Motherwell, 15 June 2004 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

PRESENT
Councillor McCulloch, Convener; Councillors Ross and Smith, Vice-Conveners; Councillors Chadha, Fagan, Gordon, Gormill, Gray, Holloway, Homer, Lyle, McAuley, McGhee, H. McGuigan, McKendrick, McLaughlin, Maginnis, Robertson, Stocks and Valentine.

CHAIR
Councillor McCulloch (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE
The Chief Executive; Director of Administration; Director of Finance; Director of Social Work; Assistant Chief Executive; Commercial Partnership Manager; Head of Central Services; Head of Housing Services and Education Officer.

APOLOGIES
Councillors M. Clark, Griffin, McCabe, McElroy and Pentland.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF AREA COMMITTEES

(1) AIRDRIE AREA COMMITTEE
1. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Airdrie Area Committee held on 1 June 2004.
   Decided: that the terms of the Minute be approved.

(2) BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE
2. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Bellishill and District Area Committee held on 3 June 2004.
   Decided: that the terms of the Minute be approved.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

(1) POLICY AND RESOURCES (PROPERTY) SUB-COMMITTEE
3. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources (Property) Sub-Committee held on 27 May 2004.
   Decided: that, it having been noted that the following paragraph of the Minute is subject to consideration and disposal by the Council:-
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C Paragraph 24 - Abolition of Feudal Tenure Etc. (Scotland) Act 2000 and the Title Conditions (Scotland) Act 2003

the terms of the Minute be approved.

(2) POLICY AND RESOURCES (FINANCE) SUB-COMMITTEE

4. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources (Finance) Sub-Committee held on 1 June 2004.

With reference to paragraph 7 thereof, and having regard to the importance of maintaining the Council’s satisfactory budgetary performance, Councillor Smith proposed that a Policy and Resources (Establishment Monitoring) Sub-Committee to be chaired by the Leader be established to look at proposals for staffing restructures within departments and monitor vacancy levels and overtime, with the remit and membership of the Sub-Committee being considered at the Council meeting.

Decided:

(1) that, it having been noted that the following paragraphs of the Minute are subject to consideration and disposal by the Council:-

C (a) Paragraph 7 - Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2003/2004 - Provisional Outturn - Council Summary, and

C (b) Paragraph 22 - Procurement Strategy

the terms of the Minute be approved, and

(2) that it be recommended to the Council that a Policy and Resources (Establishment Monitoring) Sub-Committee be established.

(3) POLICY AND RESOURCES (PERSONNEL) SUB-COMMITTEE

5. There were submitted the Minutes of the special meeting and meeting of the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee held on 29 April and 2 June 2004, respectively.

Decided: that the terms of the Minutes be approved.

REMIT FROM SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE OF 20 MAY 2004 - WORKING TOGETHER: SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE

6. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 20 May 2004, when that Committee, having considered a report (docketed as relative to the meeting of that Committee) dated 7 April 2004 by the Director of Social Work advising of issues arising from the Working Together Conference on Supported Employment held on 26 March 2004 and proposing that the recommendations be implemented, had agreed (1) that the recommendations set out in Section 3.8 of the report be adopted by the Council, and (2) that the report be remitted to this Committee for consideration, the Committee considered the report.

Decided: that the decision of the Social Work Committee be endorsed.
BREASTFEEDING FRIENDLY LANARKSHIRE CAMPAIGN - STATEMENT OF INTENT

7. There was submitted a letter dated April 2004 from the Lanarkshire Breastfeeding Initiative seeking the Council's support for the Breastfeeding Friendly Lanarkshire Campaign by the signing of a Statement of Intent, with regard to breastfeeding.

Decided: that the Statement of Intent be endorsed.

