

Motherwell, 7 February 2008 at 4 pm.

A Meeting of the **NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

PRESENT

Councillor Curley, Provost; Councillor Robertson, Depute Provost; Councillors Adamson, Brooks, Burrows, Carrigan, Cefferty, Chadha, Clarke, J. Coyle, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Curran, Delaney, Devine, Fagan, Ferrie, Goldie, Grant, Griffin Harmon, Higgins, Hogg, Homer, Irvine, Johnston, Jones, Kelly, Logue, J. Love, S. Love, Lunny, Lyle, McCabe, McCulloch, McElroy, McGlinchey, J. McGuigan, F. McKay, L. McKay, McKendrick, McKenna, McKeown, McMillan, McShannon, McWilliams, Maginnis, Martin, Morgan, Murray, Nolan, O'Brien, Ross, Shevlin, Shields, Smith, Stewart, Taggart, Alan Valentine, Annette Valentine, Wallace and Welsh.

CHAIR

Councillor Curley (Provost) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Executive; Executive Director of Corporate Services; Executive Director of Finance and Customer Services; Executive Director of Housing and Social Work Services; Executive Director of Learning and Leisure Services; Head of Central Services; Head of Design Services, Head of Planning and Development and Head of Protective Services.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Key, McAuley, H. McGuigan, Pentland and Shaw.

PROVOST'S REMARKS

The Provost made reference to the recent New Year's Honours List and, in particular to the award to Councillor Danny Carrigan of the OBE for services to Health and Safety and to John O'Dowd, Quality Improvement Officer, of the MBE for services to Education and, on behalf of the Council, congratulated both on their well merited awards.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN TERMS OF THE ETHICAL STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE ETC. (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000

1. Prior to consideration of the business on the Agenda, declarations of interest were received from Members, details of which are set out below, and the Members concerned took no part in the consideration of the matters identified:-
 - Councillors Carrigan, Homer, McCulloch, McElroy and O'Brien with regard to item (6)(j) of the Agenda in relation to the referral in terms of paragraph 57(E) of Council Standing Orders – Campsies Centre (Cumbernauld) Limited – Proposed Remuneration Arrangements by reason of being members of the Board of Directors of the Campsies Centre (Cumbernauld) Limited.
 - Councillor J. Love in relation to item 11(h) – Appointment of Member to Lowland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association by reason of being a civilian instructor with the Lowland Reserve Forces.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL – 7 February 2008

RESULT OF BY-ELECTION - WARD 1 (KILSYTH)

2. There was submitted notification by the Returning Officer giving details of the election result for Ward 1 (Kilsyth) at the By-Election held on Thursday, 31 January 2008 as undernoted:-

Name	No. of Votes
Robert Burgess, Scottish Conservative and Unionist	50
Stuart Douglas, Scottish Liberal Democrats	17
Claire Fyvie, Scottish National Party (SNP)	891
Mark Griffin, Scottish Labour Party Candidate	1,855
Rob Kay, Scottish Green Party	66
Willie O'Neill, Scottish Socialist Party	48
Total Ballot Papers Received	2,947
Invalid Votes	20
Total Valid Votes	2,927
Electoral Quota	1,465
Percentage Poll	32.1%

The Provost congratulated Councillor Griffin on his election to the Council and welcomed him to his first meeting of the Council. Councillor Lyle conjoined in that welcome.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

3. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of North Lanarkshire Council held on 29 November 2007.

Decided: that the terms of the Minute be approved.

MINUTES PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL

4. There were submitted the Minutes of the following meetings which were approved by the Council on 29 November 2007:-

Planning and Transportation	27 November 2007
Special Learning and Leisure Services	28 November 2007

SUB-COMMITTEE AND AREA COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

5. There were submitted for information the Minutes of the meetings of the undernoted Sub-Committees and Area Committees held on the dates specified:-

Social Work (Complaints Review) Sub 23 October 2007

Approved by the Housing and Social Work Services Committee at their meeting on 19 December 2007.

