

Motherwell, 1 June 2005 at 2 pm,

AGENDA ITEM No. 1

A Meeting of the SCRUTINY PANEL - STRATEGY AND POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

PRESENT

Councillor Hogg, Convener; Councillor Love, Vice-Convener; Councillors Gordon, Homer, Jones, J. McGuigan and Saunders.

CHAIR

Councillor Hogg (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Alastair Ashley, Committee Services Manager and Sandie MacKay, Community Regeneration Manager.

APOLOGIES

Burns, Cassidy, McCabe and McKeown.

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 9 March 2005.

Decided: that the Minute of the meeting of the Panel held on 9 March 2005 be noted.

GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated June 2005 by the Chief Executive providing details of financial support provided to voluntary and community sector organisations (1) intimating that there was in excess of 1,500 voluntary and community organisations operating within North Lanarkshire; (2) providing details of the grants available from each of the Council Departments amounting to a total of £5,861,843; (3) indicating that in response to the Audit Scotland "Follow the Public Pound" Code A corporate funding process including guidance notes, application form and assessment process had been developed; (4) advising that organisations in receipt of funding of more than £10,000 had the support of a Monitoring Officer and those organisations receiving between £2,000 and £10,000 had a Link Officer; (5) enclosing in Appendix 1 to the report details of the funding awarded to all voluntary and community organisations in receipt of funding in 2004/2005; (6) indicating that a customer survey form had been developed to look at all aspects of applying to the Council for funding as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, and (7) the outcome of the survey would be reported to the next meeting of the Panel.

Thereon, Sandie Mackay tabled an interim report on the outcome of the survey.

Decided:

- (1) that the Chief Executive provide a further report to a future meeting of the Panel on the outcome of the customer survey to those organisations in receipt of funding from the Council, and

- (2) that the Chief Executive provide a report to a future meeting of the panel on the possibility of setting up a Corporate database of voluntary/community organisations in North Lanarkshire.

HOMELESSNESS AND THE LAW

Councillor Love highlighted issues facing the Council and particularly local members as a result of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 and The Homelessness (Scotland) Act 2003 and proposed that the Panel establish a Review Group to assess the Council's policy in respect of homelessness and the law.

Decided:

- (1) that a Review Group be established to assess the Council's policy in respect of homelessness and the law;
- (2) agree that the Review Group comprise:-

Councillor Love (Convener); Councillors Cassidy, Hogg, Homer, Jones, J. Martin, Morris, and Valentine;
- (3) that the Director of Housing and Property Services prepare a report detailing operational issues involved in complying with homeless legislation;
- (4) that the Director of Administration prepare a report highlighting the legal considerations deriving from homeless legislation.
- (5) note that the findings of the Review Group would be submitted to a future meeting of the Panel.