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Coatbridge, 1 February 2005 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the **COATBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE**

**PRESENT**

Councillor M. Clark, Convener; Councillors Burns, Cassidy, Gordon, Maginnis and Shields.

**CHAIR**

Councillor M. Clark (Convener) presided.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Committee Services Manager, Administration Department; Office Manager, Education Department; Head of Accounting Services, Finance Department; Policy and Development Manager, Community Services Department; Road Network Operations Manager and Team Leader, Planning and Environment Department; Head of Social Work Development and Operations Manager, Social Work Department.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Burrows, Inspector Allison, Strathclyde Police and M. Donovan and P. Winnie, Coatbridge Community Forum.

**APOLOGY**

Councillor Smith.

**BUDGET CONSULTATION - SETTING OF THE COUNCIL TAX AND GENERAL REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2005/2006**

1. The Head of Accounting Services provided a presentation on the budget process of the Council which would dictate the level of Council Tax set in North Lanarkshire and highlighted (1) the budget position incorporating long term planning; (2) the Council's income and expenditure position; (3) cost pressures facing the Council, and (4) the revenue estimates and draft budget for the financial year 2005/2006 including proposed efficiency savings for all Departments of the Council.

He indicated the main growth issues for consideration and sought the views of community representatives on possible growth priorities and efficiency savings which would have an effect on the levels of Council Tax set by the Council.

Thereon, the Head of Accounting Services responded to questions by Elected Members and community representatives.

The Convener thanked the Head of Accounting Services for his presentation.

**Decided:** that the presentation by the Head of Accounting Services and the comments made by community representatives be noted.

**COATBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE MINUTE**

2. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of Coatbridge Area Committee held on 16 November 2004.

**Decided:** that the terms of the Minute be noted.

**COATBRIDGE COMMUNITY FORUM - MINUTE**

3. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of Coatbridge Community Forum held on 4 November 2004.

**Decided:** that the terms of the Minute be noted.

**GOOD NEWS**

4. There was submitted a report dated 3 December 2004 by the Director of Community Services detailing a number of community initiative projects and events undertaken and supported by the Department of Community Services within North Lanarkshire.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

**POLICE REPORT**

5. There was submitted a report (tabled) by Inspector Allison, Strathclyde Police summarising the crime statistics in the Coatbridge area for the year to date and providing a comparison with the statistics in the same period in 2004.

Thereon Inspector Allison responded to Members questions.

**Decided:** that the crime statistics in the Coatbridge area for the year to date be noted.

**SMALL COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME**

6. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 16 November 2004 when, inter alia, it was agreed that the Coatbridge Area Team progress a list of projects identified on the area tour with a view to developing a programme which could be funded through the Small Communities Programme and, if possible, other funding sources and report back to a future meeting of the Committee, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 January 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment regarding the progress of the development of the Small Communities Programme and proposed projects within the Coatbridge area (1) intimating that each project had been placed into one of three categories and that (a) category 1 projects were those which met the criteria and could be implemented entirely through money available from the budget; (b) category 2 projects were considered acceptable projects but as a result of their scale would require additional finance and resources from a range of internal and external partners, and (c) category 3 projects were considered to be those that would be more appropriately led and delivered from other funding sources or organisations; (2) indicating that as a result of the assessment process, 15 projects had been identified within the Coatbridge area; (3) detailing in the Appendix to the report the projects which have been identified, the indicative cost and the category to which each project had been allocated, and (4) advising that details of each of the proposals would be finalised and would be subject to discussion with local community groups and organisations prior to implementation to ensure that they are in keeping with local aspirations and objectives.

**Decided:** that the Committee approve and recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee

- (1) the categories identified in the report for prioritising delivery of the proposed projects.

- (2) that the Director of Planning and Environment proceed with the development of the projects in categories 1 and 2 for delivery in 2005/2006, and
- (3) that the Director of Planning and Environment assist in the delivery of category 3 projects with local community groups and organisations and submit a further report to a future meeting of the Committee on whether funding from the Small Communities budget was appropriate.

**A HOME FOR THE FUTURE - PROGRESS REPORT**

7. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 20 January 2005 by the Director of Social Work regarding the progress of the implementation of the changes to the Council's residential care home provision for older people with specific reference to Lochview Home, Coatbridge (1) outlining the background to the introduction of national standards, the shifting of national policy, the changes in the care home sector and the development of very sheltered housing, and (2) providing details of the rationale behind the proposed closure of Lochview Home for the Elderly, Coatbridge.

Thereon, The Head of Social Work Development provided a presentation on the background to the changes to the Council's provision of residential care home provision for older people and responded to questions by Elected Members and community representatives.

The Convener thanked the Head of Social Work Development for his presentation.

**Decided:** that the presentation by the Head of Social Work Development and the comments made by the community representatives be noted.