

Motherwell, 24 November 1998 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor Craigie, Convener; Councillor Hogg, Vice-Convener; Councillors Burns, Cox, Curley, Gordon, Hebenton, McAlorum, McGlashan, McKenna, McKeown, McLaughlin, Maginnis, J. Martin and Ross.

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.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

J. McPake and B. Sweeney, Debt Counsellors, Environmental Services Department.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Cefferty, Lucas and Shaw.

The Chair being of the opinion that the following item of business was relevant, competent and urgent, authorised its consideration as the first of a number of presentations to assist Members with their understanding of the various services provided by the Environmental Services Department.

DEBT COUNSELLING SERVICE

1. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 25 August 1998 when it had been noted that the Director of Environmental Services would make a presentation on the Debt Counselling Service to a future meeting of the Committee, Jim McPake and Bernadette Sweeney, Debt Counsellors from the Department's Consumer and Money Advice Centre, Coatbridge, provided a presentation on the services available at the Advice Centres and responded to Members' questions.

Decided: that the terms of the presentation be noted.

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

2. There was submitted a report dated 18 November 1998 by the Director of Finance advising of current spending levels of the Environmental Services functions for the period from 1 April to 11 October 1998 and providing a comparison with the approved budget excluding loan charges, central administration recharges and the central repairs account, and estimating the projected outturn.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

DOG WARDEN SERVICE

3. There was submitted a report dated 6 November 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services regarding the operation of the Dog Warden Service during September 1998.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT 1928 - PETROLEUM LICENCES

4. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 3 November 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services containing details of the various premises which had been licensed in October 1998 for the storage of petroleum spirit/ petroleum mixtures.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

OUTCOME OF PROSECUTION IN TERMS OF FOOD SAFETY LEGISLATION - CAMPBELL'S PRIME MEAT LTD, BROXBURN

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 3 November 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) detailing the outcome of legal proceedings against Campbell's Prime Meat Limited, Broxburn, in respect of a contravention of Section 14 of the Food Safety Act 1990, and (2) indicating that the Company had been fined £500 in respect of the contravention.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

OUTCOME OF PROSECUTION IN TERMS OF TRADE DESCRIPTION ACT 1968 - JOHN HILLHOUSE (PLANT HIRE) LTD AND MR JOHN HILLHOUSE, DIRECTOR

6. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 10 November 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) detailing the outcome of legal proceedings against John Hillhouse (Plant Hire) Limited and John Hillhouse as Director of the Company respectively, in respect of contraventions in terms of Section 14 of the Trades Description Act 1968, for falsely claiming (a) membership of the National House Building Council (NHBC), and (b) attainment of the NHBC buildmark warranty and insurance, and (2) indicating that both John Hillhouse (Plant Hire) Limited and John Hillhouse, Director, had each been fined £200 in respect of the contraventions.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD BS.EN.ISO9002 - SYSTEM UPDATE

7. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 9 October 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services advising (1) that National Quality Assurance, in its capacity as an independent accreditation body, had confirmed that, following recent assessments of the services provided by Environmental Health (Central), the relevant services met with the requirements of International Standard BS.EN.ISO9002, and (2) that the accreditation for the Section extended the scope of the award made in December 1994.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

NEW CONTAMINATED LAND REGIME

8. There was submitted a report dated 21 September 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) advising that new regulations to be published in 1999, under Section 57 of the Environment Act 1995, would set out the duties and responsibilities of local authorities in the implementation of a new contaminated land regime; (2) outlining the financial implications to the Council of implementing a new contaminated land regime, and (3) intimating that the Scottish Office would make available £1.7m to local authorities during 1999/2000, £108,000 of which would be made available to the Council.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

IMPLEMENTATION OF WHEELED BIN PROGRAMME

9. With reference to paragraph 19 of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 12 February 1998 when, inter alia, it had been agreed that the domestic wheeled bin system be extended within appropriate areas of Cumbernauld, there was submitted a report dated 17 November 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) advising that the first phase of the Programme which involved the issue of 8,000 wheeled bin units had been completed, and that customer satisfaction questionnaires were currently being distributed to the households concerned, the outcome of which would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee, and (2) outlining findings of a survey of the 910 households in the Westfield area to be included in the second phase of the Programme.

Councillor Maginnis, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, moved that the matter be remitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

Councillor McGlashan, seconded by Councillor McAlorum, moved as an amendment that the implementation of the Wheeled Bin Programme be discontinued in the Westfield area and other like areas in Cumbernauld.

On a vote being taken 3 Members voted for the amendment and 11 Members for the motion, which was accordingly declared to be carried.

