

Motherwell, 21 October 2009 at 10 am.

A Meeting of the HOUSING AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor McCulloch, Convener; Councillor Kelly, Vice-Convener; Councillors Adamson, Brooks, Burrows, Chadha, J. Coyle, Delaney, Devine, Grant, Hogg, Jones, Lunny, Lyle, McKendrick, McWilliams, Martin, Nolan, Sullivan, Taggart and Alan Valentine.

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 Finance and Admin Manager, Housing and Social Work Services, and Senior Accountant, Finance and Customer Services.

APOLOGIES

Councillor M. Coyle, Harmon, Higgins, Homer, J. Love, McGlinchey, McKay, McKenna and Welsh.

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

1. There were no declarations of interest.

SOCIAL WORK AND NON-HRA SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET BASE ESTIMATES 2010/2011

2. With reference to paragraph 21 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 15 September 2009 when, inter alia, it had been (1) noted that the announcement regarding the Scottish Government Budget would be on 17 September 2009, with individual local authority allocations following, and (2) agreed (a) that there would be an increase in the Service and People First Efficiency Target from £10m to £15m for 2010/2011, and (b) that detailed efficiency proposals be brought forward and reported to Committees during the next Committee Cycle as part of the normal budget planning process, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 October 2009 by the Executive Director of Finance and Customer Services regarding progress to date in developing the Housing and Social Work Services 2010/2011 Base Revenue Budget (A) detailing within the report, a summary of the Social Work and Non-HRA Services' Base Revenue Budget 2010/2011, including provision for cost pressures, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, and (B) intimating within the report, further developments required to be taken into consideration regarding the Revenue Budget for 2010/2011.

Decided:

- (1) that the arrangements for taking forward the budget process for 2010/2011, be noted, and
- (2) that the base budget adjustments contained within the report, and Appendix 1 thereto, be approved.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COMMON HOUSING REGISTER - PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 21 October 2009 by the Head of Housing Services regarding the arrangements for the future maintenance and further development of the Common Housing Register and seeking approval of the proposed cost sharing model (1) outlining the background to the Common Housing Register, which had been developed by a partnership of the Council and Registered Social Landlords operating in the North Lanarkshire area, with a copy of the partnership agreement attached as Appendix 1 to the report; (2) proposing that (a) a Management Board be established to agree the operational and procedural functions of the Common Housing Register, and (b) the Council be represented on the Board by the Quality and Performance Division of Housing Services; (3) intimating that each participating landlord would, under the terms of the agreement, make a financial contribution towards the operational cost of maintaining the Common Housing Register, and (4) detailing, within the report, a list of all landlords who were participating in the Common Housing Register.

Decided:

- (1) that the Partnership Agreement, as set out within Appendix 1 to the report, be approved, and
- (2) that the arrangements for representation on the Management Board, as set out within Section 3.1 of the report, be approved.

REVIEW OF LAUNDRY CHARGES WITHIN TOWER BLOCKS

4. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 30 September 2009 by the Head of Housing and Social Work Resources regarding options for increasing the current charges for laundry facilities within tower blocks (1) outlining the background to the current charging arrangements for laundry facilities which were subsidised from the Housing Revenue Account by £180,000, and the need for the increase in charges, and (2) intimating (a) within the report, new charges proposed over the next four years, which would be introduced through a graduated approach, and (b) that there would be a 15p increase for washes, and 25p for a drying cycle, to be effective from when the necessary arrangements were put in place, with an increase annually thereafter.

