

Motherwell, 18 June 2009 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, S. Coyle, Curran, Delaney, Devine, Fagan, Goldie, Grant, Griffin, Harmon, Higgins, Hogg, Homer, Johnston, Jones, Kelly, Key, Logue, J. Love, S. Love, Lunny, Lyle, McAuley, McCabe, McCulloch, McElroy, H. McGuigan, L. McKay, McKenna, McKeown, McMillan, McShannon, McWilliams, Maginnis, Martin, Morgan, Murray, Nolan, O'Brien, Pentland, Ross, Shevlin, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Taggart, Alan Valentine, Annette Valentine and Wallace.

CHAIR

Councillor Curley (Provost) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Executive; Executive Director of Corporate Services; Executive Director of Environmental Services; Executive Director of Finance and Customer Services; Executive Director of Housing and Social Work Services; Executive Director of Learning and Leisure Services; Assistant Chief Executive and Head of Central Services.

APOLOGIES

Councillors M. Coyle, McGlinchey, J. McGuigan, F. McKay, McKendrick, Shaw, Shields and Welsh.

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 Goldie, Jones and Wallace by reason of their membership of the Board of Broadwood Stadium (Cumbernauld) Limited in respect of paragraph 43 of the Minute of the meeting of the Learning and Leisure Services Committee of 12 May 2009 - Proposed Dissolution of Broadwood Stadium (Cumbernauld) Limited and Integration of Broadwood Stadium Company Facilities Within North Lanarkshire Leisure Limited.

Councillor Jones by reason of her membership of the Kilsyth Civic Week Committee in respect of paragraph 30 of the Minute of the meeting of the Learning and Leisure Services Committee of 12 May 2009 – Community Grants Scheme – Continued and New Applications 2008/2009 and 2009/2010.

RESULT OF BY-ELECTION - WARD 6 (COATBRIDGE NORTH AND GLENBOIG)

2. There was submitted notification by the Returning Officer giving details of the election result for Ward 6 (Coatbridge North and Glenboig) at the By-Election held on Thursday, 4 June 2009 and as undernoted:-

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Candidates	No. of 1st Preference Votes
Hugh Malcolm Banford	217
Bob Burgess, Scottish Conservative and Unionist	361
Fraser Coats, Scottish Socialist Party	81
Kristofer Keane, Scottish Green Party	115
Julie McAnulty, Independent	557
Allan James Stubbs, Scottish National Party (SNP)	1,254
Peter Sullivan, Scottish Labour Party	1,529

and, after elimination of candidates and the corresponding transfer of votes, at the 6th stage:-

Candidates	Result
Allan James Stubbs, Scottish National Party (SNP)	1,696
Peter Sullivan, Scottish Labour Party	1,759

Total Ballot Papers Received	4,181
Invalid Votes	67
Total Valid Votes	4,114
Electoral Quota	2,058
Percentage Poll	29.32%

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

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3. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of North Lanarkshire Council held on 2 April 2009.

Decided: that the terms of the Minute be approved.

MINUTES PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY COUNCIL

4. There were submitted the Minutes of the following meetings which were approved by the Council on 2 April 2009:-

Special Housing and Social Work Services	26 March 2009
Planning and Transportation	31 March 2009
Special Learning and Leisure Services	31 March 2009
Special Policy and Resources	2 April 2009

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	2 March 2009
Social Work (Complaints Review) Sub	31 March 2009
Social Work (Complaints Review) Sub	20 April 2009

Approved by the Housing and Social Work Services Committee at their meeting on 13 May 2009.

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Learning and Leisure (Education Joint Appeals,
Maintenance Allowances and Bursaries) Sub 2 March 2009

Approved by the Learning and Leisure Services Committee at their meeting on 12 May 2009.

Corporate Services (Licensing) Sub 4 March 2009
Special Corporate Services (Licensing) Sub 16 March 2009
Corporate Services (Licensing) Sub 25 March 2009
Corporate Services (Licensing) Sub 29 April 2009
Adjourned Corporate Services (Licensing) Sub 29 April 2009
Civic Functions Group 30 April 2009

Approved by the Corporate Services Committee at their meeting on 21 May 2009.

