

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE'S MINUTES.

Glasgow, 18th June 2002.

Policy and Resources Committee.

Present: Charles Gordon (Chair), Elizabeth Cameron, James Coleman, Christine Devine, Eamon Fitzgerald, Archie Graham, John Gray, Dr Malcolm Green, Jean McFadden, Dr Christopher Mason, John Mason, James Mutter, Marjorie O'Neill, Craig Robertson, George Ryan, Ruth Simpson and Alistair Watson.

Apologies: Aileen Colleran, Robert Gray and William O'Rourke.

Attending: A Lewis (Clerk); I Drummond, Solicitor to the Council; D Comley, Director of Housing Services; I Tully and E Murray, Depute Directors of Financial Services; S Inch and I Manson, Depute Directors of Development and Regeneration Services; I Hooper (for the Director of Cultural and Leisure Services); and D Corbett, A Livingstone and G Ritchie (for the Chief Executive).

UEFA Champions League Media Centre - Presentation noted.

1 There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive regarding the special arrangements that had been made for the media during the UEFA Champions League Final held in Glasgow on 15th May 2002.

After consideration and having heard a presentation by Mr Gordon Ritchie detailing the Council's Public Relations and Marketing team's involvement in the arrangements for the UEFA Champions League Final, the committee noted the report and thanked Mr Ritchie for his presentation.

Minutes of sub-committees dealt with.

2 The minutes of the undernoted sub-committees were submitted and dealt with as follows: -

- (1) Appointment of Senior Officers Special Sub-committee of 29th May 2002 – noted;
- (2) Convener's Sub-committee of 6th June 2002 – noted;
- (3) Resource Allocation and Monitoring Sub-committee of 10th June 2002 - noted; and
- (4) Regeneration Strategy Sub-committee of 12th June 2002 – approved.

Minutes of member/officer working groups dealt with.

3 The minutes of the undernoted member/officer working groups were submitted and dealt with as follows:-

- (1) Clyde Waterfront Regeneration Member/Officer Working Group of 4th June 2002 - noted with the exception of paragraph 5 which was approved; and

- (2) Lighting Strategy Member/Officer Working Group of 7th June 2002 - noted.

Corporate annual performance report 2001/02 approved.

4 There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive regarding the corporate annual performance report for 2001/02, advising that

- (1) the Best Value Review of decision making had recommended that all service committees assess service performance as set out in their approved service plan during the May committee cycle each year;
- (2) all services had prepared annual performance reports and members had the opportunity to consider these individual reports at the respective service committees;
- (3) the initial corporate overview of key objectives and progress was one element of an integrated longer-term approach to improving Council performance management, monitoring and reporting; and
- (4) the corporate performance report set out the Council's key objectives, highlighted key achievements and outlined key targets for the coming year.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) noted the impact of the Scottish Local Government (Elections) Act 2002 and that the Council's key objectives remained the main policy driver for its extended term of office until May 2003;
- (b) approved the corporate annual performance report for 2001/02 as detailed in the report; and
- (c) agreed that the corporate annual performance report be made available to the public in an appropriate format for information and comment no later than the end of September 2002.

Scottish Executive - Consultation document on "Community Budgeting" - Response approved - Dissent.

5 There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive regarding the Scottish Executive's consultation document entitled "Community Budgeting" and an invitation for preliminary expressions of interest in the community budget grant for 2002-04

- (1) advising that
 - (a) community budgeting would involve the identification and recording of mainstream spend by agencies in defined communities; and
 - (b) the community budget grant would be £5m for 2002-04 and would be time-limited with applications being sought from Community Planning Partnerships and Social Inclusion Partnerships etc; and
- (2) outlining a proposed response to the consultation document.

After consideration, the committee, Bailie Dr Christopher Mason dissenting,

- (i) approved the report as the Council's response to the consultation document; and
- (ii) agreed that the Council lodge a preliminary expression of interest in the community budget grant.

Asylum seekers - Dispersal programme and Sighthill Action Plan - Position agreed.