Special Corporate Services (Licensing) Sub 26 October 2007
Corporate Services (Licensing) Sub 31 October 2007
Corporate Services (Licensing) Sub 21 November 2007
Corporate Services (Licensing) Sub 5 December 2007
Civic Functions Group 6 December 2007
Adjourned Civic Functions Group 13 December 2007

Approved by the Corporate Services Committee at their meeting on 10 January 2008.

*Policy and Resources (Human Resources Early Retirement) Sub 12 November 2007
*Policy and Resources (Human Resources Early Retirement) Sub 17 December 2007
*Policy and Resources (Human Resources Appeals) Sub 16 November 2007
Special Policy and Resources (Human Resources) Sub 6 December 2007
Policy and Resources (Human Resources) Sub 17 January 2008
*Policy and Resources (Human Resources Sounding Board) Sub 19 December 2007
Policy and Resources (Property) Sub 15 January 2008
Policy and Resources (Finance and Customer Services) Sub 16 January 2008

* These Minutes were approved by the Policy and Resources (Human Resources) Sub-Committee at their meeting on 17 January 2008.

Approved by the Policy and Resources Committee at their meeting on 29 January 2008.

Coatbridge Area 11 December 2007
Motherwell and District Area 12 December 2007
Wishaw and District Area 12 December 2007
Airdrie Area 12 December 2007
Bellshill and District Area 13 December 2007
North Area 13 December 2007

Approved by the Regeneration Committee at their meeting on 16 January 2008.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

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

Special Environmental Services 6 December 2007
Planning and Transportation 13 December 2007
Learning and Leisure Services 18 December 2007
Housing and Social Work Services 19 December 2007
Environmental Services 19 December 2007
Special Planning and Transportation 21 December 2007
Corporate Services 10 January 2008
Regeneration 16 January 2008
Planning and Transportation 17 January 2008
Policy and Resources 29 January 2008
Planning and Transportation 5 February 2008
Special Housing and Social Work Services 7 February 2008

Decided: that the terms of the Minutes be approved except in so far as separately dealt with in terms of paragraphs 7 to 9 hereof.

LEARNING AND LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE - 18 DECEMBER 2007 - SCHOOLS AND CENTRES 21 PROGRAMME - DRUMPAK ADDITIONAL SPECIAL NEEDS SECONDARY SCHOOL, BARGEDDIE AND ST. AMBROSE ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, COATBRIDGE

7. Reference was made to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of the Learning and Leisure Services Committee held on 18 December 2007 when the Committee, having considered a report (tabled and docketed as relative to the meeting of that Committee) dated 17 December 2007 by the Executive Director of Learning and Leisure Services (1) advising on the outcome of the consultation process in respect of the proposals for (a) a new build St. Ambrose Roman Catholic (RC) High School, Coatbridge, on one of three sites, and (b) the sub-division of Drumpark Additional Special Needs (ASN) School, Bargeddie and the relocation of the secondary sector as a separate school on to a campus to be shared with St. Ambrose RC High School; (2) summarising the main issues which had been raised in the various responses received as part of the consultation process; (3) indicating that the consultation had raised questions about the future plans for Willowbank School which would require to be addressed, and (4) recommending that the Committee approve the proposals contained therein, had agreed (a) that in August 2010, or such earlier or later date as determined by the implementation of the project, (A) secondary education at Drumpark ASN School be discontinued and a new build replacement ASN secondary school be provided; (B) a new build replacement school be provided for the existing St. Ambrose RC High School; (C) all pupils in attendance at the secondary stage of Drumpark ASN School and at the existing St. Ambrose RC High School on the discontinuance date attend the replacement school; (D) the sites for the replacement schools be in Drumpellier Park at Townhead Road, as shown in Appendix D to the report, and (E) community facilities to replace the Townhead Community Centre be included in the new build, and (b) that the Executive Director of Learning and Leisure Services prepare a formal consultation document on the future provision for Willowbank School, Coatbridge, for inclusion in a report to be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration.

