

Motherwell, 25 February 2009 at 10 am.

A Meeting of the HOUSING AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor McCulloch, Convener; Councillor Kelly, Vice-Convener; Councillors Adamson, Burrows, Chadha, M. Coyle, Delaney, Grant, Harmon, Higgins, Hogg, Homer, Lunny, Lyle, McElroy, McGlinchey, McKendrick, McWilliams, Martin, Taggart, Alan Valentine, Welsh and Wilson.

CHAIR

Councillor McCulloch (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Manager, Corporate Services; Executive Director of Housing and Social Work Services, Head of Housing Services, Head of Social Work Development, Head of Social Work Services and Head of Housing and Social Work Resources, Housing and Social Work Services and Senior Accountant, Finance and Customer Services.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

D. Cummings, Chief Social Work Inspector, Social Work Inspection Agency and R. Lawrence, Lead Inspector.

APOLOGIES

Councillors J. Coyle, F. McKay, McKenna and Smith.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN TERMS OF THE ETHICAL STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE ETC. (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000

1. Councillor Homer declared an interest in paragraph 4 of the Minute entitled "Cumbernauld Multi-Storey Flats" as he is a member of the Cumbernauld Housing Partnership and took no part in the consideration thereof.

Councillor Grant declared an interest in paragraph 11 of the Minute entitled "Watch Us Grow" and paragraph 12 of the Minute entitled "Section 10 Grants" due to his involvement in the organisation "Watch Us Grow" and took no part in the consideration of the reports thereof.

Councillor McCulloch declared an interest in paragraph 11 of the Minute entitled "Watch Us Grow" and paragraph 12 of the Minute entitled "Section 10 Grants" due to a family member's employment in the organisation "Watch Us Grow" and took no part in the consideration of the reports thereof.

PRESENTATION ON REPORT OF INSPECTION OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 18 August 2008, when the Committee noted the presentation by the Lead Inspector of the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) and that the SWIA would publish a final report on their finding by February 2009, there was submitted a report dated 1 February 2009 by the Head of Social Work Development (1) informing that North Lanarkshire was the 27th local authority Social Work Service to be inspected as part of a three year cycle of planned inspections; (2) advising that the inspection was a

comprehensive assessment of Social Work Services and involved evaluation and grading on a six point scale ranging from "unsatisfactory" to "excellent" of six areas, and (3) detailing within the report, the ten areas evaluated.

Thereon, the Chief Social Work Inspector of the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) provided a presentation on the positive findings of the inspection of the Social Work Services in North Lanarkshire; (1) highlighting the specific and positive evaluations against the ten areas evaluated; (2) intimating the challenges ahead in the form of eight recommendations, and (3) indicating that a Council Action Plan would be submitted to SWIA three months after publication, with a follow-up report being submitted by February 2010.

Thereon, the Chief Social Work Inspector responded to questions from Elected Members.

The Convener thanked the Chief Social Work Inspector for the presentation.

Decided: that the presentation by the Chief Social Work Inspector of the Social Work Inspection Agency, be noted.

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT EXCEPTIONS REPORT – QUARTER 3

3. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 17 December 2008, there was submitted a report dated 12 February 2009 by the Executive Director of Housing and Social Work Services (1) advising of the areas of service performance within Quarter 3 - 1 October to 31 December 2008 - which fell outwith agreed thresholds, and (2) detailing, within the report, performance in relation to the indicators which (a) did not meet targets, and (b) exceeded targets.

Decided:

- (1) that the current position with regard to the performance in relation to indicators, as detailed within the report, be noted, and
- (2) that otherwise the terms of the report be noted.

Councillor Homer, having declared an interest due to his membership of the Cumbernauld Housing Partnership, took no part in the determination of the following item.

