

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: LOCAL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2008 FOR FACTORIES AND BUSINESSES	
From: HEAD OF CENTRAL SERVICES			
Date: 15 August 2007	Ref: JAF/AC		

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to have the Committee consider and determine the local public holidays for factories and businesses in North Lanarkshire for the year 2008.

2. Background

2.1 On previous occasions, the General Purposes Committee considered annually the dates to be set for local public holidays for factories and businesses. The General Purposes Committee, at its meeting on 7th August, 1996, agreed, in principle, that the local public holidays should generally follow the patterns which had been adopted by the constituent authorities to North Lanarkshire and that has been the continuing situation in the past years.

3. Considerations

3.1 By adopting these patterns of local public holidays, the local public holidays in North Lanarkshire in the calendar year 2008 would be as follows -

- Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 January 2008
- Monday 24 March 2008
- Monday 5 and Monday 26 May 2008
- Monday 21 July 2008
- Monday 29 September 2008
- Thursday 25 and Friday 26 December 2008

3.2 This year, however, the Committee is reminded of the approval by the Scottish Parliament of the St. Andrew's Day Bank Holiday (Scotland) Act 2006. The legislation does not change the arrangements for setting the dates of local 'public' holidays, nor does it change the law as far as the observance of bank or local holidays are concerned. Nevertheless, the intention of the Scottish Parliament was to signal its wish to see greater celebration of St. Andrew's Day, including the possibility that it be combined with a holiday. The Council was encouraged to include discussions about St. Andrew's Day as part of the consultations with local business interests when setting future dates for holidays. To that end, the Council sought the views of North Lanarkshire Trades Union Council and the Lanarkshire Chamber of Commerce. There was no view expressed by the Trades Union Council and, while the Chamber of Commerce encouraged and supported national celebrations of St. Andrew's Day, there was no support for a new Bank holiday or for replacement of an existing public holiday with a November holiday – although it was indicated that, were the Council minded to do so, the holiday to be replaced should be one of the May holidays.

3.3 The determination of staff holidays is separately dealt with in accordance with an established pattern.

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4. Recommendation

- 4.1 To note the views expressed with regard to a St. Andrew's Day holiday and to determine the dates to be specified as the local public holidays for factories and businesses in North Lanarkshire in 2008.

J. Fleming

Head of Central Services

For further information on the content of the report, members should contact John Fleming, Head of Central Services on extension 2228.