

ADJOURNED GENERAL PURPOSES – 26 October 2005

Motherwell, 26 October 2005 at 4 pm.

An Adjourned Meeting of the **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor Saunders, Vice-Convenor; Councillors Barrie, Burrows, Chadha, Devine, Homer, Irvine, J. Martin and Shields.

CHAIR

In the absence of Councillor Holloway Councillor Saunders presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGIES

Provost Connelly and Councillors Curley, Gormill, Holloway, Love, McAuley, McCabe, McKenna and Wilson.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair referred to the death of Councillor John Gordon on Sunday, 23 October 2005 and expressed his condolences, on behalf of the Committee, to Mrs. Gordon and her family in their said bereavement.

Thereafter, the Committee observed one minute's silence.

MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES

(1) GENERAL PURPOSES (LICENSING) SUB-COMMITTEE

1. There was submitted the Minute of the meetings and special meetings of the General Purposes (Licensing) Sub-Committee held on 22 and 29 August, 15 and 29 September and 11 October 2005.

Decided: that the Minutes of the meetings and special meetings of the General Purposes (Licensing) Sub-Committee held on 22 and 29 August, 15 and 29 September and 11 October 2005 be approved and noted.

(2) CIVIC FUNCTIONS GROUP

2. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Civic Functions Group held on 5 October 2005.

Decided: that the Minute of the meeting of the Civic Functions Group held on 5 October 2005 be approved and noted.

2005/2006 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION (EXCLUDING PERSONNEL) - 1 APRIL TO 16 SEPTEMBER 2005

3. There was submitted a report dated 27 September 2005 by the Director of Administration detailing for the period from 1 April to 16 September 2005 expenditure and income against the estimates contained in the 2005/2006 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 contents of the report be noted.

FINAL MEASUREMENTS

4. There was submitted a report dated 12 September 2005 by the Director of Housing and Property Services (1) providing details of the final measurements of various contracts coming under the remit of this Committee, and (2) advising that the total tender value of these contracts amounted to £481,651.15 compared with the final cost of £478,327.55.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

CIVIC CENTRE: EXTERNAL WORKS - PODIUM/COURTYARD

5. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 9 March 2005, when the action taken to accept the tender from Ashlea Limited to carry out the external works to the Civic Centre podium/courtyard was homologated, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 20 October 2005 by the Director of Administration (1) seeking homologation for action taken, after consultation with the Convener, for the negotiation with, and the extension of the contract with Ashlea Limited to encompass the refurbishment of the stairways leading to the Civic Centre podium/courtyard at an additional cost of £96,402.50, and (2) providing details thereon.

Decided: that the action taken, after consultation with the Convener, for the negotiation with, and the extension of the contract with Ashlea Limited at an additional cost of £96,402.50 be homologated.

DEPARTMENTAL RACE EQUALITY ACTION PLAN - PROGRESS REPORT

6. 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 28 September 2005 by the Director of Administration providing an update on the plan, as contained within the Appendix to the report.

Decided: that the progress of the Race Action Plan for the Department of Administration be noted.

REGISTRATION

(1) APPROVED PLACES

7. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 21 August 2002, when it was agreed, *inter alia*, to make provision for the conduct of civil marriages outwith Registration Offices, there was submitted a report dated 7 October 2005 by the Director of

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Administration (1) seeking authority to extend that provision to encompass, also, ceremonies marking other life events; (2) referring to the meeting of this Committee held on 27 August 2003, when there was noted the venues outwith Registration Offices for which approval had been granted, and (3) proposing that the fee structure for Civil Marriages apply to ceremonies for other life events with the addition of an extra fee of £10 in the absence of a statutory registration fee.

Decided: that it be agreed that the Registration Service be extended to make provision for the conduct of ceremonies marking life events within approved places, outwith Registration Offices, at a fee equivalent to that of Civil Marriages with the addition of an extra fee of £10 to compensate for the absence of a statutory registration fee.