Councillor Logue, seconded by Councillor Grant, moved that the decision of the Learning and Leisure Services Committee, as recorded in the Minute, be approved.

Councillor Welsh, seconded by Councillor Lyle, moved, as an amendment, that St. Ambrose RC High School be rebuilt on the site of the existing High School.

On a vote being taken, 25 Members voted for the amendment and 36 Members voted for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

Decided: that the decision of the Learning and Leisure Services Committee, as recorded in the Minute, be approved.

Councillors Carrigan, Homer, McCulloch, McElroy and O'Brien, having declared an interest due to their being members of the Board of Directors of the Campsies Centre (Cumbernauld) Limited, left the meeting and took no part in the consideration or determination of the following item of business.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 29 JANUARY 2008 - MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF SUB-COMMITTEES - POLICY AND RESOURCES (FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES) SUB-COMMITTEE - REFERRAL IN TERMS OF PARAGRAPH 57(E) OF COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS - CAMPSIES CENTRE (CUMBERNAULD) LIMITED - PROPOSED REMUNERATION ARRANGEMENTS

8. Reference was made to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 29 January 2008 when the Committee, having considered a report dated 19 December 2007 by the Executive Director of Corporate Services recommending that authority be given to pay a remuneration of £5,000 per annum to the Chair of the Board of Campsies Centre (Cumbernauld) Limited, had agreed (1) that the Campsies Centre (Cumbernauld) Limited be authorised to pay a remuneration to the Chair of the Board at a level of £5,000 per annum from the Company's funds, and (2) that it be noted that, in terms of paragraph 57(E) of the Council's Standing Orders, the powers delegated to the Committee will not be exercised and the matter will be referred for determination to the Council.

Councillor McCabe, seconded by Councillor Smith, moved that the decision of the Committee, as recorded in the Minute, be approved, on the basis that the operational date for such a payment be left to the Board of the company.

Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor Lyle, moved, as an amendment, that no remuneration be paid.

On a vote being taken, 20 Members voted for the amendment and 35 Members voted for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

Decided: that the decision of the Policy and Resources Committee, as recorded in the Minute, be approved, on the basis that the operational date for such a payment be left to the Board of the company.

SPECIAL HOUSING AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES COMMITTEE - 7 FEBRUARY 2008 - HOUSING REVENUE ESTIMATES 2008/2009

9. Reference having been made to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of the Special Housing and Social Work Services Committee held on 7 February 2008, when the Committee, having considered a report (docketed as relative to the meeting of that Committee) dated 28 January 2008 by the Head of Housing and Social Work Resources setting out the position and options in relation to the Housing Revenue Account for 2008/2009 and the use of surplus balances brought forward from 2006/2007, had agreed (1) that financial savings totalling £0.400m as detailed in Appendix 1 and the other Housing Charges as detailed in Appendix 1(a) to the Minute be approved; (2) that service improvements totalling £0.522m as detailed in Appendix 2 to the Minute, be approved; (3) that the £0.600m surplus brought forward from 2006/2007 be allocated as follows:- (a) £0.100m to the Common Housing Register and Housing Allocation Policy, and (b) £0.500m to the Housing Repairs/ Adaptations/HRA Capital Programme, with the allocation of £0.500m being based on the findings of the stock condition survey, which would provide an updated projection of the funding required to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard; (4) that housing rent levels be increased by an average of £1.65 per week over 52 weeks equivalent to a 3.5% increase, this to be applied as follows:- (a) varying rent increases applied towards implementation of the standard rent structure based on a points waiting system; (b) a minimum rent increase of £0.00 per week, and (c) a maximum rent increase of £2.68 per week, and (5) that all increases be applied from 1 April 2008.

Councillor McCulloch, seconded by Councillor Jones, moved that the decision of the Housing and Social Work Services Committee, as recorded in the Minute, be approved.