CUMBERNAULD MULTI-STOREY FLATS

4. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 February 2008 when, *inter alia*, approval had been given to the proposed partnership approach to address the serious stock condition problems in the multi-storey flats in Cumbernauld, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 11 February 2009 by the Head of Housing Services (1) advising that consultants had been appointed by the Cumbernauld Housing Partnership (CHP) to consider a technical solution; (2) detailing within the report, three options which had been assessed, involving, respectively, doing nothing, refurbishment, or demolition and new build; (3) indicating that discussions had been ongoing with the Scottish Government to seek their agreement to provide additional resources to fund the owners' share of the public funding requirements; (4) intimating that the Scottish Government had confirmed that the option for demolition and new build provided the most sustainable solution in the long term and represented best value, and (5) proposing that the demolition and new build option be endorsed as the best way forward, subject to, consultation with residents and owners, the production of a more detailed business plan and recognition that the strategy may need to be revisited and other options considered if the support of owners was not forthcoming.

Decided:

- (1) that the options for addressing the serious stock condition problems within the multi-storey flats in Cumbernauld, be noted;
- (2) that the demolition and new build option, as the preferred way forward, be endorsed, and
- (3) that further reports would be submitted to future meetings of the Committee regarding the strategy for the multi-storey blocks in Cumbernauld, following consultation with relevant stakeholders, be noted.

INVESTING IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING: A CONSULTATION

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 February 2009 by the Head of Housing Services seeking approval for the proposed response to the Scottish Government's consultation paper entitled "Investing in Affordable Housing" (1) informing that the consultation paper outlined the Scottish Government's proposals for reforming the mechanisms for the delivery of Affordable Housing Investment Programme in Scotland in order to try and achieve greater efficiency in the procurement process; (2) detailing, within the report, the key proposals contained within the consultation paper, and (3) advising that the Council's proposed response to the consultation paper was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

Decided: that the proposed response to the Scottish Government's Consultation Paper, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

APPLYING FOR PRESSURED AREA STATUS - OUTCOME OF SUBMISSION

6. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 18 August 2008 when, inter alia, the process of applying for "Pressured Area Status" for social rented housing in the local housing market areas of Cumbernauld and Moodiesburn had been approved, there was submitted a report dated 12 February 2009 by the Head of Housing Services providing an update on the Council's submission to the Scottish Government for Pressured Area Status designation in respect of the local housing market areas of Cumbernauld and Moodiesburn (1) advising that a letter had been issued to all Council tenants informing of the application; (2) indicating that the application had been granted and was effective from 2 February 2009, and (3) intimating that (a) further letters would be sent to all current and prospective tenants advising that the Cumbernauld and Moodiesburn areas were designated "Pressured Areas", and (b) for a period of five years, the "Right to Buy" was temporarily suspended for new tenants and tenancies that began on or after the introduction of the Scottish Secure Tenancy on 30 September 2002.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED DAY SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE – PHASE 2

7. With reference to paragraph 28 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 18 August 2008 when, inter alia, staffing proposals for the implementation of Integrated Day Services for Older People, Phase 1 had been approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 4 February 2009 by the Head of Social Work Development (1) seeking approval to implement the second phase of Integrated Day Services for Older People; (2) proposing within the report, staffing changes as set out within Section 3, and Appendix 1 to the report, and (3) advising that the additional cost to the Council would be met from the agreed transfer of funds from NHS Lanarkshire for the financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Decided:

- (1) that the staffing proposals, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Human Resources) Sub-Committee for consideration, and
- (3) that otherwise the terms of the report be noted.

SOCIAL WORK INTENSIVE SUPPORT SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

8. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work (Planning and Administration) Sub-Committee held on 6 May 2004, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 February 2009 by the Head of Social Work Services/Chief Social Work Officer in respect of the proposed changes to the way in which intensive support services for young people were provided within North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the background to the present contractual arrangement in place with the organisation Includem Service; (2) advising that Includem's costs had risen significantly during 2008 and that they were now seeking an additional £127,335 in order to provide the existing contracted service; (3) proposing that (a) the contract with Includem be terminated, and (b) Intensive Support and Monitoring Services requirements be incorporated within an extended intensive young person's service; (4) detailing, proposed staffing changes as set out within Section 3 to the report, and (5) intimating that (a) there would be a net saving of £102,943 which would form part of the agreed efficiency savings, and (b) the current contract with Includem would be terminated by agreement between both parties with effect from 31 March 2009.

