

**Motherwell, 7 February 2013 at 10 am.**

**A Meeting of the CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**PRESENT**

Councillor W. Hogg, Convener; Councillor McAuley, Vice-Convener; Councillors Beveridge, Clinch, Fellows, Grant, Harmon, Higgins, Irvine, Johnston, Love, Lyle, McKendrick, Majid, Nolan and Sullivan.

**CHAIR**

Councillor W. Hogg (Convener) presided.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Executive Director of Corporate Services; Head of Central Services; Head of Legal Services, and Senior Accountant, Finance and Customer Services.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors Chadha, A. Coyle, M. Coyle, McLaren, McVey and Muir.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN TERMS OF THE ETHICAL STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE ETC. (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000**

1. No declarations were made.

**SERVICE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT – APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2012**

2. There was submitted a report dated 28 January 2013 by the Executive Director of Corporate Services providing details of performance for the period from April to September 2012 in relation to indicators contained within the Performance Portfolio.

**Decided:** that the report be noted.

**CORPORATE PROPERTY PERFORMANCE INFORMATION**

3. There was submitted a report dated 14 January 2013 by the Head of Design and Property Services (1) advising of performance and expenditure in respect of Corporate Property Maintenance for the financial year 2012/13, and (2) providing, for comparison, information relating to the previous financial year.

**Decided:** that the contents of the report be noted.

**REVENUE MONITORING REPORT – CORPORATE SERVICES - 1 APRIL 2012 TO 4 JANUARY 2013**

4. There was submitted a report dated 17 January 2013 by the Executive Director of Corporate Services detailing, for the period from 1 April 2012 to 4 January 2013, expenditure and income against the estimates detailed in the 2012/13 Corporate Services' Budget including separate details in respect of the four Divisions of that Service.

**Decided:** that the contents of the report be noted.

**2012/13 COMPOSITE CAPITAL PROGRAMME – 1 APRIL 2012 TO 4 JANUARY 2013**

5. There was submitted a report dated 14 January 2013 by the Executive Director of Corporate Services detailing, for the period from 1 April 2012 to 4 January 2013, current expenditure against the estimates contained in the 2012/13 Annual Capital Programme for Design and Property Services.

**Decided:** that the contents of the report be noted.

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUNDING – FINANCIAL YEAR 2013/14**

6. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 2 February 2012, when the level of financial support afforded to Community Councils for the financial year 2012/13 was agreed, there was submitted a report dated 2 February 2013 by the Head of Central Services (1) advising that the current level of financial support to Community Councils in North Lanarkshire was set at £450 per Council, with an additional £9 per 100 of the electorate, rounded up to the nearest 100, and (2) proposing that the status quo prevail for the financial year 2013/14.

**Decided:** that the status quo prevail for the financial year 2013/14, and that a report be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee on balances held by Community Councils and how the financial assistance provided by this Council impacted on these balances.

**MEASURED TERM CONTRACT FOR ROOF ANCHOR SAFETY BOLTS: SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE 2012/2015**

7. There was submitted a report dated 4 December 2012 by the Head of Design and Property Services (1) providing details of tenders received for the Measured Term Contract for Roof Anchor Safety Bolts: Service and Maintenance 2012/2015; (2) advising that the most advantageous tender, following evaluation on the basis of 60% price and 40% quality in accordance with the evaluation model included in the tender documents, was, after checking, that submitted by Northern Steeplejacks (Edinburgh) Limited; (3) indicating that the contract period was for three years, estimated at a cost of £46,000 per annum, with the option to extend the contract for a further two years, and (4) intimating that the Executive Director of Corporate Services, following consultation with the Convener, had accepted the offer from Northern Steeplejacks (Edinburgh) Limited.

**Decided:** that it be noted that, following consultation with the Convener, the Executive Director of Corporate Services had accepted the offer from Northern Steeplejacks (Edinburgh) Limited for the Measured Term Contract for Roof Anchor Safety Bolts: Service and Maintenance 2012/2015.

**DEMOLITION OF CEDAR ROAD NURSERY, CUMBERNAULD**

8. There was submitted a report dated 25 December 2012 by the Head of Design and Property Services (1) providing details of the five tenders received in respect of the demolition of Cedar Road Nursery, Cumbernauld; (2) advising that the lowest tender received was that from the Angus Group Limited in the corrected sum of £50,887.20 after checking, and (3) intimating that the Executive Director of Corporate Services, following consultation with the Convener, had accepted the tender from the Angus Group Limited.

