

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 25 June 2003.

Present: Provost Alistair Macdonald and Councillors Denis Agnew, James Bolland, Margaret Bootland, Dennis Brogan, Geoffrey Calvert, Gail Casey, Tony Devine, Jack Duffy, James Flynn, Jackie Maceira, Douglas McAllister, James McCallum, Linda McColl, Duncan McDonald, 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 Economic, Planning and Environmental Services; David McMillan, Director of Commercial and Technical Services; Ian McMurdo, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Alexis Jay, Director of Social Work and Housing Services; Stephen Brown, Head of Legal and Administrative Services; and Julie Herrity, Senior Administrative Officer.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Margaret McGregor.

Provost Macdonald in the Chair

ORDER OF BUSINESS

141 In terms of Standing Order 6, the Council agreed that the Order of Business be altered in that the Motions relating to the Vale of Leven Hospital and the Tontine Area of Renton be taken at the commencement of the meeting.

MOTION – VALE OF LEVEN HOSPITAL

142 A motion on the Vale of Leven Hospital was submitted by Councillor McLaughlin in the following terms:-

143 The announcement yesterday from the Argyll & Clyde Acute Trust to transfer emergency, major and some intermediate surgery from the Vale of Leven to the RAH in Paisley is a major blow to the Vale of Leven Hospital and the people of this area.

144 This decision will in effect render the only Accident and Emergency Unit, covering a sizeable area to a Minor Injuries Unit, unable to deal with major trauma and accidents and will ultimately affect the survivability of patients requiring urgent medical care in this area.

- 145 This Council not only denounces the decision to transfer these types of surgery but also condemns the manner in which it was taken as it has become clear that the Board delayed the final decision until after the election, when no Councillor serves on the Board. The NHS Board then rammed through the contingency proposals at its meeting on Monday before any Councillor could be elected from this Council to serve on the Board.
- 146 The complete absence of any form of consultation on this matter shows a considerable disregard for the patient led service that users are supposed to enjoy.
- 147 This loss of a full time surgically capable A&E Unit at the Vale of Leven Hospital will jeopardise the survivability of any patient involved in an RTA or major trauma in this area. Any such person will now be taken directly to Paisley adding a minimum of 20-30 minutes on to any ambulance journey.
- 148 The added difficulty of this additional journey time is quite clear but is further compounded by the insufficient ambulance cover to transfer patients in emergencies.
- 149 According to the figures from Argyll & Clyde the transferring of the various surgical operations will see 2,000 cases now handled at the RAH. This equates to an average incident or surgical ambulatory transfer of 5 patients per day as emergencies – contrast this with the fact that there are only 2 ambulances that are on duty at the Vale of Leven – even less cover at night and weekends.
- 150 This Council therefore agrees to instruct the Chief Executive to immediately contact the Argyll & Clyde NHS Board and request that the implementation of the contingency plans are delayed with immediate effect.
- 151 Furthermore, this Council instructs the Chief Executive to arrange a meeting with the NHS Board, MP, MSP, Councillors and other patient groups to discuss any changes to the A&E provision within the Vale of Leven area.
- 152 This Council also agrees to establish a Hospital forum to monitor the provision of existing and future services throughout West Dunbartonshire to ensure that the people of West Dunbartonshire receive the best possible medical provision.
- 153 Councillor McLaughlin was heard in support of his motion, which was seconded by Councillor Young. Councillor McLaughlin pointed out however that the issue had moved on since the motion had first been submitted for the consideration of Council. He therefore requested that the Council establish a Forum to take this issue forward, whether as part of the formal Committee system, or on a more informal basis.

154 Councillor Flynn was heard in respect of the concerns felt about the cuts in service at the Vale of Leven Hospital and it was suggested that the Chief Executive discuss this issue with both Groups on the Council and report back to Council, and that meantime, Councillors Flynn and McLaughlin should meet independently to discuss the matter.

155 The Council agreed accordingly.

MOTION – TONTINE AREA OF RENTON

156 A motion was submitted by Councillor Bollan in the following terms:-

157 This Council in recognising the petition submitted from the Tontine area of Renton agree to the following:-

158 Council officers begin discussions with the Tenants regarding their request.

159 The Council agrees to fund 50% of the costs of the Independent advice that Tenants will require.

160 Council agrees, in principle, subject to a ballot of Tontine Tenants, to a tenant led stock transfer if this is the preferred option.