Decided: that the matter be remitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

WORKING TIME REGULATIONS 1998

10. There was submitted a report dated 9 November 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) advising that the Working Time Regulations 1998, containing provisions in relation to working time and the protection of young people with regard to their working hours, came into force on 1 October 1998; (2) intimating that the Council was required to enforce the Regulations along with the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, as detailed in the Health and Safety (Enforcing Authority) Regulations 1998, and (3) indicating that no agreement had yet been reached on (a) the additional finance to be allocated to local authorities or (b) how the legislation was to be enforced.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and

- (2) that the Director of Environmental Services report to a future meeting of the Committee following determination of the funding and enforcement issues in relation to the Working Time Regulations 1998.

FIREWORK SAFETY 1998

11. There was submitted a report dated 10 November 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services advising that the Department's Trading Standards Officers had carried out a joint initiative with Strathclyde Police in the weeks leading up to 5 November 1998 involving visits to (1) 25 primary schools to advise pupils on the Fireworks Code and fire safety, and (2) 120 premises which were registered with the Council for the keeping of fireworks to ensure that fireworks were being properly stored and that 'banned' fireworks were not on sale.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

NATIONAL CONSUMER WEEK - 2-7 NOVEMBER 1998

12. There was submitted a report dated 12 November 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) regarding electric blanket safety checks which had been offered to all North Lanarkshire residents as part of the Council's commitment to the National Consumer Week from 2-7 November 1998, the theme of which was "Safety", and (2) advising that of the 50 electric blankets tested only 10% were found to be totally satisfactory.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

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

13. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 4 November 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/98/2b the lowest tender submitted by Citroen, Glasgow, for the supply of twelve 1665 kg Vans in the sum of £85,711.20;
- (2) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/3b the lowest tender submitted by Lex Commercials Limited, Cumbernauld, for the supply of thirteen 2830 kg Vans in the sum of £129,740;
- (3) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/7b the lowest tender submitted by Taggarts Motor Group Limited, Motherwell, for the supply of five 3500 kg Crew Cab Tippers in the sum of £75,275;
- (4) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/9a the lowest tender submitted by John Martin Group Limited, Glasgow, for the supply of two 2650 kg Double Cab 4 x 4 Pick-ups in the sum of £28,550.30;
- (5) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/16b the lowest tender submitted by Citroen, Glasgow, for the supply of four 1680 kg Vans with Rear Seat Conversion in the sum of £31,438;
- (6) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/21d the lowest tender submitted by Scottish Grass Machinery, Inverkeithing, for the supply of two 4 x 4 Small Highway Tractor in the sum of £37,596;
- (7) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/22b the lowest tender submitted by John Martin Group Limited, Glasgow, for the supply of one 2500 kg Pick-up in the sum of £9,522.09;

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- (8) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/24b the lowest suitable and satisfactory tender submitted by Lex Commercials Limited, Cumbernauld, for the supply of one 26000 kg 6 x 4 Refuse Collection Vehicle in the sum of £105,288;
- (9) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/25b the lowest tender submitted by Kerr & Smith (Cumnock) Limited, Glasgow, for the supply of one 4 x 2 Dual Sweep Road Sweeper in the sum of £62,244;
- (10) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/27a the lowest tender submitted by Schmidt (UK) Limited, Petersborough, for the supply of four 4000 kg Driver Operated Compact Suction Sweeper in the sum of £165,521;
- (11) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/32b the lowest tender submitted by Watson of Airdrie for the supply of one 2650 kg Single Cab 4 x 4 Pick-up in the sum of £13,773.12;
- (12) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA.98/33a the lowest tender submitted by Oughtred Harrison (Facilities) Limited, Goole, for the supply of two 3500 kg Minibuses with Wheelchair Lift in the sum of £47,000;
- (13) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/34a the lowest tender submitted by Colin Hutton Group Limited, Glasgow, for the supply of nine 28 Seater Accessible Buses with Rear Passenger Tail Lift in the sum of £460,323;
- (14) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/35a the lowest tender submitted by Colin Hutton Group Limited, Glasgow, for the supply of three 18 Seater Accessible Buses with Passenger Tail Lift in the sum of £144,441;
- (15) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/45a the lowest tender submitted by Scottish Grass Machinery, Inverkeithing, for the supply of one 4 x 4 Large Highway Tractor in the sum of £19,373;
- (16) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/48a the lowest suitable and satisfactory tender submitted by Finning (UK) Limited, Hamilton, for the supply of one Backhoe/Loader in the sum of £30,160;
- (17) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/55a the lowest tender submitted by Scottish Grass Machinery, Inverkeithing, for the supply of one 4 x 4 Large Highway Tractor with Loader and Agricultural Tyres in the sum of £23,532;
- (18) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/55b the lowest tender submitted by Scottish Grass Machinery, Inverkeithing, for one 4 x 4 Large Highway Tractor with Loader in the sum of £24,802;
- (19) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/56 the lowest tender submitted by Scottish Grass Machinery, Inverkeithing, for the supply of two 4 x 4 Small Highway Tractors in the sum of £47,356;
- (20) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/57a the lowest tender submitted by Fleming & Taylor Limited, Airdrie, for four 5.2 tonne Long Wheel Bases with Bin Lift in the sum of £103,360;
- (21) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/57b the lowest tender submitted by Fleming & Taylor Limited, Airdrie, for the supply of four 5.2 tonne Short Wheel Bases with Bin Lift in the sum of £104,000;
- (22) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/58 the lowest suitable and satisfactory tender submitted by Central Motors (Calderbank) Limited for the supply of one 6 x 4 Refuse Collection Vehicle in the sum of £92,950;

