

Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of East
Dunbartonshire Council held within Tom Johnston Chambers, 12 Strathkelvin
Place, Kirkintilloch and via Cisco Webex (Hybrid Meeting) on **Thursday, 1 June
2023**.

	Provost	RENWICK
Present:	Councillors	FERRETTI, HENDRY, LOW, MCDIARMID, MOIR, MOODY, PATERSON, ANDREW POLSON, REID and SMITH
Also Present:	Councillor	GALLAGHER
In Attendance:	G. Cornes	Chief Executive
	A. Bauer	Executive Officer – Assets & Facilities
	A. Dolan	Modern Apprentice – Business Administration
	K. Donnelly	Chief Solicitor & Monitoring Officer
	J. Frame	Committee Services Officer
	C. Magowan	Team Leader – Litigation & Licensing
	A. McLaughlin	Legal Manager
	J. Robertson	Chief Finance Officer
	C. Sinclair	Chief Officer, HSCP
	A. Watson	Communications Advisor

Councillor Low (Convener) presiding

OPENING REMARKS

The Convener welcomed everyone to the meeting. He advised that this was a hybrid meeting where Members and Officers were participating in the Chambers and remotely. He outlined a number of procedural matters to assist Members with their participation in the meeting. He also advised that the meeting would be streamed live on YouTube.

1a APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Cumming who had technical difficulties joining the meeting.

The Chief Solicitor & Monitoring Officer advised that Councillors Hendry, Low, Moir, Paterson, Andrew Polson and Smith were present in the Chambers and Provost Renwick, Councillors Ferretti, Moody, McDiarmid and Reid were present online.

Councillor Gallagher who was not a member of the Committee was also present online.

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1b DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were intimated.

1c DETERMINATION OF EXEMPT BUSINESS

The Committee agreed that Agenda Item 9 contained exempt business and would be considered following the exclusion of the press and public.

1d CONVENER'S REMARKS

The Convener advised that he did not have any further remarks.

1e ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CONVENER DECIDES IS URGENT

The Convener advised that there were no other items of urgent business.

2. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF 6 APRIL 2023.

There was submitted and approved, subject to the undernoted amendment, minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 6 April 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated.

With regard to Page 5, Taxi and Private Hire Car Update, Councillor Moir's comments, specific reference to include: the impact of the lack of taxis on the night-time economy and hospitality.

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE CIVIC GOVERNMENT APPEALS BOARD OF 20 MARCH 2023.

There was submitted and noted minute of the Meeting of the Civic Government Appeals Board of 20 March 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated.

4. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS STATEMENT

Consideration was given to Report EPB/073/23/AD by the Depute Chief Executive, copies of which had previously been circulated, providing Members with an update in relation to progress against decisions taken by the Policy and Resources Committee. Full details were contained within the Report and attached Appendix.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed as follows: -

- a) to note the updates contained within the Outstanding Business Statement attached as Appendix 1; and
- b) to note that actions marked as completed would be removed from the Outstanding Business Statement.

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5. MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

There was submitted Report PNCA/055/23/FR by the Depute Chief Executive, copies of which had previously been circulated, providing an update on Major Capital Projects included within the 2023/24 General Services Capital Programme. Full details were contained within the Report and attached Appendices.

The Convener invited the Executive Officer – Assets & Facilities to provide Committee with a verbal update in relation to a number of projects as indicated within the Report.

With regard to Balmuildy Primary School, Scottish Government LEIP funding bid, the Executive Officer – Assets & Facilities advised that there was no update at present, however, he undertook to share the response with Members as soon it became available. He also highlighted a typographical error at Paragraph 3.24 of the Report and advised that RIBA Stage 3 should read RIBA Stage 2. He added that this would not affect any timescales within the project.

With regard to Bearsden Primary, Milngavie Primary and Balmuildy Primary School projects, he confirmed that cost reports had now been received in respect of all three projects. They were currently being reviewed by Officers, the outcome of which would be reported for consideration by Council on 22 June 2023.

With regard to Page 19, Woodland View School project, and in response to a question from Councillor Andrew Polson in relation to the new grass football pitch, the Executive Officer - Assets & Facilities advised that the pitch was safe, however, a specific type of work was required to connect up all the drainage at this site and at the Luggie Park site. He further advised that handover of the pitches would not be accepted until such times as colleagues within the Roads and Environment Service had confirmed that they were satisfied the drainage was operating correctly as designed and the pitches were in the appropriate standard.

With regard to Page 20, Bearsden Primary School project, and in response to a question from Councillor Andrew Polson in relation to the terminology within Paragraphs 3.16 to 3.19 of the Report relating to overall affordability, the Executive Officer – Assets & Facilities advised that the final cost report in respect of this project would not be available until December. He was heard with regard to the process should cost pressures be identified, details of which would be included within the capital monitoring reports. He further advised that, at this stage, there was no information which could be provided to indicate cost pressures as Officers were currently reviewing the cost data, the outcome of which would be reported to Council on 22 June 2023.

Councillor Hendry also referred to the Bearsden Primary School project and, in particular, to reviews and cost pressures within the Report and sought assurances that the Administration was committed to delivering the project. The

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Convener advised that these were agreed projects of the Council and the Council as a whole, including the Administration, was committed to these projects and they were included within the Capital Programme.

The Chief Executive advised that the reviews referred to and the process outlined within the Report was the established process for Council when considering major capital projects. Reviews took place at various milestones and reports were brought back to Council or Committee ensuring that Members were aware of the financial position until financial close and it was ultimately Council that decided in terms of progressing to the next steps.

