

GENERAL PURPOSES – 18 May 2005

Motherwell, 18 May 2005 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor Holloway, Convener; Councillor Saunders, Vice-Convener; Provost Connelly; Councillors Barrie, Chadha, Gormill, Homer, Irvine, McKenna, Wallace and Wilson.

CHAIR

Councillor Holloway (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGIES

Councillors Burrows, Cefferty, McAuley, Shields and Stocks.

The Convener exercised his discretion to vary the Order of Business as hereinafter Minuted.

GENERAL PURPOSES (LICENSING) SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

1. There were submitted the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes (Licensing) Sub-Committee held on 3 March and 14 April 2005.

Decided: that the Minutes of the meetings of the General Purposes (Licensing) Sub-Committee held on 3 March and 14 April 2005 be approved and noted.

CIVIC FUNCTIONS GROUP

2. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Civic Functions Group held on 4 May 2005.

Decided: that the Minute of the meeting of the Civic Functions Group held on 4 May 2005 be approved and noted.

2004/2005 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION (EXCLUDING PERSONNEL) 1 APRIL 2004 TO 31 MARCH 2005 (PROVISIONAL OUTTURN)

3. There was submitted a report dated 28 April 2005 by the Director of Administration detailing, for the period from 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 provisional outturn and income against the estimates contained in the 2004/05 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.

REGISTRATION SERVICE - FEES FOR THE CONDUCT OF OUT OF HOURS BUSINESS

4. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 23 October 2002, when the level of payment to registration staff for the conduct of Civil Marriages outwith normal hours and outwith Registration Offices was agreed, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 April 2005 by the Director of Administration (1) referring to the implications for the Council of the Marriage (Scotland) Act 2002, which made provision for civil marriages to be conducted in places other than Registration Offices; (2) advising that a review of the fees payable to the Registration Services employees for the conduct of out of hours business, within, and at approved places outwith, Registration Offices had been carried out, and (3) recommending an increase in the fees payable to Registration Staff, effective from 1 April 2005, by a sum equivalent to the nationally negotiated pay awards.

Decided: that the recommendation of the report with regard to the fees payable to Registration Staff for the conduct of business outwith normal hours be approved.

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT : RACE ACTION PLAN - UPDATE

5. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 29 October 2003, when the Department of Administration Race Action Plan was approved, there was submitted a report dated 29 April 2005 by the Director of Administration providing an update on the plan, as contained within the Appendix to the report.

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

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

6. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 12 January 2005, when the progress of the Department of Administration Service Plan was noted, there was submitted a report dated 29 April 2005 by the Director of Administration (1) providing a further update on the progress of his Departmental Service Plan from 1 October 2004 to 31 March 2005, together with the Departmental Absence Management Statistics for this period 2005 in comparison with the corresponding period in 2004; (2) detailing the Absence Management Statutory Performance Indicators for 2004/2005 on a Council-wide basis; (3) setting out the position in terms of Equal Opportunities; (4) further detailing the performance of the Council House Sales, and (5) enclosing, as an Appendix to the report, key actions identified in the Service Plan and the progress of these.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

**DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AREA/REGISTRATION SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT
2004/05**

7. With reference to paragraph 17 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 9 March 2005, when the success of the Area/Registration Service in being re-accredited with the Charter Mark Award was noted, there was submitted a report dated 12 May 2005 by the Director of Administration providing an update on the performance of the Area/Registration Service, as contained within the Appendix to the report.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

GENERAL PURPOSES – 18 May 2005

TOWN TWINNING : MEULAN, FRANCE

8. There was submitted a report dated 12 May 2005 by the Director of Administration advising that correspondence had been received from the Chairperson, Kilsyth Town Twinning Association (1) indicating that a party of 24 persons will be travelling to their twin town of Meulan, France during September 2005, and (2) seeking financial assistance in this respect.

Decided: that assistance in terms of Council policy be awarded to Kilsyth Town Twinning Association in respect of the visit to Meulan, France during September 2005.

REVIEW OF TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING - AGE LIMITS FOR PURPOSE BUILT AND PURPOSE ADAPTED TAXI VEHICLES

9. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 12 January 2005, when age limits and vehicle colours for Private Hire Cars was agreed, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 May 2005 by the Director of Administration (1) making recommendations as to age limits for purpose built and purpose adapted taxi vehicles; (2) detailing the background relative thereto; (3) summarising the consultation undertaken with the taxi trade, and (4) setting out proposals for consideration.

Decided:

- (1) that it be agreed to set an age limit for purpose adapted taxis of 7 years old from the date of first registration to the date of the licence renewal or vehicle substitute, effective from 1 January 2007;
- (2) that it be agreed to set an age limit for purpose built taxis of 9 years old from the date of first registration to the date of the licence renewal or vehicle substitute, effective from 1 January 2007, and
- (3) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

ACCESSIBLE TAXIS

10. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 October 2004, when it was agreed to approve additional vehicles as suitable for use as licensed taxis in North Lanarkshire, there was submitted a report dated 9 May 2005 by the Director of Administration (1) advising that the market in accessible vehicles continues to grow and monitoring takes place between the Head of Legal Services and the Council's Transport Manager to identify suitable vehicles for use as taxis; (2) seeking approval of the TW2000 Hackney Style Vehicle, developed by Patons Taxis and also the Fiat Scudo Urban 7 Eurocab, as illustrated within the Appendices to the report, and (3) confirming that the Council's Transport Manager had commended these vehicles as suitable for use as licensed taxis, based on their disabled friendly features.

Decided: that it be agreed to approve the TW2000 and the Fiat Scudo Urban 7 Eurocab as suitable for use as licensed taxis in North Lanarkshire.

SUMMARY JUSTICE REFORM

11. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 19 May 2005, when it was agreed that the Council respond to the consultation on the report to Ministers by the Summary Justice Review Committee, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 18 April 2005 by the Director of Administration (1) advising that in March 2005, the Minister for Justice launched a

GENERAL PURPOSES – 18 May 2005

document outlining the Executive's plans for reforming Summary Criminal Justice and Procedure, a copy of which has been deposited in the Members' Library; (2) outlining the main proposals in respect of the future of Lay Justice, Court Administration and Fines Enforcement, Alternatives to Prosecution and Better Care Handling for Better Outcomes, and (3) setting out the corporate implications for the Council.

Decided: that the contents of the report be approved and noted.