*Policy and Resources (Human Resources Appeals) Sub 9 March 2009
*Policy and Resources (Human Resources Appeals) Sub 24 April 2009
*Policy and Resources (Human Resources Appeals) Sub 8 May 2009
*Policy and Resources (Human Resources Early Retirement) Sub 16 March 2009
*Policy and Resources (Human Resources Early Retirement) Sub 5 May 2009
**Special Policy and Resources (Human Resources) Sub 26 March 2009
Policy and Resources (Human Resources) Sub 28 May 2009
Policy and Resources (Property) Sub 26 May 2009
Policy and Resources (Finance and Customer Services) Sub 27 May 2009

* These minutes were approved by the Policy and Resources (Human Resources) Sub-Committee at their meeting on 28 May 2009

Approved by the Policy and Resources Committee at their meeting on 9 June 2009.

**** This minute was approved by the Special Policy and Resources Committee and North Lanarkshire Council on 2 April 2009**

Special Motherwell and District Area 13 March 2009
Motherwell and District Area 5 May 2009
Coatbridge Area 5 May 2009
Wishaw and District Area 6 May 2009
Airdrie Area 6 May 2009
North Area 7 May 2009
Bellshill and District Area 7 May 2009

Approved by the Regeneration Committee at their meeting on 27 May 2009.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

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

Special Planning and Transportation 8 April 2009
Special Planning and Transportation 15 April 2009
Planning and Transportation 7 May 2009
Learning and Leisure Services 12 May 2009
Housing and Social Work Services 13 May 2009
Environmental Services 13 May 2009
Corporate Services 21 May 2009
Regeneration 27 May 2009

Planning and Transportation	28 May 2009
Special Learning and Leisure Services	8 June 2009
Policy and Resources	9 June 2009
Planning and Transportation	16 June 2009
Special Environmental Services	18 June 2009

Decided: that the terms of the Minutes be approved except insofar as separately dealt with in terms of paragraphs 7 to 9 hereof, and subject to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the Housing and Social Work Services Committee – Carers Funding and Developments 2009/2010 being amended to read:-

“With reference to paragraph 32 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 7 May 2008 when, *inter alia*, the NHS Lanarkshire Carers Information Strategy 2007/2010 had been approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 April 2009 by the Head of Social Work Development (1) seeking approval of the proposed uses for Carer Development Funding for 2009/2010 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; (2) advising that there was a current balance of £28,586 in uncommitted funds for 2009/2010, the use of which would be considered by the Carer Strategy Implementation Group and reported back to a future meeting of the Committee, and (3) intimating that (a) in the current year, NHS Lanarkshire had at its disposal from the Scottish Government £523,000 to support carers including £200,000 on a recurring basis, and (b) the Strategy for Carers 2009/2012, previously approved, would be officially launched at the end of May 2009.

Thereon, the Chair proposed that consideration of the allocation of monies to the organisation “Watch us Grow” be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that recommendations for the use of monies to support Carers as detailed within Appendix 1 to the report, with the exception of that relating to the organisation “Watch us Grow”, be approved;
- (2) that consideration of the recommendation in respect of the organisation “Watch us Grow” be continued to a future meeting of the Committee;
- (3) that it be noted that the use of the uncommitted funds of £28,586 for 2009/2010 which would be considered by the Care Strategy Implementation Group would be reported to a future meeting;
- (4) that it be noted the Strategy for Carers 2009/2012, previously approved, would be officially launched at the end of May 2009, and
- (5) that the report be otherwise noted.

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE - 21 MAY 2009 - CORPORATE SERVICES - SUPPORT SERVICES REVIEW

7. Reference having been made to paragraph 19 of the Minute of the meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held on 21 May 2009 when the Committee, having considered a report (docketed as relative to the meeting of that Committee) dated 13 May 2009 by the Head of Central Services in relation to a review of Support Services within the five divisions of Corporate Services, had agreed (1) that the contents of the report be approved; (2) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Human Resources) Sub-Committee, and (3) 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 in respect of this item of business and that the matter be referred for determination to the Council.

Councillor Hogg, seconded by Councillor McAuley, moved that the contents of the report be approved.

Councillor Lyle, seconded by Councillor S. Coyle, moved, as an amendment, that, with the exception of paragraphs 2.5 and 3.4, the contents of the report be approved.

