

**MINUTES of MEETING of ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILMORY,
LOCHGILPHEAD
on THURSDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2010**

Present:

Provost William Petrie (Chair)

Councillor Chalmers	Councillor Mackay
Councillor Colville	Councillor MacMillan
Councillor Currie	Councillor McNaughton
Councillor Dance	Councillor McQueen
Councillor Devon	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 Scoullar
Councillor McCuish	Councillor Semple
Councillor Macdonald	Councillor Simon
Councillor McIntosh	Councillor Strong
Councillor D MacIntyre	Councillor Walsh
Councillor R Macintyre	

Attending:

Sally Loudon, Chief Executive
Douglas Hendry, Executive Director of Customer Services
Cleland Sneddon, Executive Director of Community Services
Sandy Mactaggart, Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure
Bruce West, Head of Strategic Finance
Jane Fowler, Head of Improvement and HR
Malcolm MacFadyen, Head of Facility Services
Carol Walker, Head of Education

The Council received petitions from Ulva Primary School, Barcaldine Primary School and Glebnbarr Primary School with regard to the amalgamation of their schools with other Schools.

The Council heard a presentation by Lorna Elliot and Sheila McLean of Argyll and the Islands LEADER with regard to their programme for 2007-13 and highlighted Argyll and Bute Council projects funded to date.

The Council heard a presentation by Becs Barker of Neighbourhood Networks with regard to continuing to invest in the communities in Argyll and Bute.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence intimated.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. MINUTES

The Council approved the Minutes of the Council Meeting of 7 October 2010 as a correct record.

The Council approved the Minutes of the Council Meeting of 2 November 2010 as a correct record.

4. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2009/2010: MEMBERS LETTER/AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS AND CERTIFIED ACCOUNTS

The external auditors, Grant Thornton UK LLP, had completed their audit of the Council's accounts for the year to 31 March 2010. The Audited Accounts were submitted for consideration together with the Audit Certificate which the Council were asked to note contained no qualifications. The Head of Strategic Finance advised that the external audit report would be considered at the 6 December Council Meeting.

Decision

The Council noted the Audited Accounts and the terms of the Audit Certificate.

(Ref: Report by the Head of Strategic Finance dated 11 November 2010, 2009/2010 Annual Accounts and Audit Certificate, submitted)

5. BEST VALUE FOLLOW UP REVIEW

The Council considered the External Auditor's Best Value Follow up Review which was positive about the Council's progress and noted the challenges facing the Council. Two action points were highlighted in the report. The Chief Executive thanked the staff and elected members for all their hard work in achieving this progress.

Decision

The Council:-

1. Noted the outcome of the Best Value Follow up Review in particular the positive comments on progress made by the Council.
2. Noted that the action plan points were being addressed and will be monitored by the Audit Committee.

(Ref: Report by Chief Executive and Best Value and Community Planning Follow up Review dated November 2010, submitted)

6. STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY 2007-2010

Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 provides that a licensing authority shall before each successive three year period, prepare a statement of the principles they propose to apply with respect to the exercise of their functions under the Act during that period and publish a statement. The Council considered the revised Statement of Gambling Policy 2007-2010 as submitted.

Decision

The Council approved the amendments to the policy as highlighted and agreed that Notice be given of this intention on the Councils website and the public notice board at the Councils headquarters and the notice boards at each of the area offices and agreed that the revised Statement of Gambling Policy will come into effect on 30 December 2010.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director of Customer Services and Gambling Policy dated November 2010, submitted)

7. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2011/2012

The approved programme of meetings for the Council, Committees and Policy and Performance Groups runs until the end of April 2011. A programme of meetings for January 2011 to April 2012 was submitted for consideration.

Decision

Approved the programme of meetings as submitted by the Executive Director of Customer Services.

