

**Motherwell, 2 March 1999 at 2 pm.**

A Meeting of the **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Craigie, Convener; Councillor Hogg, Vice-Convener; Councillors Burns, Connelly, Cox, Gordon, Heberton, Lucas, J. McGuigan, McKenna, McLaughlin 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 Accounting Manager.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors Cefferty, Curley, Grant, McCabe and Maginnis.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**CONSUMER ADVICE SERVICE - PRESENTATION**

1. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 19 January 1999 when it had been noted that the second stage of the presentation on Consumer Advice Services would take place at this meeting, Ms Grierson and Ms Brown, Consumer Advice Counsellors, were heard in relation to the services available at the Advice Centres in respect of Small Claim Procedures.

**Decided:** that the terms of the second stage of the presentation on the Consumer Advice Centre be noted.

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

2. There was submitted a report dated 18 February, 1999 by the Director of Finance advising of current spending levels of the Environmental Services functions for the period from 1 April 1998 to 31 January 1999 and providing a projection of the budget outturn and a comparison with the approved budget, excluding loan charges, central administration recharges, and the central repairs account.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

**YEAR 2000 COMPLIANCE**

3. There was submitted a report dated 24 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services regarding the current position in relation to Millennium compliance for the Department of Environmental Services and its services.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

**HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION**

4. With reference to paragraph 24 of the Minute of the meeting of the Planning and Development Committee held on 3 February 1999 when that Committee, having considered a report by the Director of Planning and Development regarding the introduction of the Registration of Houses in Multiple Occupation Scheme (1996) had *inter alia*, (1) approved the application of the policy and conditions set out in the report to houses in multiple occupation in North Lanarkshire, and (2) remitted the report to this Committee for information, there was submitted the said report (docketed) dated 3 February 1999 by the Director of Planning and Development thereon.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

**DOG WARDEN SCHEME**

5. There was submitted a report dated 16 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services regarding the operation of the Dog Warden Scheme during February 1999.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

**RIDING ESTABLISHMENT ACTS 1964 AND 1970, ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT ACT 1963, BREEDING OF DOGS ACT 1975 AND PET ANIMALS ACT 1951 - APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCES**

6. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 11 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services detailing applications which had been received for the licence of premises in North Lanarkshire in terms of the Riding Establishment Acts 1964 and 1970, the Animal Boarding Establishment Act 1963, the Breeding of Dogs Act 1975 and the Pet Animals Act 1951.

**Decided:** that the applications for licences in terms of the Riding Establishment Acts 1964 and 1970, the Animal Boarding Establishment Act 1963, the Breeding of Dogs Act 1975 and the Pet Animals Act 1951 for premises in North Lanarkshire, as set out in the report, be approved.

**TRAINING COURSE FOR PROPRIETORS OF PET SHOPS**

7. There was submitted a report dated 16 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) advising that, as a number of complaints had been received alleging that some proprietors of Pet Shops in North Lanarkshire did not exercise proper care for their animals, particularly exotic species, the Department, in association with the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA), had organised a training course on animal care which had been held in Broadwood Stadium, Cumbernauld on 17 January 1999; (2) intimating that the training course had been well attended and well received by the proprietors of pet shops, local authority Enforcement Officers and

guests of the SSPCA, and (3) proposing in light of the success of the training course that other similar courses be organised.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Environmental Services be authorised to organise further training courses for proprietors of Pet Shops to encourage proprietors to exercise proper care for their animals.

**PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT 1928 - APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCES**

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 10 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services containing details of the various premises which had been licensed in January 1999 for the storage of petroleum spirit/petroleum mixtures.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

**LOCAL AIR QUALITY REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT - STAGE 1 REPORT**

9. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 9 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) advising that local authorities were required, in terms of the Environment Act 1995, to review and assess the air quality within their respective areas; (2) setting out in the Appendix to the report this Council's Local Air Quality Review and Assessment Stage 1 Report; (3) indicating that, as the air quality within North Lanarkshire was likely to exceed the standards of the National Air Quality Strategy for Nitrogen Dioxide and Sulphur Dioxide, it would be necessary to implement a Stage 2 and possibly a Stage 3 review for those pollutants, and (4) intimating that the Council was required to issue its Local Air Quality Review and Assessment for consultation with the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, neighbouring local authorities and other interested agencies.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the terms of the Local Air Quality Review and Assessment Stage 1 Report, as set out in the Appendix to the report, be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Environmental Services be authorised to issue the Local Air Quality Review and Assessment Stage 1 Report for consultation, as described in Paragraph 2 of the report.