Decided:

- (1) that a graduated approach to the increase of laundry charges, be approved;
- (2) that approval be given that there be a 15p increase for washes and 25p for the drying cycle, which would be effective from when the necessary arrangements were put in place with an increase annually thereafter, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT AND ADAPTATIONS

5. With reference to (1) paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 12 January 2006 when, inter alia, the Prioritisation Framework of Social Work Services had been approved, and (2) paragraph 23 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 19 August 2009 when Members were informed that any amendments made to the Council's Prioritisation Framework would be in accordance with final guidance issued by the Scottish Government, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 30 September 2009 by the Head of Social Work Development seeking approval to introduce measures to improve the provision of equipment and adaptation services (a) outlining the background to the provision of equipment and adaptations in supporting people to remain at home and the current Prioritisation Framework; (b) proposing that (A) as the existing priority points system applied to people with housing need was no longer consistent with

current legislation or policy, that the points system be replaced with the application of the existing Prioritisation Framework; (B) the revised Prioritisation Framework would be complemented by the development of an integrated equipment and adaptations service, and (C) the service would operate across tenure and would offer a range of services, as detailed within the report, and (c) detailing within the report, the funding position.

Decided: that the service improvement of the provision of equipment and adaptations be approved.

NEW BUILD PROGRAMME

6. **C** With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 19 August 2009, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 21 October 2009 by the Head of Housing Services regarding proposed sites being considered for the New Build Programme and seeking approval for changes to the Housing Allocation Policy in respect of amenity housing (1) advising that (a) the Council's New Build Programme had expanded significantly from the original programme of 125 units and, in order to ensure delivery of the Programme, an adequate supply of potential sites needed to be identified, and (b) a list of Council owned sites currently being considered was contained within the report; (2) indicating that (a) there was an ongoing liaison with officers of the Property Services Section to identify other Council owned sites which may be suitable for the New Build Programme, and (b) the option of purchasing completed houses from developers and/or Housing Associations was also being explored, with details of any proposed acquisitions being subject of a separate report to a future Committee; (3) intimating that (a) in order to make best use of the Council's housing stock, a number of new build sites would be developed for amenity housing for older people and would be built to Housing for Varying Needs Standards, and (b) the houses would be fitted with a community alarm linked to the Merrystone Care Base, and (4) proposing that, as the Council's current Housing Allocation Policy did not have provision for the allocation of amenity housing for older people, Section 6a of the Housing Allocation Policy be amended, as detailed within the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the list of sites that were currently being considered for development as part of the Council's New Build Programme, be noted, and
- (2) that the proposed change to the Housing Allocation Policy, as detailed within the report, be approved.

PROPOSALS FOR SALE OF MODULAR EXTENSIONS

7. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing and Social Work Services Committee held on 22 October 1997 when, inter alia, it had been agreed to use modular extensions to meet the needs of disabled people who had been assessed as requiring an extension, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 21 October 2009 by the Head of Housing Services seeking approval to pursue proposals to sell modular extensions (1) advising that (a) extensions had been fitted on appropriate houses under a Licence to Occupy Agreement which specified that the structure would be exempt from any Right to Buy applications, and (b) over the last 12 years a number of tenants had exercised the right to buy a house without taking on ownership of the modular extension, and that this has created difficulties for the Council in terms of maintenance of the units; (2) intimating that (a) a number of enquiries had been received from owners seeking to purchase the extension, and (b) due to issues such as continuing maintenance of structure the advice from the Head of Legal Services was now supporting the sale of modular extensions to maximise the capital receipt to the Council, and (3) proposing that (a) if an application to buy was received, that the Council seek agreement with the tenant to sell the entire accommodation under normal Right to Buy administrative procedures, with a valuation of the traditional built house and extension provided by the District Valuer at the time of the sale; (b) all future responsibility for the modular extension in terms of maintenance

and upkeep would fall to the new owner; (c) with regard to former Council houses with ownership of modular extensions retained by the Council, if an application was received to purchase the modular extension, the District Valuer would be approached to assess the value and, once the valuation was received, an offer of sale would be made to the owner; (d) if no application was received to purchase the modular extension, the owner would be approached offering to sell the unit at a valuation agreed by the District Valuer and applying, retrospectively, the terms of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, and (e) in the future, should a modular extension be erected, no Licence Agreement would be completed, however, the unit would be covered by the terms of the overall Tenancy Agreement.

Decided: that the proposals to allow the future sale of modular extensions to proceed, be approved.