CONFORMITY WITH CIPFA/SOLACE CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND ACTION PLAN FOR 2004/2005

8. With reference to paragraphs 25 and 6 of the Minutes of the meetings of this Committee held on 24 June and 25 November 2003 respectively, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 May 2004 by the Chief Executive (1) summarising the Council's level of compliance with the CIPFA/SOLACE Code of Corporate Governance during 2002/2003 and 2003/2004, when the Council had attained 79% and 94% respectively; (2) detailing in Appendix 1 to the report, the full assessment carried out in 2003/2004; (3) advising that the Council had achieved 100% compliance in the assessment carried out in April 2004; (4) indicating that the next stage of the process required a programme of audits and checks to verify the integrity of the systems now in place and to ensure continued improvement, and (5) referring to the Internal Audit report on the Corporate Governance arrangements, which had identified areas where improvements could be made and which had now been incorporated into the Draft Corporate Governance Action Plan 2004/2005, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

Decided:

(1) that it be noted that the authority had achieved 100% full compliance with the Corporate Governance Code;
(2) that the publication of assurance statements in appropriate publications be approved;
(3) that the Draft Corporate Governance Action Plan 2004/2005, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved, and
(4) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE (SCOTLAND) BILL: CONSULTATION ON DRAFT PROTOCOL FOR MULTI-MEMBER WORKING

9. Reference having been made to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 10 February 2004, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 May 2004 by the Director of Administration (1) advising that the Scottish Executive had sought the Council's views, by 16 June 2004, on draft guidance on the protocol for relationships between ward members, which had been prepared by the Single Transferable Vote Working Group and which was attached as an Appendix to the report; (2) summarising the content of the draft guidance, and (3) outlining the observations of the Member/Officer Group on the Local Governance (Scotland) Bill on the proposed protocol.

Decided: that the observations of the Member/Officer Group on the Local Governance (Scotland) Bill form the basis of the Council's response to the consultation, to be submitted by the deadline of 16 June 2004.
SCOTTISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ELECTIONS) ACT 2002 - ELECTORAL PILOT SCHEMES

10. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 10 February 2004, when, inter alia, Officers had been authorised to investigate (1) the possibility of an all-postal pilot scheme involving mechanised issue and recording of return of ballot papers, and (2) the feasibility of a pilot scheme including an option for electronic casting of votes, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 May by the Chief Executive (a) advising that investigations were ongoing in relation to the two options for pilot schemes; (b) proposing, in the meantime, that an electoral pilot scheme, whereby information would be obtained as to the extent of the preference for voting by post, be undertaken in the event of a By-Election; (c) detailing the arrangements for the proposed pilot, and (d) outlining the implications of such a pilot scheme.

Decided: that in the event of a Council By-Election occurring, the pilot arrangements, as detailed in paragraph 3.3 of the report, be put into effect.

INTRODUCTION OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION - MOTION BY WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL

11. There was submitted a letter dated 11 May 2004 from West Lothian Council advising that their Council had passed a motion calling on the Scottish Executive to amend the Local Governance Bill to allow a referendum on the use of proportional representation for local government elections prior to the introduction of the Bill.

Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Maginnis, moved that the Motion by West Lothian Council be welcomed and noted.

Councillor Lyle, seconded by Councillor Homer, moved, as an amendment, that no action be taken in relation to the letter.

On a vote being taken, 4 Members voted for the amendment and 15 Members voted for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

Decided: that the Motion by West Lothian Council be welcomed and noted.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

