

Motherwell, 6 October 1998 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor Craigie, Convener; Councillor Hogg, Vice-Convener; Councillors Cox, Curley, Gibson, Gordon, Heberton, McAlorum, McGlashan, J. McGuigan, McKenna, McLaughlin and Maginnis.

CHAIR

Councillor Craigie (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Officer, Director of Environmental Services, Head of Protective Services, Head of Direct Services and Senior Accountant.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Cefferty, Lucas, McCabe and Ross.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (COMMUNITY SAFETY) SUB-COMMITTEE

1. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Environmental Services (Community Safety) Sub-Committee held on 15 September 1998.

Decided: that the terms of the Minute be approved.

AUDIT OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 1996/97

2. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 3 September 1998 when, inter alia, (1) the contents of the External Auditor's report on the audit of the Council's accounts for 1996/97 had been noted, and (2) it had been agreed that the report be remitted to all Committees to take such action as was appropriate in light of the Auditor's comments and recommendations, and specifically that all Committees monitor the Year 2000 situation closely in view of the problems likely to be encountered as a consequence of the Millennium digit change, there was submitted an excerpt of the said Minute and consideration was given to the Auditor's comments and recommendations in relation to Environmental Services.

Decided: that the position be noted.

REVENUE ESTIMATES 1998/99 - FINANCIAL MONITORING STATEMENT - DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

3. There was submitted a report dated 29 September 1998 by the Director of Finance advising of current spending levels of the Environmental Services function for the period from 1 April to 16 August 1998 and providing a comparison with the approved budget excluding loan charges, central administration recharges and the central repairs account and the projected out turn.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

TRANSPORT: BUDGETARY PROVISION

4. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 24 April 1996 when the strategy for the provision of transport for the members of the Council in the undertaking of formal civic duties had been approved, there was submitted a joint report dated 24 September 1998 by the Directors of Administration and Environmental Services (1) proposing that, in order to reflect service provision, a recharge be made from the Department of Environmental Services to the Department of Administration in respect of the employee costs involved in the provision of transport for members undertaking formal civic duties; (2) advising that the recharge for 1998/99 amounted approximately to £40,000, and (3) recommending that the respective revenue budgets be adjusted to reflect the recharge.

Decided:

- (1) that the relevant revenue budgets be adjusted to make provision for a recharge from the Department of Environmental Services to the Department of Administration in respect of the employee costs involved in the provision of transport to Members of the Council in the undertaking of formal civic duties, and
- (2) that the matter be remitted to the Finance Committee for consideration.

ABSENCE MANAGEMENT POLICY

5. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of the Personnel Services Committee held on 3 September 1998 when it was agreed that Absence Management reports be submitted to all Committees of the Council to enable consideration of the statistics from the appropriate Departments, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 20 August 1998 by the Head of Personnel Services providing statistics on absence within Departments of the Council for the period from April to December 1997.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

DOG WARDEN SERVICE

6. There was submitted a report dated 11 September 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services regarding the operation of the Dog Warden Service during July and August 1998.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT 1928 - PETROLEUM LICENCES

7. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 11 September 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services containing details of the various premises which had been licensed in August 1998 for the storage of petroleum spirit/petroleum mixtures.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

PEST CONTROL - WASP/BEE COMPLAINTS

8. There was submitted a report dated 11 September 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services detailing the wasp/bee complaints which had been dealt with for the period from 1 May to 10 September 1998.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

SUMMER FOOD WATCH CAMPAIGN

9. There was submitted a report dated 11 September 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) advising of the outcome of visits by Environmental Health Officers to fast food outlets and other food businesses, and (2) intimating that Environmental Health Officers would continue to monitor the outlets and take preventative and, where necessary, enforcement measures to ensure that satisfactory standards prevailed in all fast food related premises.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
(2) that the Director of Environmental Services make a short presentation on the role of Environmental Health Officers at the next meeting of the Committee.

