

**Motherwell, 27 April 2000 at 9.30 am.**

A Special Meeting of the **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Coyle, Convener; Councillors Maginnis and Wilson, Vice-Conveners; Councillors Barrie, Burns, Connelly, Curran, Donnelly, Gordon, Gorman, Gormill, Gray, Griffin, Hebenton, McGhee, Moran, M. Murray, Shaw and Stocks.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillors Brady, Cefferty, Curley, Grant, Jones, Love, McElroy, Robertson and Selfridge.

**CHAIR**

Councillor Coyle (Convener) presided.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Chief Committee Services Officer, Director of Planning and Environment, Head of Protective Services, Head of Planning and Roads, Divisional Manager Central Division, Acting Divisional Manager Southern Division, Planning Manager Northern Division.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Dr. Colin Ramsay, Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health, Mr. Ron Wheelton, National Radiological Protection Board, Representatives of the Cellular Telecommunications Industry.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors Cox, Hogg, Holloway, McCabe, J. McGuigan, W. Martin, Provost McCulloch, Pentland, Saunders and Scott.

**PRESENTATION - TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENTS**

1. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 December 1999 when a presentation had been made to the Committee by Orange Personal Communications Limited on various matters concerning applications associated with telecommunication developments and when it had been agreed that all Members of the Council be invited to attend a special meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee to hear representations from appropriate parties and discuss issues relevant to telecommunications developments in the context of requests for planning permission for such developments, there was submitted a briefing note dated 27 April 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) outlining recent events in the development of policy and advice regarding telecommunications apparatus and associated health and safety issues; (2) indicating that the Transport and Environment Committee of the Scottish Parliament had published a report incorporating 35 recommendations to the Scottish Executive which covered issues such as Planning Control, Amenity, Health and Policy Guidelines, and (3) advising of his intention to submit a comprehensive report on the Transport and Environment Committee's findings in order that this could be forwarded for information to the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, which had requested copies of policy reports considered by member Authorities.

The Convener then introduced Dr. Colin Ramsay of the Scottish Centre for Infection and Environment Health who gave a presentation to the Committee on public health issues associated with these developments and who referred to various issues associated with exposure to radio frequency emissions from mobile phone base stations, including potential health consequences, the alleged effects of low level emissions, the benefits of Local Authorities adopting a precautionary approach to the siting of telecommunications masts and points for Councils to consider when determining such applications.

Mr. Ron Wheelton, National Radiological Protection Board, thereafter addressed the Committee on the duties and responsibilities of his organisation in relation to electromagnetic fields in general and telecommunications developments in particular.

The Committee and Council Members present were then afforded the opportunity to question the presenters on various aspects of their presentations.

The Convener thereafter brought the meeting to a conclusion, thanking those present, expressing his disappointment that representatives from the Telecommunications Industry could not make a formal presentation to the Committee at this time for reasons which were explained to the Committee.

**Decided:**

- (1) that it be noted that the Director of Planning and Environment would submit a further report to the Committee in due course on the matter, and
- (2) that the position be otherwise noted.