12. Reference having been made to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 10 February 2004, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 May 2004 by the Director of Administration (1) advising that action required to be taken in advance of 1 January 2005, when the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 comes into full force, to ensure that posts at both Corporate and Departmental level were in place to discharge the functions of the Act and to train the necessary staff; (2) enclosing indicative statements of responsibility, prepared by the Freedom of Information Working Group, for the posts of Corporate Freedom of Information Officer and Departmental Freedom of Information Officer, as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report, respectively, which could form the basis of job descriptions; (3) indicating that, while a dedicated post of Corporate Freedom of Information Officer was considered necessary, each Department would require to consider whether one or more posts, depending on the volume of request, were required, either to be covered by dedicated posts or included within an existing post; (4) proposing that authority be delegated to (a) the Corporate Freedom of Information Officer to determine initial requests under the Act, and (b) the Director of Administration and the Heads of Central Services and Legal Services to determine appeals; (5) pointing out that comprehensive training would be required for all Freedom of Information Officers prior to January 2005, and (6) proposing (a) that the post of Corporate Freedom of Information Officer, with appropriate support, be established within the Department of Administration; (b) that each Department determine, at managerial level, the action required to be taken regarding Departmental Freedom of Information Officer responsibilities, and (c)
that the posts of Corporate and Departmental Freedom of Information Officers be in place no later than 1 November 2004.

Decided:

(1) that the indicative statements of responsibilities of, respectively, the Corporate Freedom of Information Officer and the Departmental Freedom of Information Officer, as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report, respectively, be approved;

(2) that the Director of Administration be authorised to review the structure of the Department of Administration and, if necessary and following the approval of the Policy and Resources (Establishment Monitoring) Sub-Committee, to establish a post of Corporate Freedom of Information Officer and such other post or posts as are required to support the Corporate Freedom of Information Officer, on a salary grade and terms and conditions to be determined;

(3) that action be taken to identify a post or posts within each Department of the Council to discharge the responsibilities of the Departmental Freedom of Information Officer and that the Director of Administration be authorised, following the approval of the Policy and Resources (Establishment Monitoring) Sub-Committee, to revise each departmental structure to make provision for such post or posts, including grades and terms and conditions;

(4) that a further report be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee detailing the staffing and resource implications;

(5) that the Corporate Freedom of Information Officer be authorised, on behalf of the Council, to determine initial requests for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002;

(6) that the Director of Administration, Head of Central Services and Head of Legal Services be authorised, on behalf of the Council, to determine appeals, and

(7) that otherwise the position be noted meantime.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL DRAFT PERFORMANCE PLAN 2004/2005

13. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 June 2004 by the Chief Executive (1) enclosing, for consideration, the draft North Lanarkshire Council Performance Plan 2004/2005, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, and (2) indicating that the outcomes from the Performance Plan would be contained within the Annual Performance Report for 2004/2005 to be published in September 2004.

Decided:

(1) that the North Lanarkshire Council Draft Performance Plan 2004/2005 be approved, and

(2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

DRAFT CIVIL CONTINGENCIES BILL

14. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 May 2004 by the Chief Executive (1) outlining the Draft Civil Contingencies Bill, which related to Local Authority arrangements for civil protection and emergency powers and was expected to be implemented in the summer of 2005; (2) indicating that a Regulatory Working Group had been established by the Scottish Executive to develop proposals for regulations and guidance in terms of the Bill, and (3) advising of the possible implications for the Council.
Decided:

(1) that a further report by the Chief Executive be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee detailing the exact implications for the Council of the Draft Civil Contingencies Bill, and

(2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS’ CONSULTATION - NATIONAL IDENTITY CARDS

15. There was submitted a report dated 27 May 2004 by the Director of Administration (1) advising of a consultation received from the National Association of Councillors seeking the views of the Council on the contents of a national identity card, if introduced by the Government, and (2) enclosing a proposed response, as detailed in the Appendix to the report.

Decided: that the response to the consultation by the National Association of Councillors on identity cards, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, be approved.

FAMILY MATTERS - IMPROVING FAMILY LAW IN SCOTLAND - CONSULTATION

16. There was submitted a report dated 7 June 2004 by the Chief Executive (1) advising that a consultation document entitled “Family Matters - Improving Family Law in Scotland” had been received from the Scottish Executive, inviting the Council’s comments thereon by 28 June 2004; (2) outlining the contents of the consultation document, and (3) enclosing a proposed response to the consultation paper, as detailed in Appendix One to the report.

