

GENERAL PURPOSES – 25 October 2006

Motherwell, 25 October 2006 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor Saunders, Vice-Convener; Councillors Barrie, Burrows, Chadha, Devine, Gormill, Irvine, Love, McAuley, McKenna, 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 Senior Accountant, Department of Finance.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Cefferty, Holloway, McCabe, Wallace and Wilson.

MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEE

(1) GENERAL PURPOSES (LICENSING) SUB-COMMITTEE

1. There were submitted the Minutes of the meetings and special meeting of the General Purposes (Licensing) Sub-Committee held on 21 August, and 14 and 28 September 2006.

Decided: that the Minutes of the meetings and special meeting of the General Purposes (Licensing) Sub-Committee held on 21 August and 14 and 28 September 2006 be approved and noted.

(2) CIVIC FUNCTIONS GROUP

2. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Civic Functions Group held on 4 October 2006.

Decided: that the Minute of the meeting of the Civic Functions Group held on 4 October 2006 be approved and noted.

2006/2007 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION (EXCLUDING PERSONNEL) 1 APRIL TO 15 SEPTEMBER 2006

3. There was submitted a report dated 26 September 2006 by the Director of Administration detailing, for the period from 1 April to 15 September 2006, expenditure and income against the estimates contained in the 2006/2007 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 10 August 2006 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 £311,111.03 compared with the final costs of £304,973.98.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

ACCESSIBLE TAXIS

5. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 18 May 2005, when it was agreed to approve additional vehicles as suitable for use as licensed taxis in North Lanarkshire, there was submitted a report dated 18 September 2006 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 TW300 and Mercedes M8 for use as licensed taxi vehicles in North Lanarkshire, and (3) confirming that the Council's Transport Manager had commended these vehicles as suitable for use as licensed taxis, based on their disability friendly features.

Decided: that it be agreed to approve the TW300 and Mercedes M8 as suitable for use as licensed taxis in North Lanarkshire.

TAXI LICENSING - TAXI FARES REVIEW

6. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 23 August 2006, when it was agreed that the Head of Legal Services be authorised to enter into full consultation with the taxi trade on the issue of taxi fares, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 16 October 2006 by the Director of Administration (1) advising of the outcome of that consultation; (2) detailing the background relative thereto; (3) setting out (a) in Appendix A of the report, proposals put forward by the taxi trade, and (b) in Appendices B, C, E and F amendments proposed by James and John Devlin, together with, in Appendix D to the report, a response on these amendments from the Joint Taxi Owners Association, and (4) recommending the taxi fares scales as contained within Appendix A to the report.

Decided: that the taxi fares scales as contained within Appendix A of the report be approved with effect from 1 December 2006.

INQUIRY INTO THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK IN SCOTLAND

7. With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 August 2005, when it was agreed to respond to the Subordinate Legislation Committee of the Scottish Executive on their consultation on the Inquiry into the Regulatory Framework in Scotland, there was submitted a report dated 13 September 2006 by the Director of Administration (1) advising of a proposed new simplified procedure to replace the current procedures for scrutinising subordinate legislation; (2) indicating that the Subordinate Legislation Committee had previously conducted an inquiry into the regulatory framework in two phases; (3) further advising (a) that during the inquiry, the Subordinate Legislation Committee heard from a wide range of organisations and individuals and from further afield on the current system of scrutiny and procedures, and (b) on the basis of the evidence received, and from its own experience, the Subordinate Legislation Committee have devised the Scottish Statutory Instrument Procedure (SSIP) as a new simplified procedure to replace the range of current procedures which were seen as complex and archaic; (4) concluding that in view of the

innovative nature of the SSIP and the impact this will have in terms of the subordinate legislation processes, the Subordinate Legislation Committee agreed to consult on the recommendations it made, and (5) seeking homologation for action taken, after consultation with the Convener, in forwarding a response, on behalf of the Council, as contained within the Appendix to the report, on the recommendations of the Subordinate Legislation Committee.

Decided: that the action taken, after consultation with the Convener, in forwarding a response, on behalf of the Council, on the recommendations of the Subordinate Legislation Committee be homologated.

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR PROCEDURAL RULES FOR PERSONAL INJURY ACTIONS IN THE SHERIFF COURT

8. There was submitted a report dated 17 October 2006 by the Director of Administration (1) advising that the Ordinary Cause Committee of the Sheriff Court Rules Council had made a recommendation that the procedural rules currently used in the Court of Session in personal injury actions should be adapted for use within the Sheriff Court and sought comments on their recommendations; (2) indicating that the Sheriff Court Rules Council was set up by Section 33 of the Sheriff Courts (Scotland) Act 1971 to keep under review procedures and practices in civil proceedings in the Sheriff Court, prepare draft rules for procedures and submit them to the Court of Sessions for approval and enactment, and (3) seeking homologation for action taken, after consultation with the Convener, in forwarding a response, on behalf of the Council, as contained within the Appendix to the report on the consultation on proposals to amend the procedural rules for personal injury actions in the Sheriff Court.

