

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Statutory Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 16 May 2012 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Denis Agnew, George Black, Jim Bolland, Jim Brown, Gail Casey, Jim Finn, William Hendrie, Douglas McAllister, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Patrick McGlinchey, Marie McNair, John Millar, John Mooney, Ian Murray, Lawrence O'Neill, Thomas Rainey, Gail Robertson, Martin Rooney, Kath Ryall, Hazel Sorrell and Michelle Stewart.

Attending: Joyce White, Chief Executive; Angela Wilson, Executive Director of Corporate Services; Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services; Elaine Melrose, Executive Director of Housing, Environmental & Economic Development; Keith Redpath, Director of West Dunbartonshire Community Health & Care Partnership; Andrew Fraser, Head of Legal, Democratic & Regulatory Services; Lorraine Coyne, Head of Audit, Performance & Strategic Planning; Stephen West, Head of Finance & Resources; and Christine McCaffary, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

WELCOME

The Chief Executive welcomed everyone present to the Statutory Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were declared.

ELECTION OF PROVOST

The Chief Executive invited the Council to consider the election of the Provost of West Dunbartonshire Council.

Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor McGlinchey, moved that Councillor Douglas McAllister be elected to the post.

The Council agreed unanimously that Councillor McAllister be elected as Provost of West Dunbartonshire Council.

At this point Provost McAllister left the meeting and returned bearing the Provost's Chain of Office. Provost McAllister thanked the Council for granting him the privilege of holding the office of Provost, stating that it was his intention to carry out his duties to the highest standard and with probity for the benefit of the whole of West Dunbartonshire. He also paid tribute to the former Provost, Councillor Denis Agnew, acknowledging the efficient way in which he had carried out his duties and his achievements for West Dunbartonshire over the last 5 years.

Provost Douglas McAllister in the Chair

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS – 3 MAY 2012

A report was submitted by the Returning Officer informing of the results of the local government elections for West Dunbartonshire Council held on 3 May 2012.

On behalf of the Council, the Provost congratulated and thanked the Returning Officer and all staff involved for the efficient way that the elections and counts were run.

The Council agreed to note the results of the local government elections for West Dunbartonshire Council as detailed in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

ADOPTION OF INTERIM STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services requesting the Council to adopt the Financial Regulations and, on an interim basis, the Standing Orders used by the Council prior to the elections.

After hearing Councillor McBride, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to adopt the existing Financial Regulations and Interim Standing Orders, subject to any revisions in June 2012 and any changes at agenda items 8 and 10 regarding committees and Council spokespersons; and
- (2) to note that officers had been requested to bring forward a report before the summer recess to detail all options open to the Council to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS).

ELECTION OF DEPUTE PROVOST

The Provost invited the Council to consider the election of the Depute Provost.

Councillor McGlinchey, seconded by Councillor Casey, moved that Councillor John Millar be elected Depute Provost of West Dunbartonshire.

The Council agreed unanimously.

Councillor Millar thanked the Council for the honour, stating that he would be proud to serve the people of West Dunbartonshire.

ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND DEPUTE LEADER OF COUNCIL

The Provost invited the Council to consider the election of the Leader of Council and Depute Leader of Council.

Councillor McBride, seconded by Councillor Millar, moved that Councillor Martin Rooney be elected Leader of the Council and Councillor Patrick McGlinchey be elected as Depute Leader of the Council.

The Council agreed unanimously.

TIMETABLE OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIPS

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services proposing a timetable of Council and Committee meetings to June 2012 and requesting consideration of Committee memberships.

Councillor McBride, seconded by Councillor McGlinchey, moved:-

Council agrees the interim timetable, with the exception that the June Council meeting is brought forward to Wednesday 20 June, and the Council meeting in June is moved to the Council HQ at Garshake.

Council also agrees the interim Committee structure subject to any recommended changes in June, as detailed in Appendix 2 to these minutes.

Following a request from Councillor Bollan, the Provost agreed to a 5 minute recess to allow Members to consider the proposed Committee memberships.

The meeting reconvened at 2.10 p.m. with all the Members on the sederunt in attendance.

As an amendment, Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor Bollan, moved:-

That Council agrees the Labour motion, however, the political make up of the committees will be as follows:-

Committees of 8 members:	5 Labour, 2 SNP, 1 Other
Committees of 10 members:	6 Labour, 3 SNP, 1 Other (or 2 SNP, 2 Other where requested by Other)
Committees of 12 members:	7 Labour, 3 SNP, 2 Other
Committees of 14 members:	8 Labour, 4 SNP, 2 Other

Also, in terms of the Audit & Performance Review Committee (no delegated powers), the Opposition should have a majority in order to enable the Opposition to properly scrutinise. As such it will comprise 4 SNP, 3 Labour, 1 Other.