Decided:

(1) that the response to the consultation, as outlined in Appendix One to the report, be approved;

(2) that the Chief Executive be authorised to submit the response to the Scottish Executive by the due date of 28 June 2004, and

(3) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EVERY CHILD - CONSULTATION

17. There was submitted a report dated 8 June 2004 by the Chief Executive (1) advising that a consultation document entitled “Getting it Right for Every Child - Review of the Children’s Hearing System” had been received from the Scottish Executive, inviting the Council’s comments thereon by 21 July 2004; (2) outlining the contents of the consultation document, and (3) indicating that a response was being prepared, which would be submitted to the Scottish Executive by the due date and to the next meeting of this Committee for information.

Decided:

(1) that the Chief Executive be authorised to submit a response to the Scottish Executive by the due date of 21 July 2004, and

(2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SCOTLAND ACT 2003 - APPROVED TASK FORCE GUIDANCE ON THE DUTY TO SECURE BEST VALUE

18. Reference having been made to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 25 November 2003, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 May 2004 by the Chief Executive (1) summarising the guidance issued by the Scottish Executive in respect of the Duty to Secure Best Value, which had been prepared by the Best Value Task Force; (2) listing the ten key areas of activity to be covered by authorities in their Best Value arrangements, and (3) summarising the characteristics required under each key area, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Decided: that the Task Force guidance, as outlined in the report, be noted.

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORTS 2003/2004 - PROVISIONAL OUTTURN

(1) CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S

19. There was submitted a report dated 10 May 2004 by the Chief Executive comparing actual expenditure and income for the Chief Executive's Department against the budget estimates for the year to 31 March 2004; outlining variances as against the provisional outturn, and providing explanations for the major outturn variances.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

(2) SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIPS

20. There was submitted a report dated 18 May 2004 by the Chief Executive comparing actual expenditure and income for the Social Inclusion Partnerships against the estimated expenditure and income for the year to 31 March 2004, providing details of the provisional outturn and giving explanations of the more significant variances.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

(3) BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES FUND (BNSF)

21. There was submitted a report dated 18 May 2004 by the Chief Executive comparing actual expenditure and income for the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund against the estimated expenditure and income for the year to 31 March 2004, providing details of the provisional outturn and giving explanations of the more significant variances.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

(4) CHANGING CHILDREN’S SERVICES FUND

22. There was submitted a report dated 18 May 2004 by the Chief Executive comparing actual expenditure and income for the Changing Children’s Services Fund against the estimated expenditure and income for the year to 31 March 2004, providing details of the provisional outturn and giving explanations of the more significant variances.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.
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(5) COMMUNITY BUDGETING

23. There was submitted a report dated 18 May 2004 by the Chief Executive comparing actual expenditure and income for Community Budgeting against the estimated expenditure and income for the year to 31 March 2004, providing details of the provisional outturn and giving explanations of the more significant variances.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2003/2004 - PROGRESS TO 31 MARCH 2004

24. Reference having been made to paragraph 35 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 10 February 2004, there was submitted a report dated 26 May 2004 by the Chief Executive outlining the progress achieved in implementing the Chief Executive’s Service Improvement Plan for 2003/2006, and (2) detailing within the schedule attached to the report, progress achieved for the period from 1 October 2003 to 31 March 2004 in delivering the 2003/2004 key actions agreed as priorities.

Decided: that the progress in relation to the key actions for 2003/2004 contained within the Chief Executive’s Service Improvement Plan 2003/2006, as detailed within the schedule to the report, be noted.

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS - REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE 2003/2004

25. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 8 June 2004 by the Chief Executive reviewing the progress of the North Lanarkshire Council Public Private Partnerships during 2003/2004 against their objectives as joint venture companies in which North Lanarkshire Council had a general interest and providing an executive summary of the findings.

Decided: that, it having been noted that the Policy and Resources (Finance) Sub-Committee had agreed to set aside the sum of £300,000 from the excess budgeted income from the Public Private Partnerships in anticipation of essential improvements to the PPP Depots, the contents of the report be noted.