**Decided:** that it be noted that, following consultation with the Convener, the Executive Director of Corporate Services had accepted the tender from the Angus Group Limited in respect of the demolition of Cedar Road Nursery, Cumbernauld.

**MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

**(1) CORPORATE SERVICES (LICENSING) SUB-COMMITTEE**

9. There were submitted the Minutes of the meeting and special meeting of Corporate Services (Licensing) Sub-Committee held on 31 October, 12 and 21 November, 5 and 17 December 2012 and 9 January 2013.

**Decided:** that the Minutes of the meetings of Corporate Services (Licensing) Sub-Committee held on 31 October, 12 and 21 November, 5 and 17 December 2012 and 9 January 2013 be approved and noted.

**(2) CIVIC FUNCTIONS GROUP**

10. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Civic Functions Group held on 24 January 2013.

**Decided:** that the Minute of the meeting of the Civic Functions Group held on 24 January 2013 be approved and noted.

**TAXI LICENSING – TAXI FARE REVIEW 2013**

11. With reference to paragraph 17 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 21 June 2012, when it was agreed that the Head of Legal Services be authorised to enter into full consultation with the Taxi Trade on the issue of taxi fares, there was submitted a report dated 30 January 2013 by the Head of Legal Services (1) advising (a) that Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 obliges the Council, as Licensing Authority, to fix from time to timescales for the fees and other charges in respect of the hire of taxis in its area, and (b) that a meeting was held by representatives of the Taxi Owners' Association to discuss, *inter alia*, taxi meter tariffs; (2) outlining the issues raised by the representatives, and (3) recommending that the status quo be maintained and no increase in taxi fares be applied.

**Decided:** that the status quo be maintained and no increase in taxi fares be applied.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE CAR LICENSING – PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE**

12. There was submitted a report dated 15 January 2013 by the Head of Legal Services (1) advising of a Scottish Government consultation on taxi and private hire car licensing; (2) detailing the background relative thereto; (3) indicating that a numbers of issues raised within the consultation, as contained within the Appendix to the report, had been under consideration and addressed by this Council, and (4) submitting, for consideration, a proposed response and seeking authority to forward the Council's response to the consultation to the Scottish Government.

**Decided:** that the proposed response be approved and the Head of Legal Services be authorised to forward the Council's response to the consultation on Taxi and Private Hire Car Licensing to the Scottish Government.

**CRIMINALISATION OF THE PURCHASE OF SEX (SCOTLAND) BILL**

13. There was submitted a report dated 3 January 2013 by the Head of Legal Services (1) seeking homologation of the Council's response to the consultation on the Criminalisation of the Purchase of Sex (Scotland) Bill, which had been issued for comment as an amendment to the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Bill by Trish Godman, MSP; (2) detailing the background relative thereto; (3) indicating that the proposed Bill would make buying sex from a prostitute in Scotland illegal, and (4) providing, in the Appendix to the report, the Council's response to the consultation.

**Decided:** that the action taken by the Head of Legal Services in forwarding the response, on behalf of the Council, as contained within the Appendix to the report, to the consultation on the Criminalisation of the Purchase of Sex (Scotland) Bill be homologated.

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL SHORT LIFE WORKING GROUP: RECOMMENDATIONS**

14. There was submitted a report dated 15 January 2013 by the Head of Central Services (1) advising of an invitation received from the Scottish Government to comment on principles and recommendations formulated by a Short Life Community Council Working Group which had been established by the Scottish Government to look at the operation of Community Councils in order to inform future policy development in this area and strengthen the role and relevance of Community Councils in their communities; (2) detailing the background relative thereto, and (3) outlining the 15 recommendations agreed by the Working Group, together with the Council's response which, in view of the timescale had, following consultation with the Convener, been submitted.

**Decided:** that the action taken to submit a timeous response to the Scottish Government on the principles and recommendations formulated by a Short Life Community Council Working Group, as contained within the report, be homologated.

**GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL – MOTION ON ROYAL MAIL CLOSURES**

15. There was submitted a report dated 15 January 2013 by the Head of Central Services (1) advising of correspondence received from Glasgow City Council regarding the way in which Post Office consult regarding any changes to Post Office services, and (2) indicating that, at its meeting held on 13 December 2012, Glasgow City Council approved the following motion, viz:-

"Council is opposed to Royal Mail's planned closure of the Cubie Street Sorting Office. Glasgow City Council is also concerned that Royal Mail's communication in relation to this issue, which elected representatives of all parties, as well as the general public, has been very poor.

