

AGENDA ITEM No. 2 (a)
NORTH LANARKSHIRE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE (AGGREGATION)
26th June, 1995

Coatbridge, 26th June, 1995 at 2 pm. At the Inaugural Meeting of the
NORTH LANARKSHIRE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE (AGGREGATION)

PRESENT:	North Lanarkshire Council:	Councillors D. Gilchrist, J. Logue, R. Lyle, J. McCabe and H. McGuigan.
	Cumbernauld and Kilsyth District Council:	Provost C. Combe and Councillor C. Craigie.
	Monklands District Council:	Councillor J. Brooks.
	Motherwell District Council:	Councillor F. Gormill.
	Strathkelvin District Council:	Councillors W. Hogg and B. Wallace.
APOLOGIES:	North Lanarkshire Council:	Councillors C. Gray, T. Maginnis and R. McKenna.
	Monklands District Council:	Councillor J. Smith.
	Motherwell District Council:	Councillor G. McLaughlin.
ATTENDING:	North Lanarkshire Council:	Mrs. J. Knox (for Interim Clerk), M. Hutton (Director of Environmental Services); J. Milne (Director of Finance); G. Whitefield (Director of Housing) and N. Turner (Director of Leisure Services).
	Cumbernauld and Kilsyth District Council:	D. McGowan (Director of Community Services).

Welcome

1. Councillor McGuigan opened the meeting by welcoming elected members and officials from the merging authorities to the Inaugural Meeting of the North Lanarkshire Co-ordinating Committee (Aggregation).

Chair

2. Councillor McGuigan was nominated and took the Chair.

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Date of Future Meetings

3. The Committee agreed to meet at least once per month with special meetings being called as and when considered necessary until April, 1996, the date and place of future meetings to be arranged prior to the conclusion of each meeting.

Terms of Reference

4. There was submitted a paper (circulated), outlining draft proposed terms of reference for adoption by the Committee.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to adopt the said terms of reference as detailed in the Appendix hereto.

Environmental Services - Joint Working Group Report - Update

5. The Committee heard a presentation by the Director of Environmental Services, North Lanarkshire Council, in the course of which he (1) provided information on the progress to date of the Environmental Services Joint Working Group which had met monthly, and (2) summarised various key issues which would require to be considered in the immediate future by the new authority in relation to the following Environmental Services functions, viz:- (a) Public Health; (b) Consumer Protection; (c) Building Cleaning; (d) Transport Management, and (e) Cleansing Services.

Following discussion, having heard the Director of Environmental Services in supplement, the Committee (1) agreed that any difficulties encountered would be brought back to the Committee immediately, and (2) noted the information meantime, on the understanding that a report by the Director of Environmental Services would be issued to members.

Housing - Joint Working Group Report - Update

6. There was submitted report (tabled) of 26th June by Housing Officer Working Group, (1) setting out the progress to date of the Housing Joint Working Group and various Sub-Groups as follows, viz:- (a) Repairs and Maintenance; (b) Allocations/Waiting Lists/ Homelessness; (c) Housing Benefits/Rent Allowances and Council Tax Rebates; (d) Housing Finance - Rent Accounting and Collection, and (e) Estate Management; (2) indicating that initial reports from each of the Sub-Groups were due by 31st July, 1995, and (3) advising that a Sub-Group was to be established to produce a position statement on CCT - Housing Management and Related Services by 14th August, 1995.

Following discussion, having heard the Director of Housing, North Lanarkshire Council, in supplement, the Committee noted the information meantime.

Leisure - Joint Working Group Report - Update

7. The Committee heard a presentation by the Director of Leisure Services, North Lanarkshire Council, during which he (1) provided information on the progress to date of the Leisure Services Working

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Group which had met monthly and of the various Sub-Groups which had been working on the preparation of draft service audits due for submission by the end of July, 1995; (2) advised that the process of aggregation could not be considered in isolation from disaggregation, and (3) summarised the various key issues which would require to be considered in the immediate future by the new authority in relation to leisure facilities.

Following discussion, having heard the Director of Leisure Services in supplement, the Committee (1) noted the information meantime, and called for reports on (a) Strathclyde Park; (b) the rationalisation of concessionary access schemes, and (c) the charging structure of current leisure facilities.