On a vote being taken, 10 Members voted for the amendment and 12 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

APPOINTMENTS TO WORKING GROUPS, OUTSIDE BODIES AND JOINT BOARDS

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services advising the Council of the requirement for appointments to be made to a number of working groups, outside bodies and joint boards.

Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor McGlinchey, moved:-

Council agrees the Labour Administration's nominations to working groups, outside bodies etc., as detailed in Appendix 3 to these minutes, and invites the opposition Councillors to populate the vacant positions.

In addition, Council agrees that COSLA nominations are as follows:-

President: Councillor David O'Neill, North Ayrshire Council.

The Provost agreed to a 5 minute recess to allow Members to consider the nominations proposed by the Administration.

The meeting reconvened at 2.55 p.m. with all the Members on the sederunt in attendance.

As an amendment, Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor Black, moved that the Council should approve the appointments to working groups, outside bodies etc., as detailed in Appendix 4 to these minutes.

On a vote being taken, 10 Members voted for the amendment and 12 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES AND APPOINTMENT TO SENIOR COUNCILLOR POSTS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing Council with details of the Scheme of Members' Allowances and inviting Council to identify Senior Councillor posts, agree the appointment of Councillors to these Senior Councillor posts and the allowances to be paid.

Having heard Councillor Rooney, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note that in addition to the Leader and Civic Head, the Council is entitled to appoint a maximum of ten Senior Councillors;
- (2) to identify the ten Senior Councillor posts that would each be paid £20,294, and the Councillors appointed to these posts, details of which are shown in Appendix 5 to these minutes;
- (3) that the Provost be recognised as the Civic Head of the Council;
- (4) to note the rate of allowance to be paid to remaining Members who are not identified as Senior Councillors;
- (5) to delegate authority to the Section 95 Officer to uprate allowances in accordance with Scottish Executive guidance; and
- (6) to otherwise note the Scheme of Members' Allowances and Expenses, the current list of approved duties and that Members have access to a specified pension scheme for Councillors.

MEMBERSHIP OF WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services requesting the appointment of Members to the West Dunbartonshire Local Licensing Forum.

The Council agreed:-

- (1) to delegate authority to the Clerk to the Licensing Board to approve the appointment of a new representative for persons resident in Clydebank, following a nomination from West Dunbartonshire Community Council Forum;
- (2) to approve the possible nomination of a representative of supermarkets;
- (3) to note the members of the Forum who were reappointed in March 2012, as detailed in the report; and
- (4) to note that in future only new appointments will be reported to the Council.

PROPOSED STANDING LIST OF CONFERENCES

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services seeking approval of a proposed Standing List of Conferences.

The Council agreed:-

- (1) to approve the proposed list of Standing Conferences as shown in Appendix 6 of these minutes; and

- (2) that, in accordance with the existing practice, powers be delegated to each departmental Executive Director/Chief Executive to authorise, within budgetary limits, the attendance of individual Members at specific conferences, seminars, etc., not on the approved Standing List of Conferences.

EXPENDITURE ON CIVIC EVENTS AND HOSPITALITY

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services seeking approval of the current practice for authorisation of expenditure in relation to civic events.

The Council agreed:-

- (1) to note that current arrangements had operated satisfactorily under the previous Council and officers had no concerns about the arrangements continuing; and
- (2) to continue with the existing arrangements for authorising expenditure in relation to civic events and hospitality as outlined in paragraph 2.2 of the report.

AFFILIATIONS

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services providing details of organisations to which this Council is affiliated and seeking a decision as to the renewal of these affiliations on an annual basis.

The Council agreed to:-

- (1) continue its affiliation to the organisations shown in Appendix 7 to these minutes and authorised officers to renew the annual membership fees, as and when required;
- (2) to note that the Scottish Steering Committee of Nuclear Free Authorities should also appear on the list of approved affiliations; and
- (3) that all future affiliation requests be referred to the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee for consideration.

PROTOCOL FOR MEMBER/OFFICER RELATIONS (INCORPORATING GUIDANCE ON MULTI-MEMBER WARDS)

A report was submitted by the Head of Legal, Democratic & Regulatory Services seeking adoption of a Protocol for Members/Officer relations (incorporating guidance on Multi-Member wards).

The Council agreed to adopt the Protocol for Member/Officer Relations (incorporating Guidance on Multi-Member wards), as shown as Appendix 8 to these minutes.

The meeting closed at 3.20 p.m.