REMIT FROM SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE OF 20 MAY 2004 - SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS - CHILD PROTECTION AND LOOKED AFTER AND ACCOMMODATED CHILDREN

26. With reference to paragraph 16 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 20 May 2004, when that Committee, having considered a report (docketed as relative to the meeting of that Committee) dated 6 May 2004 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval of service developments in respect of Child Protection and Children who are Looked After and Accommodated, had agreed (1) that the Social Work Committee, for its interest, approve the deletion of one post of Senior Child Care Officer (Addictions) at salary grade PO2; (2) that the Social Work Committee, for its interest, agree the creation of one post of Service Manager Child Protection at salary grade PO11; (3) that the Social Work Committee, for its interest, approve the creation of one post of Service Co-ordinator (Children and Families) at salary grade PO8, and (4) that the report be remitted to this Committee and the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration, the Committee considered the report.

Decided: that the decision of the Social Work Committee be endorsed.
CHILD PROTECTION: JOINT STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE: NORTH LANARKSHIRE RESPONSE

27. Reference having been made to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 25 March 2003, when the findings of the National Audit and Review, entitled "It's Everyone's Job to Make Sure I'm Alright", were considered, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 June 2004 by the Chief Executive (1) advising of a request dated 11 November 2003 from the Ministers for Children and Young People, Justice and Health and Communities seeking a Joint Statement of Assurance from local authorities, Council Leaders, Leaders of Health Boards and Chief Constables in relation to Child Protection; (2) outlining the implications for the Council, and (3) enclosing as an Appendix to the report, a copy of the North Lanarkshire response.

Decided:

(1) that the North Lanarkshire Joint Statement of Assurance, submitted to the Ministers, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, be noted;

(2) that the report be remitted to the Social Work, Education, Community Services and Housing and Technical Services Committees for their information;

(3) that further reports be submitted to future meetings of the appropriate Committees in relation to (a) any response received from the Scottish Executive in relation to the Joint Statement of Assurance, and (b) any resource implications for the Council in respect of the implementation of the Three Year Action Plan, approved following the National Audit and Review entitled "It's Everyone's Job to Make Sure I'm Alright", and

(4) that the content of the report be otherwise noted.

REMIT FROM EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF 26 MAY 2004 - PRIMARY AND NURSERY PROVISION IN CUMBERNAULD, NORTH OF THE A80

28. With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of the Education Committee held on 26 May 2004, when that Committee, having considered a report (docketed as relative to the meeting of that Committee) dated 19 April 2004 by the Director of Education seeking approval of proposals for primary and nursery provision in Cumbernauld, north of the A80, had agreed (1) that the impact on education provision of proposed housing developments in Cumbernauld, north of the A80, be noted; (2) that the Committee, for its interests, approve the strategy for addressing the primary and nursery capacity requirements in Cumbernauld, north of the A80, as detailed in Section 5 of the report, subject to the availability of funding for the project; (3) that the Director of Education submit a further report on the funding strategy for addressing the proposals, and (4) that the report be remitted to this Committee for consideration, the Committee considered the report.

Thereon the Convener proposed that, with regard to the funding strategy for proposals to be taken forward in financial year 2005/2006, financial provision be made in the Capital Programme for that year.

Decided:

(1) that the terms of the report be approved, and

(2) that with regard to the funding strategy for the proposals, provision be made in the Capital Programme for 2005/2006.
MODERNISING GOVERNMENT FUND AND IMPROVING ACCESS TO SERVICES - UPDATE

