
Motherwell, 13 April 1999 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor McCabe, Convener; Councillors Moran and Smith, Vice-Conveners; Provost Mathieson; Councillors Coyle, Craig, Curran, Gordon, Gormill, Gray, Heberton, Lafferty, McGlashan, McLaughlin, W. Martin, G. Murray, Pentland, Robertson and Wilson.

CHAIR

Councillor McCabe (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Executive; Director of Administration; Acting Director of Community Services; Depute Director of Education; Acting Director of Finance; Director of Housing and Property Services; Director of Social Work; Head of Central Services and Head of Construction Resources.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Leitch, McCulloch, McKendrick, Maginnis, Morgan, Shaw and Sullivan

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF AREA COMMITTEES

(1) SPECIAL CUMBERNAULD AREA COMMITTEE OF 5 MARCH 1999

1. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Special Cumbernauld Area Committee held on 5 March 1999.

Decided: that the Minute be approved.

(2) BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE OF 11 MARCH 1999

2. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Bellshill Area Committee held on 11 March 1999.

Decided: that the Minute be approved.

(3) AIRDRIE AREA COMMITTEE OF 16 MARCH 1999

3. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Airdrie Area Committee held on 16 March 1999.

Decided: that the Minute be approved.

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(4) ADJOURNED AIRDRIE AREA COMMITTEE OF 16 MARCH 1999

4. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Adjourned Airdrie Area Committee held on 16 March 1999.

Decided: that the Minute be approved.

(5) CUMBERNAULD AREA COMMITTEE OF 16 MARCH 1999

5. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Cumbernauld Area Committee held on 16 March 1999.

Decided: that the Minute be approved.

(6) MOTHERWELL AREA COMMITTEE OF 17 MARCH 1999

6. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Motherwell Area Committee held on 17 March 1999.

Decided: that the Minute be approved.

(7) WISHAW AND NEWMAINS AREA COMMITTEE OF 17 MARCH 1999

7. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Wishaw and Newmains Area Committee held on 17 March 1999.

Decided: that the Minute be approved.

(8) NORTHERN CORRIDOR AREA COMMITTEE OF 18 MARCH 1999

8. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Northern Corridor Area Committee held on 18 March 1999.

Decided: that the Minute be approved.

(9) COATBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE OF 23 MARCH 1999

9. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Coatbridge Area Committee held on 23 March 1999.

Decided: that the Minute be approved.

(10) SHOTTS AND HARTHILL AREA COMMITTEE OF 23 MARCH 1999

10. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Shotts and Harthill Area Committee held on 23 March 1999.

Decided: that the Minute be approved.

(11) KILSYTH AND VILLAGES AREA COMMITTEE OF 24 MARCH 1999

11. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Kilsyth and Villages Area Committee held on 24 March 1999.

Decided: that the Minute be approved.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

12. There was submitted the Minutes of the meetings of the undernoted Sub-Committees held on the dates specified:-

- | | | |
|-----|---|---------------|
| (a) | Special Policy and Resources (Community Development)
Sub-Committee | 29 March 1999 |
| (b) | Adjourned Special Policy and Resources (Community Development)
Sub-Committee | 29 March 1999 |

Decided: that the terms of the Minutes be approved.

STRATHCLYDE FIRE BOARD MEETING - MINUTE

13. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Fire Board held on 8 February 1999.

Decided: that the terms of the Minute be noted.

SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE - NOTE OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS - 5 MARCH 1999

14. There was submitted a Note of the Scottish Enterprise Board Proceedings of 5 March 1999.

Decided: that the Board Proceedings be noted.

