

Motherwell, 19 January 1999 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor Craigie, Convener; Councillor Hogg, Vice-Convener; Councillors Burns, Cefferty, Connelly, Cox, Curley, Devine, Gordon, Grant, Heberton, Lucas, McAlorum, McGlashan, J. McGuigan, McKenna, 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 Accounts Manager.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

J. Brown and L. Grierson, Consumer Advice Counsellors, Environmental Services Department.

APOLOGY

Councillor McCabe.

CONSUMER ADVICE SERVICE - PRESENTATION

1. The Convener advised the Committee that the presentation on Consumer Advice Services would be made in two stages. Thereon Ms Grierson and Ms Brown, Consumer Advice Councillors were heard in relation to the services available at the Advice Centres in respect of consumer issues and, thereafter, responded to Members' questions.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the first stage of the presentation be noted, and
- (2) that it be noted that the second stage of the presentation would be made at the next meeting of the Committee.

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

2. There was submitted a report dated 7 January 1999 by the Director of Finance advising of current spending levels of the Environmental Services functions for the period from 1 April to 6 December 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.

REVENUE ESTIMATES 1999/2000 - BASE SUBMISSIONS

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 22 December 1998 by the Director of Finance summarising the Base Revenue Estimates of the Department of Environmental Services for the financial year 1999/2000.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES - SERVICE PLAN 1999-2002

4. With reference to paragraph 18 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 5 May 1998, when the guidelines for the production of Service Plans for 1999/2000 were approved, there were submitted (1) a report dated 22 December 1998 by the Chief Executive setting out the purpose and action required in respect of Service Plans, and (2) the Service Plan for 1999/2002 (docketed) by the Director of Environmental Services as part of the Council's annual corporate planning process.

Decided:

- (1) that the draft Environmental Services Service Plan be noted, and
(2) that the Service Plan be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for further consideration.

BEST VALUE - CLEANSING SERVICE REVIEW

5. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources (Policy, Planning and Performance Review) Sub-Committee held on 7 January 1999 when, *inter alia*, that Sub-Committee approved (1) a report by the Chief Executive, incorporating a review by the Director of Environmental Services, evaluating the results of a Best Value Review of Cleansing Services, and (2) remitted the said report to this Committee for information, there was submitted the said report by the Chief Executive thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

YEAR 2000 COMPLIANCE

6. With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 3 December 1998 when, that Committee, *inter alia*, agreed that all Service Committees be requested to include on their agenda from now until the Millennium an item on "Year 2000 Compliance" in order that each Committee is fully aware of the progress being made in this area, the Director of Environmental Services reported on the current position within the Environmental Services Department.

Decided: that the position in relation to Millennium Compliance for the Department of Environmental Services and its services be noted.

DOG WARDEN SCHEME

7. There was submitted a report dated 5 January 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services regarding the operation of a Dog Warden Scheme during October and November 1998.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

COMPLAINT OF DOG NUISANCE IN FORGEWOOD, MOTHERWELL - PETITION

8. There was submitted a report dated 13 January 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) advising that a petition had been received from residents of the Forgewood area, Motherwell, in relation to several incidents of dog nuisance in the area, and (2) outlining the remedial action which had been taken by the Dog Warden Service to eradicate the problem.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

CONTROL OF DOGS - JOINT INITIATIVE WITH STRATHCLYDE POLICE

9. There was submitted a report dated 14 December 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) setting out proposals for the development of an Action Plan (a) to deal with dog owners who do not exercise sufficient control over their dogs or do not pay heed to relevant regulations and local bye-laws, and (b) to promote new schemes to encourage dog handling with a view to reducing the level of nuisance caused by dogs barking and fouling in public areas, the level of dog attacks on Members of the public, and the level of road accidents caused by dogs; (2) recommending that the Action Plan be launched as a joint initiative with Strathclyde Police in Wards 57-69 inclusive for a six months trial period, and (3) advising that consultations were currently being carried out with Community Councils and any other relevant agencies on the Action Plan and on other schemes which may be included in the next phase of the Plan.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Environmental Services be authorised to develop the Action Plan and, thereafter, to implement the Plan in a joint initiative with Strathclyde Police in Wards 57-69 inclusive for a trial period of six months, and
- (2) that the Director of Environmental Services prepare a report following the trial period for the joint initiative evaluating the findings of the consultation exercise and the effectiveness of the initiative for submission to a future meeting of the Committee.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1990 - SECTION 80 NOTICE REQUIRING ABATEMENT OF STATUTORY NUISANCE - ACCUMULATION OF WASTE ON LAND TO THE REAR OF 17/19 WHITTINGTON STREET, COATBRIDGE

10. There was submitted a report dated 22 December 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services advising that a notice had been served in terms of Section 80 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 requiring the abatement of the nuisance caused by the accumulation of waste, including LPG cylinders, furniture and household fittings on land to the rear of 17/19 Whittington Street, Coatbridge.

Decided: that the action taken by the Director of Environmental Services in serving the Notice be noted.