161 Councillor Bollan moved and was heard in support of his motion, which was seconded by Councillor Brogan.

162 The Chief Executive advised that subsequent to the issue of the Agenda, he had received a letter from a resident of the Tontine Area of Renton expressing concerns about the Petition in that the resident's name had appeared on the Petition, although such resident had not signed it. He advised that, owing to the timescale, he had been unable to investigate the position at the time but felt it important to bring it to the attention of Council.

163 As an amendment, Councillor Flynn, seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan, moved that the Council do not support the motion.

164 On a vote being taken, 17 Members voted for the amendment and 2 for the motion. The amendment was, accordingly, declared carried.

MINUTES

(a) West Dunbartonshire Council – Meeting – 23 April 2003

165 The Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 23 April 2003 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

(b) West Dunbartonshire Council – Statutory Meeting – 14 May 2003

166 The Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 14 May 2003 were submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the word “Special” being substituted for the word “future” in the item on Scheme of Members’ Allowances.

(c) West Dunbartonshire Council – Special Meeting – 4 June 2003

167 The Minutes of the Special Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 4 June 2003 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

(d) Member/Officer Working Group on Modernising Governance – 22 April 2003

168 An excerpt Minute of Meeting of the Member/Officer Working Group on Modernising Governance held on 22 April 2003 in respect of One Stop Shops/Contact Centres was submitted.

169 The Council agreed to continue consideration of the matter to its next meeting in order to allow the newly elected Members to become more familiar with this issue.

STANDING ORDERS AND DELEGATION TO COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS

170 A report by the Chief Executive was submitted with the proposed new Standing Orders and Delegation to Committees and Officers for consideration.

171 Councillor Calvert, seconded by Councillor White, moved that the Council agrees:-

- (a) that the Strategic Policy Group should comprise 10 Labour Members and officers to be agreed by the Chief Executive;
- (b) to establish a Tendering Committee to consider and approve all tenders which exceed £60,000 in value, membership to comprise 5 Labour and 2 Opposition Members; and

- (c) otherwise, to approve the Standing Orders and Delegation to Committees and Officers, as amended to reflect any relevant decisions made at this meeting (as shown in Appendix I to these minutes), subject to any interim changes which may be required to implement any decisions taken by Council in respect of the following items of business.

172 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Young, moved that the Council agrees:-

- (a) that the Strategic Policy Group should comprise not only Labour Members but should have a political balance in accordance with the existing political balance of the Council;
- (b) to the establishment of a Tendering Committee but not the breakdown of membership proposed;
- (c) to continue the Standing Orders for a period of 6 months and thereafter review them;
- (d) that under the Scheme of Delegation, delegated authority to accept tenders be reduced from £60,000.00 to £25,000.00; and
- (e) that the Leader and the Depute Leader of Council should require to be elected on an annual basis.

173 Councillor Bollan suggested an addendum to the amendment by Councillor McLaughlin, as follows:-

- (a) that the Open Forum should be up to a maximum of one hour rather than 15 minutes;
- (b) that under Standing Order 6(a)(viii), motions from elected Members, due notice of which had been given, should be considered at every meeting of Council;
- (c) that the Audit and Performance Review Committee should be held on an 8 week cycle rather than quarterly, as proposed.

174 Councillor McLaughlin, with the consent of his seconder, agreed to the Addendum to his amendment.

175 On a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the amendment and 17 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

- 176 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted seeking Members' approval of amendments to the Financial Regulations.
- 177 Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that the Council agree the amendments to the Financial Regulations set out in Table 3.1 of the report.
- 178 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Young, moved that the previous version of Financial Regulations referred to in Table 3.1 of the report had been stated incorrectly and that the current position as agreed at 30 January 2002 should stand and, as a result, the report should be altered accordingly.
- 179 On a vote being taken, 4 Members voted for the amendment and 17 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