29. Reference having been made to paragraph 18 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 20 April 2004, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 25 May 2004 by the Chief Executive advising of progress being made in relation to (1) the Modernising Government Programme, (a) including expenditure details for MGF1 and MGF2, and (b) indicating that a decision in respect of MGF3 was expected in late June 2004; (2) First Stop Shops, including (a) customer information and queuing statistics for March and April 2004, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, and (b) an analysis of all enquiries to date, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report; (3) Online Services, including details of (a) service and style enhancements added to NorthWeb over the past few months; (b) Online Bill Payments service usage details, and (c) a pilot scheme for Touch Screen Kiosks to be located at the First Stop Shops in Cumbernauld and Shotts and the Supported Accommodation Unit, Old School Court, Coatbridge, and thereafter at other suitable locations throughout North Lanarkshire, dependent on budget availability; (4) Electronic Service Delivery (ESD), including details of a presentation to the Improving Access to Services Working Group by the Programme Manager for ESD from the Scottish Executive's 21st Century Government Unit, and (5) Customer Contact Centre, including details of (a) progress on business change service reviews; (b) statistical information on the calls received during the period from April 2003 to March 2004, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report; (c) the Telephone Payments service, which had ingathered (A) €3,091,601.26 of revenue from September 2003 to March 2004, and (B) €871,417.26 of revenue for the first seven weeks of 2004/2005; (d) increased usage following the introduction of the extended opening hours, and (e) the delay in the introduction of the help-line for Children, in partnership with Quarriers, from June to August 2004.

Decided: that the progress made to date with the Modernising Government Initiative be noted.

SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIPS - UPDATE

30. Reference having been made to paragraph 20 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 20 April 2004, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 9 June 2004 by the Chief Executive providing details of Partnership Activity and seeking approval of a range of funding initiatives and activities previously considered and recommended for approval by the Partnership Management Groups.

Decided:

(1) that the current commitments in expenditure of the Core SIP, Empowering Communities and Drugs Misuse balances for 2004/2005, as summarised in paragraph 4.1 of the report, be noted;

(2) that the current commitments in expenditure of the Regeneration Funding balances for 2004/2005, as summarised in paragraph 4.15 of the report, be noted;

(3) that the recommendations for additional funding for existing projects in the Core SIP balance in Motherwell North SIP for 2004/2005, as summarised in Appendix One to the report, be approved;

(4) that the recommendation for a new project for utilisation of the Core SIP balance in Motherwell North SIP for 2004/2005, as summarised in Appendix One to the report, be approved;

(5) that the recommendations for utilisation of the Empowering Communities balance in North Lanarkshire for 2004/2005, as summarised in Appendix Two to the report, be approved;
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(6) that the recommendations for utilisation of the Drugs Misuse balances in Motherwell North and North Lanarkshire for 2004/2005, as summarised in Appendix Two to the report, be approved, and

(7) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES FUND (BNSF)

31. Reference having been made to paragraph 21 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 20 April 2004, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 May 2004 by the Chief Executive (1) advising of the funding position of the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund for 2003/2004 and 2004/2005, as detailed in Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the report, respectively; (2) giving details of projects seeking additional funding, as detailed in Paragraph 5 of the report, and (3) detailing in Paragraph 6 of the report, the current position in relation to the Youth Justice Fund.

Decided:

(1) that the carry forward funding, as identified in paragraph 3.1 of the report, be noted;

(2) that the savings, as outlined in paragraph 4.3 of the report, be approved;

(3) that the unallocated balance, as detailed in paragraph 4.2 of the report, be noted;

(4) that the new proposals, as detailed in paragraphs 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 of the report, be approved;

(5) that the adjusted budget for the Youth Justice Fund for 2004/2005 and 2005/2006, as detailed in paragraph 6.2 of the report, be noted, and

(6) that the content of the report be otherwise noted.