(2) CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES

- C** 8. With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 10 March 2004, when there was noted the requirement under the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002, that the Registration Service make provision to conduct Citizenship Ceremonies, there was submitted a report dated 30 September 2005 by the Director of Administration (1) advising of the Citizenship Ceremonies which had been performed in North Lanarkshire since the Act was introduced; (2) detailing the success of the service; (3) outlining that in terms of the numbers of citizens eligible for ceremonies, the Council is currently seventh among Local Authorities in Scotland, as indicated in the Appendix to the report, and (4) proposing that the service be extended to make provision for conducting Citizenship Ceremonies within approved places, outwith Registration Offices, at the fee applicable for ceremonies for life events other than Civil Marriages.

Decided: that it be agreed that the Registration Service be extended to make provision for the conduct of Citizenship Ceremonies within approved places, outwith Registration Offices, at the fee applicable for ceremonies for life events other than Civil Marriages.

PUBLIC PROCESSIONS - POLICE, PUBLIC ORDER AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (SCOTLAND) BILL

9. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of meeting of this Committee held on 9 March 2005, when it was noted that the Scottish Executive had issued a Consultation Paper entitled "Supporting Police, Protecting Communities: Proposals for Legislation", there was submitted a report dated 7 October 2005 by the Director of Administration (1) advising (a) of the publication by the Scottish Executive of the Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill and the provision within that Bill relating to the functions of Local Authorities with regard to public processions; (b) that, currently, with regard to public processions, Local Authorities have powers under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 to apply conditions to, or to make Orders prohibiting, public processions; (c) that the Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill includes a number of amendments to the provisions of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 which relate to public processions, and (d) that it remains the case that Local Authorities exercising any powers contained within the 1982 Act must do so within the framework of the Human Rights Act; (2) detailing the proposed amendments; (3) indicating that the explanatory note issued with the Bill acknowledges that the Bill will have resource implications, and (4) further advising that reports will be submitted to this Committee on the progress of the Bill in the Scottish Parliament.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted meantime.

PETITIONS

(1) UNAUTHORISED RANKING

10. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 August 2005, when it was agreed that consideration of a Petition from members of the Taxi trade in the Council's South Licensing Area, alleging canvassing for hire and unauthorised ranking, be continued pending a report to a future meeting of this Committee, there was submitted a report dated 4 October 2005 by the Director of Administration (1) advising that the complaint had been investigated by the Council's Licensing Enforcement Officers; (2) indicating that the main cause for concern related to incidents in Scotia Street, Motherwell, which had been the subject of previous complaints, and (3) confirming that the Enforcement Officers reported that the problems had greatly diminished since the complaint was initiated.

Decided: that the content of the report be noted and the Petitioners be advised accordingly.

(2) STATIC SNACK VAN

11. There was submitted a report dated 5 October 2005 by the Director of Administration advising that a Petition, containing 22 signatures, had been received from the residents from the Persimmon Homes Development, The Oval, Bellshill, seeking the relocation of a Static Snack Van currently at the entrance to that estate.

Decided: that consideration of the Petition seeking the relocation of the Static Snack Van be remitted to the General Purposes (Licensing) Sub-Committee.

MEMBERS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2005/06 AND 2006/07

12. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 August 2003, when the Training and Development Programme for Elected Members was agreed, there was submitted a report dated 19 October 2005 by the Director of Administration setting out proposals for Members' training and development for the period 2005/06 and 2006/07.

Decided: that the Members' Training and Development Programme for the period 2005/06 and 2006/07 be approved and noted.

CONFERENCES

13. There was submitted a report dated 17 October 2005 by the Director of Administration advising that one invitation had been received in respect of attendance at conferences and seeking that consideration be given to the invitation.

Decided: that the Council be represented at the following conference:-

Conference	Venue	Date	Attendance
The Votes are Counted – What Next	Glasgow	7 November 2005	Councillor Holloway Councillor Johnston Councillor McCabe Councillor McCulloch Councillor McKeown Councillor Saunders Councillor Shaw