

REPORT

To: SCRUTINY PANEL (SERVICE DELIVERY AND PERFORMANCE)	Subject: SCRUTINY PANEL - (STRATEGY AND POLICY IMPLEMENTATION)	
From: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION		
Date: 2 March 2006	Ref: CJ/MT	

1. Purpose of Report

To advise the Panel of the proposal to submit copies of the Minutes of the meetings of the Scrutiny Panel – Strategy and Policy Implementation

2. Background

2.1. Part of the Audit Scotland investigation into the Council's performance management and improvement arrangements identified that there were no formal lines of communication between the two Scrutiny Panels. In order to address this it was proposed that the each Panel receive the Minutes of the other Panel's meetings.

2.2. Enclosed in Appendix 1 to the report is a copy of the Minute of the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel – Strategy and Policy Implementation.

3. Reviews Undertaken by Scrutiny Panel – Strategy and Policy Implementation

The Scrutiny Panel – Strategy and Policy Implementation have conducted a number of reviews since its inception. Areas which have been reviewed are undernoted:-

- Shopmobility
- Homelessness and the Law
- Rent Arrears/Homelessness and Evictions Policy
- Street Lighting
- Themes contained within the Council's Corporate Plan

Both Panels are currently undertaking a Joint Review of the Care of Gardens' Assistance Scheme.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Panel note the contents of the report.


Director of Administration

Members seeking further information on the contents of this report are asked to contact Catherine Johnstone on extension number 2259.

AGENDA NO. 1

**SCRUTINY PANEL - STRATEGY AND POLICY IMPLEMENTATION -
11 January 2006**

Motherwell, 11 January 2006 at 10 am.

A Meeting of the **SCRUTINY PANEL - STRATEGY AND POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

PRESENT

Councillor Hogg, Convener; Councillor Love, Vice-Convener; Councillors S. Coyle, Curran, Higgins, Homer, Johnston, Jones, McKeown, J. Martin and Saunders.

CHAIR

Councillor Hogg (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Alastair Ashley, Committee Services Manager; Russell Ellerby, Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate and Performance Management), Alex Gardiner, Policy Planning Manager and Andrea Rose, Policy and Performance Officer, Chief Executive's Office; Maureen McConnachie, Head of Policy and Economic Development, John Marran, Traffic and Transportation Manager, John Halpin, Project Manager, Department of Planning and Environment and Mark Hamill, Administrative Officer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Jim Robertson and Margaret Waddell, UNISON.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Burns, Cassidy, McCabe, J. McGuigan and Smith.

CONVENER'S REMARKS

The Convener welcomed Councillor Higgins to his first meeting of the Panel.

SCRUTINY PANEL - STRATEGY AND POLICY IMPLEMENTATION - MINUTE

1. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel – Strategy and Policy Implementation, held on 26 October 2005.

Action: that the terms of the Minute be noted.

REVIEW GROUP ON HOMELESSNESS AND THE LAW

2. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of this Panel held on 1 June 2005 when, inter alia, the Panel agreed to establish a Review Group to assess the Council's policy on Homelessness and the Law, there was submitted a report dated 6 January 2006 by the Director of Administration regarding the findings and recommendations of the Review Group (1) outlining the background to the Review Group, and (2) detailing the process which was undertaken by the Group which included:-

- examining the Council's current procedures for dealing with Homelessness and the Law
 - the operational aspects of the process and procedures for dealing with Homeless Clients
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- procedures in place for staff dealing with Homeless Clients
- interpretation of the Council's allocation policy
- the views of Union Officials on experiences of staff in Homeless Units
- the roll of the Legal Services Section
- the roll of the Department of Social Work in establishing joint protocols

Action:

- (1) that recommendation 8.1.10 should now read "that the Council reduce its current target of allocation to homeless applicants to 28% which would reflect the needs of existing Council tenants on the current waiting lists";
- (2) that a recommendation "to explore the options for publishing the Councils Housing Waiting Lists" be added to the list of recommendations contained within Section 8 of the report;
- (3) that the recommendations contained in Section 8 of the report be otherwise approved, and
- (4) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

REVIEW GROUP ON STIMULATING BUSINESS AND THE ECONOMY - MINUTE

3. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Review Group on Stimulating Business and the Economy held on 18 November 2005.

Action: that the terms of the Minute be noted.

REVIEW GROUP - STIMULATING BUSINESS AND THE ECONOMY

4. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of this Panel held on 26 October 2005 when, *inter alia*, it was agreed that the Panel would commence its reviews of the Corporate Plan by scrutinising the Stimulating Business and the Economy theme, there was submitted a report dated 5 January 2006 by the Chief Executive regarding the conclusions and findings of the Review Group on Stimulating Business and the Economy and enclosing in Appendix 1 to the report an Action Plan.

In response to a number of questions, Maureen McConachie, Russell Ellerby and Alex Gardiner advised that

- the PPP construction phase would be completed in 2008;
- the Review Group on Encouraging Lifelong Learning would explore the statistics for children leaving school without qualifications and look at the reasons for young people between 16 and 24 leaving school without qualifications.

Action:

- (1) that the findings of the Review Group on Stimulating Business and the Economy be noted;
- (2) that the Action Plan be approved and referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration, and

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- (3) that the Chief Executive provide a report to a future meeting of the Panel on the number of firms within North Lanarkshire who have been sub-contracted to carry out work in the 2010 PPP Project.

ESTABLISHMENT OF REVIEW GROUP ON ENCOURAGING LIFE LONG LEARNING

5. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of this Panel held on 24 August 2005 when, *inter alia*, it was agreed that the Panel monitor the implementation of the Corporate Plan with specific reference to action plans to address the Council's priorities, Alex Gardiner intimated that the next theme to be reviewed was Encouraging Life Long Learning.

Thereon, the Convener sought expressions of interest to participate on the Review Group on Encouraging Lifelong Learning.

Action: that a Review Group on Encouraging Lifelong Learning be established comprising Councillor Love, Convener and Councillors Cassidy , Johnston, McKeown and Valentine or substitutes as appropriate.

FUTURE PLANS FOR SHOPMOBILITY IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

6. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of this Panel held on 26 October 2005 when, *inter alia*, it was agreed that the Director of Planning and Environment would provide a report to the next meeting of the Panel on the future plans for the Shopmobility Schemes in Coatbridge and Motherwell and the development of a Shopmobility Scheme within Cumbernauld Town Centre, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 30 November 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment providing an update on the future plans for Shopmobility within North Lanarkshire (1) detailing the progress of the scheme in Coatbridge which had 540 registered users; (2) setting out the progress and future plans for the Shopmobility Scheme within Motherwell Town Centre which had a total of 292 registered users; (3) intimating that within Cumbernauld Town Centre, discussions had taken place between the Council and the developers of the Antonine Centre and a location had been agreed within the new centre for a Shopmobility unit, although a number of operational and financial issues were still outstanding; (4) enclosing in (a) Appendix 1 to the report, income and expenditure details for the North Lanarkshire Shopmobility Schemes, and (b) Appendix 2 to the report, the number of users in the Coatbridge and Motherwell Schemes from January to June 2005, and a comparison of the user figures for the Motherwell Scheme for 2004 and 2005.

Thereon John Marran advised that a policy was being developed for the establishment of Shopmobility Schemes within appropriate town centres in North Lanarkshire.

Action:

- (1) that the Director of Planning and Environment provide a further report to a future meeting of the Panel on the possibility of building in conditions for the provision of Shopmobility Schemes for major shopping developments, and
- (2) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.