

**Motherwell, 15 April 1999 at 4 pm.**

A Meeting of the **NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Mathieson, Provost; Councillor McCulloch, Depute Provost; Councillors Barrie, Beekman, Burns, Carmichael, Cefferty, Chadha, Clarke, Cox, Craig, Craigie, Curley, Curran, Devine, Gordon, Gormill, Gray, Griffin, Heberton, Hogg, Holloway, Lafferty, Logue, Lucas, Lunny, Lyle, McAlorum, McCabe, McElroy, McGhee, McGlashan, J. McGuigan, McKeown, McLaughlin, Maginnis, J. Martin, W. Martin, Moran, Murphy, G. Murray, M. Murray, S.V. Murray, Nolan, Pentland, Robertson, Ross, Russell, Selfridge, Shaw, Smith, Stocks, Wallace and Wilson.

**CHAIR**

Councillor Mathieson (Provost) presided.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Chief Executive; Director of Administration; Acting Director of Construction Services; Director of Education; Acting Director of Finance; Director of Housing; Acting Director of Leisure Services; Head of Central Services; Head of Economic Development and Property; Head of Protective Services and Head of Social Work Services.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors Coyle, Leitch, McKendrick, Morgan, Scott and Sullivan

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

1. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of North Lanarkshire Council held on 25 March 1999.

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF SPECIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF 22 MARCH 1999 SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION**

2. There was submitted for information Minute of the meeting of the Special Planning and Development Committee held on 22 March 1999 which had been previously approved by the Council on 25 March 1999.

**SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION**

3. There was submitted, for information, the Minutes of the meetings of the undernoted Sub-Committees held on the dates specified and which had been previously approved as shown:-

General Purposes (Licensing) Sub	25 February 1999
General Purposes (Licensing) Sub	11 March 1999
General Purposes (Public Processions) Sub	17 March 1999

**Approved by the General Purposes Committee at their meeting on 31 March 1999**

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Leisure Services (Grants) Sub 10 March 1999

**Approved by the Leisure Services Committee at their meeting on 7 April 1999**

Personnel Services (Appeals) Sub 15 March 1999  
Personnel Services (Appeals) Sub 18 March 1999  
Personnel Services (Appeals) Sub 25 March 1999  
Personnel Services (Early Retirement) Sub 31 March 1999

**Approved by the Personnel Services Committee at their meeting on 8 April 1999**

Special Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub 29 March 1999  
Adjourned Special Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub 29 March 1999

**Approved by the Policy and Resources Committee at their meeting on 13 April 1999**

### **AREA COMMITTEES FOR INFORMATION**

4. There were submitted, for information, the Minutes of the meetings of the undernoted Area Committees held on the dates specified, which had been previously approved by the Policy and Resources Committee on 13 April 1999.

Special Cumbernauld Area	5 March 1999
Bellshill and District Area	11 March 1999
Cumbernauld Area	16 March 1999
Airdrie Area	16 March 1999
Adjourned Airdrie Area	16 March 1999
Motherwell Area	17 March 1999
Wishaw and Newmains Area	17 March 1999
Northern Corridor Area	18 March 1999
Coatbridge Area	23 March 1999
Shotts and Harthill Area	23 March 1999
Kilsyth and Villages Area	24 March 1999

### **COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

5. There were submitted the Minutes of the meetings of the undernoted Committees held on the dates specified:-

Educational Trust	25 March 1999
Special Planning and Development	29 March 1999
Social Work	30 March 1999
General Purposes	31 March 1999
Economic Development	1 April 1999
Construction Services	6 April 1999
Leisure Services	7 April 1999
Planning and Development	7 April 1999
Housing	7 April 1999
Personnel Services	8 April 1999
Finance	8 April 1999
Special Planning and Development	13 April 1999

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Policy and Resources

13 April 1999

**Decided:** that the terms of the Minutes be approved except in so far as separately dealt with in terms of paragraph 6 hereof.

**HOUSING COMMITTEE - 7 APRIL 1999 - HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICY**

6. Reference was made to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing Committee held on 7 April 1999 when the Committee (1) had considered a report dated 18 March 1999 by the Director of Housing regarding the progress made by the Member/Officer Working Group on the Housing Allocation Policy, and (2) had, inter alia, approved a revised Housing Allocation Policy Document as detailed in the minute.

