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HOUSING1995M

Motherwell, 25th October, 1995 at 4 pm.

A Meeting of the HOUSING COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor McLaughlin, Chair; Councillor Craigie, Vice-Chair;
Councillors
Chadha, Clarke, Connelly, Curley, Gibson, Gormill, Griffin, Hogg,
Lafferty,
Logue, Lyle, McAlorum, H. McGuigan, W. Martin, Mathieson, Moran,
Morgan, G. Murray, V. Murray, Nolan, Robertson and Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Head of Central Services, Director of Housing, Director of
Construction
Services, Director of Social Work and Head of Local Housing Services.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Cox, Fitzpatrick, Foley, Ross and Sullivan.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. With reference to paragraph 202 of the Minute of the meeting of the North Lanarkshire Council held on 31st August, 1995, there were submitted draft proposals relative to the Committee's Terms of Reference (1) as referred to this Committee by the North Lanarkshire Council, and (2) as amended, following consultation with the Director of Housing.

Decided: That the draft Terms of Reference, as amended,
following consultation with the Director of Housing, be
approved on a provisional basis and remitted to the
Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

THE NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL JOINT WORKING GROUP
REPORT

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2. There were submitted (1) report by the Housing Working Group which had been considered by the North Lanarkshire Council Joint Working Group, and (2) report dated 10th October, 1995 by the Director of Housing, containing details of the progress which had been made on the integration of the various functions of his Department.

Decided:

- (1) That the strategic housing aims and objectives as detailed in the Annex hereto be meantime adopted;

- (2) That the contents of the reports by the Working Group and the Director of Housing be noted;
- (3) That the Director of Housing be authorised to prepare and submit reports at the appropriate times outlining the progress being made in each of the functional areas with a view to further policy decisions being taken, and
- (4) That, in conjunction with the Policy and Resources Committee, a series of Information Seminars on the various functions of the Department of Housing be organised and held on dates to be arranged.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMMES (HRA)

3. There was submitted a report dated 31st August, 1995 by Director of Housing, regarding the HRA Capital Programme for 1996-97.

Councillor G. Murray, having moved an amendment which failed to find a seconder, asked that his dissent be recorded in the minutes.

Decided:

- (1) That, in the short term, the HRA Capital Programmes, as they relate to each existing authority, continue to be financed as far as possible from the resources available in each of the areas;
- (2) That Resource Planning Assumptions established by the Scottish Office be distributed, as outlined in paragraph 2.3 of the Director of Housing's report, for the purpose of drawing up Capital Programme submissions;
- (3) That each merging authority be requested to prepare Capital Programmes to correspond with the allocation of resources and that these Programmes be combined for the purpose of the submission to the Scottish Office, as illustrated in Appendix 5 of the report;
- (4) That future HRA Capital Programmes be financed as outlined in paragraph 3.5 of the Director of Housing's report until such times as Programmes and Revenue financing arrangements are rationalised across the new authority, and
- (5) That budgetary and financing arrangements for the Non-HRA Capital Programme be on the same basis as the HRA Capital Programme.

COMMUNITY CARE PLANNING: PLANNING STRUCTURES

4. There were submitted (1) letter dated 25th September, 1995 from the Scottish Office, Social Work Services Group, enclosing, for comments, a draft circular regarding the establishment of joint

planning structures, and (2) a joint report dated 12th October, 1995 by the Director of Social Work and Director of Housing, giving details of the Council's proposed response to the circular and identifying issues for the organisation of joint planning from April, 1996.

Decided:

- (1) That the comments contained within the joint report form the basis of the Council's response to the draft circular on joint planning structures;
- (2) That the Director of Social Work be authorised to initiate officer discussion on strategic planning for community care with the South Lanarkshire Council and the Lanarkshire Health Board, with a view to clarifying options by the end of December, 1995;
- (3) That, as soon as is practicable, the Director of Social Work initiate discussions internally within the Council, and in consultation with representative users, carers and provider organisations, with a view to making recommendations on local joint planning arrangements, and
- (4) That the Director of Administration be authorised to submit representations to the Scottish Office, Social Work Services Group, expressing the Council's concern that criteria had been adopted without proper and comprehensive consultation with local authorities.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTINUING HEALTH CARE

5. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 10th October, 1995, there was submitted a report dated 9th October, 1995 by the Director of Social Work, regarding the Council's proposed response to a draft circular issued by the Scottish Office on the responsibility of the National Health Service for continuing health care.

Decided:

- (1) That the Director of Administration be authorised to submit representations to the Scottish Office in terms of the report, highlighting the four points detailed in paragraph 4 of the report, and
- (2) That the report be otherwise noted.

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ANNEX

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Strategic Aims

The Council will aim to secure the availability of quality housing in an attractive environment providing accommodation which is affordable, warm, dampfree, safe and secure and corresponding with the housing needs and aspirations of the existing and potential residents of North Lanarkshire.

Strategic Objectives

- (1) To regularly assess the housing needs of the area.
- (2) To work along with other housing organisations and agencies to develop and implement strategies to best meet demand and address identified shortfalls in housing provision.
- (3) To assist Community Care clients to remain in their own home within mainstream communities.
- (4) To provide a responsive and effective service for homeless families and single people.
- (5) To provide a responsive local housing management service which represents good value for money for all Council tenants and others in need of housing advice or assistance.
- (6) To continue to improve the standard of the Council's own housing stock and its surrounding environment and secure a good quality of life for all residents.
- (7) To encourage and facilitate the improvement and maintenance of houses not in Council ownership through the award of improvement and repair grants and other initiatives.
- (8) To develop and implement estate regeneration and housing renewal strategies.
- (9) To consult and encourage feedback from service users to inform the future development of policy and service delivery arrangements.