Decided:

- (1) that the termination of the contract with Includem Services as at 31 March 2009, be noted;
- (2) that the staffing proposals, as set out with the report and the Appendix to the report, be approved;
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Human Resources) Sub-Committee for consideration, and
- (4) that otherwise the terms of the report, be noted.

REPLACEMENT FENCING ADJOINING OWNER/OCCUPIERS – UPDATE REPORT

9. With reference to paragraph 16 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 17 December 2008 when, *inter alia*, it had been agreed that the Executive Director of Housing and Social Work Services submit a report to the next meeting of the Committee detailing the way forward where properties of owner/occupiers adjoin the Council properties with regard to replacement fencing, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 4 February 2009 by the Head of Housing Services providing proposals to encourage participation by owners in replacement fencing in joint ownership with the Council (1) advising of the current Housing procedures for recharging owners; (2) proposing that, in order to promote participation by owners in replacement fencing situations, in the circumstances described in paragraph 4.1 of the report, a sum of £50,000 be set aside from the 2009/2010 Repairs Revenue Budget to fund the provision of fencing in situations in which it was considered that the Council was capable of recovering the apportioned cost of the works, and (3) intimating that the initiative would be closely monitored and every effort would be taken to recover an owner's costs.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to set aside £50,000 from the 2009/2010 Repairs Revenue Budget to be used to promote participation by owners in replacement fencing situations, in the circumstances described in paragraph 4.1 of the report;
- (2) that it be noted that the initiative would be closely monitored and every effort taken to recover an owner's costs, and
- (3) that otherwise the terms of the report, be noted.

SOCIAL WORK - MAIN TENDERING ACTIVITY FOR 2009

10. There was submitted a report dated 29 January 2009 by the Head of Social Work Development in respect of three main areas of tendering activity scheduled in the current year with regard to Social Work Services (1) advising that a framework was in place for contracting and monitoring the performance of independent sector care providers; (2) intimating that three Social Work contracts due for renewal in 2009 were Stairlifts, Hoists and Specialist Plumbing; Supported Living Services and Home Support; (3) indicating that, due to the specialist elements of the contracts, three separate tender processes would be undertaken, each using an open tendering process, and (4) proposing that stage two of the Supported Living Services tender be a restricted tendering exercise.

Decided:

- (1) that the tendering processes for the three tenders, detailed within Section 3 of the report, be approved, and
- (2) that the contracting and tendering position in relation to Supported Living Services, be noted.

Prior to consideration of the following two items of business

- (1) The Convener, as a consequence of a family member being employed by the organisation "Watch Us Grow", declared an interest and took no part in the determination of the following two items regarding "Watch Us Grow" and "Section 10 Grants". The Convener vacated the Chair and Councillor Kelly assumed the Chair, and
- (2) Councillor Grant, due to his involvement with the organisation "Watch Us Grow" declared a non-pecuniary interest and took no part in the determination of the following two items regarding "Watch Us Grow" and "Section 10 Grants".

WATCH US GROW

11. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 22 October 2008 when, inter alia, it had been agreed that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on agreements reached regarding the future shape of the service and supporting financial framework for the organisation "Watch Us Grow", there was submitted a report dated 29 January 2009 by the Head of Social Work Development seeking approval to provide funds to the organisation "Watch Us Grow" (1) outlining the current financial background to the organisation "Watch Us Grow"; (2) intimating, within the report, proposals to help "Watch Us Grow", following the expiry of Lottery Funding proposals which included developing a Community Garden Project; (3) advising that the annual cost of the Garden Project for 2009/2010 was £72,704; (4) indicating that the income expected through Section 10 Grants, Carers' Strategy Funding and NHS Lanarkshire as well as sales from the

Garden Project, would be £44,888, and (5) proposing that the balance of £27,816, to secure the Service, be made available to the organisation "Watch Us Grow" from existing Community Care monies for 2009/2010.

Decided: that £27,816 be paid to the organisation "Watch Us Grow" for 2009/2010.

