

**MINUTES of MEETING of ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILMORY,
LOCHGILPHEAD
on THURSDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2008**

Present:

Provost William Petrie (Chair)

Councillor Chalmers	Councillor Mackay
Councillor Colville	Councillor MacMillan
Councillor Currie	Councillor McNaughton
Councillor Dance	Councillor Marshall
Councillor Freeman	Councillor Morton
Councillor Hay	Councillor Mulvaney
Councillor Horn	Councillor Nisbet
Councillor Daniel Kelly	Councillor Philand
Councillor Donald Kelly	Councillor Reay
Councillor Kinniburgh	Councillor Robb
Councillor MacAlister	Councillor Robertson
Councillor McAlpine	Councillor Semple
Councillor McCuish	Councillor Strong
Councillor D MacIntyre	Councillor Walsh
Councillor R Macintyre	

Attending:

Sally Reid, Chief Executive
Nigel Stewart, Director of Corporate Services
Andy Law, Director of Operational Services
Angus Gilmour, Head of Planning
Charles Reppke, Head of Democratic Services and Governance

The Provost, on behalf of the Council welcomed Sally Reid, Chief Executive to her first meeting of the Council. He wished her well in her new role and extended best wishes to her and her family and hoped they would be happy in Argyll and Bute.

The Provost announced that on 18 September 2008 Ronnie Gould retired as Head of Secondary Education. The Depute Provost had recently made a presentation to him on behalf of the Council. Although he couldn't attend the meeting today, the Provost asked the Council to record its appreciation of the leadership which Ronnie gave to the education service in Argyll and Bute over the years.

The Provost extended the Council's congratulations to the Customer Services Team in Corporate Services who recently won the "Best in Scotland Award" for their project in the category "Excellence in IT" at the recent IRRV Scottish Performance Awards. A delegation will be representing the Council at the National Finals in Manchester today, and the Council hoped that the first class work they had done in the Customer Services Centre would be recognised at UK level.

The Provost announced that he was calling a Special meeting of the Council on 6 November 2008 to consider the report from the Local Plan Reporter following the Local Plan Inquiry, and to progress the finalisation of the Local Plan.

The Provost ruled, and the Council agreed, that the business dealt with at item 11 of this Minute be dealt with as a matter of urgency by reason of the need for the Council to make any views available to Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board by the end of October 2008.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated from Councillors Devon, Macdonald, McQueen, McIntosh and Scoullar.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Dance declared a financial interest in respect of a recommendation from the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee following consideration of a Planning Application: 06/00361/DET: Land Between 19 and 37 Cumberland Avenue, Helensburgh, which is dealt with at item 6 of these Minutes, by reason that she was a Director of a company that provided related consultancy services. She left the room during the consideration of the item.

Councillor Kinniburgh declared a non financial interest in respect of a recommendation from the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee following its consideration of a Planning Application: 06/00361/DET: Land Between 19 and 37 Cumberland Avenue, Helensburgh, which is dealt with at item 6 of these Minutes, by reason that he had earlier expressed a view on the application. He left the room during the consideration of the item.

Councillor Morton declared a non financial interest in relation to a letter from Reading Borough Council about Gurkha Rights, which is dealt with at item 7 of these Minutes, by reason of her membership of an immigration tribunal panel. She left the room during the consideration of the item.

3. MINUTES

The Council approved the Minutes of the Council Meeting of 7 August 2008 as a correct record.

4. CORPORATE PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

The Council considered a report by the Chief Executive which outlined a proposal to simplify the Corporate Planning and Performance Management Framework within Argyll and Bute Council.

Decision

1. To develop a risk based approach to Corporate Planning.
2. To move to outcome measures within Corporate and Service Plans.
3. To develop clear measurable actions for Corporate and Service Plans.
4. To work with partners to adopt the same approach for community planning and that future Single Outcome Agreements only contain actions from Community and Corporate Plans.
5. That the process of costing Corporate, and Service Plans begins for 2009/2010 – starting with costing those measures which are an additional cost and cannot be contained within current budget.
6. To develop a corporate scorecard which measure the Corporate Plan, Single Outcome Agreement, management PIs, strategic risk, external/internal audits and

financial management thematic plans.

7. To adopt a similar approach for service plans, area plans, team plans, and develop performance scorecards for each of these planning levels.
8. That the draft Corporate Plan be proposed to Council on 27 November 2008 for consultation with the public. The final draft Corporate Plan and Service Plan will be proposed to Council at its meeting in February 2009.
9. That clear guidance is developed to support this approach for Elected Members and Officers.

(Ref: Report by Chief Executive dated 2 October 2008, submitted)

5. SHARED SERVICES DIAGNOSTIC - FINAL REPORT AND APPROVAL TO DESIGN STAGE

The Council considered a report by the Shared Services and Procurement Board which provided information on the final report from the Shared Services Diagnostic Project; the final version of the outline business cases for the Tier 1 opportunity themes; along with plans for progressing each of these themes through to design and then implementation. The Final Report and Business Cases were submitted.

Motion

That the Council:-

1. Congratulates all those who have been involved during the shared services diagnostic phase, particularly the Diagnostic Project Team for the work that has been carried which enables the Council to move forward from the final report.
2. Approves the recommendations contained in the report from the Shared Services and Procurement Board.
3. Agrees that the project management arrangements for the high level design phase will incorporate regular briefings for Members and that the Organisational Development PPG will scrutinise the project as it progresses.
4. Agrees that the high level design stage report will be presented to the Executive and the full Council to ensure that all Members will participate in any decisions which are to be taken at that stage.