COMMITTEE REMITS

- 180 A report by the Chief Executive was submitted proposing remits for the Committees in the new Council structure.
- 181 Councillor Calvert, seconded by Councillor White, moved that the Council agrees:-
- (a) full delegated powers for all committees noted in paragraph 2.1 of the report – within their agreed remits – with the exception of the Audit and Performance Review Committee and the Community Participation Committee;
 - (b) that the membership arrangements for the Community Participation Committee be as the former Community Initiatives Committee, pending the Decentralisation Review and that the Strategic Policy Group membership arrangements be as decided earlier in the meeting;
 - (c) the draft committee remits; and
 - (d) to review these remits as required.
- 182 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Young, moved that the new structure was overcomplicated and, accordingly, that it be reviewed in 6 months' time but that, meantime, consideration be given to reestablishing an Education Committee with full powers.
- 183 On a vote being taken, 4 Members voted for the amendment and 17 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

COMMITTEE TIMETABLE TO DECEMBER 2004

- 184 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted requesting approval of a proposed timetable in respect of meeting dates of West Dunbartonshire Council and its Committees.
- 185 Councillor Calvert, seconded by Councillor White, moved:-
- 186 The Council agree to approve the timetable of main meetings from July 2003 to December 2004 as contained in Appendix II to these minutes, on the understanding that meetings of the Appeals Committee and the Joint Consultative Forum remained to be programmed.
- 187 The respective Chairs of these Committees would be contacted at the appropriate time to agree dates for the meetings and Members would be advised accordingly in due course.
- 188 It was also proposed that until further notice meetings that would ordinarily take place in the Chambers at the Town Hall, Clydebank would now be held in the Lesser Town Hall, Clydebank and that Council meetings scheduled to be held in Garshake Road, Dumbarton would, in future, be held in the Municipal Buildings, Dumbarton.
- 189 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Young, moved that all scheduled Council meetings should be held in the Council Chambers, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, these premises being more accessible and more suitable for accommodating large numbers.
- 190 On a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the amendment and 17 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

- 191 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted in respect of the appointment of members and Chairs to the Committees etc of West Dunbartonshire Council.
- 192 Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that the Council agrees:-
- (a) that a Tendering Committee be established with the membership referred to earlier in the meeting;
 - (b) that the composition/membership and chairs of the committees etc be as shown in Appendix III to these Minutes, but that in instances where no chair had been indicated, the Chair would be appointed at the first meeting of the relevant Committee etc.;

- (c) that the 2 permanent class teachers on the Children's Services Committee should be voting members when dealing with education matters;
- (d) that the Director of Education and Cultural Services be instructed to bring a report to a future Council Meeting proposing a more meaningful way of consulting pupils as an alternative to two pupil representatives attending Committee on a rotating basis; and
- (e) that an overall review be carried out of Working Groups, with the exception of Statutory Working Groups, and a report thereon submitted to a future meeting of the Council.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

- 193 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted advising Members of the remaining Outside Bodies to which the Council was invited to make nominations.
- 194 On the motion of Councillor White the Council agreed to make the nominations to outside bodies as shown in Appendix IV to these Minutes, and that, otherwise, any outstanding nominations would be reviewed at a future meeting.

MONITORING PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

- 195 A report by the Chief Executive was submitted providing (i) a corporate overview of complaints and complaints processing for the period 1 October 2002 to 31 March 2003; and (ii) comparative data relating to the previous financial years.
- 196 The Council agreed to refer the report to the Audit Committee for its consideration.

BUDGET REVIEW

- 197 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted seeking the advice of Members about possible revisions to the 2003/2004 budgets.
- 198 Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved:-
- 199 Council notes that, in light of the overwhelming electoral mandate received by the Labour Administration on 1 May, the previous SNP-led Administration's financial commitments have rightly been reviewed.