Decided: that the action taken, after consultation with the Convener, in forwarding a response, on behalf of the Council, as contained within the Appendix to the report, on the consultation on proposals to amend the procedural rules for personal injury actions in the Sheriff Court be homologated.

APPOINTMENT TO SHOTTS PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE

C 9. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 4 June 2003, when the arrangements for appointing prison visitors was agreed, there was submitted a report dated 17 October 2006 by the Director of Administration (1) advising (a) that the Council is responsible for the appointment of members to Barlinnie, Low Moss and Shotts Prison Visiting Committees, and (b) that two non-elected members from Shotts Prison Visiting Committee had resigned; (2) detailing the background relative thereto; (3) indicating that, as a result of a news release seeking prison visitors, two expressions of interest had been received with one being subsequently withdrawn, and (4) further advising that, following an interview by the Prison Visiting Appointments Panel, Frank Dunsmore had been recommended to the Council to be appointed as a non elected member to Shotts Prison Visiting Committee, subject to screening by Disclosure Scotland.

Decided: that it be recommended to the Council that Frank Dunsmore be appointed as a non elected member to Shotts Prison Visiting Committee, subject to screening by Disclosure Scotland.

IMPROVEMENT SERVICE: ELECTED MEMBERS' CASELOAD MANAGEMENT PILOT PROJECT

10. There was submitted a report dated 27 December 2006 by the Director of Administration (1) advising (a) that the Council together with Dumfries and Galloway, East Dunbartonshire, Fife and Inverclyde Councils had been invited by The Improvement Service to participate in an Elected Members' Caseload Management Pilot Project; (b) that the project is one of a number of initiatives being

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investigated by The Improvement Service to enhance support to elected Members, and (c) that the aim of the project is to make it easier and quicker for elected Members to investigate and respond to enquiries made by constituents through the use of a computer based recording and tracking system; (2) providing details thereon; (3) indicating that, in view of the limited timescale, action had been taken to confirm that the Council would participate in the pilot project, and (4) seeking authorisation to identify, after consultation with the Convener, Members to participate in this pilot project.

Decided: that the action taken to confirm to The Improvement Service that the Council would participate in the Elected Members' Caseload Management Pilot Project be homologated and that the Director of Administration be authorised to identify, following consultation with the Convener, Members to participate in this pilot project.

MEMBERS' TRAINING: PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN ACTION

11. There was submitted a report dated 2 October 2006 by the Director of Administration advising (1) that proportional representation is to be introduced to local government in Scotland as and from the 2007 elections; (2) that in Northern Ireland, Councils have been elected by the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system for a number of years; (3) that, following contact between Members of the Council and Members of local authorities in Northern Ireland, there had been identified the possibility whereby Councillors from Northern Ireland may share their experience of proportional representation and operating in multi member wards; (4) that those possibilities had been taken forward and a training seminar for Members of the Council had been arranged to take place on 27 October 2006 in the Civic Centre, and (5) that the training seminar would coincide with the scheduled date for the meeting of the Association of Public Service Excellence Policy, Performance and Scrutiny Sub-Committee and it had been agreed that in order to participate in the training seminar, that Sub-Committee would meet in North Lanarkshire on that date.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted and the action taken to organise the training seminar be homologated.

UPDATE – DEPARTMENTAL RACE EQUALITY ACTION PLAN

12. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 26 October 2006, when a progress report on the Department of Administration Race Action Plan was approved, there was submitted a report dated 16 October 2006 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 Race Action Plan for the Department of Administration be noted.

ROYAL MAIL PROPOSAL – ZONAL PRICING

13. There was submitted a report dated 19 July 2006 by the Director of Administration (1) advising of a consultation from Post Watch Scotland on a proposal by Royal Mail to introduce zonal pricing to certain bulk mail products used by larger mailers, and (2) providing details thereon.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

MOSSEND POST OFFICE, 17 UNITAS ROAD, BELLSHILL

14. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 March 2006, when it was noted that due to the demolition of 17 Unitas Road, Bellshill the Mossend branch of the
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Post Office Limited will be relocated to 3 Hope Street, Bellshill, there was submitted a report dated 28 September 2006 by the Director of Administration confirming that the Mossend branch of the Post Office will be relocated to 3 Hope Street, Bellshill on 26 October 2006.