SECTION 10 GRANTS

12. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 February 2009 by the Head of Social Work Development regarding applications received from voluntary organisations requesting funding under the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 (1) informing that the Section 10 Budget Allocation for 2009/2010 was £475,160 which included a 5% inflationary uplift provided to all grant funded bodies by the Council; (2) detailing the criteria and factors taken into consideration in determining the recommendations for funding; (3) indicating that the value of the applications received amounted to £703,558 which included the value of the one remaining three year funding agreement; (4) advising that, of the 42 applications received, 40 had been recommended for approval as highlighted within Appendices 1 and 2 to the report, with the total value of the payments recommended being £446,267, and (5) seeking approval to fund the recommendations contained within Appendices 1 and 2 to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the recommendations contained within Appendices 1 and 2 to the report, be approved, which left a balance of £28,893 for further applications during 2009/2010, and
- (2) that the exact final awards may vary subject to any Council decision on providing inflationary uplifts to grants to voluntary bodies.

RESULTS OF NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL'S TENANTS' SURVEY 2008

13. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 January 2009 by the Head of Housing Services in respect of the results of the Housing Services' Tenants' Survey 2008 (1) outlining the background to the Council's Tenant Questionnaire 2008; (2) indicating that the total response for the survey was 2,248 completed survey forms which represented a 14% response rate, with the findings detailed within the report; (3) advising that, following analysis of the survey, a number of issues had been identified which would be further analysed and action points identified which could be monitored via the Continuous Improvement Groups as well as the Council's Tenant Participation Strategy Steering Group, and (4) detailing, within the report, the main findings of the survey.

Decided: that the results of the Tenant Questionnaire 2008, with the proposed approach to taking forward the issues identified, be noted.

Councillor McCulloch resumed the Chair.

HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES - EXTENSION OF FUNDING

14. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 17 December 2008 when, *inter alia*, the Temporary Accommodation Strategy had been approved, there was submitted a report dated 23 January 2009 by the Head of Housing Services seeking approval for the funding of a number of initiatives to help to prevent or alleviate homelessness (1) detailing, within the report, existing projects presently covered by Service Level Agreements which included monitoring

and evaluation frameworks; (2) intimating, within the report, further initiatives to help prevent or alleviate homelessness; (3) informing that, during 2009-2010, an external evaluation would be carried out on the health and Homelessness Team, and (4) advising that all funding required for the initiatives could be met from within the 2009/2010 Non-HRA Budget Allocation for Homelessness.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposals set out in Section 3 of the report, to fund a number of initiatives to help to prevent or alleviate homelessness, be approved, and
- (2) that it be noted that during 2009/2010 an external evaluation would be carried out on the Health and Homelessness Team.

IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 11 OF THE HOMELESSNESS ETC. (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003

15. There was submitted a report dated 26 January 2009 by the Head of Housing Services in respect of procedures to be adopted in order to implement Section 11 of the Homelessness Etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 (1) advising that the Scottish Government had notified its intentions to bring into force Section 11 of the Homelessness Etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 with effect from 1 April 2009; (2) intimating that draft guidance for local authorities, social landlords, private sector landlords and creditors had been published in December 2008, and (3) detailing, within Section 3 of the report, the action required to be taken by the Council to implement Section 11 of the Homelessness Etc. (Scotland) Act 2003.

Decided:

- (1) that the legal requirement to implement Section 11 of the Homelessness Etc. (Scotland) Act 2003, be noted, and
- (2) that the actions proposed within the report, be approved.

CHARGING FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES AND MEALS PROVISION AND FOR IN-HOUSE RESIDENTIAL CARE AND RESPITE CARE

16. With reference to (1) paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 11 March 2004 when the charging arrangements applied by the Council in respect of Care at Home Services, including house support, had been approved, and (2) paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 12 January 2006 when, *inter alia*, the charging policy for Meals on Wheels and meals provided to people in day services had been revised, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 February 2009 seeking approval of the charging levels which would be applied in respect of non residential services and meals provision, and for in-house residential care and respite care in 2009/2010 (a) detailing the COSLA guidance for 2009/10, and (b) proposing that, for 2009/2010 (A) the charge for Meals on Wheels be £3.06 per meal, and in respect of day services that the charge be £4.15 per meal; (B) the rate for residential care provided in people's own homes be £541.38 per week; (C) the weekly charge for residential respite be £73.35 per week in line with increases in pensions and allowances; (D) the new threshold figure at which service users would become liable for home support charges was in line with the existing policy of the Council, and the threshold figure for payment of home support charges would be set at £152 per week for a single person and £232 per week for couples, with people with incomes lower than these figures being exempt from charges, and (E) the hourly rate for home support be £12.50.