**OUTCOME OF PROSECUTION IN TERMS OF THE FOOD SAFETY LEGISLATION -
JOHN FINDLAY, LICENSEE OF THE MILTON VAULTS, MOTHERWELL**

11. There was submitted a report dated 14 December 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) detailing the outcome of legal proceedings against John Findlay, licensee of the Milton Vaults Public House, 18/20 Milton Street, Motherwell, in respect of the contravention of Section 15 of the Food Safety Act 1990, and (2) indicating that the licensee had been fined £200 in respect of the contravention.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PENNINGTON REPORT ON THE E-COLI 0157 OUTBREAK IN
CENTRAL SCOTLAND - ADDITIONAL SCOTTISH OFFICE FUNDING**

12. With reference to paragraph 17 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 20 January 1998, when, inter alia, it had been noted that, following the publication of the Pennington Report on the E-Coli 0157 Outbreak in Central Scotland, funding would be made available to local authorities from the Scottish Office for expenditure on a number of specified food safety issues, there was submitted a report dated 4 January 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services advising (1) that the Scottish Office had recently intimated that funding for specified food safety issues would now be extended to 2001/2002, and (2) that the total allocation for local authorities in 2001/2002 amounted to £2.6 m, in respect of which £141,517 had been allocated to this Council.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

**SITE DEVELOPMENT WORKS AT AUCHINLEA LANDFILL SITE, CLELAND AND
DALMACOULTER LANDFILL SITE, AIRDRIE - VIREMENT REQUEST**

13. There was submitted a report dated 24 December 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) advising that as a result of the increase in the workload at the Auchinlea and Dalmacoulter Landfill Sites at Cleland and Airdrie respectively, the plant hire costs at the sites had also increased; (2) intimating that negotiations had recently been entered into with the Company with a view to reducing plant hire costs; (3) recommending that a payment of £33,000 be made to the Company for plant hire fees in respect of the two landfill sites over a four year period, at a saving of £12,000, and (4) proposing that funding in the sum of £33,000 be allocated to the budget for Transport and Plant by virement from the budget for Landfill Tax.

Decided:

- (1) that the transfer of £33,000 from the budget for Landfill Sites to the budget for Transport and Plant be approved, and
- (2) that the matter be referred to the Finance Committee for consideration.

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

14. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 November 1998 when, inter alia, the Committee had authorised the acceptance of the lowest tender submitted for Contract No. QA/TRA/98/58 in respect of the supply of four 5.2 tonne Short Wheel Base Vehicles with Bin Lifts, being that of Fleming and Taylor in the sum of £104,000, there was submitted a report

dated 31 December 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services advising that in order to meet operational requirements and following consultation with the Convener, the Director of Administration had been authorised to vary the Contract to secure the supply of four Long Wheel Base Vehicles with Bin Lifts rather than for Short Wheel Base Vehicles at a total additional cost of £640.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted and the action taken by the Director of Administration be homologated.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHEELED BIN PROGRAMME - OUTCOME OF CUSTOMER SATISFACTION QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

15. With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 November 1998 when, *inter alia*, it had been noted that the Director of Environmental Services would report on the findings of the customer satisfaction questionnaire which had been issued to householders who were involved in the first phase of the implementation of the domestic wheeled bin system in certain areas of Cumbernauld, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 6 January 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) outlining the findings of the survey, and (2) indicating that of the 7,750 questionnaires issued, only 5.47 per cent of those returned contained a negative response to the system.

Decided: that the Director of Environmental Services be authorised to investigate further the concerns highlighted by householders who had expressed their discontent with the wheeled bin system with a view to alleviating problems of access to, and storage of the wheeled bins.

ABSENCE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS

16. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 November 1998 by the Head of Personnel Services providing statistics on absence within Departments of the Council for the period from April to June 1998.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

AUTHORISATION OF OVERTIME FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICERS AND TRADING STANDARDS OFFICERS

17. There was submitted a report dated 29 December 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services seeking authorisation for the payment of overtime for Environmental Health Officers and Trading Standards Officers above Spinal Column Point 35 (SCP 35) in respect of statutory duties which had already been undertaken and in respect of statutory duties which may require to be carried out over the next six month period.

Decided:

(1) that the Director of Environmental Services be authorised to sanction overtime payments for Environmental Health Officers and Trading Standards Officers above SCP 35 for statutory duties which had already been undertaken and for duties which may require to be carried out over the next six month period, subject to the availability of funding therefor, and

(2) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for consideration.

AUTHORISATION OF OFFICERS UNDERTAKING STATUTORY DUTIES - VARIOUS LEGISLATION

18. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 January 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services recommending that delegated authority be granted to those officers in the Environmental Services Department undertaking duties on behalf of the Council in terms of various legislation, all as detailed in the appendices to the report.

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Decided: that the officers listed in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report be given delegated authority to carry out, to the extent of their employment, statutory duties in terms of the legislation listed in the Appendices referred to.

CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

(1) DRAFT MINERAL WATER, SPRING WATER AND BOTTLED DRINKING WATER REGULATION 1998

19. There was submitted a report dated 29 December 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services regarding a consultation paper which had been received from the Scottish Office on the draft Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Water Regulation 1998 which, in effect, would revoke the Natural Mineral Water Regulation 1985 and the Drinking Water in Containers Regulations 1994, and would consolidate the bottled water Regulation.

Decided: that the Director of Administration be authorised to advise the Scottish Office that the Council had no comments to make on the proposals.

(2) DRAFT ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS ORDER 1999

20. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 31 December 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) regarding a consultation paper which had been received from the Scottish Office on the draft Animal By-Products Order 1999, and (2) setting out a response to the specific questions received therein.

Decided: that the comments set out in the report be entered as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Office consultation and that the action taken by the Director of Administration be noted.

(3) SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY'S PROPOSALS FOR THE WASTE MANAGEMENT CHARGING (SCOTLAND) SCHEME 1999

21. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 10 December 1998 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) regarding a consultation paper which had been received from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) on its proposals to issue a new charging scheme for waste management licensing under Section 41 of the Environment Act 1995, subject to approval by the Secretary of State for Scotland, and (2) intimating that whilst there were no objections to the proposal to increase waste management licensing charges by 3%, the proposal to increase subsistence fees by 25% was considered to be excessive.

Decided: that the comments set out in the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the SEPA consultation and that the action taken by the Director of Administration in forwarding the response be noted.