current and future parents and pupils, represent a positive step forward in the provision of education?

Councillor McCallum responded in the following terms:-

3150 On behalf of the Council, I totally reject the comments in Mr Coultas’ letter regarding school rolls and in particular those which apply to St. Andrew’s High School.

3151 The school roll projections take account of information from the General Register Office for Scotland, in terms of the number of children being born in the Council area and the projected birth rate for the future. The Council’s Department of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services provides information for the roll projection process on the house building programme for the future, including the type of houses planned. It is an established fact that single bedroom flats are less likely to house children than are family homes. The Department of Education and Cultural Services analyses information related to the number of children presently in Council establishments at pre-five, primary and secondary stages and also on the migration of children out of the Council area based on recent trends. When all of that data has been analysed it is then possible to project school rolls for the future.

3152 The Council is entirely committed to sharing information in a transparent manner and that is one of the reasons why the Council has been in correspondence with the St. Andrew’s School Board and why there have been a number of meetings with that School Board. The Council has also reiterated its commitment to meeting with any other School Boards who wish to discuss aspects of the Outline Business Case with them and a number of such meetings have already taken place or are planned in the near future.

Mr Coultas asked the following supplementary question.

- 3153 I would draw the Council's attention to the statement made by Councillor White in the Clydebank Post where he was quoted as stating "that it was important that the Council got the school roll figures right and the Council would take another look at the St. Andrew's figures". This suggests that the figures are wrong. I welcome the Council's commitment to consultation but would ask does the funding process allow the Council to go back to the Scottish Executive with an adjustment to the Outline Business Case if, following the initial consultation, the Council changes its position?

Councillor McCallum responded in the following terms:-

- 3154 The Council is required to consult on the Outline Business Case and thereafter a further submission will be made to the Scottish Executive, which will take into account any amendments made to the Outline Business Case, as approved by this Council. On the issue of consultation, I will be happy to meet with the St Andrew's High School Board to discuss these issues but to date I have not been invited to do so.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 3155 The Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 26 May 2004 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

MINUTES OF AUDIT & PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

- 3156 The Minutes of Meeting of the Audit & Performance Review Committee held on 26 May 2004 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE

- 3157 The Minutes of Meeting of the Recruitment Committee held on 7 June 2004 were submitted and noted.
- 3158 With reference to the item on page 2 of the Minutes headed "Contracts of Employment for Chief Officers", the Council agreed:-
- (1) that interviews be held for existing Chief Officers who wished to extend their current contracts; and

- (2) that the membership of the Recruitment Committee would continue to be: the Leader of Council, Depute Leader of Council, Leader of the Opposition, Spokesperson for Personnel Services and those Service Spokespersons who have responsibility for any part of a Department's services.

3159 At this point the Chief Executive was invited to give the Council a brief update on the outcome of the Special Meeting of the Recruitment Committee which had been held earlier that day.

3160 The Chief Executive informed the Council that Mr McCafferty had declined the Council's offer of appointment for the post of Director of Education and Cultural Services and that, in the circumstances, the Recruitment Committee had decided not to advertise the post for a third time but to ask Mr Bob Cook to continue to act as Director for a period of one year, with the position to be reviewed at that point.

3161 Furthermore, the Chief Executive informed the Council that given the importance of the post of Head of Personnel Services, the Recruitment Committee sought authority from the Council to be involved in the recruitment of this post which represented a deviation from normal practice, whereby the filling of a post of this level would normally be determined by officers.

3162 After hearing the Head of Legal and Administrative Services, the Council agreed to suspend Standing Orders and authorised the Recruitment Committee to be involved in the recruitment of the post of Head of Personnel Services.

SKYPOINT, FAIFLEY – FINAL UPDATE

3163 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council held on 26 May 2004 (page 856, paragraph 2793 refers), when it had been agreed that the report by the Director of Corporate Services providing the Council with an update on Skypoint, Faifley, be continued to this meeting, the report was re-submitted for consideration.

3164 Having heard Councillors Bootland and McLaughlin, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to confirm its decision that a review be undertaken of future options for the operation of the Skypoint Centre;
- (2) that, once the Internal Audit Report referred to in paragraph 3.8 of the report was complete, a final report be presented to Council; and

- (3) that all users of the Skypoint Centre should be consulted as part of the review and their comments included in the final report.

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

(a) May 2004

3165 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services advising of the outcome of the 2004 Royal Scottish Pipe Band Championships.

3166 Having heard Councillor O’Sullivan advise that it was estimated that the local economy had benefited by approximately £1million from the event, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the outcome of the 2004 Royal Scottish Pipe Band Championships; and
- (2) to delegate authority to the Director of Development and Environmental Services, in consultation with the Member/Officer Working Group, to commence planning and arrangements with the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association for staging the Scottish Pipe Band Championships in May 2005.

(b) May 2006

3167 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services concerning an approach by the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA) for West Dunbartonshire Council to host the 2006 Royal Scottish Pipe Band Championships.

