

AGENDA ITEM No. 1
BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT AREA – 3 June 2004

**St. Columba's Primary School, Old Edinburgh Road, Viewpark
Bellshill, 3 June 2004 at 7 pm.**

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

PRESENT

Councillor Gorman (Convener); Councillors Burrows, J. Coyle, H. McGuigan and McKeown.

CHAIR

Councillor Gorman (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Principal Administrative Officer, Administration Department; Open Spaces and Cemeteries Manager (Area Team Leader), Department of Community Services; Information and Research Manager and Information and Research Officer, Chief Executive's Office; Quality Improvement Officer, Department of Education; Area Housing Manager, Department of Housing and Property Services, and European Manager, Senior Planning Officers and Development Services Team Leader, Department of Planning and Environment.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Superintendent Wilson Butler, Strathclyde Police and W. Foy, Bellshill and District Community Forum.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Curran, Lyle, McCabe and Saunders.

ROUTES TO WORK LIMITED

1. The Convener welcomed to the meeting Kirsten Sams, European Manager, Department of Planning and Environment, who gave a presentation on Routes to Work Limited.

The European Manager (1) advised the Committee that Routes to Work is a service which aims to assist unemployed residents of North Lanarkshire to access opportunities in education, training and employment; (2) made reference to a baseline study which had focussed on the most excluded areas within North Lanarkshire in terms of income and employment, including 405 households within the Motherwell/Bellshill and District Area; (3) provided statistics to support the conclusions of the study which include (a) employment barriers as being - low wages/benefit dependency, a limited choice of jobs and limited perception of jobs availability, childcare and ill health; (b) unemployment as long term; (c) low aspirations in terms of occupations and wage levels sought, and (d) training and support services not being well used; (4) indicated that overall the study had highlighted (a) that there are no easy solutions; (b) that individuals required tailored support, and (c) that Routes to Work partners must be creative in developing routes back to work, and (5) summarised the organisation of Routes to Work Limited in terms of (a) objectives and specific targets; (b) how the service was delivered; (c) achievements to date, and (d) future actions.

Thereon, the European Manager responded to questions by elected members and the Convener thanked her for her informative presentation.

Decided: that the presentation be noted.

BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT AREA – 3 June 2004

BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE - MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON 1 APRIL 2004

2. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Bellshill and District Area Committee held on 1 April 2004.

Decided: that the terms of the Minute be noted.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES - BELLSHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

3. There were submitted the Minutes of the meetings of the Bellshill Community Council held on 17 March and 21 April 2004.

Decided: that the terms of the Minutes be noted.

COMMUNITY FORUM - UPDATE

4. There was submitted a report (tabled) dated 1 June 2004 by the Director of Community Services (1) advising that the Bellshill and District Community Forum had been scheduled to meet on 26 May 2004, and (2) enclosing as an attachment to the report, a note of that meeting.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

GOOD NEWS

5. There was submitted a report dated 16 April 2004 by the Director of Community Services advising of various "Good News" stories within the Community Services Department.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

POLICE UPDATE

6. By way of a presentation, Superintendent Wilson Butler, Bellshill "ND" Sub-Division, Strathclyde Police (1) advised on the geographical boundaries of the Bellshill Sub-Division which included residential, industrial and future development sites; (2) outlined the staffing and management structure of the Sub-Division; (3) commented on (a) the aims of a new concept of problem solving policing which had recently been introduced, and (b) the targets and performance of the Bellshill Sub-Division over the period 2003/2004, and (4) summarised the Bellshill Sub-Divisional Plan for 2004/2007 in terms of public reassurance, response policing and engaging criminality.

Thereon, Superintendent Butler responded to questions from elected members, and the Convener thanked him for his informative presentation.

Decided: that the presentation be noted.

FUEL POVERTY AND HEALTH INITIATIVE

7. There was submitted a report dated 21 May 2004 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising on an initiative aimed at combating fuel poverty and the associated ill health symptoms; (2) intimating (a) that the project is being piloted in the Bellshill Area; (b) that home support workers and
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health workers are in a position to positively impact on the situation of those who may be affected by fuel poverty; (c) that a joint referral mechanism between Social Work, the Health Board and the Fuel Advice Unit has been developed, and (d) that seminars have been planned to train frontline Social Work, Housing and Health Care Staff as part of a wider strategy to combat fuel poverty; (3) indicating that the initiative aims to draw together and co-ordinate the strands of a number of energy programmes which include the Warm Deal Programme, the Central Heating Programme, the Priority Services Register and the Safer Homes Initiative, and (4) outlining the funding for the Project.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN

8. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 1 April 2004, there was submitted a report dated 3 June 2004 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising on the progress of the North Lanarkshire Local Plan; (2) outlining the programme of events leading to publication of the Consultative Draft Local Plan including a series of three workshops to involve stakeholders, and (3) intimating (a) that the plan will be subject to a full environmental and sustainability appraisal, and (b) that once adopted the plan will reflect the Council's land use proposals for a five year period, and will co-ordinate and influence the investment decisions by private interests and public agencies.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE RESIDENTS' SURVEY 2002

9. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 23 September 2003, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 3 June 2004 by the Chief Executive (1) advising of the key findings, under a number of topics, from the 2002 Residents Survey for the Bellshill and District Area Committee area, and (2) detailing in the appendices to the report, the 2002 survey results for the Bellshill and District area, along with comparative figures for North Lanarkshire as a whole and the results of the 1999 residents survey.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

ESTATE BASED INITIATIVE PROPOSALS 2004/2005

10. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 20 May 2004 by the Director of Housing and Property Services (1) advising on the Estate Based Initiative projects which have been identified by the local Area Housing Offices; (2) outlining a proposal to carry out environmental improvements at each Sheltered Housing Complex in Central Park, New Stevenston; Clay Road, Moray Quadrant, Unitas Court, and West End Drive, Bellshill; Kew Gardens, Tannochside and Woodland Grove, Viewpark, and (3) intimating the budget provision for the Bellshill and District Area.

Decided: that the Estate Based Initiative projects to carry out environmental improvements at Sheltered Housing Complexes in the Bellshill and District area, be approved in terms of the report.