

EXCERPT OF MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON
30 NOVEMBER 1999

RATIONALISATION OF TRANSPORT MAINTENANCE AND GARAGING DEPOTS

18. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 3 November 1999, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 18 November 1999 by the Director of Community Services (1) advising, for the reasons detailed therein, that it was necessary to rationalise (a) operations within the Transport Section of the Department of Community Services, and (b) the number of garaging depots operated by his Department, and (2) containing proposals for rationalisation of the Transport Section and garaging depots.

Decided:

- (1) that the rationalisation of garaging depots from 4 to 2, as detailed in the report, be approved;
- (2) that it be noted that the depot at Bellshill would become the central depot with the depot at Wardpark operating as a satellite in the northern area;
- (3) that the transfer of all transport operations from Coatbridge and Motherwell facilities to those located in Bellshill be approved;
- (4) that the Albert Street, Motherwell Depot be declared surplus to requirements of the Department of Community Services and its disposal be remitted to the Housing and Property Services Committee for its interest;
- (5) that it be noted that discussions with regard to the future of the Southerhouse depot, Coatbridge were ongoing;
- (6) that £80,000 of the projected £200,000 underspend anticipated in relation to the construction of Coltswood Cemetery, Coatbridge be used to finance improvements to remaining depots;
- (7) that it be noted that as a result of the rationalisation proposals annual revenue expenditure would reduce in line with the anticipated down-turn in business from the Council's Direct Labour Organisation's fleet, and
- (8) that the matter be referred to the Finance and Policy and Resources Committees for their respective interests.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT

To: COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: RATIONALISATION OF TRANSPORT MAINTENANCE AND GARAGING DEPOTS
From: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES		
Date: 18 NOVEMBER 1999	Ref: EK/KT	

1. **INTRODUCTION**

This report updates the Committee on the existing position regarding the Council's vehicle maintenance and garaging facilities.

2. **BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The special meeting of the Community Services Committee on 3 November 1999 considered and approved a restructure report on the Community Services Department. The recommendations within this report were subsequently approved by the full Council meeting of 4 November 1999.
- 2.2 In the transport restructure part of this report the Council was requested to agree to the principle of rationalising the existing four transport facilities to two. This was subsequently agreed by the Council.

3. **UPDATE POSITION**

- 3.1 Following agreement in principle by the Council to reduce the number of depots from 4 to 2 a meeting and presentation on the transport restructuring was made by senior management of the Department of Community Services to the Transport Section of the Department at Broadwood Stadium on Thursday 11 November 1999. The meeting was attended by over 100 Transport Section staff and included full representation by the three main Trade Unions involved i.e. GMB, UNISON and T&G.
- 3.2 At this meeting the Trade Unions and employees were informed by management that the optimum option for the future involved centralisation of transport facilities at the Bellshill, Old Edinburgh Road facilities with a satellite depot in the north area at Wardpark, Cumbenauld. This would result in the transfer of personnel from the existing depots at Albert Street, Motherwell and Souterhouse, Coatbridge. Transport operations would then cease from these two locations. The meeting was also advised that the timetable for these proposed changes would require to be by the beginning of the next financial year (1 April 2000). The background to the reasons why and how these proposals would be phased in over this period were fully outlined to those present at the meeting of 11 November 1999.

- 3.3 All transferable assets such as ramps and moveable plant and equipment would move to Bellshill Depot from Motherwell and Coatbridge.
- 3.4 The Departmental management outlined that there would be a number of meetings with the various staff involved over the coming months.

4. INVESTMENT IN FACILITIES

- 4.1 In order to make best use of the central depot at Bellshill and to provide adequate facilities for the additional staff who would be transferring it will be essential to upgrade the existing maintenance and messing/shower facilities.
- 4.2 The existing estimate for these works is approximately £80,000. This figure is subject to final confirmation on prices which are in the process of being gathered in and analysed. It is fundamental to the process of rationalisation that this level of funding is made by the Council in order for the Transport Section to realise the benefits of depot rationalisation.
- 4.3 It should also been noted that a result of centralising the depots, there is potential for capital receipts as a result of selling the vacant depots at Motherwell and Coatbridge.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee

- a) agree to the above rationalisation of depots from 4 to 2 and that Bellshill become the central depot with Wardpark a satellite in the north area
- b) agree to transfer all transport operations from the Coatbridge and Motherwell facilities to Bellshill
- c) that the Albert Street, Motherwell Depot be declared surplus to requirements and its disposal be remitted to the Housing and Property Committee for its interest.
- d) that the Committee note that the Southerhouse Depot, Coatbridge is a shared Depot and its part of complex of Council Departments at this location and discussions are ongoing as to its future use by the Council.
- e) that the financing of the improvement works to the remaining Depots amount to approximately £80,000 be funded from an underspend in the projected costs of constructing the Coltswood Cemetery, Coatbridge the savings amounting to approximately £200,000.
- f) that it be noted that as a result of the rationalisation proposals annual revenue expenditure would reduce in line with the downturn in business from the DLO fleet requirements
- g) that the matter be remitted to the Finance and Policy & Resources Committees for their interest