

Bellshill, 18 January 2001 at 7 pm.

A Special Meeting of the **BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor Heberton (Convener); Councillors Curran, Gorman, Lyle and McKeown.

ALSO PRESENT

Councillors Morris and Smith.

CHAIR

Councillor Heberton (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Executive, Core Services Officer, Department of Administration; Head of Community Resources (for Liaison Director); Head of Accounting Services; Housing Finance and Administration Manager and Divisional Manager (South).

ALSO ATTENDING

Superintendent McKelvie, Strathclyde Police.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Coyle, McCabe and Saunders.

BUDGET CONSULTATION

(1) COUNCIL TAX

1. The Chief Executive outlined the budget process of the Council which would dictate the level of Council Tax set in North Lanarkshire and highlighted (1) the improved budget process incorporating long term planning; (2) the Council's income and expenditure position; (3) the proposed initiatives of the Scottish Executive and the Council; (4) cost pressures facing the Council, and (5) the revenue estimates and the draft budget for the financial year 2001/2002 including proposed efficiency savings and areas of possible growth priorities for all departments of the Council. He indicated the main issues for consideration and sought the views of the Community representatives on the possible growth priorities and efficiency savings which would have an effect on the level of Council Tax set by the Council and thereafter responded to questions from elected Members and members of the public.

Decided: the Committee thanked the Chief Executive for his presentation and noted the comments made by elected Members and members of the public.

(2) RENT LEVELS

2. The Housing Finance and Administration Manager outlined the housing budgets for the financial years 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 highlighting (1) options for service improvement; (2) options for financial savings, and (3) rent increases from the financial year 1996/97 to 2000/2001. She sought

the views of the Community representatives on the main priorities for the housing service and the effect on rent levels to be set by the Council. Thereafter the Housing Finance and Administration Manager responded to questions by elected Members and members of the public.

Decided: the Committee thanked the Housing Finance and Administration Manager for her presentation and noted the comments made by elected Members and members of the public.

DEVELOPMENT OF AREA COMMITTEES AND COMMUNITY FORUMS

3. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 7 December 2000 the Chief Executive referred to the earlier presentation which he and Councillor McCabe, Leader of the Council, had made to the Area Committee and thereafter provided a brief update on the consultation exercise with regard to the development of Area Committees and Community Forums.

The Chief Executive referred to the positive feedback which had been received from this consultation exercise and to proposals for each departmental Director to deliver, in rotation, a presentation to each Area Committee on their service, commencing at this Area Committee with the Director of Community Services at the meeting on 22 February 2001.

Decided: that the position be noted.