SCOTTISH CHURCHES HOUSING ACTION - VOLUNTEERING TO TACKLE AND PREVENT HOMELESSNESS

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 21 October 2009 by the Head of Housing Services seeking approval to engage with Scottish Churches Housing Action (SCHA) in mobilising and building the capacity of local volunteers to assist people who were vulnerable and at risk of homelessness in North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the background to, and the need for, participation within the project; (2) advising that SCHA already had regular contact with main churches in North Lanarkshire and would like to develop the project further; (3) intimating that, in order to take the work forward, the organisation would require funding of £9,480 over two financial years to cover the administration expenses during the 18 months development period, and (4) proposing that the cost of £9,480 be met from existing budgets dedicated to preventing and tackling homelessness.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposal, to engage with Scottish Churches Housing Action in mobilising local churches to tackle homelessness in North Lanarkshire, be approved, and
- (2) that the use of the development costs of £9,480 from existing budgets dedicated to preventing and tackling homelessness, be approved.

ACCOMMODATION SURPLUS TO OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS - 21 BROOMKNOLL STREET, AIRDRIE

9. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 8 September 2009 by the Head of Housing Services (1) seeking approval to declare the office accommodation at 21 Broomknoll Street, Airdrie, surplus to the operational requirements of the Housing and Social Work Service, and (2) detailing, within the report, proposals for the transfer of all day-to-day business.

Decided:

- (1) that the office accommodation at 21 Broomknoll Street, Airdrie, be declared surplus to the operational requirements of the Housing and Social Work Service;
- (2) that the disposal be progressed in accordance with Council's policy and surplus land and buildings, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Property) Sub-Committee for consideration.

ANNUAL REPORT ON USE AND MONITORING OF INDEPENDENT SECTOR CARE SERVICES

10. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 16 September 2009 by the Head of Social Work Development (1) providing details of the monitoring of independent sector care services provided on behalf of the Council from April to September 2009; (2) advising of contractual activity and contract monitoring outcomes in relation to services and, within Appendix 1 to the report, listing all services subject to monitoring, and (3) highlighting those services with regard to older adults, care at home, younger adults, children and young people, justice services and advocacy which had been subject to periods of enhanced monitoring in 2009/2010.

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

REVENUE MONITORING REPORTS – 1 APRIL TO 11 SEPTEMBER 2009 - PERIOD 6

(1) HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) 1 APRIL TO 11 SEPTEMBER 2009

11. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 29 September 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 to 11 September 2009, and (2) intimating that variances were reported for both year-to-date and projected outturn, with the major outturn variances being highlighted and explained, and additional details regarding budget variations outlined within the report, and appendices to the report.

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

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

12. There was submitted a report dated 29 September 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 Service budgets for the period 1 April to 11 September 2009, and (2) intimating that variances were reported for both the year-to-date and projected outturn, with major outturn variances highlighted and explained, and additional details regarding budget variations outlined within the report, and the appendices to the report.

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

CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MONITORING REPORTS - 1 APRIL TO 11 SEPTEMBER 2009 - PERIOD 6

(1) 2009/2010 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) CAPITAL PROGRAMME

13. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 29 September 2009 by the Head of Housing and Social Work Resources reviewing progress towards achieving agreed spending plans within the 2009/2010 HRA Capital Programme (1) intimating, within Appendix 1 to the report, a summary of the programme and the actual spend to 11 September 2009, and (2) indicating 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 terms of the report, be noted, and
- (2) that further reports be submitted to future meetings of the Committee on any adjustments to approved spending plans required during the remainder of the year.

(2) SOCIAL WORK SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/2010

14. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 14 September 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 11 September 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, slippage that had been identified during the mid year review.