**LOCAL AIR QUALITY REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT - STAGE 1 REPORT - CONSULTATIONS FROM NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES**

10. There was submitted a report dated 9 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) intimating that, in accordance with the terms of the Environment Act 1995, consultations had been received from the neighbouring authorities of East Dunbartonshire, Stirling and West Lothian Councils regarding their respective Local Air Quality Review and Assessment Stage 1 Reports, and (2) recommending that no adverse comments be made in relation thereto.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that no adverse comments be made in relation to the respective Local Air Quality Review and Assessment Stage 1 Reports of East Dunbartonshire, Stirling and West Lothian Councils.

**THE FOOD SAFETY (FISHERY PRODUCTS AND LIVE SHELLFISH) (HYGIENE) REGULATIONS 1998 - APPLICATION BY NORFOLK LINE LIMITED, VIEWFIELD PARK, COATBRIDGE**

11. There was submitted a report dated 10 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) regarding an application by Norfolk Line Limited for approval of its premises at Unit 6, Viewfield Park, Viewfield Road, Coatbridge, for the storage and distribution of fishery products and shellfish, and (2) advising that as the premises complied with the terms of the Food Safety (Fishery Products and Live Shellfish) (Hygiene) Regulations 1998, the Company had been issued with approval number MD 027FED and that the Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries Department of the Scottish Office had been advised accordingly.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

**OUTCOME OF PROSECUTIONS IN TERMS OF FOOD SAFETY LEGISLATION**

**(1) IAIN METHVEN, T/A SHELL OLD INNS FILLING STATION, CUMBERNAULD**

12. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 8 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) regarding a report which had been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal's Office in respect of contraventions of the Food Safety Act 1990 and the Food Labelling Regulations 1996 by Iain Methven, t/a Shell Old Inns Filling Station, Cumbernauld, and (2) indicating that the proprietor had been fined £100 in respect of the contraventions.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

**(2) SYAM SREENIVASAN, T/A BOMBAY JOE'S, CUMBERNAULD**

13. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 8 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) detailing the outcome of legal proceedings against Syam Sreenivasan, t/a Bombay Joe's, Cumbernauld, in respect of contraventions of the Food Safety (General Food Hygiene) Regulations 1995, and (2) indicating that the proprietor had since been sentenced to 210 hours Community Service.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

**E-COLI 0157 OUTBREAK IN CENTRAL SCOTLAND**

14. There were submitted a report dated 9 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services and a Report of the Outbreak Control Team (docketed) dated February 1999 entitled "Central Scotland E-Coli 0157 Outbreak in Lanarkshire" (1) detailing (a) how the outbreak was recognised; (b) the immediate measures taken; (c) the investigation carried out into the nature, extent and cause of the outbreak; (d) the further measures taken to control its spread in Lanarkshire, and (e) how the outbreak had been managed, and (2) advising that the key issues in the relevant fields had now been identified and were presented in the Report.

**Decided:** that the terms of the Report of the Outbreak Control Team be noted.

**SPECIAL INITIATIVES TO ENCOURAGE HAZARD ANALYSIS CRITICAL CONTROL POINT (HACCP) PREPARATION**

15. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 19 January 1999 when it had been noted that additional funding from the Scottish Office would be made available to local authorities for specified food safety issues, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 11 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services outlining details of two initiatives which had been implemented with a view to providing training courses and information services (1) to promote awareness amongst proprietors and employees of food premises of the importance of food safety measures and to encourage Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) preparation, and (2) to assist all food businesses to achieve a full HACCP.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

**THE RESERVOIRS ACT 1975 - REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND**

16. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 10 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) advising that the Council was required in terms of the Reservoirs Act 1975, to report to the Secretary of State for Scotland biennially on the safety of large raised reservoirs within North Lanarkshire, and (2) setting out in the Appendix to the report the biennial report to the Secretary of State.

