

Motherwell, 21 November 2000 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor H. McGuigan, Convener; Councillors Selfridge and Sullivan, Vice-Conveners; Councillors Chadha, Cox, Coyle, Curley, Devine, Gordon, Gorman, Homer, Irvine, Jones, Love, Lunny, McCallum, J. McGuigan, McKinlay, McLaughlin, J. Martin, Morris, M. Murray, Robertson, Ross, Saunders, Shaw and, Shields.

CHAIR

Councillor H. McGuigan (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Committee Services Officer; Director of Social Work; Head of Social Work Resources; Head of Social Work Services; Principal Officer, Child Care; Principal Officer, Community Care; Principal Officer, Planning and Development; Principal Officer, Registration and Inspection; Performance Review Manager and Accounting Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Lafferty, McCabe, McElroy, Nolan and Stocks.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

1. There were submitted the Minutes of the meetings of the Social Work (Planning and Administration) Sub-Committee held on 7 November 2000 and the Social Work (Operations and Services) Sub-Committee held on 14 November 2000.

Decided: that the terms of the Minutes be approved.

PROTECTING CHILDREN: SECURING THEIR SAFETY

2. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Inclusion Committee held on 5 October 2000 when, inter alia, that Committee approved a report by the Chief Executive detailing the response prepared by the Children's Services Strategy Group to the Scottish Executive consultation document entitled "Protecting Children: Securing their Safety" and referred the report to this Committee for information, there was submitted the said report dated 14 September 2000 by the Chief Executive thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

DIET AND NUTRITION POLICY

3. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 10 October 2000 when that Committee approved a report by the Director of Community Services on proposals for the implementation of a Diet and Nutrition Policy for North Lanarkshire and referred the report to this Committee for their information, there was submitted the said report dated 13 September 2000 by the Director of Community Services thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

AREA OFFICE ACCOMMODATION - AIRDRIE

4. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing and Property Services Committee held on 11 October 2000 when, *inter alia*, that Committee approved, in principle, a report by the Director of Housing and Property Services setting out options for delivering Housing and Finance functions in Airdrie Town Centre with a view to developing a One Stop Shop approach and proposing an option which would deliver the Finance functions from the Council Offices in Bank Street, Airdrie and Housing and Property Services and Council Tax account enquiry services from the current Social Work Offices at Coats House, Airdrie, at an estimated cost of £502,700 but subject to the agreement to create alternative disabled access and to relocate disabled parking provision and referred the report to this Committee for information, there was submitted the said report dated 24 August 2000 by the Director of Housing and Property Services thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

ACCESS PROJECT - FUNDING

5. With reference to paragraph 21 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing and Property Services Committee held on 11 October 2000 when, *inter alia*, that Committee noted a report by the Director of Housing and Property Services detailing the successful work of the Access Project and success of the bid for the extension of funding for the Project until 2002 from the New Futures Fund and referred the report to this Committee for information, there was submitted the said report dated 27 September 2000 by the Director of Housing and Property Services thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

REPORT OF THE JOINT EQUIPMENT AND ADAPTATIONS MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP

6. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 6 June 2000 when the progress made by the Joint Equipment and Adaptations Member/Officer Working Group was noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 2 November 2000 by the Directors of Housing and Property Services and Social Work enclosing the findings of the Joint Equipment and Adaptations Member/Officer Working Group and making a series of recommendations designed to create major service improvements (1) detailing the membership and remit of the Working Group; (2) advising that the main issues addressed by the Working Group were equipment, information, assessment and care management, adaptations, eligibility criteria, service standards, charging and the role and management of occupational therapy; (3) outlining the preferred options identified by the Working Group in respect of the main issues addressed, and (4) enclosing the final report by the Joint Equipment and Adaptations Member/Officer Working Group as an Appendix to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the preferred options recommended by the Member/Officer Working Group in respect of the main issues addressed as detailed in the report be endorsed;
- (2) that the Directors of Housing and Property Services and Social Work be authorised to prepare detailed implementation plans in respect of the approved proposals;
- (3) that the Directors of Housing and Property Services and Social Work be authorised to implement those recommendations which do not require any additional resources, and

- (4) that the Directors of Housing and Property Services and Social Work be authorised to bring forward a report on the implementation plans to a future meeting of the Committee.

