

**Motherwell, 14 September 2000 at 9 am.**

A Meeting of the **EMERGENCIES COMMITTEE**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Smith, Vice-Convener; Provost McCulloch; Councillors Connelly, Coyle and McLaughlin.

**CHAIR**

Councillor Smith (Vice-Convener) presided.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive, Head of Cleaning and Related Services, Emergencies Planning Officer and Core Services Officer.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors Lyle, McCabe and H. McGuigan.

**FUEL CRISIS**

1. The Chief Executive (1) intimated that the meeting had been called at short notice to inform Members of the current situation in relation to the fuel crisis as it affects Council services in North Lanarkshire; (2) indicated, in view of the information now being received that the blockades of the oil refineries were being lifted, that the situation appeared to be improving, and (3) advised of the steps which had been taken to ensure that the Council's key services would be maintained.

In this connection there was tabled a report dated 13 September 2000 by the Chief Executive (1) giving an update on the current situation and the action plan to sustain essential Council services in North Lanarkshire and in this regard there was tabled, also, (a) documentation by the Director of Community Services detailing the Council's available fuel stocks and setting out a priority list for the rationing of fuel for Council vehicles, and (b) a list prepared by the Chief Executive's office detailing each department's key services; the staffing implications thereof, and the contact arrangements; (2) enclosing (a) a copy of a consultation paper from the Scottish Executive seeking the Council's views on the administering of a statutory scheme under which the access to fuel supplies would be restricted to authorised users, and (b) a copy of the Council response thereto, and (3) detailing the Council's communication strategy which included the facility to establish a helpline; providing guidance to departments; advising all elected Members of the situation, and issuing a press statement which at the time of issue on 13 September indicated that the Council had no major service problems.

There followed general discussion during which the officers concerned responded to Members' questions.

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