On a vote being taken, 18 Members voted for the amendment and 36 Members voted for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be approved, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Human Resources) Sub-Committee.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 9 JUNE 2009 - DISPOSAL OF LAND - DARROCH WAY, SEAFAR, CUMBERNAULD

8. Reference having been made to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 9 June 2009 when the Committee, having considered a report referred from the Policy and Resources (Property) Sub-Committee in terms of paragraph 57(E) of the Council's Standing Orders dated 3 April 2009 by the Head of Property Services seeking approval of terms for the disposal of land at Darroch Way, Seafar, Cumbernauld to Mr. and Mrs. Turner, had agreed (1) that the Head of Property Services be authorised to dispose of land extending to 0.1068 hectare (0.264 acre), or thereby, at Darroch Way, Seafar, Cumbernauld, as shown on the plan attached to the report, to Mr. and Mrs. Turner, the adjoining proprietors of Darroch Nursing Home, for the sum of £70,000, subject to (a) receipt of planning consent; (b) no building taking place within a 2 metre wide service verge along Darroch Way, and (c) other terms and conditions to be adjusted, and (2) that it be noted that, in terms of paragraph 57(E) of the Council's Standing Orders, the power delegated to the Committee would not be exercised and that the matter would be referred for determination to the Council.

Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Robertson, moved that the Head of Property Services be authorised to dispose of land extending to 0.1068 hectare (0.264 acre), or thereby, at Darroch Way, Seafar, Cumbernauld, as shown on the plan attached to the report, to Mr. and Mrs. Turner, the adjoining proprietors of Darroch Nursing Home, for the sum of £70,000, subject to (1) receipt of planning consent; (2) no building taking place within a 2 metre wide service verge along Darroch Way, and (3) other terms and conditions to be adjusted.

Councillor Homer, seconded by Councillor Taggart, moved, as an amendment, that the Council do not sell the land at the price stated and that the disposal of the land be the subject of independent evaluation to ensure that the recommended disposal provided full value to the Council.

On a vote being taken, 14 Members voted for the amendment and 38 Members voted for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

Decided: that the Head of Property Services be authorised to dispose of land extending to 0.1068 hectare (0.264 acre), or thereby, at Darroch Way, Seafar, Cumbernauld, as shown on the plan attached to the report, to Mr. and Mrs. Turner, the adjoining proprietor of Darroch Nursing Home, for the sum of £70,000, subject to (1) receipt of planning consent; (2) no building taking place within a 2 metre wide service verge along Darroch Way, and (3) other terms and conditions to be adjusted.

SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE - 18 JUNE 2009 - BEST VALUE SERVICE REVIEW - JANITORIAL AND CATERING SERVICES - FINAL MANAGEMENT OFFER

9. Reference having been made to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the special meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held on 18 June 2009 when the Committee, having considered a report (docketed as relative to the meeting of that Committee) dated 18 June 2009 by the Head of Facility Support Services in relation to the Best Value Service Review - Janitorial and Caretaking Services, had agreed (1) that the progress of the consultation process with the joint trade unions and management be noted; (2) that the Head of Facility Support Services be authorised to conclude a collective agreement with the joint trade unions on the outcome of the further ballot being in favour of the management offer of 1 June 2009; (3) that, in the event of a rejection of the management offer of 1 June 2009, the Head of Facility Support Services be authorised to proceed with the action proposed; (4) that a further report detailing the response received from the trade unions be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee; (5) that the report be referred to the Policy and Resources (Human Resources) Sub-Committee for consideration; (6) that the report be referred to the Learning and Leisure Services Committee for information, and (7) that it be noted that, in terms of paragraph 57(E) of the Council's Standing Orders, the powers delegated to the Committee would not be exercised in respect of this item of business and that the matter be referred for determination to the Council.

Councillor McKenna, seconded by Councillor Grant, moved (1) that the progress of the consultation process with the joint trade unions and management be noted; (2) that the Head of Facility Support Services be authorised to conclude a collective agreement with the joint trade unions on the outcome of the further ballot being in favour of the management offer of 1 June 2009; (3) that, in the event of a rejection of the management offer of 1 June 2009, the Head of Facility Support Services be authorised to proceed with the action proposed; (4) that a further report detailing the response received from the trade unions be submitted to the next meeting of the Environmental Services Committee; (5) that the report be referred to the Policy and Resources (Human Resources) Sub-Committee for consideration, and (6) that the report be referred to the Learning and Leisure Services Committee for information.

Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor Lyle, moved, as an amendment, that the report be continued pending the results of the union ballot.