A HOME FOR THE FUTURE MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP

7. With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 6 June 2000 when, *inter alia*, the progress made by the "A Home for the Future Member/Officer Working Group" was noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated November 2000 by the Director of Social Work (1) outlining the consultation process undertaken by the Working Group, and (2) enclosing as an Appendix the report by the "A Home for the Future Member/Officer Working Group" setting out recommendations for service developments to meet the needs of older people.

Decided:

- (1) that the recommendations of the "A Home for the Future" Member/Officer Working Group report as detailed in the Appendix of the report be endorsed;
- (2) that the Director of Social Work bring forward further reports to future meetings of the Committee detailing progress on the recommendations as set out in paragraphs 10.1 to 10.3 of the Appendix;
- (3) that the Directors of Housing and Property Services and Social Work establish a Working Group to take forward those recommendations which relate to supported housing, sheltered housing and very sheltered housing as set out in paragraph 10.4 of the Appendix, and
- (4) that the report be remitted to the Housing and Property Services Committee for their information.

DRAFT SOCIAL WORK SERVICE PLAN 2001/2002

8. There was submitted a report dated 13 November 2000 by the Director of Social Work and the Draft Social Work Service Plan 2001/2002 advising of the strategic aims and service development objectives of the department.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the Draft Social Work Service Plan 2001/2002 be noted, and
- (2) that the draft Service Plan be remitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

JOINT COMMUNITY CARE PLAN AND ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY ANNUAL REVIEW 2000

9. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 22 August 2000 when it was agreed that the draft review of the North Lanarkshire Joint Community Care Plan and Accommodation Strategy be issued for a period of consultation, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 November 2000 by the Director of Social Work (1) summarising the outcome of the consultation on the North Lanarkshire Joint Community Care Plan and Accommodation Strategy, extracts of which were attached at Appendix 1 to the report, and (2) advising that the approximate cost of £3,000 for printing and publishing the Strategy would be shared equally between this Council, Lanarkshire Health Board and Scottish Homes.

Decided:

- (1) that the outcome of the consultation exercise be noted;
- (2) that the printing and publishing the North Lanarkshire Joint Community Care Plan and Accommodation Strategy at a cost of £3,000 shared equally by this Council, Lanarkshire Health Board and Scottish Homes be approved, and
- (3) that the Joint Community Care Plan and Accommodation Strategy be approved.

YOUTH CRIME REVIEW ASSESSMENT - IT'S A CRIMINAL WASTE - STOP YOUTH CRIME NOW: SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION PAPER

10. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated October 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the invitation from the Scottish Executive for Local Authorities to comment on specific issues within their response to the Consultation Paper in relation to the Youth Crime Review Assessment (1) intimating that the Scottish Executive had commissioned a review of youth crime, the remit of which was to assess the extent and effectiveness of options available to Children's Hearings and courts in cases involving persistent offenders; (2) indicating that the Scottish Executive had accepted the main recommendations of the report which reflected the need for a range of measures to underpin the work with young people who offend and that no single solution would work in isolation; (3) intimating that National Strategy Framework and Local Plans would be prepared and implementation was scheduled to commence by March 2001, and (4) enclosing the Council's response to the issues raised in the Scottish Executive response to the Consultation Paper in Appendix 1 to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the comments set out in Appendix 1 to the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the issues raised in the Scottish Executive response to the Consultation Paper "It's a Criminal Waste - Stop Youth Crime Now" subject to the amendment that the Children's Hearing System should be renamed as "The Hearings System for Children and Young People".

YOUTH CRIME REVIEW - IT'S A CRIMINAL WASTE - STOP YOUTH CRIME NOW - MAKING IT WORK TOGETHER

11. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee when the Council's response to the Scottish Executive Consultation Paper "It's a Criminal Waste - Stop Youth Crime Now" was approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated October 2000 by the Director of Social Work outlining the Council's proposals for the development of services on the basis of funding provided by the Scottish Executive in relation to the Youth Crime Review (1) detailing (a) the current services for dealing with youth crime in North Lanarkshire, and (b) the staffing and financial implications of implementing the development proposals, and (2) setting out in Appendix 1 to the report the breakdown of the individual proposals, the objectives for each proposal and the part year and full year cost thereof.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposals set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved for submission to the Scottish Executive for development of services in relation to the Youth Crime Review;

- (2) that the Director of Social Work provide an update to a future meeting of the Committee on the implementation and progress of the proposals, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for consideration of the staffing elements.

RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES

12. With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 3 October 2000 when, *inter alia*, the action taken by the Director of Social Work in submitting the North Lanarkshire Action Plan designed to tackle problems arising from delays in the discharge of patients from hospital to the Scottish Executive was homologated, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 October 2000 reporting the outcome of the Council's submission to the Scottish Executive in respect of additional funding for community care services (1) intimating that the bid to the Scottish Executive had been successful and the Council was eligible to receive funding of £606,163 which will be recurring revenue from 2001/2002; (2) indicating that in view of the recurring nature of the funding proposals would require to be developed and submitted to the Scottish Executive following consultation with key parties, and (3) detailing the progress in the implementation arrangements of Community Care Services including funding of an additional 40 residential or nursing home placements and the creation of "early response teams".

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted;
- (2) that the Director of Social Work provide a further report to a future meeting of the Committee recommending revised proposals to be submitted to the Scottish Executive in view of the recurring nature of the funding, and
- (3) that the Director of Social Work provide an evaluation report to a future meeting of the Committee on the spend of the additional resources at the end of the period of funding on 31 March 2001.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE'S RESPONSE TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON LONG TERM CARE

13. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 November 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Scottish Executive's response to the Royal Commission on long term care and of the implication for services in North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the background to the Royal Commission on long term care; (2) detailing in Appendix 1 to the report the 24 recommendations of the Royal Commission Report and the Scottish Executive's response to each recommendation; (3) setting out the Council's comments on the recommendations of the Scottish Executive which would impact significantly on the Council; (4) indicating that many of the recommendations would have significant financial implications for local authorities and that careful attention would be required to ensure that adequate resources were made available to support their implementation, and (5) advising that the Council would undertake the task of estimating the extent of additional costs in order that appropriate representations could be made for the allocation of adequate resources to meet the new responsibilities.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the Scottish Executive's statement in response to the Royal Commission on Long Term Care be noted, and
 - (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to submit further reports to future meetings of the Committee on the implications for the Council.
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DRAFT GUIDANCE ON CHARGING FOR SERVICES THAT ENABLE CLIENTS TO REMAIN IN THEIR OWN HOME

14. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 November 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the consultation paper issued by COSLA on draft guidance on charging for social care services (1) outlining the background to the draft guidance for charging for non-residential care services which would enable clients to remain in their own home; (2) intimating that COSLA in their recommendations to the Scottish Executive stated that local authorities would require to have the scope to set their own charges in order to have the financial means to provide services to meet local needs; (3) setting out a number of recommendations to local authorities which would bring some uniformity to local charging schemes; (4) detailing a number of policy development issues which COSLA recommend local authorities should take into account when developing charging policies, and (5) setting out the Council's response to the proposals made by COSLA which broadly reflect the principles of the policy which currently operates in North Lanarkshire for home care charging.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to submit a detailed response to the COSLA Consultation Paper on draft guidance on charging for services which enable clients to remain in their own homes;
- (2) that following consideration by COSLA of the Council's proposals the Director of Social Work be authorised to bring forward proposed amendments, if required, to the Council's charging policy for home care, and
- (3) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

CREATION OF VARIOUS PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY POSTS WITHIN THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

15. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 7 November 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the need to create a number of posts within the Social Work Department (1) outlining the reasons for the creation of a number of permanent and temporary posts within the Department; (2) intimating that due to intense operational pressures within the Department adverts had been placed in the national press for the recruitment of Moving and Handling Trainers, Social Work Assistants and Income Maximisers; (3) intimating that funding for the posts was available from the existing Social Work budget as a consequence of slippage arising from the non-filling of vacancies in the first half of the year and from additional resources provided by central government for winter pressures and the youth crime review; (4) proposing that the temporary posts be created initially for a six month period after which they would be subject to review, and (5) providing in the Appendix to the report details of the permanent and temporary posts.

Decided:

- (1) that the creation and filling of the posts identified in the Appendix to the report be approved;
- (2) that the action taken by the Head of Personnel Services in placing adverts in the national press for the posts outlined in Section 3 of the report be homologated, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for consideration.

CHILDREN'S HOSPICE ASSOCIATION IN SCOTLAND

16. There was submitted a report dated 13 October 2000 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval to provide a grant of £10,750 to the Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS) towards the cost of Rachel House Children's Hospice, Kinross (1) outlining the background to services provided at Rachel House which serves 14 children from North Lanarkshire which equated to 9 per cent of the usage, and (2) proposing that North Lanarkshire contribute £10,750 towards the cost of Rachel House Children's Hospice in the current financial year be approved.