6 With reference to the minutes of the Convener's Sub-committee of 13th August 2001 (Print 3, page 485) agreeing to a number of measures to support the integration of asylum seekers, strengthen the Council's corporate approach and reduce community tensions in Sighthill, there was submitted a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Director of Housing Services

- (1) outlining
 - (a) the corporate action taken to date as then detailed;
 - (b) actions that had been taken by Council services to resolve other issues and operational priorities identified by residents in Sighthill; and
 - (c) the Council's 10 point action plan in relation to Sighthill and the Council's response to them which had mostly been implemented;
- (2) proposing that the Sighthill Co-ordinating Group be wound up over the next few months since it had achieved its objectives; and
- (3) advising that
 - (a) the development of the Sighthill Community One Stop Shop (SCOSS) had not been resolved and negotiations were still taking place to secure the rental of a vacant supermarket in the Sighthill Shopping Centre for its premises and applications had been submitted to the Community Fund for capital works associated with the SCOSS; and
 - (b) pending the establishment of the SCOSS, the Director of Cultural and Leisure Services had made free lets available at St Stephen's Primary School to the local community.

After consideration, the committee

- (i) noted the action taken at a corporate and service level in relation to the Council's dispersal programme and at a local level in Sighthill to address community tensions; and
- (ii) agreed to
 - (A) wind down the Sighthill Co-ordinating Group over the next few months; and
 - (B) continue to provide free lets within the current letting pattern in Sighthill for community activities pending the development of the SCOSS.

Table dancing venues - Proposed review of licensing legislation approved - Instruction to officers.

7 There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive regarding the need for a review of licensing legislation in light of concerns regarding table dancing venues

- (1) detailing the Council's concerns regarding the lack of scope to object to the granting of activities such as table dancing and lap dancing;
- (2) proposing that the Scottish Executive consider an amendment to the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 to include table dancing and lap dancing venues, under Part III Section 45 Control, as sex shops which would mean widening the term sex articles to be sexual activities, which would amount to commercial sexual exploitation; and
- (3) advising that the change in legislation proposed at (2) above would allow the Licensing Board to explicitly consider the nature of the entertainment and a wide variety of interested parties would have the right to object to the nature of the entertainment.

After consideration, the committee, in order to promote gender equality, tackle inequality and victimisation and address violence against women,

- (a) agreed that
 - (i) there was a need for legislative reform of the licensing laws relating to entertainment such as table dancing;
 - (ii) representation be made to the Scottish Executive on this matter; and
 - (iii) the Scottish Executive's support be sought for legislative reform of the licensing law; and
- (b) instructed officers to liaise with the Scottish Executive over the framing of any new legislative amendments, in light of Glasgow's experience with the existing legislation.

Scottish Executive - Consultation document on "Renewing Local Democracy - The Next Steps" - Response approved, after division.

8 There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive regarding the Scottish Executive's consultation document entitled "Renewing Local Democracy - The Next Steps"

- (1) advising that the document aimed to "modernise and enhance the good work already carried out by local government" and many of the issues raised in the document had been explored previously by the McIntosh Commission, the Leadership Advisory Panel and the Kerley Working Group;
- (2) intimating that whilst some elements within the consultation paper were welcomed, it was disappointing that so little progress had been made in developing many of the issues raised previously by the Scottish Executive in various consultation documents; and

- (3) outlining a proposed response to the consultation document.

Councillor Gordon, seconded by Councillor Coleman, moved that the committee approve the report as the Council's response to the Scottish Executive's consultation document entitled "Renewing Local Democracy - The Next Steps".

Councillor John Mason, seconded by Bailie Dr Christopher Mason, moved as an amendment that paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 of the report be deleted and a new paragraph 4.1 be inserted to read "The Council believes that all voting systems are a trade-off, dependent on their aims and the criteria chosen. It is unjust for one party to have 50% of vote and 90% of elected members, therefore, the Council supports proportional representation".

On a vote being taken by a show of hands, 2 members voted for the amendment and 12 for the motion, which was accordingly declared to be carried.

Scottish Executive - Consultation document on "Enforcement of Civil Obligations in Scotland" - Response approved.

9 There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive regarding the Scottish Executive's consultation document entitled "Enforcement of Civil Obligations in Scotland"

- (1) advising that the Scottish Executive had carried out a wide ranging review of the system of enforcement of civil obligations in Scotland; and
- (2) outlining a proposed response to the consultation document.

After consideration, the committee approved the report as the Council's response to the consultation document.

District Court - Court holidays for 2003 approved.

10 There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive advising of the District Court holidays for 2003 which had been proposed by the Sheriff of Glasgow and Strathkelvin.