REMIT FROM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF 17 MARCH 1999 - STAFF AWARENESS TRAINING IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

15. With reference to paragraph 29 of the Minute of the meeting of the Planning and Development Committee held on 17 March 1999 when that Committee, having considered a report dated 17 March 1999 by the Director of Planning and Development in relation to Staff Awareness Training in Energy and Environmental Management, had agreed, inter alia, that corporate staff awareness training in energy efficiency be approved, and (2) that the report be remitted to this Committee for its interest, the Committee considered the report.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

REMITTS FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF 1 APRIL 1999

(1) LAUNCHPAD - FUNDING 1999/2000

16. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of the Economic Development Committee held on 1 April 1999 when that Committee, having considered a report dated 15 April 1999 by the Director of Planning and Environment seeking approval for funding for the Launchpad Project for 1999/2000, which project provides a training service based in Chryston, had agreed, *inter alia*, that the allocation of £10,000 from the budget of the Economic Development Unit to support Launchpad be approved it being noted that similar allocations were being sought from the Departments of Education and Social Work, and (2) that the matter be remitted to this Committee for information, the Committee considered the report.

Decided: that it be noted that the Economic Development, Education and Social Work Departments were combining to provide funding in order that the project can continue this year while the long term future of the service is being considered.

(2) ENVIRONMENT TASK FORCE - PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

17. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of the Economic Development Committee held on 1 April 1999 when that Committee, having considered a report dated 23 March 1999 by the Director of Planning and Development (1) seeking approval for a pilot environmental improvement programme project to be undertaken by the Planning and Development Department under the auspices of the Environmental Task Force, and (2) proposing that five projects identified to be delivered in the Airdrie and Coatbridge area, namely Coatbridge Fountain area; Monklands Canal/Calderbank; Brownsburn/Monklands Glen; Weavers Road, Airdrie, and Caldercruix Improvement Programme, be deemed a pilot environmental project and be delivered in partnership with Wisestart Limited, had agreed *inter alia* (a) that approval be given to the five projects as a pilot environmental enhancement programme on behalf of the Planning and Environment Department to be delivered by Wisestart Limited, and (2) that the matter be referred to this Committee for its information, the Committee considered the report.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

(3) INWARD INVESTMENT COMPANY - CUMBERNAULD

- C** 18. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of the Economic Development Committee held on 1 April 1999 when that Committee, having considered a report dated 23 March 1999 by the Director of Planning and Development advising that the Council had been approached by the Lanarkshire Development Agency, who have been negotiating with a major American Bank to support a project in Cumbernauld which in total would cost approximately £32 million and could lead to the creation of 960 jobs over a six year period between 1999 and 2004, had agreed (1) that it be recommended that a contribution of £400,000 be made to infrastructure works to assist the establishment of a major inward investment development at Orchardton Woods, Cumbernauld, and (2) that the matter be referred to this Committee for consideration and approval, the Committee considered the report.

Decided: that the contribution of £400,000 be approved.

1998/99 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 1998 TO 28 FEBRUARY 1999

(1) CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT

19. There was submitted a report dated 31 March 1999 by the Director of Finance enclosing details of (1) the Chief Executive Department's current spending levels in comparison with the approved budget for the period from 1 April 1998 to 28 February 1999, and (2) a projected outturn for the Department together with details of major variances.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

(2) URBAN PROGRAMME

20. There was submitted a report dated 31 March 1999 by the Director of Finance (1) advising of the current spending levels relating to the Council's Urban Programme Projects and providing a comparison with the approved budget for the period from 1 April 1998 to 28 February 1999, and (2) presenting a projected outturn for Urban Programme Projects together with comments on the anticipated year end position.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

(3) PROGRAMME FOR PARTNERSHIP - MOTHERWELL NORTH PPA

21. There was submitted a report dated 31 March 1999 by the Director of Finance (1) advising of the current spending levels relating to Motherwell North PPA and providing a comparison with the approved budget for the period from 1 April 1998 to 28 February 1999 together with explanations of the most significant variances, and (2) presenting a projected outturn for Motherwell North PPA together with comments on the anticipated year end position.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

(4) PROGRAMME FOR PARTNERSHIP - REGENERATION PROGRAMME

22. There was submitted a report dated 31 March 1999 by the Director of Finance (1) advising of the current spending levels relating to North Lanarkshire Regeneration Programme and providing a comparison with the approved budget for the period from 1 April 1998 to 28 February 1999 together with explanations of the more significant variances, and (2) presenting a projected outturn for the Regeneration Programme together with comments on the anticipated year end position.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME - LEASE OF ADDITIONAL VEHICLES 1999/2000

23. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 March 1999 by the Director of Environmental Services (1) advising of a requirement to replace existing vehicles within the Leisure Services Department and Cleansing Services Division in accordance with the Department's Vehicle Replacement Programme, and (2) seeking approval to (a) lease the additional vehicles, as listed in Appendix 1 of the report using the tender prices submitted to the Environmental Services Committee on 24 November 1998, and (b) approach in the first instance companies listed in Appendix 2 to the report to supply the additional vehicles at the original tender price.

Decided: that the companies listed at Appendix 2 of the report be approached in the first instance to lease the vehicles listed at Appendix 1 at the price submitted in the most recent tender and if any are unwilling then the Acting Director of Planning and Environment be authorised to approach the next cheapest tenderer in turn;

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING AND LAND ACT 1980, SECTION 19B - DIRECTION

24. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 25 November 1998, when the Committee (1) had considered a letter dated 17 November 1998 from the Scottish Office which was in response to the Council's submission in relation to the Secretary of State for Scotland's Section 19B Direction, and (2) had agreed to accept the proposals set out in the letter of 17 November, as clarified in subsequent discussion with the Scottish Office, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 7 April 1999 by the Director of Administration (a) advising that on 26 February 1999 a further direction under Section 19B of the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980 had been received from the Secretary of State; (b) enclosing a copy of the revised direction, the letter of consent and the Council's response and action plan; (c) indicating that the effect of the revised direction was to replace the absolute prohibition contained in the previous direction by a provision that the Council has power to carry out general highway work on a road other than a trunk road, general building maintenance work and works of new construction the cost of which will exceed £50,000 if that work is carried out under and in accordance with an authorisation or consent issued by the Secretary of State, and (d) intimating that the Secretary of State has also granted his consent and authorised the Council to carry out any works of new construction the cost of which will exceed £50,000 if that work has already started, and to carry out general highway work on a road other than a trunk road and general building maintenance work if the Council continues to implement the proposals as set out in the letter of 17 November 1998 from the Scottish Office.

Decided: that the position be noted.

NEW COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

25. With reference to paragraph 31 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 2 February 1999 when the submission to the Scottish Office of the funding bid for the establishment of a pilot project for a new Community School based at Castlehill Primary School, Wishaw had been authorised, there was submitted a letter (docketed) dated 29 March 1999 from the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department (1) advising that North Lanarkshire Council's application had been accepted; (2) informing that a formal letter of offer of grant would be issued in the near future, and (3) confirming that the Scottish Office would make available to North Lanarkshire Council funds in 1999/2000 financial year up to the total of £200,000.

Decided: that the approval for the pilot new Community School in Wishaw be noted and welcomed.

CONFERENCES

(1) "THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT AND THE PEOPLE"

26. The Committee were advised of an invitation received from the Centre for Scottish Public Policy to attend a conference entitled "The Scottish Parliament and the People" held in Edinburgh on 11 March 1999.

Decided: that it be noted that the Council were not represented at the conference.

(2) “INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE IN REGENERATION”

27. The Committee were advised of an invitation received from the Planning Exchange to attend a conference entitled “Involving Young People in Regeneration” held in Stirling on 25 March 1999.

Decided: that it be noted that the Council were not represented at the conference.

(3) “THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT AND THE LAW”

28. The Committee were advised of an invitation received from the Centre for Scottish Public Policy to attend a conference entitled “The Scottish Parliament and the Law” held in Edinburgh on 26 March 1999.

Decided: that it be noted that the Council were not represented at the conference.

(4) “THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT AND POLICY”

29. The Committee were advised of an invitation received from the Centre for Scottish Public Policy to attend a conference entitled “The Scottish Parliament and Policy” held in Glasgow on 29 March 1999.