Councillor McLaughlin, Convener of the Housing Committee, moved that consideration of the matter be continued until after the forthcoming elections on 6 May 1999.

**Decided:** that consideration of the matter be continued until after the forthcoming elections on 6 May 1999.

**NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR G. MURRAY AND COUNCILLOR LYLE**

7. There was submitted the following, motion in the names of Councillor G. Murray and Councillor Lyle, notice of which had appeared on the agenda, viz:-

“This Council notes with amazement that the Convener of the Education Committee cancelled the proposed April meeting of that Committee at a time when, many important issues are outstanding including:-

- (1) Teaching salaries.
- (2) That vast areas, such as over 30 per cent of Cumbernauld New Town are without any North Lanarkshire direct nursery provision, at a time when the majority of parents are looking forward to this free service being locally available by August 1999.
- (3) That desperately needed denominational and non-denominational Primary Schools which have been promised for the large area of Cumbernauld devoid of Primary Schools beyond the A80, but where no provision has been made on the Capital Budget for 1999/2000 for even providing sketch plans and a timetable for building these schools. This at a time when the Spring 1999 edition of the North Lanarkshire News is proclaiming that under the service charter for Primary School class sizes “in P1, P2 and P3, we will educate your child in a class of no more than 30 pupils” and when we will have an obligation to provide nursery places for all 3 year old children by 2001.
- (4) That it is being seriously suggested that the Council is failing to properly apply the 1989 Children Act with reference to Childminders, thereby threatening the livelihood of vulnerable people such as widows, on a hypocritical pretext of child safety when the Education Department seems unconcerned about child safety in travel to school and in many other matters.

This Council regrets the ill considered cancellation of the Education Committee meeting scheduled for April. This cancellation will mean that for the five months period between 9 March and a similar date in August there is now likely to be only one Education Committee meeting.”

Thereon Councillor G. Murray, seconded by Councillor Lyle, moved the terms of the motion.

Councillor McCabe, Leader of the Council, seconded by Councillor Gray, Convener of the Education Committee, moved as an amendment that:-

“The Council supports the decision to cancel the April meeting of the Education Committee on the grounds that:-

- (a) there were no objections when the proposals were put forward to accelerate the current cycle;
- (b) teachers’ salaries are a national item for reporting only;
- (c) a report in preparation will cover any deficit in nursery provision to operate from August;
- (d) work on improving primary schooling in Cumbernauld is progressing satisfactorily, and
- (e) Council’s high quality support for childminding is exactly similar to that of the rest of Scotland; it continues to review its above average policy on safe school travel.

The Council condemns the childish and ill-informed time wasting by the SNP and hopes that at least some of its members might learn something from the crass behaviour of their senior members.”

On a vote being taken 36 Members voted for the amendment and 10 Members voted for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

**Decided:** The Council supports the decision to cancel the April meeting of the Education Committee on the grounds that:-

- (1) there were no objections when the proposals were put forward to accelerate the current cycle;
- (2) teachers’ salaries are a national item for reporting only;
- (3) a report in preparation will cover any deficit in nursery provision to operate from August;
- (4) work on improving primary schooling in Cumbernauld is progressing satisfactorily, and
- (5) Council’s high-quality support for childminding is exactly similar to that of the rest of Scotland; it continues to review its above average policy on safe school travel.

The Council condemns the childish and ill-informed time wasting by the SNP and hopes that at least some of its members might learn something from the crass behaviour of their senior members.

#### **VALEDICTORY**

8. After the Provost had referred to the eight members who were not seeking re-election at the Council Elections on 6 May 1999, namely Councillors Craig, Craigie, Fitzpatrick, Gibson, Leitch, Lucas, Macleod and Russell, and thanked them for their service to the Council over the past four years and for their service to previous Councils prior to reorganisation, he concluded by extending his thanks to the Depute Provost and to all members and officers, and he wished everyone well for the future.

Thereon Councillor McCulloch, Depute Provost, Councillor McCabe, Leader of the Council and Councillor Lyle in turn associated themselves with the Provost’s remarks with regard to members not seeking re-election and expressed their appreciation and thanks to the Provost for his service to the Council during his term of office.