Councillor Lyle, seconded by Councillor S. Coyle, moved, as an amendment, (1) that service improvements totalling £0.800m utilising, *inter alia*, the £0.600m surplus brought forward from 2006/2007 as detailed in Annex A to the Minute be approved; (2) that the financial savings totalling £1m as

detailed in Annex B(i) and the other Housing Charges as detailed in Annex B(ii) to the Minute, be approved; (3) that rents be increased by an average 2.5% equivalent to £1.17 per week, this to be applied as follows:- (a) a minimum rent increase of £0.00 per week, and (b) a maximum rent increase of £2.65 per week.

On a vote being taken 19 Members voted for the amendment and 38 Members voted for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

Decided: that the decision of the Housing and Social Work Services Committee, as recorded in the Minute, be approved.

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR MAGINNIS AND COUNCILLOR CURRAN

10. There was submitted the following motion in the names of Councillor Maginnis and Councillor Curran, Notice of which appeared on the agenda, viz:-

“This Council seeks a guarantee from the Scottish Government in respect of :-

- (a) safeguarding money and resources already identified within Scottish Enterprise budgets for Ravenscraig, and
- (b) a commitment that the regeneration of Ravenscraig will remain a national priority for Scotland and that this will be reflected in the allocation of resources made available to ensure its delivery.”

Councillor Maginnis, seconded by Councillor Curran, then moved the terms of the motion.

Councillor Lyle, seconded by Councillor S. Coyle, moved, as an amendment, that “This Council welcomes the developments at the Ravenscraig site and intends to facilitate an early meeting with the relevant Government Minister to fully discuss the ongoing future progress of the site.”

On a vote being taken 21 Members voted for the amendment and 39 Members voted for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

Decided: that this Council seeks a guarantee from the Scottish Government in respect of :-

- (a) safeguarding money and resources already identified within Scottish Enterprise budgets for Ravenscraig, and
- (b) a commitment that the regeneration of Ravenscraig will remain a national priority for Scotland and that this will be reflected in the allocation of resources made available to ensure its delivery.

APPOINTMENTS TO VACANCIES ON COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

11. Consideration was given to the appointments to vacancies on the following Committees and Sub-Committees:-

Civic Functions Group
Environmental Services Committee
Learning and Leisure Services Committee
North Area Committee
Planning and Transportation Committee
Policy and Resources Committee
Policy and Resources (Property) Sub-Committee

Decided: that the following appointments be made:-

Councillor Griffin to the Learning and Leisure Services Committee,
North Area Committee
Planning and Transportation Committee, and
Policy and Resources (Property) Sub-Committee

Councillor McAuley to the Environmental Services Committee,

Councillor McKenna to the Policy and Resources Committee, and

Councillor Ross to the Civic Functions Group

The Chair being of the opinion that consideration of two additional resignations was relevant, competent and urgent, authorised their consideration in order that the resignations and subsequent vacancies be dealt with and exercised his discretion to vary the order of business as hereinafter Minuted.

RESIGNATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

12. It was reported that the following resignations had been received:-

Councillor Jones as Vice-Convener of the Housing and Social Work Services Committee and as Convener of the Housing and Social Work Services (Housing Special Cases) Sub-Committee

Councillor Shields from the Housing and Social Work Services Committee and the Housing and Social Work Services (Housing Special Cases) Sub-Committee;

Councillor Kelly from the Learning and Leisure Services Committee;

Councillor McMillan from the Planning and Transportation Committee;

Councillor McAuley from the Policy and Resources (Finance and Customer Services) Sub-Committee;

Councillor McKeown from the Policy and Resources (Human Resources Early Retirement) Sub-Committee and the Regeneration Committee;

Councillors Harmon, Jones and Taggart from the Policy and Resources (Human Resources Sounding Board) Sub-Committee;

Councillor Pentland from the Policy and Resources (Property) Sub-Committee;

Councillor Key from the Housing and Social Work Services Committee, and

Councillor Wilson from the Learning and Leisure Services Committee.

Decided: that the following appointments be made.