- 200 Council notes that the review of all spending plans will continue over the coming months. In the meantime, this Council agrees to reallocate within the General Services Capital Budget £250,000 previously allocated as Spend to Save.
- 201 Council agrees that these resources will be allocated to the Commercial and Technical Services Department to enhance the existing street cleaning services, producing sustained improvements to the environment in West Dunbartonshire. This initiative will particularly tackle the growing scourge of litter and graffiti.
- 202 In addition, following a review of the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme, Council agrees to establish a new building maintenance and painterwork programme, as detailed in the revised HRA Capital Programme.
- 203 Finally, Council welcomes the fact that the £400,000 of Better Neighbourhood Services' monies that have been freed up by the scrapping of the Area Committees will now be reinvested by the Community Planning partners into the very important issue of Youth Justice, all as shown in Appendix V to these minutes.
- 204 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Young, moved that the Council should not review the budgets but that they should remain unchanged.
- 205 Having heard the Head of Legal and Administrative Services advise that only officials could take decisions on projects, it was agreed that the table of proposals should be adjusted to show that decisions on other projects would require to be delegated to the Director of Social Work and Housing Services, in consultation with the Housing Convener.
- 206 On a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the amendment and 17 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND BUDGET PROCESS

- 207 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 26 March 2003, a report by the Chief Executive was submitted outlining proposals for a new strategic planning and budget process.
- 208 Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that the Council agrees:-
- (a) to the proposals for the new strategic planning and budget process summarised in the report; and

- (b) that the process be implemented to guide the development of a new corporate plan and new service plans for 2003/2007 and on a rolling four-year cycle thereafter.

209 Further, that following the overwhelming support given by the voters to the Labour Party on 1 May, this Administration will now show the Leadership that the community of West Dunbartonshire deserves. In the attached Strategic Policy Statement we set out our vision for the development and improvement of public services for the people of the area over the next four years.

210 The effect of the implementation of these pledges will be to improve the quality of life for all our citizens, wherever they live and whatever their circumstances. Our priority is to see continuous improvement in frontline services for the public, in our communities, in our schools and in our environment.

211 The Labour Administration is committed to ensuring, with the overwhelming mandate we have received, that the Council taxpayer is put first. The policies set out in our programme for the coming four years, we believe, are the right ones to help achieve that goal. (As shown as Appendix VI to these minutes)

212 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Young, moved that the Strategic Policy Statement tabled at this meeting be continued to the next meeting of Council.

213 On a vote being taken, 4 Members voted for the amendment and 17 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

CORPORATE PLAN 1999-2002 (EXTENDED TO 2002/2003) FINAL PROGRESS ON 2002/2003 TARGETS

214 A report by the Chief Executive was submitted informing Council of the progress made on the programme of actions for 2002/2003 set out in the Corporate Plan.

215 Councillor Calvert, seconded by Councillor White, moved that the Council agree to note the contents of the report.

216 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Young, moved that the Council refer the report to the Audit Committee for its consideration.

217 On a vote being taken, 4 Members voted for the amendment and 16 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

REGENERATION OF THE SCHOOL ESTATE

- 218 A report by the Chief Executive was submitted seeking guidance on how to take forward the funding of the regeneration of schools in West Dunbartonshire.
- 219 Councillor McCallum, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that:-
- 220 After two years of delay and diversion, this Council welcomes the opportunity to start the regeneration of our schools in earnest.
- 221 Despite 125 meetings held by the former SNP-led coalition not a single brick has been laid and there has been no positive proposal to tackle the increasing dilapidation of our schools.
- 222 This Labour Administration will now make the tackling of this issue our number one priority.
- 223 The Chief Executive is, therefore, instructed to prepare an Outline Business Case for consideration by the Council as soon as possible. The Outline Business Case will be submitted to the Scottish Executive for funding under the Public/Private Partnership Initiative.
- 224 The Council also agrees that meetings will be held with interested parties to keep them informed of the progress of the work and to agree the nature of consultation on the detailed plans for schools once the Outline Bid is submitted.
- 225 The Council also instructs the Chief Executive to report further to Council in due course on the use of other funding mechanisms, including the School Improvement Fund and the Prudential Borrowing regime to ensure that West Dunbartonshire can benefit from a comprehensive programme of improvement for schools over the coming years.
- 226 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Young, moved:-
- 227 That as the Council has already given specific instructions in relation to the Regeneration of the School Estate, the Chief Executive be asked to revert to those original instructions.
- 228 That the Council has grave reservations in respect of the contents of the Outline Business Case, to be submitted to the Scottish Executive for funding under the Public/Private Partnership Initiative (PPP).
- 229 Councillor Bollan suggested that the following form an addendum to the amendment by Councillor McLaughlin as follows:-

230 That the Council should not take a decision to now go down the route of PPP, but to have a public referendum of the people of West Dunbartonshire.