Council agrees that the Chief Executive write to Royal Mail, to express concerns over the planned closure, to ask that an alternative solution be proposed and to request that elected representatives, Community Councils and other interested parties are consulted over this and any other closure plans in Glasgow.

Council also believes that there is a disparity between the need for consultation over the closure of Post Offices, but not Royal Mail Sorting Offices. Council agrees that the Chief Executive write to the relevant UK Government Minister to ask that legislation be amended, to make formal consultation over any planned Royal Mail closures affecting frontline services in communities compulsory. Furthermore, Council approves the distribution of this letter to other Community Councils in Scotland to highlight the issue."

**Decided:** that the Committee support Glasgow's representations to the relevant UK Government Minister.

#### **LOCAL CHANGE IN THE POST OFFICE NETWORK**

16. There was submitted a report dated 16 January 2013 by the Head of Central Services (1) advising of correspondence dated 31 December 2012 from Post Office Limited regarding local changes in the Post Office network; (2) detailing the background relative thereto, and (3) indicating that Post Office (a) advise where change is planned, for example in the case of the relocation of a branch, they hope to be able to engage with the local authority pro-actively, and seeks views on any information that may be relevant, and (b) in instances where change occurs that is beyond their control, for example a Sub-Postmaster resigning at short notice, Post Office want to ensure that the local authority are fully informed about the situation and the action they will take to resolve the situation.

**Decided:** that the contents of the report be noted.

#### **POST OFFICE – COATBRIDGE BRANCH – 132 MAIN STREET, COATBRIDGE**

17. There was submitted a report dated 15 January 2013 by the Head of Central Services advising of a consultation by Post Office Limited on the relocation of Coatbridge Post Office from 132 Main Street, Coatbridge, to new premises, across the street from the current branch, at Unit 22-23 The Quadrant, Shopping Centre, Coatbridge and providing details thereon.

**Decided:** that the contents of the report be noted.

#### **TOWN TWINNING**

##### **(1) ANNIVERSARIES**

18. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 January 2013 by the Head of Central Services (1) recommending proposals for the commemoration of the anniversaries of the establishment of twinning links with Schweinfurt, St. Denis and Les Marches; (2) detailing the background relative thereto, and (3) setting out proposals for consideration.

**Decided:** that the contents of the report be approved and noted.

**(2) CUMBERNAULD/BRON TWIN TOWN RUGBY PROGRAMME**

19. There was submitted a report dated 29 January 2013 by the Head of Central Services (1) advising of correspondence received from the Secretary of Cumbernauld Rugby Football Club advising of a twinning visit from Bron, France to North Lanarkshire during Easter 2013, and (2) seeking assistance in this respect.

**Decided:** that assistance in terms of Council policy be awarded to Cumbernauld Rugby Football Club in respect of a twinning visit from Bron, France to North Lanarkshire during Easter 2013.

**(3) SCHWEINFURT TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

20. There was submitted a report dated 30 January 2013 by the Head of Central Services (1) advising of correspondence received from the Chairman, Schweinfurt Twinning Association advising of two twinning visits to North Lanarkshire during March 2013, and (2) seeking assistance in this respect.

**Decided:** that assistance in terms of Council policy be awarded to Schweinfurt Twinning Association in respect of the two twinning visits from Schweinfurt, Germany to North Lanarkshire during March 2013.

**CONFERENCES**

21. There was submitted a report dated 30 January 2013 by the Head of Central Services (1) advising of an invitation received in respect of Member attendance at a conference, and (2) seeking that consideration be given to the invitations.

**Decided:**

that attendance at the following conference be authorised:-

<b>Conference</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
The New Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 "The Changes and the Challenges"	Edinburgh	22 February 2013	One Member

**The Convener being of the view that the following item of business was of an urgent nature authorised its consideration to enable the Council to progress the item timeously.**

**CONSULTATION: CIVIL LAW OF DAMAGES - ISSUES IN PERSONAL INJURY**

22. There was submitted a report dated 30 January 2013 by the Head of Legal Services (1) seeking approval for the Council's response to the Scottish Government's Consultation Paper on Civil Law of Damages – Issues in Personal Injury; (2) detailing the background relative thereto, and (3) setting out a proposed response.

**Decided:** that the Head of Legal Services be authorised to forward a response, on behalf of the Council, as detailed within the report, to the Scottish Government on their consultation on Civil Law of Damages – Issues in Personal Injury.