Decided:

- (1) that the threshold figure for payment for home support charges set at £152 per week for a single person and £232 per week for couples, be approved;

- (2) that the hourly rate for home support of £12.50, be approved;
- (3) that the cost of Meals on Wheels for 2009/2010 of £3.06 per meal, be approved;
- (4) that the cost of meals provided in day services of £4.15 be approved;
- (5) that the approved rate for inhouse residential care of £541.38 per week, be approved;
- (6) that the charge for residential respite of £73.35 per week, be approved, and
- (7) that otherwise the terms of the report be noted.

CHANGE OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR STANDARD SECURITY

17. With reference to paragraph 25 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing and Technical Services Committee held on 6 March 2003 when (1) £26,042 of funding had been provided to facilitate the adaptation of the parental home of a disabled child, and (2) approval had been given to the Director of Administration to secure a Standard Security to be registered in the title deeds of the property, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 January 2009 by the Head of Housing Services seeking to homologate the decision of the Executive Director of Housing and Social Work Services, following consultation with the Convener of the Committee, not to recover funds totalling approximately £13,000 paid in respect of top-up funding for adaptations to a dwellinghouse (a) outlining the background to, and the need for, the decision not to recover funds; (b) intimating the reason that the existing Standard Security be discharged by the Council, and (c) detailing, within the report, the conditions to be attached to the new Standard Security.

Decided: that the following action taken with regard to the change of arrangements for the Standard Security, be homologated:-

- (1) that the funds due to the Council on transfer of the title of the property not be recovered when the title to the property was transferred by the mother and father to the mother only, as the disabled person for whom the extension was funded was still resident in the property;
- (2) that the existing Standard Security be discharged by the Council in exchange for the mother granting a new Standard Security on the property to the Council, for the appropriate sum for the remainder of the initial ten year period, and
- (3) that the conditions attached to the existing Standard Security be applied to the new Standard Security ie. recovery on a sliding scale for the remainder of the original ten year period, after which time there would be no sum recoverable.

GUIDANCE ON ASSISTANCE UNDER THE HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2006 TO MEET THE NEEDS OF DISABLED PEOPLE

18. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 18 August 2008, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 February 2009 by the Head of Housing Services regarding the implications of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 in terms of the provision of assistance with adaptations for disabled people (1) advising that finalised guidance in relation to the duties of local authorities under the Act was now available, (2) intimating the changes to the Act which set out more specific duties with regard to financial assistance with adaptations, excluding reinstatement; (3) detailing all implications for the Council; (4) indicating that, currently, 19 applications for extensions had been agreed, in principle, but had not yet reached grant approval stage, and (5) proposing that (a) the applicants be provided with means-tested grant funding, and (b) any new applicants for extensions, would be advised that grant funding would not be available and

other options and assistance would be developed to assist them meet the needs of the disabled household member.

Decided:

- (1) that the publication of the guidance in relation to the duties of local authorities to meet the assessed needs of disabled people under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 which was to be implemented from 1 April 2009, be noted;
- (2) that the interim position of offering discretionary grant aid towards the costs of extensions for those applicants outlined within Section 3.5 of the report, be approved, and
- (3) that further reports be submitted to future meetings of the Committee with regard to the policy and financial implications of the new guidance.

HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES – EXTENSION OF FUNDING

19. With reference to paragraph 16 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 18 August 2008 when contracts for the Bridgework Project, Motherwell, with Scottish Association for Mental Health, Houldsworth Court Project, Wishaw, with Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association, and for the Young Persons' Project, Muirhead, with Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association, had been extended until 30 September 2009 and it was agreed that any retendering and/or re-provisioning of the services would be subject to a further report to a future meeting of the Committee, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 30 January 2009 seeking approval to extend the three contracts for the Bridgework Project, Motherwell, the Houldsworth Court Project, Wishaw, and the Young Persons' Muirhead Project, Muirhead for the provision of housing support to vulnerable people who were homeless until 31 March 2010 (1) advising that a review was underway of all externally provided projects delivering accommodation and support, and (2) proposing that the contracts for the Bridgework Project, Motherwell, with Scottish Association for Mental Health, Houldsworth Court Project, Wishaw, with Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association, and for Young Persons' Project, Muirhead, with Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association, be extended until 31 March 2010.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposal to extend the contracts, as detailed within the report, be approved, and
- (2) that any retendering and/or re-provisioning of the services be the subject of a further report to a future meeting of the Committee.

REVISED FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CARE

20. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 8 March 2007 when the revised financial arrangements for the services provided by Cornerstone Community Care had been approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 2 February 2009 by the Head of Housing and Social Work Resources seeking approval of the revised costs for the Supported Living Services provided by Cornerstone Community Care in North Lanarkshire and proposing that the core funding for Cornerstone Community Care Supported Living Services be increased by £32,832, with no change to the hourly rate of £13.46.

Decided:

- (1) that the revised financial arrangements proposed for the Supported Living Services provided by Cornerstone Community Care, be approved, and
 - (2) that otherwise the terms of the report, be noted.
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REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORTS

(1) HOUSING (HRA)

21. There was submitted a report dated 23 January 2009 by the Head of Housing and Social Work Resources (1) advising of the overall financial position of the Housing Revenue Account for the period 1 April 2008 to 2 January 2009; (2) intimating that variances were reported for both year-to-date and projected outturn, with major outturn variances being highlighted and explained; (3) indicating that (a) movement was attributable to predicted savings within employee costs and operational leasing charges, combined with an over-recovery of Housing Benefit, and (b) the potential over-recovery of housing rental income had also been increased to reflect the lower level of house sales anticipated this year, with an analysis of variances set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

(2) HOUSING (NON-HRA) AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES BUDGETS

22. There was submitted a report dated 19 February 2009 by the Head of Housing and Social Work Resources (1) advising of the overall financial position of the Housing (Non-HRA) and Social Work Services Budgets for the period 1 April 2008 to 2 January 2009, and (2) intimating that variances were reported for both year-to-date and projected outturn, with a summary of the major variances within each division highlighted within paragraph 4.2 of the report.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MONITORING REPORTS - 1 APRIL 2008 TO 2 JANUARY 2009

(1) 2008/2009 HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME

23. **C** With reference to paragraph 32 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 18 August 2008, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 February 2009 by the Head of Housing and Social Work Resources reviewing progress towards achieving agreed spending plans in the 2008/2009 HRA Capital Programme and seeking approval to realign the Programme for 2008/2009 to reflect revised expenditure projections (1) advising of the spending levels of the HRA Capital Programme budget as at 2 January 2009; (2) intimating that a review of the Programme was required to ensure that spending plans were realigned to reflect revised expenditure and resource projections, as highlighted within Appendix 2 to the report, which included an 8.5% slippage allowance; (3) indicating that, since the August review, levels of right to buy sales had reduced further, and (4) informing that the Capital Programme would continue to be closely monitored, with further reports being submitted to future meetings of the Committee on any adjustments to approved spending plans required during the remainder of the year.

Decided:

- (1) that the position of the 2008/2009 HRA Capital Programme, as detailed within Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;
- (2) that the revised 2008/2009 Programme, as set out within Appendix 2 to the report, be approved;
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration, and
- (4) that otherwise the terms of the report be noted.

(2) SOCIAL WORK SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008/2009

24. With reference to paragraph 21 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 18 December 2008, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 19 January 2009 by the Head of Housing and Social Work Resources (1) advising of progress made on individual projects contained within the Capital Programme for the Social Work Service as at 2 January 2009; (2) providing a comparison of actual expenditure against the approved budget, as detailed within Appendix 1 to the report, and (3) detailing, within the report, information regarding the overspends and underspends of various projects.