231 Councillor McLaughlin, with the agreement of his seconder, agreed to accept this as an addendum to his amendment.

232 On a vote being taken by way of calling the Roll, 3 Members (namely, Councillors Bollan, McLaughlin and Young) voted for the amendment and 17 Members (namely, Provost Macdonald and Councillors Agnew, Bootland, Calvert, Casey, Devine, Duffy, Flynn, Maceira, McAllister, McCallum, McColl, McDonald, McNair, O'Sullivan, Rooney and White) voted for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

ADJOURNMENT

233 The Council unanimously agreed to adjourn at this point and resumed after a period of 10 minutes, those present being as shown in the sederunt.

DEATH OF FORMER COUNCILLOR OF CLYDEBANK MR JIMMY MALCOLM

234 Provost Macdonald announced to the Council that he had just been advised that Mr Jimmy Malcolm, formerly a Councillor of Clydebank, had passed away today and on behalf of the Council expressed his condolences to the family.

CARMAN CENTRE – REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP 175 MAIN STREET, RENTON

235 A report by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services was submitted concerning a request to transfer ownership of the Carman Centre and land at 175 Main Street, Renton from the Council to the Carman Social Inclusion Centre.

236 The Council agreed to offer a ninety nine year lease of the Carman Centre to the Carman Social Inclusion Centre subject to the conditions previously agreed by the Council on 31 October 2001, and as shown at paragraph 2.5 of the report.

PROPOSED SALE OF SHOP UNITS AT 468 AND 470 DUMBARTON ROAD, DALMUIR

237 A report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services was submitted seeking authority to sell the vacant shop unit at 470 Dumbarton Road, Dalmuir, Clydebank, and the occupied shop at 468 Dumbarton Road, Dalmuir, Clydebank.

238 The Council agreed that the Head of Legal and Administrative Services be instructed to conclude the sale of these shop units at 468 and 470 Dumbarton Road, Dalmuir, Clydebank, for £30,000 subject to the following conditions:-

- (a) the date of purchase to be agreed between the Estates Section of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services and the purchaser's agent, but this shall take place this financial year;
- (b) the purchaser shall meet all Estates section fees and VAT;
- (c) the purchaser shall pay the Council's Legal Fees, expenses, outlays, VAT, together with stamp duty and registration dues;
- (d) the property enquiry certificate to be paid by the purchaser; and
- (e) the disposal to be subject to any necessary Scottish Executive consent.

HALDANE REGENERATION – SITES AT 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 27, 29 MANSE DRIVE AND 10, 12, 14 DUMBAIN ROAD, HALDANE

239 A report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services was submitted seeking approval to dispose of the above sites to Dunbritton Housing Association Ltd to facilitate the Haldane Regeneration Project.

240 The Council agreed to the disposal of these sites to Dunbritton Housing Association Ltd subject to the following conditions:-

- (a) the price to be agreed between the Estates Section of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services and the District Valuer acting for the purchaser;
- (b) estates fees and VAT to be met by the purchaser;
- (c) the purchaser shall pay the Council's Legal Fees, expenses, outlays, VAT, together with Stamp Duty and Registration Duty;
- (d) the property enquiry certificate to be paid by the purchaser; and
- (e) the disposal to be subject to any necessary Scottish Executive consent.

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

241 A report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services was submitted on the draft Local Partnership Agreement submitted to the Scottish Executive's Joint Future Unit.

242 The Council agreed:-

- (a) to note the positive feedback received from the Scottish Executive's Joint Future Unit;
- (b) to approve the Local Partnership Agreement; and
- (c) to remit to the Health Improvement and Social Justice Partnership the implementation of the Local Partnership Agreement.

ADVISORY 20 MPH SPEED LIMITS (TWENTY'S PLENTY)

- 243 A report by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services was submitted advising Members of the proposals for additional areas to be established as Advisory 20 mph Speed Limit areas.
- 244 The Council agreed that 18 new areas for this initiative should be established in the financial year 2003/2004, subject to local consultation with Councillors, community groups and local residents.