Councillor Kelly to the Housing and Social Work Services Committee and as Vice-Convener of the Committee;

Councillor Kelly to the Housing and Social Work Services (Housing Special Cases) Sub-Committee and as Convener of the Sub-Committee;

Councillor Shields to the Learning and Leisure Services Committee;

Councillor Taggart to the Planning and Transportation Committee;

Councillor Griffin to the Policy and Resources (Finance and Customer Services) Sub-Committee;

Councillor Ross to the Policy and Resources (Human Resources Early Retirement) Sub-Committee;

Councillor Pentland to the Regeneration Committee;

Councillors McKenna and McMillan to the Policy and Resources (Human Resources Sounding Board) Sub-Committee;

Councillor McKeown to the Policy and Resources (Property) Sub-Committee;

Councillor Wilson to the Housing and Social Work Services Committee, and

Councillor Key to the Learning and Leisure Services Committee.

Councillor J. Love, having declared an interest due to his being a civilian instructor with the Lowland Reserve Forces took no part in the consideration or determination of the following item of business regarding the appointment of a Member to the Lowland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association.

OUTSIDE BODIES - RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

13. It was reported that the following resignations and invitations to appoint Members had been received in respect of the following outside bodies:-

Remit from Environmental Services Committee - Appointment of a Member to North Lanarkshire Access Forum;

Remit from Policy and Resources (Finance and Customer Services) Sub-Committee - Appointment of two Members to Scotland Excel;

Resignation of Councillors Hogg and McAuley from the Authorities Buying Consortium Joint Committee;

Resignation of Councillor Brooks from Campsies Centre (Cumbernauld) Limited;

Resignation of Councillor Shaw from the Children's Panel Advisory Committee;

Appointment of a representative to the Clyde Valley Learning and Development Joint Committee;

Resignation of Councillor Jones from the Cumbernauld Housing Partnership Limited;

Resignation of Councillor J. McGuigan from Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority;

Appointment of a Member to Lowland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association, and

Resignation of Councillor Curran from Motherwell College Board.

Councillor McCabe, seconded by Councillor Smith, moved that the following appointments be made to the undernoted outside bodies:-

Organisation/Body	Representative/Member(s)
North Lanarkshire Access Forum	Councillor Johnston
Scotland Excel	Councillors McElroy and F. McKay
Authorities Buying Consortium	Councillors McElroy and F. McKay
Campsies Centre (Cumbernauld) Limited	Councillor Griffin
Children's Panel Advisory Committee	Councillor Higgins
Clyde Valley Learning and Development Joint Committee	Councillor Jones
Cumbernauld Housing Partnership Limited	Councillor Carrigan
Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority	Councillor Lunny, previously a substitute member and Councillor Griffin as a substitute
Lowland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association	Councillor Griffin
Motherwell College Board	Councillor McAuley

Councillor Valentine, seconded by Councillor Lyle, moved, as an amendment, that, in relation to the following outside bodies, the appointments be made as follows:-

Organisation/Body	Representative/Member(s)
Campsies Centre (Cumbernauld) Limited	Councillor Johnston
Cumbernauld Housing Partnership Limited	Councillor Johnston
Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority	Councillor Welsh
Lowland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association	Councillor O'Brien
Motherwell College Board	Councillor Delaney

On a vote being taken in respect of each contested appointment, there voted as follows:-

Campsies Centre (Cumbernauld) Limited - 19 Members voted for the amendment and 34 Members voted for the motion;

Cumbernauld Housing Partnership Limited - 19 Members voted for the amendment and 33 Members voted for the motion;

Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority – 18 Members voted for the amendment and 33 Members voted for the motion;

Lowland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association – 19 Members voted for the amendment and 34 Members voted for the motion, and

Motherwell College Board – 19 Members voted for the amendment and 34 Members voted for the motion.

The motion was accordingly declared carried.