Decided:

- (1) that the actual spend of the Social Work Services Capital Programme 2009/2010 at 11 September 2009, be noted, and
- (2) that otherwise the terms of the report, be noted.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME (HRA) - 2008/2009 FINAL OUTTURN AND 2009/2010 MID YEAR REVIEW

15. With reference to paragraph 18 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 13 May 2009 when, *inter alia*, the proposed acceleration of spend of £11,100,000 into the approved 2009/2010 HRA Capital Programme had been approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 29 September 2009 by the Head of Housing Services regarding the final outturn on the 2008/2009 Housing Capital Programme (HRA) and reviewing spending plans for the current year's programme (1) summarising, within Appendix 1 to the report, the final outturn on the 2008/2009 Capital Programme; (2) advising that (a) a review of the 2009/2010 programme was now required to ensure that spending plans were re-aligned to reflect updated resource and expenditure projections, together with variations in the level of commitment brought forward from 2008/2009, and (b) based on current assumptions, capital receipts were expected to be approximately £7.944m lower than previously anticipated due to a reduction in the level of Right to Buy sales forecast for the year; (3) proposing that, to offset the shortfall, the prudential borrowing in the current year be varied, with the level of borrowing requiring to remain flexible to accommodate further changes in capital receipt levels during the remainder of the year, and (4) detailing the capital resources for 2009/2010, with revised spending proposals outlined within Appendix 2 to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the final outturn of the 2008/2009 HRA Capital Programme, as summarised at Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;
- (2) that the revised Capital Programme 2009/2010, as set out within Appendix 2 to the report, be approved, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

GENERAL DEBTORS' BAD DEBT WRITE-OFF

16. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 1 September 2009 by the Head of Housing and Social Work Resources regarding a formal write-off for outstanding debt which was deemed uncollectable for Housing and Social Work Services (1) providing details of debt which was considered to be unrecoverable, including debt under £250, amounting to £41,933.76 and £72,963.15 for Social Work Services and Housing Services respectively, which had been written off by the Executive Director of Finance and Customer Services; (2) proposing that a number of debts greater than £250 amounting in total to £39,786.89 and £146,032.28 for Social Work Services and Housing Services respectively, be written off, with the analysis of the total write-off detailed within Appendices 1 and 2 of the report, and (3) advising that the Executive Director of Housing and Social Work Services continue to make every effort to collect outstanding debt.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that the Executive Director of Finance and Customer Services had used his delegated powers to write-off debt under £250, amounting to £41,933.76 and £72,963.15 for Social Work Services and Housing Services respectively, which was considered to be uncollectable;
- (2) that the write-off of a number of items over £250 to the value of £39,786.89 and £146,032.28 for Social Work Services and Housing Services respectively, be approved, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Finance and Customer Services) Sub-Committee for consideration.

SUPPLEMENTATION RATE INCREASES IN ESTABLISHMENTS OUTWITH THIS AUTHORITY

17. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 1 October 2009 by the Head of Housing and Social Work Resources notifying of changes in the supplementation rate set by other local authorities for residential and day care establishments in the Voluntary Sector located in their area.

Decided: that the new supplementation rate increases, as detailed within Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

CONTRACTS

18. 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 Facade Cleaning of Tower Blocks at Glen and Millbrae Courts, Coatbridge, which was, after checking, that by Bell Decorating Group Limited, Airdrie, in the sum of £77,500, and
- (b) the lowest tender for the Sprinkler System to Thrashbush Hostel, Thrashbush Quadrant, Airdrie, which was, after checking, that by Tyco Fire and Integrated Solutions (UK) Limited, East Kilbride, in the sum of £56,238.75.

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 otherwise the reports be noted.

TERM MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR PRESERVATION WORKS

19. With reference to paragraph 22 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 22 October 2008, there was submitted a report dated 24 September 2009 by the Head of Housing Services (1) seeking approval to extend the existing contract for preservation works with Richardson and Starling (Northern) Limited, Glasgow, for a further period of four months from 1 December 2009 to 31 March 2010, at the existing rates; (2) intimating that discussions were taking place to include this work within that allocated to the MPC Partnership; (3) proposing that (a) a further extension period of four months

be granted to Richardson and Starling, and (b) the Head of Design Services continue with tender preparations in the event of negotiations with MPC failing to agree acceptable terms, and (4) indicating that a further report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on the outcome of negotiations and tender returns.