3168 The Council agreed that the Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Provost and the Spokesperson for Cultural Services, should submit a bid to the sum of £30,000 to host the 2006 Royal Scottish Pipe Band Championships.

RECYCLING AND WASTE MINIMISATION – DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES

3169 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services:-

- (a) providing information on the successful £4.175 million Strategic Waste Fund Bid;

- (b) providing details of phases 1 and 2 of the household kerbside recycling services which are an integral part of the Strategic Waste Implementation Plan; and
 - (c) seeking delegated authority to accept the most economically advantageous tenders for the supply of the key vehicles and equipment associated with the implementation plan.
- 3170 After hearing the Director of Development and Environmental Services in answer to Members' questions, Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Councillor Rooney, moved:-
- 3171 That Council approves the recommendations of the report as follows:-
- (1) to note the approval of the Council's Strategic Waste Implementation Plan and Bid;
 - (2) to approve the implementation programme, which is necessary for the success of household kerbside recycling and the publicity campaign; and
 - (3) to delegate to the Director of Development and Environmental Services, in consultation with the Director of Corporate Services and Convener of the Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee, the procurement of the required vehicles, containers, recycling centre and civic amenities upgrading programmes, using the most economically advantageous tender procedure to enable the phased implementation programme to progress.
- 3172 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Young, moved:-
- 3173 That the Council should approve recommendations (1) and (2) above but should not approve recommendation (3), as the power to approve such large amounts of expenditure (£4.175 million) should be retained by Council and should not be delegated to individual officers and members.
- 3174 On a vote being taken, 4 Members voted for the amendment and 13 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

DUMBARTON TOWN CENTRE PROJECTS 2004-2005

- 3175 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services seeking approval to accept the most economically advantageous tenders received for all contracts with estimated values over £60,000, in relation to Dumbarton Town Centre Projects.
- 3176 The Council agreed:-
- (1) that in relation to the projects detailed in paragraph 3.2 of the Director's report, to delegate authority to the Director of Development and Environmental Services in consultation with the Service Spokesperson of Economic, Development and Protective Services and the Directors of Housing and Technical Services and Corporate Services and the Chair of the Town Centres Initiative Ltd, to appoint the contractor for these works; and
 - (2) that the Director of Development and Environmental Services submit a report to a future Committee meeting, confirming the contract awarded for these projects as detailed in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP PROGRAMME

- 3177 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services advising of the main issues relating to the Community Ownership Programme by the Scottish Executive.
- 3178 Having heard the Strategy Manager, Housing and Technical Services in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed to note the contents of the report.

TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR: SECOND ROUND FUNDING

- 3179 A report was submitted by the Director of Housing and Technical Services advising of the Scottish Executive second round funding for tackling anti-social behaviour and seeking to submit proposals to the Scottish Executive by the deadline of 30 June 2004.
- 3180 Having heard Councillors White and McLaughlin, the Council agreed:-
- (1) to approve the proposals for second round funding as detailed in section 3.2 of the Director's report; and

- (2) to delegate authority to the Director of Housing and Technical Services, in consultation with the Spokesperson for Housing Services, to submit proposals to the Scottish Executive by 30 June 2004; and
- (3) to note that the Leader of the Council and Spokesperson for Housing Services would look at the possibility of introducing a more flexible community warden service as a result of the additional resources which had been made available to the Council.

**BUILDING OUR FUTURE –
REGENERATION OF THE SCHOOLS’ ESTATE**

- 3181 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive on the award of funding from the Scottish Executive for the regeneration of the schools’ estate in West Dunbartonshire.
- 3182 Councillor McCallum, seconded by Councillor White, moved:-
- 3183 This Council welcomes the massive investment of £100 million announced by Education Minister Peter Peacock on Wednesday 2nd June.
- 3184 This massive investment is the opportunity that this Administration has argued for as the most important part of our agenda for the future of West Dunbartonshire.
- 3185 The scale of our new schools programme demands careful and meticulous planning and consultation and this, of course, necessarily takes time.
- 3186 The Council approves the appointment of an appropriate number of advisors to develop the plan “Building Our Future”. This Council wants to see the most focussed approach possible to the Administration’s programme for regeneration of the Schools Estate.
- 3187 The Council instructs the Chief Executive to bring a detailed report which details proposals for how these resources will be invested in our school estate to the next Council meeting and for further consultation.
- 3188 Furthermore, the Council approves the commencement of the tendering process for the appointment of external advisers, as referred to in recommendation (iii) of the report.

3189 As an amendment Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Young, moved:-

3190 That a further report on the Outline Business Case be submitted to a future meeting of Council, but Council should not commence with the tendering process for the appointment of external advisers until the further report has been considered. Finally, Paragraph 6.4 of the report should be amended to read that officers will lead visits to the schools and not Councillors, which is normal practice.

3191 On a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the amendment and 13 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.