On a vote being taken, 16 Members voted for the amendment and 40 Members voted for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress of the consultation process with the joint trade unions and management be noted;
- (2) that the Head of Facility Support Services be authorised to conclude a collective agreement with the joint trade unions on the outcome of the further ballot being in favour of the management offer of 1 June 2009;
- (3) that, in the event of a rejection of the management offer of 1 June 2009, the Head of Facility Support Services be authorised to proceed with the action proposed;
- (4) that a further report detailing the response received from the trade unions be submitted to the next meeting of the Environmental Services Committee
- (5) that the report be referred to the Policy and Resources (Human Resources) Sub-Committee for consideration, and
- (6) that the report be referred to the Learning and Leisure Services Committee for information.

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR MURRAY AND COUNCILLOR McWILLIAMS

10. There was submitted the following motion in the names of Councillor Murray and Councillor McWilliams, notice of which appeared on the agenda, viz:-

"This Council is deeply conscious of the vast amount of regeneration that is unfortunately still outstanding throughout North Lanarkshire plus a widening gap between the rich and the poor; despite almost 10 years of unprecedented growth, when borrowing was comparatively simple.

Council also recognised that the Westminster Governments outdated procedures and delusions of grandeur of its international importance in the 21st century, have saddled this nation with many billions of pounds of additional debt.

The net result is that Scotland and North Lanarkshire unless there is a dramatic change in the political outlook face at least 5 years of Conservative Government, at Westminster.

The impact on our essential regeneration, industry, houses, schools, town centres, roads, transportation and our environment will be crippling.

Our health services including hospitals and other essential partnership activities will be also severely crippled by the lack of finance.

Desperately needed improved care and other essential services for the old, the handicapped will also be threatened unless we desperately cut our expenditure in:

- (a) fighting unnecessary wars or preparing for future unnecessary conflicts.
- (b) indulging in future nuclear weapons over which we have a very limited control
- (c) pretensions still to be a major world power.

The Calman Report will have been issued by the time you read this notice of motion.

Led by North Lanarkshire Council The Scottish Local Authorities must reject its terms and demand that all the taxation raised in Scotland and from Scottish Waters (including oil and gas resources) are paid to the Scottish Government.

This Scottish Government in co-operation with the Scottish Local Authorities must decide what expenditure out of all this income raised in Scotland, is essential to boost our regeneration and the social conditions of our people.

Only the remainder of the revenue raised in Scotland after our needs are met will be available to the Westminster Government for military purposes, foreign affairs and other legitimate Westminster Government activities."

Councillor Murray, seconded by Councillor McWilliams, then moved the terms of the motion.

Councillor McCabe, seconded by Councillor Maginnis, moved, as an amendment, that "North Lanarkshire Council reaffirms its commitment to work with both the Scottish and Westminster Governments to continue the development and delivery of quality public services to all North Lanarkshire residents".

On a vote being taken, 36 Members voted for the amendment and 4 Members voted for the motion, the amendment was accordingly declared carried.

Decided: that North Lanarkshire Council reaffirms its commitment to work with both the Scottish and Westminster Governments to continue the development and delivery of quality public services to all North Lanarkshire residents.

APPOINTMENTS TO VACANCIES IN THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

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

Coatbridge Area Committee
Environmental Services Committee
Housing and Social Work Services Committee
Policy and Resources (Finance and Customer Services) Sub-Committee.

Decided: that the following appointments be made:--

Councillor Sullivan to the Coatbridge Area Committee
Housing and Social Work Services Committee
Policy and Resources (Finance and Customer Services)
Sub-Committee

Councillor Stewart to the Environmental Services Committee.

RESIGNATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

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

Councillor Shevlin from the Environmental Services Committee
Councillor Chadha from the Appointments Committee
Councillor Morgan from the Policy and Resources (Human Resources) Sub-Committee.

Decided: that the following appointments be made:-

Councillor Morgan to the Environmental Services Committee
Councillor Jones to the Appointments Committee
Councillor Shevlin to the Policy and Resources (Human Resources) Sub-Committee.

OUTSIDE BODIES - RESIGNATIONS

13. It was reported that the following resignations had been received in respect of the following outside bodies:-

Councillor Wallace from the Antonine Housing Association Limited
Councillor Robertson from the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE)
Councillor Delaney from Shotts Prison Visiting Committee.

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

Organisation/Body	Representative/Member(s)
Antonine Housing Association Limited	Councillor Shaw
Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE)	Councillor Lunny
Shotts Prison Visiting Committee	Councillor Taggart

QUESTIONS RECEIVED IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER NO. 44

14. It was noted 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 Murray**

What does the future hold for North Lanarkshire Council's citizens in the present economic crisis, bearing in mind the following points?