OUTCOME OF PROSECUTION IN TERMS OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE TYRES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS 1994 - JAMES MCDUGALL, T/A COLTNESS TYRES, 43 CASTLEHILL ROAD, OVERTOWN

10. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 11 September 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) detailing the outcome of legal proceedings against James McDougall t/a Coltness Tyres, 43 Castlehill Road, Overtown, in respect of contravention of Regulations 2(b), 7(2)(c), 7(6)(b) and 7(11) of the Motor Vehicle Tyres (Safety) Regulations 1994, being an offence under Sections 12(1) and 12(3) of the Consumer Protection Act 1987, and (2) indicating that the proprietor had been fined £250 in respect of the contravention.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MOTOR TRADE

11. With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 April 1998 when authorisation had been given to the Director of Environmental Services to liaise with South Lanarkshire Council with a view to arranging a seminar with motor traders to provide a Forum to discuss the motor trade and its relationship with the Councils, as the local regulatory authorities, and with the customer, there was submitted a report dated 15 September 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) advising that a Registration Scheme for Motor Traders, had been launched on 28 August 1998, in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council, to encourage a fair trading environment; (2) indicating that local motor traders were well represented at the launch, and (3) intimating that traders would be issued with their membership of the Scheme on 8 October 1998.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN CAMPAIGN 1998

12. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 September 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) summarising the action taken by the Department prior to and during the 1998 National Spring Clean Campaign, and (2) indicating that the secondment of an educationalist during the campaign had assisted in conveying the environmental message to a range of schools.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

RELOCATION OF MOBILE AIR QUALITY LABORATORY

13. There was submitted a report dated 11 September 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) intimating that the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions had published a booklet entitled "Air Pollution and What it Means to Your Health" which provides guidance on its new Air Pollution Service, and (2) advising that, in accordance with the ongoing preparations for the assessment of air quality in North Lanarkshire, the Mobile Air Quality Laboratory was now sited in Airdrie Town Centre.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME 1998/99 - TENDERS FOR PURCHASE/LEASE OF VEHICLES

14. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 September 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services regarding tenders received for the purchase/lease of vehicles in 1998/99.

Decided: that the Director of Administration be authorised to accept the tenders as undernoted:

- (1) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/51 the lowest tender submitted by Central Motors (Calderbank) Ltd, Airdrie, for the supply of a 26 ton Chassis Cab in the sum of £46,863;
- (2) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/52 the most economically advantageous tender by Applied Sweepers Ltd, Falkirk, for the supply of a Pedestrian Controlled Suction Sweeper in the sum of £10,548;
- (3) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/53 the lowest tender by North British Contractors Ltd, Airdrie, for the supply of a two Wheel Drive Dump Truck in the sum of £8,750, and
- (4) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/54 the lowest tender by Lex Commercials Ltd, Cumbernauld, for the supply of a 7500 Kg Tipper with demount equipment in the sum of £33,764.

PREFERRED SUPPLIES FOR (1) TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT AND (2) LINING CLAY FOR LANDFILL SITES

15. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 July 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services regarding arrangements for the purchase of technical equipment for air quality and noise monitoring from the suppliers, detailed in the Appendix to the report, and lining clay for landfill sites from the Lanarkshire Development Agency (1) indicating that the cost savings of obtaining air quality and noise monitoring equipment from alternative suppliers would be outweighed by the additional costs of retraining staff and the purchase of additional computer equipment and (2) intimating that the clay which required to be of a certain technical standard in order to be used as a liner for cells

within landfill sites was available from the Lanarkshire Development Agency at a saving of between £8 and £15 per cubic metre compared to normal purchase costs.