Planning and Development - Joint Working Group Report - Update

8. The Chairman reported that the Director of Planning, North Lanarkshire Council was unable to give a personal report on the progress of the Planning and Development Joint Working Group.

Following discussion, the Committee noted the position, on the understanding that a report by the Director of Planning would be issued to members.

Economic Development - Joint Working Group Report - Update

9. The Chairman reported that the Director of Planning, North Lanarkshire Council was unable to give a personal report on the progress of the Economic Development Joint Working Group.

Following discussion, the Committee noted the position, on the understanding that a report by the Director of Planning would be issued to members.

Finance - Joint Working Group Report - Update

10. The Director of Finance, North Lanarkshire Council spoke to a report (in part) (tabled) which (1) provided information in relation to financial management, creditors and debtors systems, Council tax, payroll and cash receipting; (2) advised on the progress, to date, by the Finance Joint Working Group and the various Sub-Committees which had been established; (3) outlined the input which would be required from existing authorities to enable North Lanarkshire Council to submit its Capital Programmes to the Scottish Office in the autumn; (4) raised the question of timetable and methodology in relation to the revenue budget, and (5) summarised the various key issues which would require to be considered by the new authority.

Following discussion, having heard the Director of Finance in supplement, the Committee noted the information meantime.

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Information Technology - Joint Working Group Report - Update

11. The Director of Finance, North Lanarkshire Council spoke to a report (in part) (tabled) which (1) provided information in relation to the systems which would be operated by North Lanarkshire Council and detailed the appropriate aggregation and disaggregation relating to them; (2) reported on the up-to-date progress of the Information Technology Joint Working Group, and (3) summarised the various key issues in relation to Information Technology which would require to be considered by the new authority.

Following discussion, having heard the Director of Finance in supplement, the Committee noted the information meantime.

Staff Briefing Sessions

12. The Committee agreed that Directors should continue to keep their staff advised of developments relating to the new authority.

Date and Venue of Next Meeting

13. The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be hosted by Monklands District Council, and held on Thursday, 3rd August, 1995 at 2 pm.

APPENDIX

Co-ordinating Committee - Terms of Reference

The Co-ordinating Committee of the authorities within the area of North Lanarkshire Council will be a vehicle for consideration of aggregation issues of joint interest or common application to the North Lanarkshire Council and its constituent Councils. The Committee will make recommendations to North Lanarkshire Council on these issues, together with any outstanding transitional problems.

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NORTH LANARKSHIRE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE (AGGREGATION)
3rd August, 1995

Coatbridge, 3rd August, 1995 at 2 pm. At a Meeting of the
NORTH LANARKSHIRE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE (AGGREGATION)

- PRESENT:** North Lanarkshire Council: Councillors Gilchrist, Lyle and McCabe.
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth District Council: Provost Combe and Councillor Craigie.
Monklands District Council: Councillors Brooks and Burns (substitute).
Motherwell District Council: Councillors Gormill and McLaughlin.
Strathkelvin District Council: Councillor Hogg.
- APOLOGIES:** North Lanarkshire Council: Councillor McGuigan
Monklands District Council: Councillor Smith.
Strathkelvin District Council: Councillor Wallace.
- ATTENDING:** North Lanarkshire Council: C. Philip (for Chief Executive), Director of Construction Services, Director of Environmental Services, Director of Finance, Director of Housing, Director of Leisure Services and Director of Planning and Development.
Strathkelvin District Council: Director of Administration.

Joint Working Group Reports - Update

(1) Environmental Services

14. With reference to paragraph 5, there was submitted report (circulated) of 26th June by Director of Environmental Services, detailing the various services which would be provided by his Department, and highlighting a number of the priority issues currently being addressed by the Environmental Services Joint Working Group. There was then submitted report (tabled) received on 3rd August by Director of Environmental Services, advising that since June he had been concentrating on the functions presently being provided by Strathclyde Regional Council ie Consumer Protection and Cleaning and Related Services, with a view to obtaining further detailed information relating to these services, and summarising the progress which had been made, to date, with regard to the following functions, viz:- (1) Public Health; (2) Consumer Protection; (3) Cleaning and Related Services; (4) Transport Management, and (5) Cleansing Services.

Following a full discussion, having heard the Director of Environmental Services in supplement, the Committee noted the information meantime, and otherwise continued consideration.