The Labour Government under Blair & Brown was given a very large majority in 1 May 1997:-

- a. to end sleaze at Westminster.
- b. to make Westminster more democratic and responsive to the will and needs of the people.
- c. In particular to completely reform the House of Lords.
- d. to end booms and slum's.
- e. to make steady sustained improvement to the people's living standards.
- f. to reduce the wide gap between rich and poor.
- g. to fight third world poverty.
- h. to drastically improve our green environment.
- i. to promote peace and to prevent the unnecessary waste and horror of future wars.

How did it attempt to achieve these laudable desires:-

1. By making the Bank of England the master of our economy while removing much of the conditions for controlling banks and bankers.
2. By raiding the pension funds of properly funded pension schemes.
3. By selling our gold reserves at a rock bottom price.
4. By failing to control the pension funds of state employees, members of Parliament, Civil Servants etc and to evaluate their future liabilities.
5. By failing to realise that the UK could no longer pretend to be a major world power.
6. By thus becoming a lackey of the USA which was conducting a crusade against Islam, China and especially against oil rich countries whose rulers were not USA controlled.
7. This led to an illegal expensive war in Iraq which led to hundreds of thousands of Iraqi lives being lost or devastated.
8. This illegal war led to ineffective steps to lower carbon and other atmospheric pollutants thus effectively preventing a better world atmosphere.
9. To maintain the illusion that we were becoming more and more prosperous while consuming much of the worlds stored resources. The limited control of banks and other questionable financial organisations were effectively dropped.
10. Institutions and most individuals were encouraged to borrow money without thought of the future. A future which will place a great burden on ourselves, our children and grandchildren.

The result, **most of Europe blames the USA and the UK for playing a major part in creating the present economic crisis.**

Will NLC's regeneration be much more difficult unless we find an effective way to spend less on wars or preparing for wars?

Answer by Councillor Maginnis, Convener of Regeneration Committee

North Lanarkshire Council has been significantly affected by the recent economic downturn, with large increases in residents claiming unemployment benefit. However, the Council has taken a number of measures to respond to these challenges.

North Lanarkshire Council has secured significant levels of funding in recent years to assist in economic regeneration. In the last five years, the Council has secured over £13 million of European funding to assist our residents, businesses and communities. In addition, £13 million of Vacant and Derelict Land Fund money has been secured, with a further £2 million of secured funding to be spent over the next two years (2009-2011). Through North Lanarkshire's Working, we assisted over 1,000 people into employment in the last year despite the difficult economic circumstances.

(2) **Question by Councillor Murray**

On what factors does the Convener of the North Area Committee claim that the additions to the land supply to the north of the A80 will help the shortfall of affordable housing?

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

The Council's Affordable Housing Policy was approved by the Housing and Technical Services Committee in April 2006, following a detailed Housing Needs and Demand Assessment. This identified a shortfall in the provision of social rented housing in the Cumbernauld Housing Sub Market Area, which equates to North Local Area Partnership's area. Whilst, this enabled the Council to ask prospective developers for Affordable Housing provision, Government regulations meant that the Council could not insist on provision, as there was no associated land use policy in a Local Plan that had reached its Finalised stage. Since the Finalised North Lanarkshire Local Plan was approved in October 2008, the Council has been in the position of being able to insist on such provision in the North Area. The policy will be applied to all new sites identified as additions to the Housing Land Supply in the Finalised Draft North Lanarkshire Local Plan and to all new planning applications for housing that are made in North Area. Officials in Environmental Services and Housing and Social Work Services are working together closely to ensure that the policy is implemented and that the shortfall will be addressed.

(3) **Question by Councillor Stewart in the absence of Councillor Welsh**

To ask North Lanarkshire Council how much has it financially spent on legal advice since 2006. Detailing the individual firms and how much the Council paid?

Answer by Councillor Hogg, Convener of Corporate Services Committee

Most of the legal work of the Council is carried out by our in-house legal staff but there are circumstances in which external legal services are required – for example none of our in-house staff can represent the Council at the Court of Session.

The figures for 2006/2007 are not readily available. In 2007/2008 fees to external bodies of £214,044 were paid for and in 2008/2009 £232,073.

The Head of Legal Services will provide a breakdown if required.

(4) **Question by Councillor Stewart in the absence of Councillor Welsh**

To ask the Council what contingency funds have been set aside, for early retirement of staff?