Decided: that the following appointments be made to the undernoted outside bodies:-

Organisation/Body	Representative/Member(s)
Lanarkshire Access Forum	Councillor Johnston
Scotland Excel	Councillors McElroy and F. McKay
Authority's Buying Consortium	Councillors McElroy and F. McKay
Campsies Centre (Cumbernauld) Limited	Councillor Griffin
Children's Panel Advisory Committee	Councillor Higgins
Clyde Valley Learning and Development Joint Committee	Councillor Jones
Cumbernauld Housing Partnership Limited	Councillor Carrigan
Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority	Councillor Lunny, previously a substitute member and Councillor Griffin as a substitute
Lowland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association	Councillor Griffin
Motherwell College Board	Councillor McAuley

NORTH LANARKSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

14. There was submitted a report dated 29 January 2008 by the Head of Central Services advising that John Gordon of the Coatbridge Area Tenants' and Residents' Association had submitted his resignation from the North Lanarkshire Local Licensing Forum and proposing the appointment of a replacement Member.

Thereon Councillor McCabe moved that consideration of this matter be continued for further information.

Decided: that consideration of this matter be continued for further information.

QUESTIONS RECEIVED IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER NO. 44

15. It was reported that in terms of Standing Order No. 44, written questions had been submitted by the undernoted Members.

The questions and answers thereto are detailed below:-

(1) **Question by Councillor Stewart**

Name the Council's schools that have a police presence – and are these numbers increasing?

Answer by Councillor Logue, Convener of Learning and Leisure Services Committee

I am surprised at this question as this matter was the subject of various reports to the Committee and has been discussed at the Council.

In partnership with Strathclyde Police, 3 campus police officers are employed to work in:

- St. Andrew's High School
- Coatbridge High/Rosehall High
- Clyde Valley High School

The work of the officers will be evaluated during the three year period of the project and reviewed thereafter. There are no immediate plans to increase the number of posts.

(2) Question by Councillor McKendrick

Can my constituents in Newmains be given a definite assurance that North Lanarkshire Council has a robust 'Disclosure' policy in place when awarding Annual Grants?

Should this Council be checking the criteria for Annual Grants?

Answer by Councillor Logue, Convener of Learning and Leisure Services Committee

This authority has robust, well defined child protection procedures relating to all services. All applicants for annual grants who seek funding to run activities for children are required to confirm that they have the appropriate Disclosure Scotland arrangements and related policies in place and monitoring takes place to ensure compliance.

I will be happy to meet with Councillor McKendrick.

The childcare Partnership grants are allocated to providers registered with the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care. It is a SCRC requirement that all staff have undergone enhanced Disclosure checks.

(3) Question by Councillor McKendrick

Newmains or Murdostoun Action Group as they may be calling themselves now, has received thousands of pounds from this Council over the past five years. Since the Council Elections in May 2007 and the introduction of the multi-member wards I have never been invited to attend any meetings of this Group.

Does this Council agree that it is wrong for a group receiving so much money from the Council to invite only certain Councillors to their meetings and is this Group being political by not inviting all four Councillors to their meetings?

Should this Council be checking the criteria for Annual Grants?

Answer by Councillor Logue, Convener of Learning and Leisure Services Committee

Voluntary and community organisations receiving annual grants are monitored to ensure compliance with the conditions of the grant scheme.

Community and voluntary organisations are independent organisations and as such conduct their business under the terms of their specific constitutions. It is a matter for each individual organisation to determine its arrangements and its relationship with all elected Members.

I will be happy to meet with Councillor McKendrick if there are any specific issues.

(4) Question by Councillor Stewart

What are the intentions of the Executive Director of Learning and Leisure Services to deal with last year's extremely disappointing Higher results in North Lanarkshire schools – where the authority's schools were third from the bottom of all Scotland's 32 local authorities?

Answer by Councillor Logue, Convener of Learning and Leisure Services Committee

The Executive Director and her officers in the SMT undertake an annual visit to all secondary schools to discuss the SQA results with the school senior management team. Importantly, improving attainment is a key action in the new Service Improvement Plan and head teachers are aware of this increased focus.