Decided:

- (1) that the actual spend, in the Capital Programme for the Social Work Service, as at 2 January 2009, be noted;
- (2) that the projected outturn as detailed within Section 3 of the report, be noted, and
- (3) that otherwise the terms of the report, be noted.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME (HRA) 2009/2010

- C** 25. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 30 January 2009 by the Head of Housing Services seeking approval of a revised Housing Capital Programme for 2009/2010 (1) detailing, within the report, the proposed outline Capital Programme 2009/2010, as reviewed and revised; (2) advising that discussions were currently ongoing with contractors, with a view to bringing forward future Capital Programme expenditure and that the outcome of the discussions would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee, and (3) highlighting within Appendix 1 to the report, the spending proposals.

Decided:

- (1) that the revised HRA Capital Programme for 2009/2010, as highlighted within Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (2) that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on proposals brought forward for future Capital Programme work following discussion with contractors, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

SUPPLEMENTATION RATE INCREASE IN ESTABLISHMENT OUTWITH THIS AUTHORITY

26. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 February 2009 by the Head of Housing and Social Work Resources detailing within the report the new supplementation rate increase for the organisation, Turning Point.

Decided: that the new supplementation rate increase as detailed within Section 2.2 of the report, be noted.

PROPOSED INCREASE TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION RATES 2009/1010 FOR ESTABLISHMENTS WITHIN NORTH LANARKSHIRE AND PROPOSED INCREASE TO INDEPENDENT CARE HOME FEES 2009/2010

27. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 February 2009 by the Head of Housing and Social Work Resources seeking approval for uplifts to the 2009/2010 maintenance rates for the voluntary organisations providing services located in North Lanarkshire (1) advising that the rates paid to voluntary organisations represented a charge for the client's use of the service; (2) proposing that, with the exception of Supported Living Services, the maintenance rates for voluntary sector services operating in North Lanarkshire for 2009/2010 be uplifted by 2%, with the increase covering all costs, including staffing; (3) intimating that Supporting Living Services were currently the subject of a tendering exercise which was due to conclude on 1 July 2009 and the outcome of the exercise would determine the supported living costs for the remainder of the financial year 2009/2010; (4) indicating that national negotiations were ongoing regarding independent sector care home fees, and (5) informing that the outcome of the Supported Living Services Tender for 2009/2010 and the national independent sector care home fee negotiations would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that a 2% increase in maintenance rates payable to voluntary sector services, excluding Supported Living Services, for 2009/2010, be approved, and
- (2) that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on the outcome of the Supported Living Services Tender and the national independent sector care home fees negotiations.

FORMER TENANT ARREARS WRITE-OFF TO 31 MARCH 2007

28. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 February 2009 by the Head of Housing and Social Work Resources (1) proposing that a sum of £600,659.31, being the current balance outstanding in respect of Former Tenant Arrears prior to 31 March 2007, be written off; (2) indicating that the write-off could be offset against the provision held in the Council's balance sheet as at 31 March 2008, which had been increased to reflect new accounting practices introduced to comply with audit recommendations, and (3) intimating that, if possible and practicable, efforts would continue to secure payment of outstanding rent balances from former tenants.

Decided:

- (1) that the write-off of Former Tenant Arrears totalling £600,659.31, in relation to the period ending 31 March 2007, be approved;
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Finance and Customer Services) Sub-Committee for consideration, and
- (3) that otherwise the terms of the report, be noted.

CONTRACTS

29. There were submitted reports by the Head of Design Services (1) providing details of tenders received for various contracts, and (2) advising that, following consultation with the Convener, the Executive Director of Corporate Services was progressing the tender acceptance of each of the projects, all in terms of his delegated powers, and as detailed below:-

- (a) the lowest tender for the rendering and re-roofing of Weir Multicom House Types at Newarthill (Phase 3), which was, after checking, that by Ailsa Building Limited, Coatbridge, in the sum of £144,985.03;
- (b) the lowest tender for the strengthening works to floors in houses in the Jerviston area of Motherwell, which was, after checking, that by JBC (Scotland) Limited, Dunfermline, in the sum of £62, 575.17, and
- (c) the most advantageous tenders for the Measured Term Contracts for Artex/Asbestos Surveys in Laboratory Testing, North and South Areas 2008/2010 which, having been evaluated on the basis of 60% price and 40% quality in accordance with the Construction Procurement Manual published by the Scottish Executive, was, after checking, for the North Area, Environtec Limited, Hamilton, and for the South Area, Environmental Essentials Limited, Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Decided:

- (1) that the action taken and being progressed by the Executive Director of Corporate Services following consultation with the Convener, in accepting each of the tenders, as detailed in the reports, be noted, and
- (2) that the reports be otherwise noted.