ROAD MAINTENANCE REVENUE PROGRAMME 2003/2004

- 245 A report by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services was submitted for consideration and approval of the programme of road maintenance works to be carried out in 2003/2004.
- 246 The Council agreed:-
- (a) to approve the Road Maintenance Revenue Programme 2003/2004 as outlined in sections 3.3 to 3.9 of the report; and
 - (b) to delegate authority to the Director of Commercial and Technical Services to take appropriate action in the event of the programme being delayed as a consequence of public utility operations and/or adverse weather conditions.

WASTE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 247 A report by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services was submitted seeking approval of the Strategic Waste Implementation Plan and Strategic Waste Fund Application for West Dunbartonshire Council as a requirement of the National Waste Strategy (Scotland).
- 248 The Council agreed to approve the Strategic Waste Implementation Plan and the Strategic Waste Fund Application and commended the officers involved for the production of an outstanding piece of work.

AWARD OF CONTRACTS

(a) Contracts during the period November 2002 to March 2003

249 A report by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services was submitted advising Members of contracts awarded under delegated authority during the period November 2002 to March 2003.

250 The Council noted the award of the contracts as shown in the report.

(b) Contracts during the period June to August 2003 (Summer Recess)

251 A report by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services was submitted seeking delegated authority for the prompt issue of letters of acceptance for the lowest appropriate tenders received during June to August 2003.

252 The Council agreed, subject to the changed priorities decided earlier in the meeting in respect of the item on Budget Review:-

- (a) to delegate authority to the Director of Commercial and Technical Services, in consultation with the Convener of Commercial and Technical Services and the Director of Corporate Services to accept the most economically advantageous tenders received during the period June to August 2003 as referred to in the report; and
- (b) to instruct the Director of Commercial and Technical Services to submit a report to a future Council meeting confirming those contracts awarded during the period June to August 2003.

BELLSMYRE DIGITAL COMMUNITY

253 A report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services was submitted advising of progress made in relation to the Bellsmyre Digital Inclusion Initiative to create a Digital Community and to request Members to agree the formation of an interim Board of Management to develop sustainability plans.

254 The Council agreed:-

- (a) to note the excellent progress made in developing and delivering this innovative project;
- (b) to approve the formation of an interim Board of Management;
- (c) to nominate 2 Members to the Board of Management, these being Councillors Calvert and McNair; and
- (d) that the annual report and further information on sustainability options for the project be reported to a future meeting of Council.

ROYAL SCOTTISH PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS – MAY 2005

- 255 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted providing Members with information regarding an approach which had been made by the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA) for West Dunbartonshire to host the 2005 Scottish Pipe Band Championships.
- 256 The Council agreed that the Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Provost, submit a bid in the sum of £24,000 to host the 2005 Royal Scottish Pipe Band Championships.

MODERNISING GOVERNMENT – E-PROCUREMENT

- 257 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted seeking approval for Council participation in a newly created consortium to progress E-Procurement.
- 258 The Council agreed to approve participation in the E-Procurement Consortium and the Scottish Executive sponsored E-Procurement pilot scheme, both of which were supported from the Modernising Government Fund and facilitated by the Authorities Buying Consortium.

MODERNISING GOVERNMENT FUNDING (MGF) SECOND ROUND

- 259 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted providing information on the projects, which received funding from the Modernising Government Fund, and seeking approval of a Minute of Agreement for the Smartcard Initiative.
- 260 The Council agreed:-
- (a) to note the progress to date in accessing funding from MGF2 for pilot schemes to modernise Council services and systems; and
 - (b) to approve the signing of the framework Minute of Agreement for the Smartcard Consortium.

STATUTORY DEBT ARRANGEMENT SCHEME – ATTACHMENT ORDERS

- 261 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services advising of the provisions of the statutory debt arrangement scheme and recommending a change in existing Council policy regarding compulsory sale orders.
- 262 Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that:-

263 The Council agrees to note the provisions of the statutory debt arrangement scheme and agrees also that Council policy be amended to allow recourse to the full provisions of the scheme.

264 Councillor Bollan, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, moved that the Council should not agree to the recommendations shown in the report.