Answer by Councillor Pentland, Convener of Policy and Resources (Finance and Customer Services) Sub-Committee

The Council in its budget report of 12 February 2009 considered it was prudent to set aside resources of £2 million to deal with any costs from the Council's change management programme which would include the costs associated with early retirements.

(5) **Question by Councillor Murray**

NHS Lanarkshire has a long record of failing to supply proper medical services to the largest town in North Lanarkshire and in particular to the north of the A80.

Answer by Councillor McCabe, Leader of the Council

The provision of medical services lies predominantly with NHS Lanarkshire. However, as part of the development of the local plan the Locality Manager (Health) has been actively involved with the Council to ensure adequate provision is maintained across the whole of North Lanarkshire.

(6) **Question by Councillor Stewart**

This question was withdrawn.

(7) **Question by Councillor Murray**

Has the Council leader studied the letter in the Herald on Monday, June 15 from the Right Rev. Joseph Devine, Bishop of Motherwell

The Bishop Avers at the extremely urgent need for Lanarkshire's, "**industrial and social regeneration**" means that we can no longer "**afford the luxury of political parties scoring points against each other**".

They need and deserve a united effort from all politicians to produce results. Namely, cranes on the sky line and jobs on the ground".

In view of the extremely serious situation which does not appear to be going to be dramatically altered by the proposals in the Calman Report published today, **will the Council leader issue a questionnaire to all Councillors giving them the opportunity to express their views as to how the funding powers of the Scottish Parliament should be increased to allow Lanarkshire to be effectively regenerated?**

Answer by Councillor McCabe, Leader of the Council

I will not be issuing a questionnaire, I have studied the letter and responded to the Right Rev. Joseph Devine. All political groupings in North Lanarkshire Council are united in a determination to ensure that we do all we can, working with our partners, to help people and businesses facing difficulties and to ensure that North Lanarkshire is well placed to capitalise when the economy recovers.

(8) **Question by Councillor Murray**

I have been led to believe that the highly desirable and extremely useful PACS x-ray system was to be installed in Cumbernauld Health Centre as the existing inappropriate x-ray system was ending its useful life.

On what authority does the Chairman of the North Area Committee claim that PACS x-ray system will **not now** be installed in the existing Cumbernauld Health Centre?

Was the fact that no extension to the Health Centre to house the PACS x-ray equipment settled sometime ago. Has installing it in the new and existing building been under-active consideration or a lengthy period of time?

Answer by Councillor McCabe, Leader of the Council

This matter again lies within the remit of NHS Lanarkshire and I have been advised that a response has already been provided by the NHS to Councillor Murray on this matter.

NHS Lanarkshire has confirmed that the x-ray service currently in Cumbernauld Central Health Centre is fully operational and well used.

The proposal for the PACS x-ray system was linked to the redeployment and upgrading of the Health Centre as part of the picture of health initiative. The whole proposal linked to the Health Centre was shelved when the decision was taken to maintain this service at Monklands Hospital.

(9) **Question by Councillor Stewart**

This question was withdrawn.

(10) **Question by Councillor Stewart in the absence of Councillor McGlinchey**

Of the employees who have had an industrial accident in the last year how many have been subjected to the disciplinary process because of absence?

Answer by Councillor Chadha, Vice-Convenor of Policy and Resources (Human Resources) Sub-Committee

Of the 801 employees who have had an industrial injury in the last year, 25 employees were subject to the disciplinary process. Of the 25 hearings held, warnings were issued to 11 employees after consideration was given to their absence record, including absences relating to their industrial injury.

(11) **Question by Councillor J. Love**

Earlier this month, publicity was given to the number of laptops, computers and Data Files lost by Councils and other public bodies.

- (a) How many pieces of computer hardware belonging to NLC have been lost or stolen during the past year?
- (b) How many data files, memory sticks have been lost or stolen during that same period and what data did they contain?
- (c) What steps are taken to remind staff of the security of such equipment?

Answer by Councillor Pentland, Convenor of Policy and Resources (Finance and Customer Services) Sub-Committee

The information requested in (a) and (b) was subject to a similar Freedom of Information Request from the Scottish Parliament in March 2009 which asked for information on any electronic media which had been lost, from November 2007 to date.

The Council responded that a total of seven USB memory sticks were unaccounted for.

In response to part (c) the Council recently reviewed its Information Security Policy which was widely circulated for feedback to all Council Services prior to publication in November 2008. As part of the Policy publication process, an extensive communication programme was carried out.