Decided: that it be noted that the Council were not represented at the conference.

(5) “DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION: TRADE UNIONS AND PFI”

30. The Committee were advised of an invitation received from Centaur Conferences to attend a conference entitled “Disclosure of Information: Trade Unions and PFI” held in London on 12 April 1999.

Decided: that it be noted that the Council were not represented at the conference.

(6) “NEW BRITAIN”

31. The Committee were advised of an invitation received from Neil Stewart Associates to attend a conference entitled “New Britain” to be held in London on 15 April 1999.

Decided: that no attendance at the conference be authorised.

(7) “RIGHTS ARE COMING HOME”

32. The Committee were advised of an invitation received from Neil Stewart Associates to attend a conference entitled “Rights are Coming Home” to be held in London on 22 April 1999.

Decided: that no attendance at the conference be authorised.

(8) "TAKING FORWARD THE NATIONAL SKILLS AGENDA"

33. The Committee were advised of an invitation received from QMW Public Policy Seminars to attend a conference entitled "Taking Forward the National Skills Agenda" to be held in London on 12 May 1999.

Decided: that no attendance at the conference be authorised.

(9) "CHILDREN AND CULTURE: THE DANISH WAY"

34. The Committee were advised of an invitation received from the Danish Cultural Institute to attend a conference entitled "Children and Culture: The Danish Way" to be held in Edinburgh on 21 and 22 May 1999.

Decided: that no attendance at the conference be authorised.

(10) "ACHIEVING BEST VALUE"

35. The Committee were advised of an invitation received from IBC UK Conferences Ltd to attend a conference entitled "Achieving Best Value" to be held in London on 25 May 1999.

Decided: that no attendance at the conference be authorised.

(11) "WORKFLOW AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT IN LOCAL AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT"

36. The Committee were advised of an invitation received from Cimtech Limited to attend a conference entitled "Workflow and Information Management in Local and Central Government" to be held in Hatfield on 26 May 1999.

Decided: that no attendance at the conference be authorised.

(12) "DOMESTIC ABUSE CONFERENCE"

37. The Committee were advised of an invitation received from Strathclyde Police to attend a conference entitled "Domestic Abuse Conference" to be held in Glasgow on 27 May 1999.

Decided: that one member be authorised to attend.

(13) "BEST VALUE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT"

38. The Committee were advised of an invitation received from the Scottish Local Government Information Unit to attend a conference entitled "Best Value, Local Government and the Scottish Parliament" to be held in Dundee on 2 June 1999.

Decided: that one member be authorised to attend.

(14) “MANAGING CULTURAL SHIFT”

39. The Committee were advised of an invitation received from COSLA to attend a conference entitled “Managing Cultural Shift” to be held in Edinburgh on 3 June 1999.

Decided: that one member be authorised to attend.

The Chair being of the opinion that the following item of business was relevant, competent and urgent authorised its consideration in order that the matter could be dealt with timeously.

DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS: OFFICERS

40. **C** With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 28 January 1999 when the Council’s new departmental structure had been agreed there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 April 1999 by the Director of Administration (1) advising (a) that the new structure came into operation on 1 April 1999; (b) that the Council has exercised its powers to delegate a number of functions to officers in order to secure the efficient discharge of the Council’s responsibilities and delivery of services for which the Council is responsible; (c) that it is appropriate that the Council now review the identification of those officers exercising delegated powers in order to align those delegated powers with the departments and officers now responsible for the relevant functions, and (d) that this was not a review of the extent or nature of the delegations proposed to officers and no new delegated powers were proposed; (2) proposing that the Council agree that each delegation of functions or powers already granted by the Council to officers be now granted to the relevant officers in the department now responsible for the function to which that delegation relates, and (3) recommending that the Council agree (a) the specific proposals as detailed in paragraph 3 of the report, and (b) the proposals relating to the Proper Officer as detailed in paragraph 4 of the report.

Decided: that the recommendations referred to at (3)(a) and (b) above be approved.