Councillor Smith urged caution amongst Members against rumours which may cause serious concern amongst school communities. He added that there were absolutely no grounds for such a suggestion and he echoed the comments of the Convener in terms of these being committed projects of the Council and he looked forward to them going ahead.

With regard to Page 19, Paragraph 3.13, Kirkintilloch Community Sports Complex and in response to a question from Councillor Moir in relation to the current position and what information could be shared with Members, the Chief Solicitor & Monitoring Officer advised that negotiations on the legal documentation were continuing, and Members would be updated accordingly when concluded. Any proposed communications would also be shared with Members at that stage.

Following further consideration, the Committee noted the contents of the Report.

**6. 2ND REVIEW OF SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARIES –
PROVISIONAL PROPOSALS - CONSTITUENCIES**

Consideration was given to Report EPB/083/23/KMD by the Depute Chief Executive, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising members of the publication of provisional proposals for Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies being conducted by Boundaries Scotland. Full details were contained within the Report.

The Convener advised of a correction at Paragraph 3.5 of the Report. He advised that the Bearsden, Milngavie and Clydebank North constituency does not cover the entire Clydebank Waterfront ward but only part of that Ward.

The Convener also suggested that the Council submit a response requesting that the proposed Kirkintilloch and Kilsyth Constituency, which included both Bishopbriggs wards, be named Strathkelvin and Kilsyth, which was agreed by Committee.

Following further consideration, the Committee therefore agreed as follows: -

- a) to note the provisional proposals which were open to public consultation from 17 May to 17 June 2023;

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- b) to note that provisional proposals for the review of Scottish Parliamentary Regions would be published in 2024;
- c) to note that the consultation welcomed all contributions, including members of the public, elected members, political groups & parties;
- d) to instruct the Chief Solicitor & Monitoring Officer to submit a response on behalf of the Council requesting that the proposed Kirkintilloch and Kilsyth Constituency which included both Bishopbriggs wards and Campsie ward be named Strathkelvin and Kilsyth; and
- e) to instruct the Chief Solicitor & Monitoring Officer to provide updates as appropriate as the Review progresses by way of technical notes.

7. TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE CAR UPDATE

The Committee took up consideration of Report EPB/075/23/CM by the Depute Chief Executive, copies of which had previously been circulated, providing Members with an update in relation to the ongoing review of the taxi and private hire car licensed trade in East Dunbartonshire and the progress of steps being taken by Officers to support the regrowth of the trade. Full details were contained within the Report.

Councillor Moir referred to the ongoing work by Officers with regard to reinvigorating the taxi trade and suggested that any partner agencies where the Council required to make representations were clearly identified, in particular Dunbartonshire Chamber of Commerce, as there were limitations in what the Council could do for the sector. He also highlighted Paragraphs 6.2 and 6.7 of the Report and added that, arguably, there could be an impact on Employment & Skills and Climate Change. The Convener advised that the Chief Solicitor & Monitoring Officer would take these comments on board when drafting reports for submission to future meetings of the Committee.

The Chief Solicitor & Monitoring Officer was then heard in relation to the feedback received from colleagues in Corporate Communications with regard to the latest relaunch of the publicity. She advised Committee of the positive activity in relation to this, with a 94% increase in viewing of the main webpage and additional traffic on social media. Posters would soon be displayed within the Hubs, Community Centres and Leisure Centres and there were plans to keep refreshing the social media work. She further advised that Officers were happy to engage with any organisation who may have a role in helping to promote the taxi trade and to also continue conversations through the council networks.

Following further consideration, the Committee agreed as follows: -

- a) to consider the update detailed within this Report; and

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- b) to instruct the Chief Solicitor & Monitoring Officer to submit a further update Report to the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 7 September 2023 detailing progress in relation to measures aimed at reinvigorating the taxi trade.

8. REVIEW OF BOOKING OFFICES LICENCE CONDITIONS

Consideration was given to Report EPB/074/23/CM by the Depute Chief Executive, copies of which had previously been circulated, providing Members with an update in relation to the review of the Booking Offices licence conditions following a period of consultation and to seek approval of the revised proposed Schedule of Conditions. Full details were contained within the Report and attached Appendices.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed as follows: -

- a) to consider the update detailed within the Report;
- b) to note the responses received following consultation with relevant stakeholders, including existing Booking Office Licence Holders, on the initial proposed draft Schedule of Conditions set out in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 of the Report;
- c) to approve the revised draft Schedule of Conditions set out in Appendix 4 of the Report; and
- d) to instruct the Chief Solicitor & Monitoring Officer to give notice of the approved Schedule of Conditions to relevant stakeholders and make arrangements for the new Schedule of Conditions to be brought into effect.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The Committee resolved that under Section 50A (4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A).

9. FORMER STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL - DISAGGREGATION ACCOUNTING AGREEMENT

Consideration was given to Report EPB/076/23/AM by the Depute Chief Executive, copies of which had previously been circulated, seeking approval for the Council to enter into an agreement, with the other Local Authorities that are the statutory successors of the former Strathclyde Regional Council. The purpose of the agreement was to regulate the liability of historic claims among the successor authorities. Full details were contained within the Report.

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Following consideration, the Committee agreed to authorise the Chief Finance Officer and the Chief Solicitor & Monitoring Officer to enter into an agreement under Article 7 of the Local Government (Transitional Financial Provisions) (Scotland) Order 1996 to make alternative arrangements for the transfer of certain liabilities of the former Strathclyde Regional Council to those set out in Article 19(1) and the associated duties outlined in Articles 20 and 21 of the said Order.