(12) Question by Councillor Murray

Is there a definite agreement that the large site now owned by Scottish Enterprise (and in the Official Statutory Local Plan, classified as a high amenity specialised industrial site), will make a 25% contribution to affordable housing and make a reasonable contribution to the lack of amenities for this extra housing?

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

The site is identified in the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan as a Strategic Industrial and Business Location. This designation is reflected in both the Adopted Cumbernauld Local Plan and the Finalised Draft North Lanarkshire Local Plan. However, the Finalised Draft North Lanarkshire Local Plan recognised the site's poor performance and highlighted a need for further study to assess how it can realise its potential. Should this study conclude that a mixture of uses is appropriate, then any housing element would be considered to be in addition to the Housing Land Supply in the North Area and the Affordable Housing Policy would be applied.

(13) Question by Councillor Stewart in the absence of Councillor Welsh

How many qualified lawyers does the Council currently employ?

Answer by Councillor Hogg, Convener of Corporate Services Committee

28.5.

(14) Question by Councillor McWilliams

There have been several meetings held over the past few months between Community Groups from the Townhead area of Coatbridge and officials of North Lanarkshire Council and also the Police regarding anti-social behaviour within the Morar Crescent area. I was included in these meetings along with other elected members for Ward 6. We were informed at these meetings that two temporary CCTV cameras would be installed within the Morar Crescent/Leven Road area, albeit on a temporary basis, to help eradicate the problems of youth disorder and vandalism, causing distress to the tenants and residents of the area. What is the delay in these cameras being installed?

Answer by Councillor Curran, Vice-Convener of Regeneration Committee

The installation of these CCTV cameras has been delayed due to technical issues, particularly relating to the wireless technology on the site of the cameras and enough power being generated for the lamps and streetlighting to work effectively. These issues have been resolved and the cameras are to be installed in the week commencing 22 June.

(15) Question by Councillor McWilliams

Several weeks ago the old Community Centre based in Corsewall Street, Coatbridge, began to get demolished. Why was the proper permission not sought at the beginning of the process for the demolition to progress?

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

The demolition of the frontage has been delayed pending completion of the consultation process, required because the building is in a conservation area.

(16) Question by Councillor Stewart in the absence of Councillor McGlinchey

How many NLC staff were involved in the recent European elections and took Annual Leave in order to carry out those duties?

Answer by Councillor Hogg, Convener of Corporate Services Committee

It is not the policy of the Council to require employees to take annual leave to act as polling staff.

(17) Question by Councillor Murray

What housing is expected to be still requiring regeneration by 2015, the Government's deadline for all housing to be brought up to an acceptable standard?

Answer by Councillor McCulloch, Convener of Housing and Social Work Services Committee

In terms of the Council's own stock the Council has put the necessary resources aside to bring all its stock up to the Scottish Housing Quality Standard by 2015.

(18) Question by Councillor J. Love

Recently, applications have been received and considered for large wind turbines at commercial/industrial premises in North Lanarkshire.

In anticipation of further applications from businesses on industrial estates, what distance apart should these turbines be and how many single turbines in close proximity to each other would constitute a wind farm?

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

A wind farm is a name for a grouping of turbines. There is no minimum number. The Scottish Government advice with regard to windfarms indicates that the separation distance between the turbines equated to 5-10 times the rotor diameter, which represents a compromise between compactness and the need for adequate separation to lessen energy loss through wind shadowing from upstream machines.

(19) Question by Councillor Murray

What housing in Cumbernauld is expected to be regenerated in each year up to 2015?

Answer by Councillor McCulloch, Convener of Housing and Social Work Services Committee

The Council has an investment programme of, on average, £40 million per year to ensure that all its housing, including its stock in Cumbernauld, will meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard by 2015. A range of programmes are underway across North Lanarkshire to improve and upgrade the stock.

(20) Question by Councillor Stewart

This question was withdrawn.

(21) Question by Councillor Murray

Does the fact that:

1. The Calman Commission Report on the future of the Scottish Government,
2. The Westminster Government's Commission on the reasons for the war in Iraq, its conduct and its consequence,
3. The Archbishop of Motherwell's unprecedented letter on the urgent need in Lanarkshire for much more industrial and social regeneration?

All appearing on Monday 15 June present North Lanarkshire Council and all its councillors at its planned meeting on Thursday 18 June with a unique opportunity to give a lead to the people of Scotland by freely discussing the best way in which we can help our own people, our friends in the rest of the UK, and the needy people in the Third World.