Decided:

- (1) that the contract for preservation works currently with Richardson and Starling, be extended, for a further period of four months from 1 December 2009 to 31 March 2010, and
- (2) that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on the outcomes of negotiations.

RETENDER OF CONTRACTS FOR HOMELESSNESS SUPPORTED INTERIM ACCOMMODATION

20. With reference to paragraph 19 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 25 February 2009 when the contract for Housing Support Services had been extended until 31 March 2010, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 21 October 2009 by the Head of Housing Services seeking approval for (1) a proposed accommodation partnership arrangement with Cumbernauld YM/YWCA, and (2) the proposed redesign and retendering of Supported Interim Accommodation Services currently undertaken by independent sector providers (a) outlining the background to the existing Housing Support Service providers; (b) advising that the Managing Director of Cumbernauld YM/YWCA had highlighted a potential opportunity for the Council to make a more effective use of the Council owned Kildrum House in Cumbernauld; (c) proposing that (A) Kildrum House be utilised as emergency temporary accommodation for a range of households in the area, with Cumbernauld YM/YWCA being retained to locally manage the accommodation in return for a management fee, based on the fees currently paid to other similar providers; (B) the Supported Interim Accommodation Services provided by Blue Triangle Housing Association at the projects in Black Street and Mason Street, and by Scottish Association for Mental Health at the Bridgework Project, be retendered as one contract; (C) to enable the retendering process, and as each contract was due to end on 31 March 2010, the existing contracts be extended to 30 June 2010; (D) the new Service Contract be established for a three year period from July 2010, with an option to extend for a further two years to bring it in line with the retendered Housing Support Outreach Services; (E) the Supported Interim Accommodation Service be re-tendered in line with the Council's current procurement policy, and (F) it be noted that the Employment Regulations 2006 (TUPE) may apply to any resultant contracts, and (d) detailing, within the report, the total current annual budget of £774,462 for the Services, with a large proportion of the costs being met from rental income.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposal to utilise Kildrum House as emergency temporary accommodation for a range of households in the area, with Cumbernauld YM/YWCA being retained to locally manage the accommodation in return for a management fee, based on the fees currently paid to other similar providers, be approved;
- (2) that a three month extension to the current Supported Interim Accommodation Contracts from their existing date of 31 March 2010 to 30 June 2010, as detailed within the report, be approved;
- (3) that the proposed tender route to the redesigned service as outlined within the report, to allow time for the procurement and for services to be in place by 31 July 2010, be approved, and
- (4) that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on the outcome of the tendering process.

TENDER FOR HOME CARE SERVICES

21. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 19 August 2009, when the recommendations of the Best Value Review of Home Care had been approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 September 2009 by the Head of Social Work Development seeking approval of the process for retendering of independent sector Home Care Contracts (1) advising that, in 2008/2009, approximately 435,000 hours of total home care services in North Lanarkshire were provided by the Independent Sector Services, and (2) proposing that (a) due to the value of the Service and in line with EU Regulations and the Council's Standing Orders, the contract be retendered; (b) the contract duration be for four years, with the option to extend for one additional year, and (c) it be noted that the Employment Regulations 2006 (TUPE) may apply to any resultant contracts.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given for the Independent Home Care Services contract to be retendered, and
- (2) that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on the outcome of the retendering exercise.