After consideration, the committee approved the undernoted dates as court holidays for 2003 for Glasgow District Court:-

Wednesday 1st January
Thursday 2nd January
Friday 18th April
Monday 21st April
Monday 5th May
Monday 26th May
Monday 14th July
Monday 22nd September
Thursday 25th December
Friday 26th December

Delivery of Glasgow's Local Housing Strategy - Work programme and timetable approved.

11 With reference to the minutes of 12th February 2002 (Print 7, page 1095) approving proposals for work leading to the completion of Glasgow's Local Housing Strategy (LHS) in Autumn 2002 and the transfer of development funding, if agreed, in April 2003, there was submitted a report by the Director of Housing Services

- (1) detailing the progress made in order to deliver Glasgow's LHS;
- (2) advising that in order to ensure that the LHS was produced in the consultative way required by the Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland guidelines it had been proposed that stakeholders be involved in the LHS preparation via a consultative panel and its first meeting would consider the LHS process and timetable and the document structure and format;
- (3) intimating that in order to develop key aspects of the LHS in a consultative way it had been proposed that topic papers as then detailed be produced; and
- (4) outlining the key milestones for development and approval of the LHS to ensure that the requirements for transfer of development funding to the Council from Communities Scotland on 1st April 2003 was met.

After consideration, the committee approved

- (a) the proposals for a Joint Stakeholder Working Group as detailed in the report and in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (b) the LHS work programme and timetable as detailed in the report and in Appendix 2 of the report.

Health and Community Care Services - Transitional Housing Benefit - Position agreed.

12 There was submitted a joint report by the Directors of Housing Services, Social Work Services and Financial Services on Transitional Housing Benefit (THB)

- (1) advising that
 - (a) from April 2003 the THB would be replaced by the Supporting People grant and Housing Benefit would no longer be payable on charges for housing support services;
 - (b) as well as transferring services from traditional Housing Benefit to THB, an opportunity existed to develop new services initially through the THB with the Government completing a scoping exercise in March 2003 to determine the level of THB that would inform the transfer of resources from the Department of Work and Pensions to the Scottish Executive to fund Supporting People from April 2003; and
 - (c) the Council had established 3 priorities for the use of THB which the Greater Glasgow National Health Service Board had fully endorsed as then detailed;
- (2) detailing the charging policy and Easement Scheme; and

- (3) summarising the service development and financial estimates associated with the proposals.

After consideration, the committee

- (i) agreed
 - (A) that the securing of THB would provide substantial resources for the delivery of joint plans and strategies;
 - (B) to implement new services funded by THB in 2002/03 up to an increased estimate of £30m;
 - (C) to accept an offer from the NHS Greater Glasgow to contribute to the costs of the proposed Easement Scheme as well as specifically underwriting the risk if costs were higher than estimated; and
 - (D) that given the limited window of opportunity to develop services, an early meeting with Ministers be requested to seek reassurances about future funding to allow early commissioning of the service proposals as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (ii) approved
 - (A) housing support service charge on rent to cover the costs of new services eligible for Housing Benefit;
 - (B) the joint strategy for risk management and the proposed role for the Joint Community Care Committee; and
 - (C) the principles of the interim charging policy and Easement Scheme as detailed in the report; and
- (iii) otherwise noted the contents of the report and, in particular, the existing commitment to THB of £12.4m in 2002/03.

Glasgow Harbour project - Securing of European Regional Development Fund grant approved.

13 With reference to the minutes of 5th March 2002 (Print 7, page 1112) agreeing, in principle, to the establishment of a joint venture between the Council and Glasgow Harbour Ltd to maximise the prospects of the Glasgow Harbour project receiving European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) grant for the provision of the infrastructure which was required within the project site, there was submitted a report by the Director of Development and Regeneration Services

- (1) advising that
 - (a) the Scottish Executive had now confirmed that although a formal joint venture was no longer required for the project, the Council was still required to act as the applicant for the ERDF grant and accept the conditions which applied to all grant applicants; and

- (b) 2 further applications for ERDF grant totalling up to £5m towards public realm and transport infrastructure were in the process of being submitted and, if successful, the Council would need to make a further contribution of £337,500 which would mean that the Council had incurred a total cost of approximately £550,000 to secure approximately £8m of ERDF grant; and
- (2) proposing that the Council agree not to formally accept any award of ERDF grant for the Glasgow Harbour project until the Directors of Development and Regeneration Services and Financial Services, together with the Solicitor of the Council were satisfied that the appropriate legal and financial agreements were in place to protect the Council's position.