(5) Question by Councillor Murray

In accordance with present Government policy this Council is committed to work through Area Committees/Local Area Partnerships with Community Forums to achieve effective local participation on issues of local significance.

In response to my written questions at the full Council meeting on 30 June 1999 the answers given were:

- (a) That there was no evidence that Area Committees with seven members or less were ineffective or inefficient.
- (b) That no Community Forum was dissatisfied with small Area Committees.
- (c) That the Council will be forcing the extra large North Area Committee, now of 18 members, irrespective of the views of its three Area Forums.

Can the views of the Area Forum representing more than half the North Area population have any real effective local participation other than by holding a minimum of two Area Committees/Local Area Partnerships in Cumbernauld? The large North Area has over a quarter of the population of North Lanarkshire. It is a very diverse area, containing Cumbernauld, which is the largest town in North Lanarkshire. Has not Cumbernauld many entirely different problems from the rest of North Lanarkshire and from the rest of the North Area Committee?

For vital background information see the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee dated 22 June 1999.

Answer by Councillor McCabe, Leader of the Council

At the Council meeting on 17 May this issue was debated. At that meeting, an amendment was proposed to increase the number of Area Committees from 6 to 7. Two of these would have been in the North Area – Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Area Committee and Strathkelvin Area Committee. The vote result was 22 for the amendment, 44 voted for the motion which was to continue with the 6 Area Committees and Local Area Partnerships.

The six Local Area Partnerships are developing well since their inception in June 2006. The key partners are now involved in the work of the partnership both at LAP level and within the local area teams. Key partners are Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and NHS Lanarkshire. Other public sector partners will attend as appropriate e.g. SEL.

In the North, the 3 Fora – Cumbernauld, Northern Corridor and Kilsyth and Villages have representation from a variety of community and voluntary sector organisations and individual residents.

Development work has been ongoing with the Community Forums across North Lanarkshire over the last 6 months to create a development plan for the next four years. The work has included looking at representation within the forum and importantly, looking at improving the role of the Community Forum within the LAP structure.

The local issues raised within each of the 3 Fora in the North are very similar to those raised in the other 5 Community Fora across North Lanarkshire, e.g. health, housing, transport and ensuring better representation at all Foras.

(6) Question by Councillor Stewart

Will Learning and Leisure, consider carrying out a survey with class teachers on discipline in primary and the secondary sector in North Lanarkshire schools?

Answer by Councillor Logue, Convener of Learning and Leisure Services Committee

This topic is regularly raised at the JMCT.

Overall, schools are performing very well in relation to climate and relationships, expectations and promoting achievement and equality as is evidenced in the significant number of HMIE inspection reports each year.

When Members meet with the Teachers Unions our approach will be shaped and influenced by these discussions.

(7) Question by Councillor Murray

Can we have the dates when the Council's:

- (a) Transport policy will be available for public consultation?
- (b) Draft final Local Plan will be available for public consultation?
- (c) What time will be allocated for these consultations?
- (d) Given that there is every possibility of a public inquiry after the Local Plan is published, when is the Local Plan estimated to become effective?

Answer by Councillor J. Coyle, Convener of Planning and Transportation Committee

- (a) It is intended to commence consultation on the Draft Local Transport Strategy during March 2008 for a period of 6 weeks, subject to Committee approval of the Draft Strategy presently being prepared.
- (b) & (c) The finalised Draft Local Plan will be reported to Committee during September 2008 thereafter consultation will take place for a period of a minimum of 6 weeks.
- (d) The Local Plan is estimated to become effective during 2010.

(8) Question by Councillor Stewart

What are the numbers of reported assaults on teachers in North Lanarkshire schools over the last five years?

Answer by Councillor Logue, Convener of Learning and Leisure Services Committee

All forms of abuse, either verbal or physical are taken very seriously by the Learning and Leisure Service.

As a service we are determined to attempt to reduce this figure and are currently working alongside school staff as part of a wide range of behavioural management techniques and I can assure Councillor Stewart that all statistics are reported to the JMCT and discussed in that forum on a regular basis.