Decided: that a grant of £10,750 to CHAS towards the cost of Rachel House Children's Hospice for the 2000/2001 financial year be approved.

SECTION 10 FUNDING

17. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 9 November 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding an application for Section 10 funding which had been submitted by the "Watch Us Grow" project (1) advising that the "Watch Us Grow" project was a community based voluntary organisation located in Palacerigg Country Park which provided training and work placement experience services for people with special needs; (2) indicating that the funding request was based on the Council paying an hourly rate of £1.60 for six people to attend the project four days per week which equated to £11,059 on an annual basis; (3) intimating that following an evaluation of the project, it was concluded that the services provided by the "Watch Us Grow" project provided an opportunity for people with special needs to develop skills and experience which would assist with the social inclusion requirements of individuals, and (4) advising that although the organisation had the necessary funding resources to sustain the project for the next three years their expansion plans were dependent on receiving a Section 10 grant.

Decided:

- (1) that the "Watch Us Grow" project be provided with a Section 10 grant of £14,745 for the period from December 2000 to March 2002, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work provide regular reports to the Social Work Committee on the progress being achieved by the organisation.

REVENUE ESTIMATES 2001/2002 BASE SUBMISSIONS - SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

18. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 6 November 2000 by the Director of Finance setting out the base revenue estimates for the Social Work Department for the financial year 2001/2002.

Decided: that the base revenue estimates for the Social Work Department for 2001/2002 be noted.

REVENUE ESTIMATES 2000/2001 FINANCIAL MONITORING STATEMENT FOR THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT AND SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT - 1 APRIL TO 15 OCTOBER 2000

19. There were submitted reports dated 9 November 2000 by the Director of Social Work advising of departmental spending levels for the Department of Social Work and Sheltered Employment budgets respectively for the period from 1 April to 15 October 2000 and providing a comparison with the approved budget.

Decided: that the terms of the reports be noted.

COMPOSITE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2000/2001 MONITORING REPORT FOR THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT - 1 APRIL TO 15 OCTOBER 2000

20. With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 3 October 2000 when the financial position of the Capital Programme for the Social Work Department was noted, there was submitted a report dated 9 November 2000 by the Director of Social Work (1) detailing the current progress being made in individual projects included in the Capital Programme as at 15 October 2000, and (2) intimating that expenditure against the approved budget amounted to £170,372 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Decided: that the progress of the Capital Programme for the Social Work Department as at 15 October 2000 be noted.

MANAGEMENT AND FUNDING OF NURSING HOME AND RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS FOR OLDER PEOPLE

21. With reference to paragraph 19 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 5 October 1999 when, inter alia, it was agreed that the financial and operational issues concerning Nursing Home and Residential Care Placements be noted and that the Director of Social Work submit a further report to a future meeting of the Committee updating the position, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated October 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the management and funding of Nursing Home and Residential Care Placements for Older People (1) advising that funded placements in nursing home and residential care in North Lanarkshire currently amounted to 1,092 placements at a cost of £10.5 million per annum; (2) intimating that in addition to the placements, the Council directly provided care for 388 people in its own residential care establishments; (3) summarising in Section 4 of the report, the main issues with regard to residential care placements faced by the Social Work Department; (4) intimating (a) that of those clients who were awaiting placements of their choice, many were presently located in hospitals, and (b) that a Scottish Executive initiative supported by funding was being taken forward by health and social care partners across Lanarkshire in order to reduce winter pressure in hospital beds, and (5) indicating that while the number of people awaiting placement in nursing homes and independent sector residential homes had fallen compared with the same period last year, numbers would continue to grow and the Council would require to face major issues with regard to the future management and placement for vulnerable community care clients.

Decided:

- (1) that the financial and operational issues concerning nursing home and residential care placements be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report to a future meeting of the Committee updating the position regarding the Scottish Executive initiative on winter bed pressures.

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT - SERVICE PLAN MONITORING REPORT - QUARTERLY REPORT

22. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 November 2000 by the Director of Social Work advising of the implementation of the Department Service Plan for 1999-2002 and setting out in the Appendix to the report details of the progress of the seventeen key strategic development tasks identified therein.

Decided: that the progress of the key strategic development tasks as detailed in the Appendix to the report be noted.