FURNITURE STORAGE, REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL SERVICES

22. With reference to paragraph 39 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 18 August 2008, when the award of the contract for the supply of furniture packs and for removal and storage of furnishings to the Furnishing Service Limited, East Kilbride, for a three year period, subject to an annual review had been approved, there was submitted a report dated 1 October 2009 by the Head of Housing Services seeking approval to commence the procurement process for the retendering of the furniture storage, removal and disposal services project (1) outlining the background to the existing contract for the requirements of furniture storage and removal; (2) advising that additional requirements for Furniture Storage and Removal Service, based on Void Properties and Abandonment had recently been identified and was now required to be merged into the new contract to ensure Housing Services was procuring the Furniture Storage Removal and Disposal requirements under a single arrangement, and (3) proposing that (a) the new contract be for a 24 month period, with an option to extend the contract for up to a further 24 months at the Council's discretion, with the intention of having the new contract ready for the beginning of financial year 2010/11, and (b) as the estimated contract value of £2m exceeded the financial threshold stipulated, the contract would be subject to an EU compliant procurement.

Decided: that the competitive tendering of the Furniture Storage, Removal and Disposal Contract, as detailed within the report, be approved.

PETITIONS

(1) PROPOSED LANE CLOSURES WITHIN THE AREA OF NOBLE ROAD/WARNOCK CRESCENT, BELLSHILL

23. With reference to paragraph 44 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 19 August 2009, there was submitted a report dated 21 September 2009 by the Head of Housing Services regarding a request to close two public lanes within the area of Noble Road/Warnock Crescent, Bellshill (1) advising that, after investigation by the Area Housing Officer, a letter had been sent to local residents informing of the petition and giving an opportunity to raise any objections or concerns they may have regarding the proposed closures; (2) intimating that officers of the Ground Maintenance and Estates Section and Planning and Transportation Service, of Environmental Services had indicated that the lane located between 28 and 30 Warnock Crescent was required to

remain open for use for vehicular access for ground maintenance machinery; (3) indicating that eight objections had been received to the proposed closures, and (4) proposing that, as it was unlikely that planning consent would be granted to close the lane at 51 Noble Road, Bellshill, both lanes remain open.

Decided:

- (1) that the lanes at 28 and 30 Warnock Crescent, and 51 Noble Road, Bellshill, remain open;
- (2) that the signatories of the petition be advised accordingly, and
- (3) that otherwise the terms of the report, be noted.

(2) RESIDENTS OF AN AREA IN WISHAW (A) OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF A LANE BETWEEN EARN CRESCENT AND LINNHE CRESCENT, AND (B) REQUESTING THAT THE LANE BETWEEN EARN CRESCENT AND LINNHE CRESCENT, WISHAW BE CLOSED

24. With reference to paragraph 45 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 19 August 2009, there was submitted a report regarding two opposing petitions from residents in the Pather area of Wishaw regarding a request for lane closure (1) outlining the background to the concerns raised by all petitioners; (2) advising that (a) after investigation by the Area Housing Officer, it was considered that the problems around and within the lane would be addressed through joint liaison with Officers of Housing Services in relation to Estate Management, Officers of the Anti-Social Task Force and Strathclyde Police, and (b) evening visits would be made to discuss problems with those who may be congregating in and around the lane, and (3) intimating that in view of the level of objection, and as the lane was used by a number of elderly residents and school children, the request to close the lane be refused.

Decided:

- (1) that the action taken by the Area Housing Officer and Officer, be noted;
- (2) that the signatories of the petition be advised accordingly, and
- (3) that otherwise the terms of the report, be noted.

(3) RESIDENTS OF LAMLASH PLACE, MOTHERWELL REGARDING THE LETTING OF A PROPERTY

25. With reference to paragraph 46 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 19 August 2009, there was submitted a report dated 21 October 2009 by the Head of Housing Services regarding a petition received from residents of an area of Motherwell regarding the letting of a property (1) outlining the background to the concerns raised by the petitioners; (2) advising that, in accordance with the Council's Letting Policy, a number of applicants had been considered for the tenancy of this house following the completion of background reports and no-one with the background as suggested by the petitioners had been formally offered the property, and (3) intimating that, at present, the house was still in the process of being re-let to a suitable applicant under the Letting Policy guidelines and a letter explaining the procedures followed by the Council in letting the house had been sent to petitioners.