CHILDREN’S SERVICES STRATEGY GROUP AND CHANGING CHILDREN’S SERVICES FUND

32. Reference having been made to paragraph 22 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 20 April 2004, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 9 June 2004 by the Chief Executive (1) advising that the funding proposals submitted to the Scottish Executive in respect of the Changing Children’s Services Fund 2004/2006 had been successful; (2) indicating that the carry forward proposals from 2003/2004 to 2004/2005 had also been approved, subject to restrictions, as detailed in the report; (3) outlining in Appendix One to the report, the amended budget for 2004/2005, including details of the approved carry forward; (4) detailing new proposals for the use of the unallocated balance of £138,694, as detailed in Appendix Two to the report, and (5) giving details of activities to be supported in 2005/2006, as detailed in Appendix Three the report, funding for which would not be released until September 2005;

Decided:

(1) that the Changing Children’s Services Fund expenditure for 2004/2005, as outlined in the report and shown in more detail in Appendix One to the report, be approved;

(2) that the proposals for the use of the unallocated balance, as detailed in Appendix Two to the report, be approved and the Chief Executive be authorised to submit the proposals to the Scottish Executive for approval;

(3) that the Changing Children’s Services Fund for 2005/2006, as detailed in Appendix Three to the report, be noted, and

(4) that the content of the report be otherwise noted.
33. Reference having been made to paragraph 33 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 20 April 2004, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 8 June 2004 by the Chief Executive (1) indicating that the final bid for the second round of funding from the Building Strong, Safe and Attractive Communities Initiative required to be submitted to the Scottish Executive by 30 June 2004; (2) advising that the North Lanarkshire Partnership Steering Group were preparing funding proposals for submission to the Scottish Executive by the due date and a report thereon would be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee; (3) pointing out that the first pilot Community Warden Scheme would focus on Airdrie Town Centre, Petersburn, Craigneuk, Bellshill Town Centre, Mossend West and Thorndean and following review within the first six months of operation, would be extended to other areas; (4) detailing the problems experienced and the current position regarding recruitment for the pilot scheme; (5) intimating that an additional Senior Warden Post was considered necessary, for the reasons detailed in the report, and that two candidates had been identified during the recruitment process, and (6) outlining the budget implications for the pilot scheme, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

Decided:

(1) that the establishment of an additional post of Senior Warden be homologated;

(2) that the Chief Executive be authorised to submit the amended proposals to the Scottish Executive and to bring forward a further report to the next meeting of this Committee;

(3) that the amended budget for 2004/2005 in respect of the Building Strong, Safe and Attractive Communities Initiative, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, be noted;

(4) that the matter be referred to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee, and

(5) that the content of the report be otherwise noted.

34. Reference having been made to paragraph 24 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 20 April 2004, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 18 June 2004 by the Chief Executive (1) detailing requests for funding from the Corporate Match Funding budget, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; (2) advising of 11 applications received for information only, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, and (3) setting out the position of the External Funding Budget, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.

Decided:

(1) that the applications to the External Funding Group, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved, subject to applications to sources of external funding being successful;

(2) that the applications received for information only, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, be noted;

(3) that the financial position of the External Funding Budget, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report, be noted, and

(4) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.
VALUE FOR MONEY - GRANTS TO COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

35. Reference having been made to paragraph 30 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 28 January 2003, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 9 June 2004 by the Chief Executive (1) advising on the progress of the Value for Money Working Group in relation to grants to community groups and voluntary organisations, and (2) indicating that the work of the Group was complete and individual Departments would now be responsible for implementing the processes and procedures as outlined in the report.

Decided:
(1) that the progress in respect of the Value for Money Working Group, as detailed in the report, be noted;
(2) that it be noted that the work of the Value for Money Working Group is now complete;
(3) that the report be referred to the Community Services, Social Work, Housing and Technical Services, Planning and Environment and Education Committees for their consideration, and
(4) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH LANARKSHIRE CREDIT UNION FORUM

36. There was submitted a report dated 24 May 2004 by the Chief Executive (1) advising that the North Lanarkshire Credit Union Forum was due to be launched on 20 June 2004, with an inaugural meeting taking place at that time, and (2) proposing that funding of £5,000, to be met from the Chief Executive Department's Payments to Other Agencies budget, be provided to meet the costs of establishing and registering the Forum as a Company Limited by Guarantee and to provide training for the new Company Directors.