ACCOUNTS COMMISSION: STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - 1999/2000 ANNUAL RETURN AND 2000/2001 RETURN FOR FIRST TWO QUARTERS

23. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 November 2000 by the Director of Social Work providing details on the Department's statutory performance indicators for 1999/2000 and for the first two quarters of 2000/2001 which have been submitted to the Accounts Commission for Scotland (1) setting out in Appendix 1 to the report the Department's performance indicators for 1999/2000 under the headings of Community Care Assessments, Expenditure, Child Protection, Child Care Placements, Home Care/Home Help, Residential Accommodation: Staff Qualifications, Residential Accommodation: Privacy, Inspection and Respite Care; (2) enclosing in Appendix 2 to the report the performance indicators for the first two quarters of the current financial year which had incorporated four additional indicator headings of Children Being Looked After - Educational Attainment; Criminal Justice - Social Enquiry Reports; Probation, and Community Service; (3) intimating that the Accounts Commission Guide for 2000/2001 had introduced changes as a result of merging the Scottish Executive key performance indicators, and (4) indicating that, within the Department, work was currently being undertaken to ensure that appropriate monitoring systems were in place to accommodate the reporting of the additional information required.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

CUSTOMER SERVICE SOCIAL WORK PERFORMANCE - QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT (QUARTER 2 - JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2000)

24. With reference to paragraph 18 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 22 August 2000 when the performance of the Social Work Department in relation to measures contained in the Corporate Service Charter and steps taken to improve performance standards, was noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 November 2000 by the Director of Social Work providing information on the performance standards of the Social Work Department from July to September 2000.

Decided: that the performance of the Social Work Department in relation to the measures contained in the Corporate Service Charter be noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION UNIT ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL 1999 - 31 MARCH 2000

25. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 22 August 2000 when the findings and actions set out in the Annual Report on North Lanarkshire Council Registration and Inspection Unit 1999/2000 were endorsed, there was submitted a report dated 31 October 2000 by the Director of Social Work summarising the findings of the Annual Report on Inspection for the period from 1 April 1999 - 31 March 2000.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

CONFERENCES

26. There were considered invitations from:-

SOCIAL WORK – 21 November 2000

- (1) Scottish Union of Supported Employment to attend a conference entitled “Professional Approach to Supported Employment” held in Edinburgh on 26 October 2000;
- (2) The Centre for Education and Training on Autism to attend a conference entitled “Educating Children with Asperger’s Syndrome” held in Alloa on 6 November 2000;
- (3) Barnardo’s Scotland to attend a conference entitled “Critical Moves - Children and Young People Managing Transitions” held in Renfrew on 10 November 2000;
- (4) Centre for Education and Training in Autism to attend a conference entitled “Making a Connection Through Body and Voice” held in Alloa on 17 November 2000;
- (5) The Scottish Parenting Forum to attend a conference entitled “Tots to Teens: The Parents’ Journey” to be held in Edinburgh on 23 November 2000;
- (6) The Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work to attend a conference entitled “Quality Child Care” to be held in London on 27-28 November 2000;
- (7) Partners in Advocacy to attend a conference entitled “Who’s Advocacy is it Anyway?” to be held in Dundee on 30 November 2000;
- (8) The National Homecare Council and the University of Birmingham to attend a conference entitled “Health and Care at Home” to be held in Edinburgh on 4-5 December 2000;
- (9) The Centre for Education and Training in Autism to attend a conference entitled “Practical Training in Autism” to be held in Alloa from 30 January to 2 February 2001, and
- (10) COSLA, BASW, Who Cares? Scotland and the ADSW to attend a conference entitled “The Corporate Child” to be held in Edinburgh on 27 February 2001.

Decided:

- (1) that the attendance of Councillor Chadha at the “Professional Approach to Supported Employment” conference held in Edinburgh on 26 October 2000 be homologated;
 - (2) that the attendance of Councillors H. McGuigan and Sullivan at the “Who’s Advocacy is it Anyway?” conference to be held in Dundee on 30 November 2000 be approved;
 - (3) that the attendance of Councillors H. McGuigan and Sullivan at the “Health and Care at Home” conference to be held in Edinburgh on 4-5 December 2000 be approved;
 - (4) that the attendance of Councillor J. Martin at “The Corporate Child” conference to be held in Edinburgh on 27 February 2001 be approved, and
 - (5) that no attendance at the six other conferences be authorised.
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