265 On a vote being taken, 2 Members voted for the amendment and 17 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

AWARD OF DISCRETIONARY RELIEF OF RATES 2002/2003

266 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted advising Members of the organisations awarded discretionary relief of rates in 2002/2003.

267 The Council agreed to note the contents of the report.

PROVOST'S FUND

268 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted advising Members of the current sum available within the Provost's Fund and inviting Members to approve a top up.

269 Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that the Council homologate the action taken to transfer £5,000 to the Provost's Fund as outlined in the report.

270 As an amendment, Councillor Bollan, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, moved that the monies should be transferred from the General Services Account rather than from the Grants Budget.

271 On a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the amendment and 16 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

PRUDENTIAL RESERVES POLICY

272 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted presenting a Prudential Reserves Policy for approval by the Council.

273 The Council agreed:-

- (a) to approve the prudential reserves policy attached to the report;
- (b) to build up reserves over the short to medium term; and

- (c) in principle, to pursue a prudential reserve policy, and that the Director of Corporate Services report to Council on realistic levels year on year.

AREA COMMITTEE GRANTS BUDGET 2003/2004

Declaration of Interest

- 274 Councillor O'Sullivan declared a non pecuniary interest in this item of business.
- 275 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted providing an update on the Area Committee Grants Budget 2003/2004 and seeking approval to deal with outstanding applications pending review of the Council's Scheme of Delegation.
- 276 Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that the Council agrees:-
- (a) to approve the grants set out in Appendix A to the report, subject to the Director of Corporate Services further investigating grant ref 03/17 and the Chief Executive being authorised to stop payment, if necessary;
 - (b) that the remaining Area Committee budgets be transferred to the local grants budget pending the outcome of the review of delegated authority; and
 - (c) that the Corporate Services Committee be given authority to disburse grants using the transferred money, bearing in mind the special conditions, namely young people and the local environment which relate to £44,340,39.
- 277 As an amendment, Councillor Bolla, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, moved in terms of the recommendations contained in the report, with the exception that grant ref 03/17 be continued for further investigation.
- 278 On a vote being taken, 3 members voted for the amendment and 16 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

NUCLEAR FREE LOCAL AUTHORITIES – AFFILIATION FEE 2003/2004

- 279 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted advising of a request from Nuclear Free Local Authorities that the Council re-affiliate to that organisation for 2003/2004.
- 280 The Council agreed:-

- (a) to re-affiliate to Nuclear Free Local Authorities for the year 2003/2004; and
- (b) to delegate authority to the Director of Corporate Services to pay affiliation fees in future years to Nuclear Free Local Authorities.

RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

281 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted presenting a Risk Management Strategy for approval by the Council.

282 The Council agreed:-

- (a) to approve the risk management strategy attached to the report; and
- (b) that the Audit and Performance Review Committee be given delegated authority to monitor the implementation of the Risk Management Strategy.

30th ANNIVERSARY OF TWINNING LINK WITH ARGENTEUIL

283 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted seeking guidance from Members on possible ways to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Twinning Link with Argenteuil and suggesting that financial support be given for a visit by Clydebank's Alba Judo Club to Argenteuil in August 2003.

284 The Council agreed:-

- (a) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Provost and the Leader of West Dunbartonshire Council, to investigate ways of marking the 30th Anniversary of the twinning link on 4 October 2003; and
- (b) to grant the sum of £500 from the Council's Town Twinning Budget to help meet the costs of the visit by Alba Judo Club to Argenteuil in August 2003.

DISASTER RECOVERY SOLUTION

285 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted with a proposed disaster recovery solution to ensure that business critical corporate computer systems are reconstituted within an agreed timescale in the event of a loss of service due to a disaster in the computer room in the Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton.

286 The Council agreed:-

- (a) to note the progress to date in this project and that a further Capital allocation will be required to continue to complete the project in the next financial year;
- (b) to authorise the Head of Information Services, in conjunction with the Director of Corporate Services, to approve the purchase of the most cost-effective hardware/software, following restricted tendering where the value is in excess of £50k; and
- (c) to note that the contracts referred to in the report had been awarded under delegated authority with a value of between £25,000 - £50,000.

WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF ELECTED MEMBER ACCOMMODATION REPORT OF OUTCOME OF MEETINGS

- 287 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted on the outcome of meetings of the Working Group on Review of Elected Member Accommodation, providing options and making recommendations on the provision of Member accommodation in the Council's main offices in Garshake Road, Dumbarton and Rosebery Place, Clydebank.
- 288 Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Bollan, moved that the matter be continued.
- 289 As an amendment, Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that the Council agrees:-
- (a) that Option 3 be chosen for Rosebery Place and that, once the lift had been installed in the Town Hall, Clydebank, all meetings scheduled to be held in Rosebery Place should be transferred to the Town Hall, Clydebank which would free up the existing Council Chamber in Rosebery Place for more extensive use by Members;
 - (b) that at that point, the Labour Group would relocate into the Council Chambers in Rosebery Place, Clydebank;
 - (c) that the room currently used by the Labour Group be refurbished as a Library, quiet room and interview room for use by all members, or alternatively sub-divided as it previously had been, to create an additional room for members use;
 - (d) that the existing lounge should remain;
 - (e) that Opposition members would be accommodated in the former SNP Group Room or in one of the rooms created if the existing Labour Group room is to be sub-divided;

- (f) that the ground floor room should be refurbished for use by the Opposition members meantime;
- (g) that after the relocation of meetings to the Town Hall, Clydebank and the refurbishment of office accommodation on the first floor to accommodate all the Clydebank elected Members, this ground floor room would become an interview room for general use by the Council and for members should they wish to use it. This room would be booked through the Members' Secretaries;
- (h) that in respect of the arrangements at Garshake Road, Dumbarton, the first floor corridor be used for Members' accommodation and that meeting accommodation be centralised on the first floor corridor alongside member accommodation, which would require the relocation of staff of the Department of Social Work and Housing Services as soon as reasonably possible;
- (i) that consideration be given to the accommodation requests of Opposition Members in Garshake Road;
- (j) that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, or his nominated representatives, allocate the rooms for Members and meetings;
- (k) that a Director be relocated to the Rosebery Place offices;
- (l) to the purchase of new furnishings for the members' suites in both buildings and that IT equipment be purchased for the members' suite; and
- (m) that quantification and approval of costs and allocation of these costs to the relevant budgets be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

290 On a vote being taken, 17 Members voted for the amendment and 3 for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

LOCAL GRANTS, GENERAL GRANTS, GRANTS TO COMMUNITY COUNCILS AND THE DUMBARTON COMMON GOOD FUND

291 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted providing an update on the budget position of local and general grants and grants to community councils and seeking approval to deal with outstanding applications.

292 Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved:-

- 293 That Council notes with concern the situation in regard to the Director's report on grants. Council agrees recommendations 4.2 (a)-(c) as follows as these grants can be paid within the budget allocation i.e. approve the officer recommendations made on the applications for (a) General Grants (totalling £7,300), (b) Community Council Grants (totalling £7,638) and (c) the Dumbarton Common Good Fund (totalling £58,672.49).
- 294 In regard to local grants, Council instructs the Director of Corporate Services to prepare a report for the August meeting of the Council. This report should encompass options to deal with the potential overspend on the Local grants budget and provide recommendations as to how the 2003/2004 local grants expenditure may be contained within the budget provision.
- 295 In the meantime, Council instructs that no further grants shall be paid out of the local grants budget until consideration of the report in August. However, should any organisation find itself short of funding for staffing costs, or other relatively low cost issues, between now and then, the Director may consider interim funding following consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Convener of Corporate Services.
- 296 In view that all grants, large and small, are now under review for the remainder of this financial year and the future, the Director should advise all appropriate organisations in terms of the Council's legal and other responsibilities.
- 297 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Young, moved that the Council:-
- (a) approve the officer recommendations made on the applications for General Grants (totalling £7,300), Community Council Grants (totalling £7,638) and the Dumbarton Common Good Fund (totalling £58,672.49);
 - (b) approve the officer recommendations for local grants resulting in an overspend of £85,076 (once payment of the Dumbarton Citizens' Advice Bureau Service Level Agreement is made).
 - (c) agree that further applications for local grants be accepted this financial year and be determined on their merit.
- 298 On a vote being taken, 3 members voted for the amendment and 17 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

The meeting concluded at 10.30 p.m.