Moved by Councillor Walsh, seconded by Councillor R Macintyre.

Amendment

Accept recommendations 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5 & 2.6 as set out on page 11 of the submitted report.

Amend recommendation 2.4 to read:

The arrangements for the governance of the high level design of the key opportunity themes arising from the shared services diagnostic as set out in the report be approved.

In addition, to ensure a sufficient degree of member involvement and scrutiny the following be approved:-

- (a) The Performance Improvement Board membership is increased to include an additional 4 Councillors. In addition to the Council Leader, two members from the Coalition and two members from the opposition groupings will be nominated by the Council to sit on the Performance Improvement Board.
- (b) That minutes, agenda and meeting dates for the various projects boards are made available to all members, with members entitled to attend in an observer capacity.
- (c) The Organisational Development PPG scrutinises the shared services diagnostic project.
- (d) Members are regularly updated of progress with reports to Council and seminars are as appropriate.

Moved by Councillor Mulvaney, seconded by Councillor Nisbet.

Decision

The Motion was carried by a substantial majority and the Council resolved accordingly.

(Ref: Report by Shared Services and Procurement Board dated 24 September 2008, submitted, Final Report and Business Cases previously submitted)

6. PLANNING APPLICATION: 06/00361/DET: LAND BETWEEN 19 AND 37 CUMBERLAND AVENUE, HELENSBURGH

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee had recommended that the Council gives consideration to soliciting the Area Committee's views on all the recommendations within the Reporter's Report on the Local Plan, prior to the Council's decisions on the local plan.

Decision

In light of the special meeting of the Council to be held on 6 November to allow all Members the opportunity to consider the report from the Reporter following the Local Plan Inquiry, and to input fully to the finalisation of the Local Plan, the Area Committee's recommendation was noted.

(Ref: Recommendation by the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee of 5 August 2008, submitted)

7. GURKHA RIGHTS

The Council had been requested by Reading Borough Council to support their resolution in support of the Campaign for Gurkha Rights.

Decision

Argyll and Bute Council noted that the Government announced in September 2004 a change in immigration rules that allowed Gurkhas who had served in the British Army to settle in the United Kingdom with their families.

The Council noted with concern however that this offer only covered those Gurkhas who had served at least four years and been discharged after 1 July 1997.

The Council welcomed the decision of the High Court in England to require the Home Secretary to review current Government policy.

The Council instructed the Director of Corporate Services to write to the Prime Minister requesting that in accordance with the Court's decision the Government reviews their policy and ensures all retired Gurkhas who served in the British Army, get the right to citizenship, as well as a fair deal on pensions.

(Ref: Letter from Reading Borough Council, submitted)

8. VACANCY ON THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Councillor Ron Simon had tendered his resignation from the Audit Committee. The vacancy required to be filled by a Member who was not a Spokesperson, Depute Spokesperson or a Member of the Executive.

Decision

The Council appointed Councillor Nisbet to be a Member of the Audit Committee.

(Ref: Report by the Director of Corporate Services dated 18 September 2008, submitted)

9. APPOINTMENT OF THIRD RELIGIOUS REPRESENTATIVE ON THE EXECUTIVE

A vacancy had arisen amongst the Church representatives on the Executive due to the resignation of Charlotte Hanbury (Scottish Episcopal Church). The Scottish Episcopal Church had been invited to nominate a replacement but had been unable to do so by the date of the Council Meeting.

Decision

The Council delegated to the Executive to confirm the appointment when the nomination from the Scottish Episcopal Church was received.

(Ref: Verbal update by the Director of Corporate Services)

10. NOTICE OF MOTION - ARMED SERVICES VISITS TO SCHOOLS

Councillor Nisbet, seconded by Councillor Morton had given notice of, and moved the following Motion:-

This Council requests that the Social Affairs Policy Performance Group considers what, if any, guidelines should be in place to govern goodwill visits by the Armed Services to council premises, particularly schools.

Decision

The Council resolved in terms of the Motion and agreed that the Director of Community Services submit a report to the next meeting of the PPG.

11. VALE OF LEVEN HOSPITAL

The Council considered a report which advised of the publication by NHS Greater

Glasgow and Clyde of a pre-consultation document "Vision for the Vale of Leven".

Motion

In light of its previous decisions, the Council welcomes the positive aspects relating to the provision of local services contained in the consultation document published by Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board "Vision for the Vale of Leven".

There are two substantive issues on which the Council requires guidance –

- The provision of anaesthetic services
- And the related provision of unscheduled care

Council wishes to see as many services as possible provided at the Vale of Leven Hospital, and in that context the Council requests the Social Affairs PPG to convene as a matter of urgency to provide advice on these and other relevant matters to the Executive on 16 October in order that the Executive on behalf of the Council may help shape the public consultation.

The PPG is requested to take account of views from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and NHS Highland, as well as other relevant professionals, and Councillors whose constituents may be expected to receive services from Vale of Leven.

Moved by Councillor Walsh, seconded by Councillor R Macintyre

Amendment

The Council:-

1. Reaffirms its support for local peoples' desire to retain a consultant led, full 24 hrs anaesthetics service at the Vale of Leven hospital.
2. Welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment to the long term future of the Vale of Leven hospital.
3. Welcomes the opportunity to be involved in this pre-consultation exercise.
4. Agrees that all members should be involved in this, through a seminar followed, if necessary, by a special meeting of the Council.

Moved by Councillor Morton, seconded by Councillor Mulvaney.

Decision

The motion was carried by a substantial majority and the Council resolved accordingly.

(Ref: Report by the Director of Corporate Services dated 30 September 2008, submitted)