**Decided:** that the biennial report to the Secretary of State for Scotland on large raised reservoirs within North Lanarkshire, as set out in the Appendix to the report, be noted.

**ELECTRIC BLANKET SAFETY CHECKS**

17. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 November 1998 when it had been noted that electric blanket safety checks 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, there was submitted a report dated 8 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) advising that due to the demand for further electric blanket safety checks, a schedule of testing, based on the requirements of the relevant British Standards, had been drawn up in association with Glasgow City Council's Calibration and Test Centre; (2) indicating that of the 60 electric blankets tested only 19% were found to be totally satisfactory, and (3) intimating that in light of the Council's Community Safety Strategy, the department would continue to carry out electric blanket safety checks.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

**RATIONALISATION OF FUEL SYSTEMS - TENDERS FROM PREFERRED SUPPLIERS**

18. With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 November 1998 when the Director of Environmental Services had been authorised to negotiate terms with JMW Systems Limited, Meggit Electronics and Petromatic Securkey 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, there was submitted a report dated 16 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) intimating that the lowest suitable and satisfactory tender was that of JMW Systems Limited, Loanhead, for option 2 in the sum of £48,842, inclusive of

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maintenance fees for a five year period, and (2) advising that the Director of Administration had progressed the matter in terms of his delegated powers.

**Decided:** that the action taken by the Director of Administration in accepting the lowest suitable and satisfactory tender by JMW Systems Limited, Loanhead, for Option 2 for the supply of Automated Fuel Management Systems to all Council Transport Depots in North Lanarkshire in the sum of £48,842, inclusive of maintenance fees for a five year period, be noted.

### **SELECT LIST OF TENDERERS - SUPPLY OF CLEANING EQUIPMENT**

19. There was submitted a report dated 8 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) advising that suppliers of cleaning equipment had been invited to submit applications for inclusion on a Select List of Tenderers for the supply of cleaning equipment, and (2) recommending that the following suppliers, be approved for inclusion on a Select List of Tenderers for a 2 year period:

Alto Cleaning Systems (UK) Limited, Cumbria  
Dowding and Plumber Limited, Birmingham  
Floorep Limited, Glasgow  
Nilfisk Advance Limited, Bury St. Edmunds  
Numatic International, Somerset  
Unico Limited, Falkirk  
Valclensa, Manchester

**Decided:** that suppliers detailed above be included on the Select List of Tenderers for the supply of cleaning equipment for a period of two years be approved.

### **PROPOSALS TO INVITE TENDERS FOR THE PROVISION OF BURIAL SERVICE**

20. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 11 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) advising that the Council was required, in terms of the National Assistance Act 1948 and the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to cause to be buried the body of any person who had died or had been found dead in North Lanarkshire where no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body had been or were being made otherwise than by the authority, and (2) proposing that tenders be invited from local Funeral Undertakers for the provision of burial services for a period of two years.

**Decided:** that the Director of Environmental Services be authorised to invite tenders from local Funeral Undertakers for the provision of burial services for a period of two years, as described in the Appendix to the report.

### **HOPEPARK LANDFILL SITE AND EXTENSION, CROY - SUPPLEMENTARY MINUTE OF AGREEMENT**

21. There was submitted a report dated 16 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services recommending that the Council enter into a Supplementary Minute of Agreement with Viscount Whitelaw, Gartshore Estates, for the lease of an area of land as an extension to Hopepark Landfill Site, Croy, which would allow the Council occupation until the necessary requisite remedial works be carried out to the satisfaction of the Director of Planning and Development and of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency as regulator for the site.

**Decided:** that the Director of Environmental Services be authorised to enter into a Supplementary Minute of Agreement with Viscount Whitelaw, Gartshore Estates, for the lease of an area of land as an extension to the Hopepark Landfill Site, Croy, for the purposes of undertaking requisite site remedial works.