Decided:

- (1) that the action of the Area Housing Officer, be noted;

- (2) that the signatories of the petition be advised accordingly, and
- (3) that otherwise the terms of the report, be noted.

(4) ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR COMPLAINT, KILSYTH

26. With reference to paragraph 47 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 19 August 2009, there was submitted a report dated 1 October 2009 by the Head of Housing Services regarding a petition received from residents of an area of Kilsyth regarding anti-social behaviour of two Council tenants (1) outlining the background to and the concerns raised by the petitioners; (2) intimating that staff from the Area Housing Office were reviewing information from Strathclyde Police in regard to the petition and interviews had been conducted with petitioners to establish their concerns, and (3) advising that the tenancies would be reviewed in accordance with the current procedures and legal powers available.

Decided:

- (1) that the action of the Area Housing Officer, be noted;
- (2) that the signatories of the petition be advised accordingly, and
- (3) that otherwise the terms of the report, be noted.

(5) PUBLIC FOOTPATH AT LINNET ROAD, BELLSHILL

27. There was submitted a report dated 21 September 2009 by the Head of Housing Services advising of receipt of a petition from residents of Linnet Road, Bellshill requesting the closure of a public footpath (1) outlining the background to the concerns raised by the petitioners; (2) advising that, after investigation by the Area Housing Officer, a letter had been sent to local residents advising them of the petition and giving the opportunity to raise any objections or concerns they may have in relation to the proposed closure, with only one resident objecting to the proposal; (3) intimating that the proposed closure had been discussed with officers of Ground Maintenance and Estates, Environmental Services who had advised that, as long as there remained a set of gates wide enough to allow access for machinery, the closure of the footpath would not impede their routine maintenance arrangements, and (4) proposing that, in accordance with the residents' wishes and subject to seeking the appropriate planning consent, the lane at Linnet Road, Bellshill, be closed to the public to reduce instances of vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

Decided:

- (1) that it be agreed, in principle, that the lane at Linnet Road, Bellshill, be closed, subject to planning consent;
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Planning and Transportation Committee for consideration;
- (3) that the signatories of the petition be advised accordingly, and
- (4) that otherwise the terms of the report, be noted.

(6) RESIDENTS OF SHOTTS AND DISTRICT REGARDING THE FUTURE PROVISION OF RESIDENTIAL CARE SERVICES WITHIN HERBISTON HOUSE RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME

28. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 19 August 2009, when it was agreed, inter alia, that the residents of Herbiston House, Shotts, be given the

opportunity to relocate to the modernised Rosehall Manor Home, Shotts, or to an alternative accommodation of their choice and that new admissions to Herbiston House cease, there was submitted a report dated 2 October 2009 by the Head of Social Work Development (1) advising that a Petition had been received from residents of Shotts and District opposing the closure of Herbiston House; (2) intimating that meetings had been held with residents and families concerned to outline the background to the recommendations to cease admissions to Herbiston House and the process involved in offering alternative accommodation, and (3) indicating that the Service would respect the wishes and preferences of families with regard to alternative accommodation.

Decided:

- (1) that the action taken by Housing and Social Work Services staff, be noted;
- (2) that the signatories of the petition be advised accordingly, and
- (3) that otherwise the terms of the report, be noted.

CONFERENCES

29. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 October 2009 by the Head of Central Services advising that 12 invitations had been received in respect of the attendance at conferences and proposing that consideration be given to these invitations.

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

Conference	Venue	Date	Attendance
Fairness and the Consumer – The Impact of the Recession on Vulnerable Consumers	Edinburgh	29 October 2009	One Member
Life in the Fast Lane: The Road to Better Outcomes for Children and Young People	East Kilbride	5 and 6 November 2009	One Member
Disability Equality in Scotland	Glasgow	24 November 2009	One Member
CIH Scotland Annual Conference and Exhibition 2010	Glasgow	16-18 March 2010	Two Members
CIH Annual Conference and Exhibition 2010	Harrogate	22-24 June 2010	Two Members

and

- (2) that otherwise no attendance be authorised.