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(2) Housing

15. With reference to paragraph 6, there was submitted report (tabled) of 2nd August by Director of Housing, advising of the current progress in relation to each of the various short term issues which had been identified by the Housing Joint Working Group and various Sub-Groups.

Following a full discussion, having heard the Director of Housing in supplement, the Committee noted the information meantime, and otherwise further continued consideration.

(3) Leisure Services

(a) Strathclyde Country Park

16. With reference to paragraph 7, there was submitted report (tabled) of 1st August by Director of Leisure Services, (1) advising that Strathclyde Country Park would, following reorganisation, be divided between North and South Lanarkshire Councils with approximately 75 per cent of operational funding and activity and 60 per cent of land area falling to this Council; (2) detailing four options for the future operation of the Park which had been considered by the Leisure Services Working Group, and (3) suggesting, for the reasons detailed therein, (a) that Strathclyde Country Park be disaggregated; (b) that the name "Strathclyde Country Park" be retained, and (c) that he be authorised to agree appropriate operational arrangements for liaison between North and South Lanarkshire Council officials on Park matters of joint interest.

Following a full discussion, having heard the Director of Leisure Services in supplement, the Committee recommended to the Interim Executive Committee that the Director's said proposals be approved.

(b) Disaggregation of Strathkelvin District Council's Mobile Library Service

17. There was submitted report (tabled) of 3rd August by Director of Leisure Services, (1) advising that the disaggregation of Strathkelvin District Council's Mobile Library Service had been estimated to be approximately one third of a mobile library route; (2) summarising the three options open to the Council to resolve the problem since there was no spare capacity within the current mobile library fleet of the three constituent District authorities; (3) indicating that Motherwell District Council was replacing one of its mobile libraries during this financial year and that it had been confirmed that some further use could be obtained from the said vehicle being replaced if some remedial works were undertaken; (4) suggesting that the Mobile Library Service transferred from Strathkelvin District Council be provided initially by extending the running period of the said Motherwell District Council mobile library which was being replaced during this financial year, and (5) indicating that although the relevant running costs should be transferred from Strathkelvin District Council, additional circulation control equipment would be required at the estimated cost of £2,500.

Following a full discussion, having heard the Director of Leisure Services, the Committee recommended to the Interim Executive Committee that the Director's said proposal be approved.

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(c) Libraries' IT Systems

18. There was submitted report (tabled) of 3rd August by Director of Leisure Services, (1) giving details of the IT Library Systems currently being operated in Motherwell, Monklands and Strathkelvin District Councils, Cumbernauld and Kilsyth District Council being manually operated; (2) advising that the Leisure Services Working Group were of the opinion that the MDIS Urica Library System, which was the Motherwell District Council system, was the only option which could provide a practical integrated IT solution in the short term and at reasonable cost; (3) summarising the implications for each authority; (4) detailing the estimated cost of extending the MDIS Urica System throughout North Lanarkshire Council, and (5) suggesting, for the reasons detailed therein, (a) that the principal of a North Lanarkshire Council integrated library system be accepted as an early priority; (b) that the MDIS Urica System be extended as the North Lanarkshire Council system in the first instance; (c) that arrangements be put in place to ensure the transfer of Strathkelvin Libraries for 1st April, 1996, and (d) that, subject to confirmation by the Director of Finance regarding technical, cost, installation and timescale details, Cumbernauld and Kilsyth District Council's manual system be computerised and Monklands District Council's system be transferred to MDIS, as soon as possible with a completion target of 1996/97 or earlier.

Following a full discussion, having heard the Director of Leisure Services, the Committee recommended to the Interim Executive Committee, that the Director's said proposals be approved.

(d) Rationalisation of Concessionary Schemes

19. With reference to paragraph 7, there was submitted report (tabled) of 3rd August by Director of Leisure Services, (1) referring to the various concessionary schemes which authorities were currently operating in respect of the use of their leisure facilities; (2) containing a review of the said schemes, together with a "best of all worlds" synopsis; (3) advising that the Council could either introduce (a) the "best of all worlds" option which extended the free use presently offered by Cumbernauld and Kilsyth District Council to all of North Lanarkshire but at a significant cost, or (b) introduce an extended scheme at no additional cost which excluded the free use of facilities but offered other compensatory concessions, and (4) containing his observations on the advantages and disadvantages of each option.

Following discussion, having heard the Director of Leisure Services, the Committee continued consideration.