(Ref: Programme of meetings by the Executive Director of Customer Services, submitted)

8. REDUNDANCY POLICY

The Executive Committee, at its meeting on 4 November 2010 approved the Redundancy Policy subject to minor amendments. The Council considered the revised Redundancy Policy and Selection Criteria as submitted.

Decision

Approved the Redundancy Policy as per the Minute extract of the Executive Committee on 4 November 2010 as submitted as Appendix 1 to the report.

Noted for information, the amendment made to the Selection Criteria as submitted as Appendix 2 to the report.

(Ref: Report by Chief Executive, Redundancy Policy and Procedures and Selection Criteria dated November 2010, submitted)

The Council adjourned the meeting at 11.10am and reconvened at 12.00 noon.

9. EDUCATION REVIEW - REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL ESTATE

The Council considered the report by the Executive Director of Community Services together with the submitted Appendices with regard to the Education Review of the School Estate.

Motion

1. That the Council notes the contents of the reports, and the proposals at Annexes 1-6 thereof; and
2. That the Council agrees the recommendations numbered 1-4 contained within the report at Annex 2, thereof, Review of the School Estate – Amalgamation

Proposals. Specifically, under recommendation number 3, that Council agrees to proceed to statutory consultation in respect of:

1. Keills with Port Charlotte
 2. Ulva with Dervaig
 3. Lochdonhead with Salen
 4. North Bute with Rothesay
 5. Toward with Innellan
 6. Kilmodan with Strachur/Tighnabruaich
 7. Luss with Hermitage Primary
 8. Rosneath and Kilcreggan with Garelohead
 9. Parklands with Hermitage Academy/John Logie Baird
 10. Southend with Drumlemble
 11. Strone with Sandbank
 12. St Kieran's with Castlehill
 13. Ardchattan, Achaleven and Barcaldine with Lochnell
 14. Kilchrenan with Taynuilt
 15. Ardchonnell with Dalmally/Kilmartin
 16. Skipness, Rhunahaorine and Glenbarr with Clachan
 17. Ashfield with Tayvallich
 18. Achahoish with Ardrishaig
 19. Glassary and Minard with Lochgilphead
3. That the Council agrees the recommendation by the Executive Director of Community Services to withdraw the proposal to amalgamate Luing Primary School with Easdale Primary School.

Moved by Councillor Walsh, seconded by Councillor Marshall

Amendment

The Council instructs the Council Officers to withdraw the complete list of schools listed for possible amalgamation and return to the Council early in the new year with a reduced list of schools drawn up along the following parameters:-

1. That the numbers on the school roll indicate that the demand from the community for places is reducing to such an extent that the school is no long sustainable.
2. That the maximum journey time for any primary school pupil from pick up by school transport will be 30 minutes.

Moved by Councillor Robert Macintyre, seconded by Councillor Donald Kelly.

The requisite number of members required the vote to be taken by calling the roll, and members voted as follows:-

Motion

Councillor Colville
Councillor Currie
Councillor Dance
Councillor Hay
Councillor Daniel Kelly
Councillor Kinniburgh
Councillor Duncan MacIntyre
Councillor Mackay
Councillor MacMillan

Amendment

Councillor Chalmers
Councillor Devon
Councillor Freeman
Councillor Horn
Councillor Donald Kelly
Councillor MacAlister
Councillor McAlpine
Councillor McCuish
Councillor Macdonald

Councillor McQueen
Councillor Marshall
Councillor Morton
Councillor Mulvaney
Councillor Nisbet
Councillor Petrie
Councillor Reay
Councillor Robertson
Councillor Scoullar
Councillor Walsh

Councillor McIntosh
Councillor Robert Macintyre
Councillor McNaughton
Councillor Philand
Councillor Robb
Councillor Semple
Councillor Simon
Councillor Strong

Decision

The Motion was carried by 19 votes to 17 and the Council resolved accordingly.

(Ref: Reports and consultation proposals by Executive Director of Community Services dated November 2010, submitted)