

Motherwell, 29 October 2003 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Holloway, Convener; Councillor Saunders, Vice-Convener; Councillors Barrie, Burrows, Chadha, Gorman, Gormill, Homer, Irvine, Love, Lunny, J. Martin, Shields, and Wallace.

CHAIR

Councillor Holloway (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Head of Central Services; Head of Legal Services, and Senior Accountant, Department of Finance.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Devine, Lunny, McAuley, McCabe and Wilson.

GENERAL PURPOSES (LICENSING) SUB-COMMITTEE

1. There were submitted the Minutes of the meetings and Special meetings of the General Purposes (Licensing) Sub-Committee held on 25 August, 16, 18 and 23 September and 3 October 2003.

Decided: that the Minutes of the meetings and Special meetings of the General Purposes (Licensing) Sub-Committee held on 25 August, 16, 18 and 23 September and 3 October 2003 be approved and noted.

CIVIC FUNCTIONS GROUP

2. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Civic Functions Group held on 8 October 2003.

Decided: that the Minute of the meeting of the Civic Functions Group held on 8 October 2003 be approved and noted.

2003/2004 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION (EXCLUDING PERSONNEL) 1 APRIL TO 12 SEPTEMBER 2003

3. There was submitted a report dated 24 September 2003 by the Director of Administration detailing for the period from 1 April to 12 September 2003 actual expenditure and income against the estimates contained in the 2003/2004 budget for the Central Services Division, including separate details in respect of the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages and for the Legal Services Division of the Department of Administration.

Decided: that the report be noted.

REVENUE BUDGET VIREMENT

4. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 October 2003 by the Director of Administration (1) proposing that the sum of £130,000 be transferred from the Employee Costs budget heading to that of the Supplies and Services heading within the Revenue Budget of the Central Services Division, and

that the sum of £60,000 be transferred from the Employee Costs budget heading of the Legal Services Division to the Supplies and Services budget heading of the Revenue Budget of the Legal Services Division, and (2) providing details thereon.

Decided: that it be agreed that the sum of £130,000 be transferred from the Employee Costs budget heading to that of the Supplies and Services heading within the Revenue Budget of the Central Services Division and that the sum of £60,000 be transferred from the Employee Costs budget heading of the Legal Services Division to the Supplies and Services budget heading of the Revenue Budget of the Legal Services Division.

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT - RACE ACTION PLAN

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 3 October 2003 by the Director of Administration seeking approval of his Department's Race Action Plan as contained within the Appendix to the report.

Decided: that the Department of Administration Race Action Plan be approved.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION - CIVIL PARTNERSHIP REGISTRATION

6. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 October 2003 by the Director of Administration (1) advising that (a) in June this year, the United Kingdom Government published a consultation paper on Civil Partnership Registration for same sex couples in England and Wales; (b) having regard to that consultation, the Scottish Executive published a consultation document seeking views on the possibility of the Scottish Parliament agreeing a motion to allow Scottish provisions to be included any Westminster Bill on Civil Partnership Registration, and (c) the purpose of this motion would be to achieve, as closely as possible, in terms of the varying laws, similar rights in Scotland as those in England and Wales; (2) indicating that it is proposed that a Civil Partnership should be registered through a formal process and suggesting that Registrars were best placed to discharge this function, and (3) providing details thereon, together with a proposed response.

Decided:

- (1) that the civil partnership registration consultation being undertaken by the Scottish Executive be noted;
- (2) that the response in terms of the report be approved, and
- (3) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

POST WATCH SCOTLAND

7. There was submitted a report dated 2 October 2003 by the Director of Administration (1) advising of the intention of Post Office Limited to change their consultation process regarding the closure of Post Offices, effective from the end of September 2003, and (2) indicating that Post Office Limited would advise the Council of the dates in which the consultation to close Post Offices in its area will take place.

Decided: that the report be noted.

CUMBERNAULD/BRON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

8. There was submitted a report dated 2 October 2003 by the Director of Administration (1) advising of action taken, after consultation with the Convener, in awarding assistance in terms of Council policy to Cumbernauld/Bron Twinning Association in respect of a twinning visit from Bron, France during September 2003, and (2) seeking homologation in this respect.

Decided: that the action taken, after consultation with the Convener, in awarding assistance in terms of Council policy to Cumbernauld/Bron Twinning Association in respect of a twinning visit from Bron, France during September 2003, be homologated.

TWINNING - ST. DENIS

9. With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 August 2003 when it was agreed that the Council participate in the Second European Forum of Local Authorities for Social Inclusion to be held in St. Denis between 11 and 13 November 2003, there was submitted a report dated 23 October 2003 by the Director of Administration advising (1) that the Provost had received further communication from the Mayor of St. Denis inviting him, the President of the Twinning Committee and two persons who have participated in exchanges, to a formal celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Initiation of the Twinning, and (2) that it was proposed that the formal celebrations would take place on 10 November, the day before the start of that Forum.

Decided: that the invitation from the Mayor of St. Denis inviting the Provost, the President of the Twinning Committee together with two persons who had participated in exchanges to a formal celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Initiation of the Town Twinning be accepted.

CONFERENCES

10. There was submitted a report dated 22 October 2003 by the Director of Administration advising that four invitations had been received in respect of attendance at conferences and seeking that consideration be given to the invitations.

Decided:

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

Conference	Venue	Date	Attendance
Inclusion Conference	Clydebank, Dunbartonshire	13-14 November 2003	Councillor McAuley

and

- (2) that otherwise no attendance be authorised.