(e) Charging Structure for Leisure Facilities

20. With reference to paragraph 7, there was submitted report (tabled) of 3rd August by Director of Leisure Services, (1) referring to the various charging structures which were currently being operated by the various authorities; (2) advising that it had become apparent that a simplistic averaging out process or similar would not be feasible, and (3) suggesting, for the reasons detailed therein, that he be authorised to compile a draft pricing structure based on the following, viz:- (a) overall income levels to be based on existing levels plus inflation for 1996-97; (b) value for money for customers; (c) awareness of the pricing structure for comparable services outwith North Lanarkshire, and (d) awareness that various categories of disadvantaged persons would be removed from the standard pricing structure via the concessionary access scheme.

Following discussion, having heard the Director of Leisure Services, the Committee continued consideration pending a further report by him.

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(f) General

21. With reference to paragraph 7, there was submitted report (circulated) by Director of Leisure Services, containing information on the progress, to 26th June, 1995 of the Leisure Services Working Group and various Sub-Groups.

Following discussion, the Committee noted the contents of the report.

(4) Planning and Development

22. With reference to paragraph 8, there was submitted report (circulated) by Director of Planning and Development, setting out the progress of the Planning and Development Officers' Working Group, and identifying various main issues arising from the aggregation of the merging authorities with respect to the future development control function. There was then submitted report (tabled) received on 3rd August from Director of Planning and Development, (1) summarising the four main issues which had been identified by the Working Group; (2) pointing out that a considerable amount of work had already been undertaken with a view to assessing and narrowing the disparities between the existing current practices of the four authorities; (3) indicating that, due to the impact of differing technology systems, it would be impossible to have all systems mutually compatible by 1st April, 1996, and (4) stressing that an early decision on each of the said main issues was required to enable an effective system to be agreed and established prior to 1st April, 1996.

Following a full discussion, having heard the Director of Planning and Development, the Committee noted the information meantime, and otherwise continued consideration.

(5) Economic Development

23. With reference to paragraph 9, there was submitted report (tabled) received on 3rd August from Director of Planning and Development, setting out the progress, to date, of the Economic Development Officers' Working Group, and summarising the three main issues which required action.

Following discussion, having heard the Director of Planning and Development, the Committee noted the information meantime, and otherwise continued consideration.

(6) Finance

24. With reference to paragraph 10, the Director of Finance (1) advised on the progress, to date, by the Finance Joint Working Group and the various Sub-Groups which had been established; (2) reminded members of the various key issues which would require to be considered by the new authority, and (3) advised of the steps which he had taken with a view to enabling the North Lanarkshire Council to submit its Capital Programmes to the Scottish Office.

Following discussion, having heard the Director of Finance in supplement, the Committee noted the information meantime, and otherwise continued consideration.

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(7) Information Technology

25. With reference to paragraph 11, the Director of Finance advised on the progress, to date, of the Information Technology Joint Working Group, and reminded members of the various key issues which would require to be considered by the new authority.

Following discussion, having heard the Director of Finance in supplement, the Committee noted the information meantime, and otherwise continued consideration.

(8) Construction Services

26. There was submitted report (tabled) received on 3rd August from Director of Construction Services, setting out the progress, to date, of the Building Services and Roads (Design) Joint Working Groups, and identifying the various key issues which required further consideration.

Following discussion, having heard the Director of Construction Services in supplement, the Committee noted the information meantime, and otherwise continued consideration.

Asset Disposal

27. On the matter being raised, the Committee expressed their concern regarding the disposal of certain assets which was allegedly being carried out by Strathclyde Regional Council.

Following discussion, having been advised that after 1st September, 1995, authorities disposing of assets must first consult the North Lanarkshire Council, the Committee noted the position meantime, on the understanding that the appropriate officials would monitor the position and report back if necessary.

Committee Structure

28. Arising from consideration of the various items of business contained within the preceding paragraphs, the Committee recommended to the Interim Executive Committee, that consideration be given to the formation of the Council's Committee structure.

Committee Reports - Circulation

29. The Committee agreed that, in future, Directors ensure that their reports were finalised in time to be circulated with the agenda papers.

Date and Venue of Next Meeting

30. The Committee agreed that it be left with the Chairman to agree the dates and venues of future meetings, on the understanding that consideration be given to restricting the number of Working Group update reports to two or three.