Decided:

- (1) that supplies of technical equipment for air quality and noise monitoring be purchased from the suppliers detailed in the Appendix to the report, subject to the equipment meeting the requisite specifications and to the cost of the equipment remaining competitive;
- (2) that supplies of lining clay for landfill sites be purchased from the Lanarkshire Development Agency subject to the material meeting the specification required and purchase terms remaining the same, and
- (3) that the action taken by the Director of Environmental Services in previously purchasing technical equipment for air quality and noise monitoring from suppliers detailed in the Appendix, and for lining clay for landfill sites from the Lanarkshire Development Agency, be homologated.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD BS.EN.ISO9002 - SYSTEM UPDATE

16. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 September 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services advising that National Quality Assurance, in its capacity as an Independent Accreditation Body, had confirmed that, following recent assessments of the services provided by the Environmental Health (Central), Trading Standards, Cleansing (Central), Transport (Coatbridge and Cumbernauld), Client Services and Building Cleaning Sections of the Department, the relevant services met with the requirements of International Standard BS.EN.ISO9002.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

CONSUMER ADVICE OPERATIONS 1998/99

17. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 September 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) detailing the operation and activities of the Department's Consumer Advice Operations, and (2) outlining in the Appendix to the report a digest of consumer complaint statistics in North Lanarkshire for 1998/99.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY AND THE CONVENTION OF SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

18. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 4 September 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) intimating that the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities had signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 20 August 1998 to establish a framework to support joint working and effective co-operation between the two organisations to achieve commonly held objectives and to promote mutual understanding in partnership working, and (2) setting out in the Appendix to the report a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

CONSULTATION PAPERS

(1) BEYOND THE TOLERABLE STANDARD

19. With reference to paragraph 55 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing Committee held on 2 September 1998 when it had been agreed (1) that the Director of Administration should respond to the Scottish Office consultation on the Government's proposed review of the "tolerable standard" which was the prime benchmark for determining basic housing conditions in Scotland in terms of the comments contained in a report dated 18 August 1998 by the Director of Housing thereon, and (2) that the report be remitted to the Environmental Services Committee for its consideration, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 18 August 1998 by the Director of Housing thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

(2) THE FIVE YEARLY REVIEW OF THE MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

20. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 September 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) advising that the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities had sought the Council's views on a Scottish Office consultation on its proposals to implement a Five Yearly Policy Review on the Meat and Livestock Commission, and (2) setting out in the report comments thereon.

Decided: that the comments set out in the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response on the Scottish Office proposals to implement a policy review on the Meat and Livestock Commission, and that the Director of Administration be authorised to respond to the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities accordingly.

(3) MANDATORY LICENSING OF HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

21. There was submitted a joint report (docketed) dated 4 September 1998 by the Directors of Environmental Services and Housing summarising and commenting on a consultation paper which had been received from the Scottish Office entitled "Mandatory Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation" which set out the Government's proposals for the introduction of a mandatory licensing scheme for houses in multiple occupation in Scotland.

Decided:

- (1) that the comments set out in the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Office on the consultation regarding the Government's proposals for the introduction of a mandatory licensing scheme for houses in multiple occupation in Scotland and that the Director of Administration respond accordingly;
- (2) that in addition to the comments set out in the report, the Director of Administration be authorised to include in the response that local authorities be given the scope to set their own ceiling regarding licensing in relation to the number of residents in a house which is the only or the principal residence, to reflect differences in house types in different parts of the country, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Housing Committee for consideration.

(4) REVIEW OF THE PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY OBLIGATIONS (PACKAGE AND WASTE) REGULATIONS 1997

22. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 29 September 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services summarising and commenting on a Consultation Paper entitled "Review of the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations, 1997", which had been published by the Minister for the Environment in association with the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales and circulated by the Scottish Office, which set out options and proposals for the modification of the packaging waste recovery and recycling regime in light of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Packaging following its review of the Regulations.

Decided: that the comments set out in the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Office on the consultation on the review of the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 1997 and that the Director of Administration be authorised to respond accordingly.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY CONGRESS

23. There was considered an invitation by ROSPA to attend its Occupational Health and Safety Congress which had been held in Glasgow on 30 September and 1 October 1998.

Decided: that the attendance of Councillor A Burns at the congress be homologated.