- (23) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/59 the lowest tender submitted by Lex Commercials Limited, Cumbernauld, for the supply of one 4 x 2 Dual Sweep Single Steer Road Sweeper in the sum of £68,019, and
- (24) in respect of Contract No. QA/TRA/98/60 the lowest tender suitable and satisfactory submitted by Colin Hutton Group Limited, Glasgow, for the supply of two 8 x 4 Rear End Loader Industrial Refuse Collection Vehicles with Skip Lifting Arms in the sum of £210,488.

PREFERRED SUPPLIERS OF AUTOMATED FUEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

- 14. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 November 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services proposing (1) that the Automated Fuel Management Systems which were located at Council Transport Depots throughout North Lanarkshire be rationalised to meet year 2000 compliance for IT Systems and to provide higher levels of operational efficiency and security, and (2) that negotiations be entered into with JMW Systems, Meggit Electronics and Petromatic Securikey Limited, as the Council's existing suppliers of Fuel Management Systems, for the extension of one of the current fuel systems to all depots with a view to the commencement of a conversion programme at the beginning of 1999.

Decided:

- (1) that the Automated Fuel Management Systems at Council Transport Depots throughout North Lanarkshire be rationalised, and
- (2) that the Director of Environmental Services be authorised to negotiate terms with JMW Systems, Meggit Electronics and Petromatic Securikey Limited to ascertain the most competitive and viable package for the supply of Automated Fuel Management Systems to all Council Transport Depots in North Lanarkshire, subject to available funding within the Environmental Services budget and to report back on the outcome.

SITE DEVELOPMENT WORKS AT AUCHINLEA LANDFILL SITE, CLELAND AND AT DALMACOULTER LANDFILL SITE, AIRDRIE

- 15. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 18 November 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services regarding progress on the site development works at Auchinlea Landfill Site, Cleland, and Dalmacoultter Landfill Site, Airdrie, and outlining the projected final costs therefor.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

RECYCLED CONTENT OF NEWSPRINT BILL

- 16. There was submitted a report dated 10 November 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) intimating that a letter had been received from Friends of the Earth (Scotland) seeking the Council's support for the Recycled Content of Newsprint Bill which contained proposals for the introduction of a legal duty on newspaper and magazine publishers in Great Britain to ensure that a specified amount of newspapers and magazines be collected and recycled; (2) advising that the terms of the Bill would require newspaper and magazine publishers (a) to make returns to the appropriate authority every six months with details on the amounts of newspapers and magazines collected and recycled, and (b) to fund newspaper and recycling schemes, and (3) indicating that the appropriate authority in Scotland for receipt of the returns would be the Scottish Environment Protection Agency which would be required to keep a public register comprising the returns.

Decided: that the Director of Administration be authorised to contact the local MPs, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and the Minister for the Environment indicating that the Council supports, in principle, the Recycled Content of Newsprint Bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WHEELED BIN PROGRAMME IN THE WESTFIELD AREA OF CUMBERNAULD - PETITION

17. There was submitted a report dated 17 November 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services intimating that a petition had been received from residents in the Westfield area of Cumbernauld expressing concern about the introduction of the Wheeled Bin Programme in their area.

Decided: that the terms of the petition and of the report by the Director of Environmental Services be noted.

CONSULTATION PAPERS

(1) REVIEW OF LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE INTEGRATION WITHIN THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND THE SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY

18. There was submitted a joint report (docketed) dated 23 November 1998 by the Directors of Environmental Services and Planning and Development commenting on a consultation document from the Scottish Office on the identification of any barriers which exist, which would prevent the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Environment Agency adopting an integrated approach to the protection of the environment.

Decided: that the comments set out in the joint report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Office on the consultation and that the Director of Administration be authorised to respond to the Scottish Office accordingly.

(2) THE REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON QUARANTINE

19. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 10 November 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) advising that the Government had set up an Advisory Group on Quarantine to carry out an independent assessment of the risk of the introduction of rabies into the UK under the current policy of quarantine for pet animals, and of possible alternatives to it, and (2) commenting on a consultation document from the Scottish Office which contained the recommendations of the Advisory Group on Quarantine.

Decided: that the comments set out in the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Office consultation and that the Director of Administration be authorised to respond to the Scottish Office accordingly.