Could it be that the best way is by all the Government revenues raised in Scotland being paid to a Scottish Exchequer?

This Scottish Exchequer should have the powers to retain as much of this income as is needed for the speedy regeneration of Lanarkshire and Scotland.

What is left will be made available to the Westminster Government for foreign affairs developing new atomic weapons (if thought desirable) and preparing for future unnecessary wars.

Will North Lanarkshire by such a foresighted procedure lead Scotland and perhaps the whole of the United Kingdom into abandoning imperial world power ambitions and in living as a peaceful nation within the European community and United Nations Organisation?

Answer by Councillor Maginnis, Convener of Regeneration Committee

North Lanarkshire Council will consider, analyse and respond to the Calman Commission's findings with due regard to providing high quality public services to North Lanarkshire's residents. The Leader of the Council has responded to the statement issued by Bishop Joseph Devine and highlighted that the Council's strategy for economic regeneration has had significant benefits to the residents in North Lanarkshire.

(22) Question by Councillor Delaney

Which Members of the Council in the last 13 years have submitted written requests for permission to bring camera crews into the Civic Centre? Give details of dates and names of Members concerned.

Answer by Councillor Hogg, Convener of Corporate Services Committee

The Council's Headquarters exist for the conduct of Council business. No individual Member has the right to bring a camera crew into the Civic Centre - and there is no previous record of any Member having asked to do so.

(23) Question by Councillor Taggart

Does this Council plan to build Community Centres in areas of North Lanarkshire that have none at the present time?

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

I'm very surprised at this question being posed, I understood that all Members had a clear understanding that there are no plans to build new stand alone community centres unless the circumstances are exceptional. The principle established in SC21 is to develop schools as community hubs providing educational, leisure and social facilities for the entire community. Therefore the need is taken care of in the school upgrading programme.

(24) Question by Councillor Stewart

This question was withdrawn.

(25) Question by Councillor Stewart in the absence of Councillor McGlinchey

How many employees have had an industrial accident in the last year?

Answer by Councillor Chadha, Vice-Convener of Policy and Resources (Human Resources) Sub-Committee

801 employees have had an industrial accident in the last year.

(26) Question by Councillor Stewart

This question was withdrawn.

(27) Question by Councillor Stewart in the absence of Councillor Welsh

To ask the Council in which years did the Strathclyde Pension Fund mandate holiday payments?

Answer by Councillor Pentland, Convener of Policy and Resources (Finance and Customer Services) Sub-Committee

The Strathclyde Pension Fund is a funded defined benefit scheme administered by Glasgow City Council. This scheme is backed by an investment portfolio which along with projected future liabilities is subject to an ongoing triennial actuarial review.

The purpose of these independent reviews is to assess the level of assets and future liabilities to identify any potential funding gap. This projected funding gap is then applied to employers' contributions with the aim of bringing the fund back to 100%.

All employer organisations, including North Lanarkshire Council, are advised accordingly of the rate of employers' contribution required on a three-yearly basis. Historically only on one occasion has this been a zero contribution requirement from employers and that was over the three year period 1991/92 to 1993/94.

(28) Question by Councillor Delaney

Why did Mr. Fleming, Head of Central Services refuse permission both to the SNP Group Press Officer and Group Leader to bring a camera crew into the Civic Centre. This has never been the case in the past. Is it because the Council is no longer open and transparent?

Answer by Councillor Hogg, Convener of Corporate Services Committee

Consent to film within the Council's Headquarters is given only in appropriate circumstances - normally only when the conduct of the Council's business renders it appropriate.

No information provided suggested that such circumstances applied on this occasion.

(29) Question by Councillor Stewart in the absence of Councillor Welsh

To ask the Council how much it has spent on temporary employment agencies since 2006, detailing the individual firms and how much the Council paid?

Answer by Councillor Chadha, Vice-Convener of Policy and Resources (Human Resources) Sub-Committee

The total spend on temporary employment agency staff from 2006 to 2009 has been £2,270,048.72. The total number of companies involved 24.

The details of this is extensive. Details can be forwarded to Councillor Stewart and Councillor Welsh.

DELEGATION OF POWERS TO DEAL WITH ANY ITEMS OF URGENCY DURING THE SUMMER RECESS

15. The Provost referred to the forthcoming Summer Recess and proposed that powers be delegated to deal with any items of urgency.

Decided: that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Convener of the relevant Committee, be authorised to deal, where appropriate, with any items of urgency during the Summer Recess.