**ADDITIONAL CHARGES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

22. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 7 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services detailing proposals for an increase in the charges for domestic skip hire, trade waste collections, special uplifts for businesses, contract cleaning of car parks and trading estates and waste disposal at Auchinlea and Dalnacoulter Landfill Sites.

**Decided:** that the report be remitted to the special meeting of the Environmental Services Committee to be held on 4 March 1999 for consideration.

**FILLING OF VACANT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER POSTS**

23. There was submitted a report dated 16 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) advising of difficulties in recruiting trained Environmental Health Officers, and (2) proposing that (a) any vacancies still remaining after the next interview date for Environmental Health Officer appointments be filled with graduates with an appropriate degree in Environmental Health, and (b) those graduates be thereafter trained to facilitate them taking the professional REHIS examination.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Director of Environmental Services be authorised, in association with the Head of Personnel Services, to fill any vacancies still remaining after the next interview date for Environmental Health Officer appointments with graduates holding an appropriate degree in Environmental Health, and, thereafter, to provide the requisite training for the successful graduates to enable them to sit the REHIS examination, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for consideration.

**CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS FROM SCOTTISH OFFICE**

**(1) REVIEW OF THE UK NATIONAL AIR QUALITY STRATEGY : PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE STRATEGY**

24. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) regarding a consultation document which had been published by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions entitled "Review of the UK National Air Quality Strategy : Proposals to Amend the Strategy" which set out a strategy to improve the air quality of the UK by reducing the levels of 8 pollutants of most concern to public health by 2005, (2) summarising the proposed changes for each individual pollutant, and (3) advising that any comments on the document were to be forwarded to the Scottish Office.

**Decided:** that the Director of Administration be authorised to advise the Scottish Office that the Council supports all of the proposals set out in the document for a reduction in the level of the 8 pollutants of most concern to public health by 2005.

**(2) PROPOSAL TO CHARGE FOR THE REMOVAL OF SPECIFIED RISK MATERIAL**

25. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 7 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services regarding a consultation document which had been received from the Scottish Office on a proposal to implement new Regulations with regard to the Government's decision that the meat industry should, from 29 March 1999, be charged for the costs of enforcement, by the Meat Hygiene Service, of the controls on specified risk material in licensed slaughter houses and cutting plants.

**Decided:** that the Director of Administration be authorised to advise the Scottish Office that the Council had no comments on its consultation.

**(3) DRAFT FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY BILL**

26. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 7 February 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) regarding the publication of a draft Food Standards Agency Bill which sets out the Government's proposals for changes in the arrangements for regulating the food safety and food standards issues in the UK; (2) advising that a consultation document on the draft legislation had been received from the Scottish Office which sets out the main provisions of the Bill and sought the Council's comments on all related issues, including the funding of the Agency, and (3) setting out in the report, comments thereon.

**Decided:** that the comments set out in the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Office on the draft Food Standards Agency Bill and that the Director of Administration be authorised to respond to the Scottish Office accordingly.

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE YOUNG CONSUMER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION**

27. Councillor Ross, on behalf of the Committee, referred to the North Lanarkshire Young Consumer of the Year Competition which had been organised by the Education Advice Unit of the Department of Environmental Services and (1) congratulated Dalziel High School, Motherwell, in winning the local competition for the third year in succession and also for winning the West of Scotland heat of the competition to represent North Lanarkshire in the Scottish finals in Edinburgh, and (2) thanked the Director of Environmental Services and his staff for their contribution and assistance to local schools.

**VALEDICTORY REMARKS**

28. The Director of Environmental Services announced that as the meeting would be his last he would like to take the opportunity to extend his thanks (1) to his Heads of Service and departmental staff for their assistance since the inception of the Council and for the many achievements gained for work behind the scenes, and (2) to the staff of the other Council departments for their advice and assistance over the years.

Thereafter, the Convener thanked the Director of Environmental Services for his valuable contribution to the services of the Council and wished him well in the future.