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EMERGENCIES1996M

Motherwell, 3 May 1996 at 9.30 am.

A Meeting of the EMERGENCIES COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor H. McGuigan, Chair; Provost Mathieson; Councillors Hogg, Lyle, McCulloch and McLaughlin.

CHAIR

Councillor H. McGuigan (Chair) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Director of Administration, Director of Education, Director of Environmental Services, Head of Housing Strategy and Resources, Public Relations Manager and Chief Inspector Kerr.

FORMER RAVENSCRAIG STEEL WORKS - FIRE

1. The Leader of the Council as Chair explained that the meeting had been called at short notice to enable members to be advised of the emergency situation which had occurred as a result of a fire at the former Ravenscraig Steel Works during the night of 2/3 May 1996 when there had been concern that the fire may have caused air-borne asbestos contamination. The various officers advised of the action which had been taken since the outbreak of the fire and the further action proposed (1) to keep the public fully aware of the up-to-date position; (2) to closely monitor the situation and arrange for sampling as appropriate, and (3) to operate and monitor the clean up operation.

Decided:

- (1) that the action taken by the officers be homologated;
- (2) that it be noted that confirmation had been received by way of the Public Analyst that although the immediate area surrounding the site may be affected by debris from the fire containing asbestos, results of air samples had indicated that there was no airborne asbestos contamination and accordingly no danger to the public from airborne asbestos fibres at this time;
- (3) that the Director of Environmental Services produce an advice leaflet to be immediately delivered (a) to all households in the vicinity of the steelworks found to be affected by the fallout, and (b) given to children attending schools situated within each of these areas;

- (4) that in co-operation with Strathclyde Police, advice be also given via cars with loudhailers which are to tour these areas during the day;
- (5) that the Director of Environmental Services be instructed to monitor the collection and subsequent disposal of the asbestos by the contractor currently responsible for the removal of asbestos and from the site, and
- (6) that a press conference be arranged for 11.30 am.