Decided: that it be noted that the Mossend branch of the Post Office will be relocated to 3 Hope Street, Bellshill on 26 October 2006

REMIT FROM THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT (PROTECTIVE SERVICES) SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 3 OCTOBER 2006 - INTRODUCTION OF LICENSING FOR SKIN PIERCING AND TATTOOING

15. **C** There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 3 October 2006 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising (a) that the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 gave Ministers the authority to introduce licensing for any activity which shall be regulated in accordance with provisions specified in the Licensing Order, and (b) that the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Skin Piercing and Tattooing) Order has been approved by the Scottish Ministers; (2) outlining the background relative thereto; (3) detailing the fee structure for applications for skin piercing and tattoo licensing; (4) outlining the application process, and (5) further advising that applications which attract objections or representations or had been recommended for refusal be referred to the General Purposes (Licensing) Sub-Committee for consideration.

Decided:

- (1) that the introduction of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Skin Piercing and Tattooing) Order 2006 be noted;
- (2) that the implementation process and fees as detailed in the report be noted;
- (3) that it be agreed, and recommended to the Council, that applications for skin piercing and tattooing which attract objections or representations and those which are recommended for refusal, be remitted to the General Purposes (Licensing) Sub-Committee for determination.

REMIT FROM THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2006 - REGISTRATION OF PRIVATE LANDLORDS

16. **C** There was submitted a report dated 11 October 2006 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising the Committee of the procedures for refusing or revoking the registration of private landlords and agents managing properties under Part A of the Anti-Social Behaviour Etc (Scotland) Act 2004; (2) outlining how applications would be processed and the types of information that is used to assess whether an applicant is fit and proper as prescribed in Section 85 of the Act, and (3) further advising that applications which had attracted objections or representations or had been recommended for refusal by the Director of Planning and Environment be referred to the General Purposes (Licensing) Sub-Committee for determination.

Decided:

- (1) that it be agreed, and recommended to the Council, that all applications for registration of private Landlords which had attracted objections or representations or which the Director of Planning and Environment recommends for refusal, be referred to the General Purposes (Licensing) Sub-Committee for determination, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

TOWN TWINNING

(1) KILSYTH TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

17. There was submitted a report dated 27 September 2006 by the Director of Administration (1) advising of action taken, after consultation with the Convener, in awarding assistance in terms of Council policy to Kilsyth Town Twinning Association in respect of a twinning visit to Meulan, France during October 2006, 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 Kilsyth Town Twinning Association in respect of a twinning visit to Meulan, France during October 2006 be homologated.

(2) SAINT DENIS

18. There was submitted a report dated 20 September 2006 by the Director of Administration (1) advising (a) that between 7 September and 20 October 2007, Stade De France in the Council's twin town, Saint Denis, France will host seven matches of the Rugby World Cup; (b) that an invitation had been received from the Mayor of Saint Denis proposing that a group of 14 young people from North Lanarkshire be hosted in Saint Denis from 6 to 13 September 2007 to participate in the International Youth Forum linked with the Rugby World Cup, and (c) that the aforementioned invitation proposes, also, that in the spirit of the exchange, the Council host 14 young people from Saint Denis in early 2007, and (2) indicating that, following discussions with colleagues in the Department of Education, it is considered that the invitation can be accommodated and would provide a valuable learning experience for the young people involved.

Decided: that the Director of Administration be authorised, on behalf of the Council, to accept the invitation from the Mayor of Saint Denis to accommodate the two exchanges.

The Convener being of the view that the following item of business was of an urgent nature authorised its consideration to enable the Council to progress the item timeously.

(3) BRON

19. There was submitted a report dated 24 October 2006 by the Director of Administration (1) advising that an invitation had been received from the Mayor of Bron, France inviting a delegation of two or three persons to attend the celebrations between 7-10 December 2006 of the 15th Anniversary of the Twinning of Bron with the Community of Talavera de la Reina, and (2) recommending that in view of the links between North Lanarkshire and the Municipality of Bron, the invitation be accepted.

Decided: that the Director of Administration be authorised, on behalf of the Council, to accept the invitation from the Mayor of Bron to participate in the 15th Anniversary celebrations of the Twinning of Bron with the Community of Talavera de la Reina.

CONFERENCES

20. There was submitted a report dated 16 October 2006 by the Director of Administration advising that three invitations had been received in respect of member attendance at conferences and seeking that consideration be given to the invitations.

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Decided:

- (1) that attendance at the following conference be agreed:-

Conference	Venue	Date	Attendance
4 th Annual FOI Conference	Edinburgh	20.11.06	Councillor Saunders

and

- (2) that otherwise no attendance be authorised.