Decided:
(1) that funding of £5,000, to be met from the Chief Executive Department's Payments to Other Agencies budget, for the establishment of North Lanarkshire Credit Union Forum and its registration as a Company be approved, and
(2) that the content of the report be otherwise noted.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING - JERVISTON, CARFIN AND NEW STEVENSTON

37. There was submitted a report dated 8 June 2004 by the Chief Executive (1) advising of progress in relation to the development of Neighbourhood Planning in the areas of Jerviston, Carfin and New Stevenston; (2) advising that an open day for children and young people would be held on 15 July 2004 and a Jerviston Open Day for Adults on 19 June 2004, as detailed in the report, and (3) proposing that funding be allocated to the Department of Community Services of £10,000 for youth work services and £1,000 to support the development of community involvement in the Jerviston area, the costs to be met from the Chief Executive Department's Payments to Other Agencies budget.

Decided:
(1) that the funding request, totalling £11,000, as detailed in paragraph 3.1 to the report, be approved, and
(2) that the content of the report be otherwise noted.
POLICY AND RESOURCES – 15 June 2004

SCRUTINY PANEL - STRATEGY AND POLICY IMPLEMENTATION: REPORT ON RENT ARREARS, HOMELESSNESS AND EVICTIONS POLICY

38. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 8 June 2004 by the Director of Administration (1) enclosing as an Appendix to the report, the conclusions of the Scrutiny Panel - Strategy and Policy Implementation of the Review of the Rent Arrears, Homelessness and Evictions Policy, and (2) proposing that the report be referred to the appropriate Service Committees and the Review Group on Information and Advice Services for consideration.


DRAFT NORTH LANARKSHIRE COMMUNITY PLAN 2004/2008

39. Reference having been made to paragraph 25 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 20 April 2004, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 May 2004 by the Chief Executive (1) enclosing as an attachment to the report, the Draft North Lanarkshire Community Plan 2004/2008; (2) advising of the consultation process, agreed by the North Lanarkshire Partnership, for the Draft Plan; (3) indicating that a summary of the Draft Plan had also been produced and would be circulated to every household in North Lanarkshire, together with a questionnaire and freepost reply envelope to facilitate responses, and (4) outlining proposals for an event or events to generate the views of the voluntary organisations in North Lanarkshire.

Decided:

(1) that the consultation process for the Draft North Lanarkshire Community Plan 2004/2008, as detailed in the report, be endorsed;

(2) that the views of the Council, Elected Members and Departments be sought in relation to the Draft Community Plan to enable an organisational response to be developed, and

(3) that the content of the report be otherwise noted.


40. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing and Technical Services Committee held on 27 May 2004, when that Committee having considered a report (docketed as relative to the meeting of that Committee) dated 19 May 2004 by the Director of Housing and Property Services seeking approval to review spending plans for the Non-HRA Housing element of the Composite Capital Programme for 2004/2005 amounting to £3.674m, had agreed (1) that the allocation of the Private Sector Housing Grant by the Scottish Executive for 2004/2005 and 2005/2006 be noted; (2) that the revised Non-HRA Housing Capital Programme of £3.674m for 2004/2005, as detailed within Appendix 3 and Section 3 of the report, be approved; (3) that applications for Repairs and Improvement Grants for Houses in Council Tax Band F and above, only where the dwelling has failed the Tolerable Standard, be approved; (4) that the progress of the Non-HRA Programme be closely monitored and the need for further review, if necessary, be reported to a future meeting of the Housing and Technical Services Committee; (5) that the report be remitted to this Committee for consideration, and (6) that the report be otherwise noted, the Committee considered the report.

Decided: that the recommendations of the Housing and Technical Services Committee be endorsed.
CONFERENCES.

41. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 May 2004 by the Director of Administration on 14 invitations received in respect of attendance at conferences and seeking that consideration be given to these invitations.

Decided: that no attendance at the conferences be authorised.