

**SPECIAL JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES – 13 November 2017**

Motherwell, 13 November 2017 at 2 pm.

A Special Meeting of the **JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR LOCAL
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES**

PRESENT

Councillor Duffy, Vice-Convener; Councillors Baird, Douglas, Goldsack, Kelly, Logue, H. McVey and Stocks.

M.Quigley Convener, UNISON; P. Cairns, C. McGuire, and D. Murphy GMB; J. Rooney, Unite (T &G) and J. Baxter, J. Paterson, W. Shearer, J. Struthers, J. Watson and J. Young, UNISON.

ALSO PRESENT

Councillor Stubbs.

CHAIR

M. Quigley, UNISON (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Assistant Chief Executive (Enterprise and Housing Resources); Head of Business for Financial Solutions, Head of Business, Organisational and People Solutions; Employee Relations Manager; Committee Officer, and Administrative Officer (Civic and Governance Services).

APOLOGIES

Councillors Cochrane, Feeney and Alan Valentine.

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

1. There were no declarations of interest.

PRESENTATION ON THE BUDGET OVERVIEW

2. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 1 November 2017 when it was agreed that a Special Meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee for Local Government Employees be convened, within the following two weeks, to hear a presentation by the Head of Business for Financial Solutions regarding the Council's Budget Setting Process, the Head of Business for Financial Solutions provided an update on the Budget Overview 2018/19.

He also provided further information in respect of the:-

- Timeframe
- Budget Gap
- Income (Funding Sources)
- Cost Pressures 2018/19
- Strategic/Policy Charges 2018/19
- IJB Considerations 2018/19
- How to Close the Budget Gap

**SPECIAL JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES – 13 November 2017**

Following full discussion, and after answering Members' Questions, the Convener thanked the Head of Business for Financial Solutions for his presentation.

Thereon, M. Quigley, seconded by J. Baxter, moved:-

"This Committee would express its ongoing grave concerns that North Lanarkshire Council are about to embark on another round of damaging cuts to local services and local people's jobs.

Policy choices imposed by the Scottish Government have resulted in successive cuts to North Lanarkshire Council's budget and mean some of the most needy and vulnerable in our community will yet again be hit disproportionately by the effects of austerity.

This Committee shares the opposition of our Trade Unions, charities and the Third Sector to local government cuts and calls upon the JCC to lobby the Scottish Government on behalf of Councillors, Trade Union members and our local Community to demand a fair settlement which will empower local people, local services and local jobs."

Councillor Stocks, seconded by Councillor Baird, moved as amendment, that the motion be not supported.

On a vote being taken, 2 Members having voted for the amendment, and 16 Members having voted for the motion, the motion was accordingly declared carried.

It was noted that the Convener and Vice-Convener would send a joint letter to the Scottish Government on behalf of Elected Members, Trade Union members and the local community to demand a fair settlement which would empower local people, local services and local jobs.

It was also noted that the Members of the SNP Group on the Committee wished to dissociate themselves from the joint letter.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee expressed its ongoing grave concerns that North Lanarkshire Council is about to embark on another round of damaging cuts to local services and local people's jobs;
- (2) that the Committee noted the policy choices imposed by the Scottish Government have resulted in successive cuts to North Lanarkshire Council's budget which means some of the most needy and vulnerable in our community will yet again be hit disproportionately by the effects of austerity;
- (3) that the Committee shared the opposition of the Trade Unions, Charities and the Third Sector to local government cuts, and
- (4) that the Convener, and Vice Convener of the Joint Consultative Committee for Local Government Employees send a joint letter to the Scottish Government on behalf of the Elected Members, Trade Union Members and local community to demand a fair settlement which would empower local people, local services and local jobs.