CARE AND REPAIR SERVICES IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

30. With reference to paragraph 21 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 22 October 2008 when, inter alia, subject to successful negotiations, the appointment of Clyde Valley Housing Association as the managing agent for the Care and Repair Service for the two year period beginning 1 April 2009 had been approved and it had been agreed that the outcome of the negotiation be reported to a future meeting of the Committee, there was submitted a report dated 11 February 2009 by the Head of Housing Services providing an update on the tender process carried out for North Lanarkshire's Care and Repair Service (1) outlining the background to the project; (2) advising that (a) after negotiation with the Clyde Valley Housing Association (CVHA), all previous concerns over price and quality had been satisfactorily resolved, and (b) CVHA had been appointed to provide North Lanarkshire's Care and Repair Service with effect from 1 April 2009, and (3) intimating that the contract would be for two years, with a one year option to extend the contract, subject to available funding and to the service provision remaining consistent with the Council's priorities.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

NEW BUILD PROGRAMME

31. With reference to (1) paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 17 December 2008 when, inter alia, the submission of a bid to the Scottish Government for a share of the funding available to support the New Build Council Housing had been approved, and (2) paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 29 January 2009 when there was considered a report dated 21 January 2009 by the Head of Housing and Social Work Resources advising that the original programme of 125 houses could be further enhanced by the application of £230,000 of additional Council Tax income, which would build a further 23 units and it was agreed, inter alia, that the Council New Build Programme be increased to provide 60 additional units, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 February 2009 by the Head of Housing Services seeking approval for the proposed approach to procure the next phase of the Council's New Build Programme (a) proposing that the tender for the next phase of the New Build Programme be based on the framework approach as detailed within Section 3 of the report, and (b) indicating that the potential partnership initiatives to procure units through a Design and Build approach in Cumbernauld and

Ravenscraig were being explored and would be the subject of a report to a future meeting of the Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposal to proceed to tender for the next phase of the New Build Programme, using a framework approach, as detailed within Section 3 of the report, be approved, and
- (2) that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee regarding potential partnership initiatives to procure units through a Design and Build approach in Cumbernauld and Ravenscraig.

PETITION

32. There was submitted a report dated 27 January 2009 by the Head of Social Work Development (1) outlining the background to concerns raised by petitioners regarding the proposed development of a small day care facility for older people in Westfield Road, Kilsyth; (2) advising that a development for a day care facility for older people was planned within the existing sheltered housing complex in Westfield Road, Kilsyth; (3) intimating that the facility was considered to be a desirable and much needed asset for older people in the Kilsyth Area, and (4) indicating that the proposed development had been considered by the Planning and Transportation Committee held on 15 January 2009 and had been continued for a site meeting and hearing.

Decided:

- (1) that the petition be noted, in light of the contents of the report, and
- (2) that the signatories of the petition be advised accordingly.

CONFERENCES

33. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 16 February 2009 by the Head of Central Services advising that four invitations had been received in respect of the attendance at conferences and proposing that consideration be given to these invitations.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council be represented at the undernoted conferences:-

Conference	Venue	Date	Attendance
Scrutiny Scotland: Creating Efficiency, Building Trust – How the New Reforms Affect You	Edinburgh	16 March 2009	Councillor Adamson
The Future of Child Protection in Scotland: Examining the Role of Social Services	Edinburgh	27 March 2009	Councillor Nolan
ADSW Annual Conference	Crieff	13-15 May 2009	Councillor McCulloch

and

- (2) that otherwise no attendance be authorised.
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