After consideration, the committee

- (i) approved
 - (A) expenditure of £157,977 which represented the minimum public sector contribution required to secure the ERDF grant under the ERDF guidelines, subject to final approval of the grant by the Strathclyde European Partnership;
 - (B) expenditure of £55,292 which represented the management fee payable to Strathclyde European Partnership as a standard condition of ERDF grant, subject to final approval of the grant by the Strathclyde European Partnership; and
 - (C) further expenditure equivalent to 6.75% of the value of any further ERDF grant which was received, which represented the minimum public sector contribution required under the ERDF guidelines and the management fees payable to Strathclyde European Partnership at the standard rate;
- (ii) agreed that the Council would not formally accept any ERDF grant until the Directors of Development and Regeneration Services and Financial Services and the Solicitor to the Council were satisfied that the appropriate legal and financial agreements were in place to protect the Council's position; and
- (iii) noted that
 - (A) the Council's application seeking £3.15m of ERDF grant towards total enabling infrastructure costs of £19.7m within the Glasgow Harbour project had been recommended for approval by Strathclyde European Partnership, subject to conditions;
 - (B) further applications for ERDF grant for other elements of the project were currently being prepared for submission in June 2002;
 - (C) Glasgow Harbour would reimburse the Council for the costs of the management fees payable to Strathclyde European Partnership; and
 - (D) the Council would require to enter into legal and financial agreements with Clydeport Plc/Glasgow Harbour Ltd to ensure that liability for meeting the conditions of grant were passed on from the Council, as grant applicant, to Glasgow Harbour Ltd as beneficiary.

Glasgow Harbour project - Proposed Riverside Museum - Pre-development work and funding approved.

14 There was submitted a joint report by the Directors of Development and Regeneration Services and Cultural and Leisure Services regarding the need to commence pre-development work required to progress the development of a new Riverside Museum, advising that

- (1) the disposal of the Council's landholdings within the Glasgow Harbour project area to Clydeport Plc/Glasgow Harbour Ltd had included a condition that Glasgow Harbour Ltd make 3 acres of site available free of price to the Council for the construction of the new Riverside Museum and if a detailed proposal had not been brought forward by the Council within 3 years, the site would revert back to Glasgow Harbour Ltd;
- (2) as the framework agreement between the Council and Glasgow Harbour Ltd had now been signed and the initial purchase price for the Council's land holdings had been paid by Glasgow Harbour Ltd, the 3 year period had now commenced;
- (3) an officer working group had been established to take forward the pre-development project work which had been estimated to take up to 15 months to complete at an overall cost of £400,000, including project team and consultancy costs;
- (4) as the proposed Museum would add considerably to the prestige and attraction of the overall Glasgow Harbour Development, the Council were currently negotiating with Glasgow Harbour Ltd for them to fund the full pre-development costs and to make a substantial contribution towards the full development costs should the project proceed to that stage; and
- (5) until the negotiations had been successfully concluded, the Council would require to make provision for that expenditure.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) approved initial expenditure of up to £400,000 over the period ending September 2003 on the pre-development costs of the proposed Riverside Museum, which might be developed within the Glasgow Harbour project; and
- (b) noted that
 - (i) discussions were underway with Glasgow Harbour Ltd with a view to them meeting the full cost of this expenditure;
 - (ii) further reports on the possible form and content of a new Riverside Museum would be presented to committee as and when appropriate; and
 - (iii) a further report on the implications of the proposed new museum on existing Council museum collections would be brought forward in due course.

Council Spokesperson on Community Councils - Special responsibility allowance approved.

15 There was submitted a report by the Director of Personnel and Administration Services regarding the payment of a special responsibility allowance to the Council's Spokesperson on Community Councils.

After consideration, the committee, as a matter of urgency in terms of Section 1(4)(c) of the Scheme of Delegated Functions, agreed that the Council's Spokesperson on Community Councils, currently Councillor Gordon Matheson, be paid a special responsibility allowance of £4,085.

Langside College Board of Management - Representation approved.

16 The committee, as a matter of urgency in terms of Section 1(4)(c) of the Scheme of Delegated Functions, agreed to appoint Councillor Alan Stewart (Ward 78) as the Council's representative on the Langside College Board of Management.

Joint Boards - Reports by Council Spokespersons noted.

17 There were submitted and noted annual reports on the work of the Joint Boards for 2002 by:-

- (1) Bailie Catherine McMaster, Council Spokesperson for the Strathclyde Fire Board; and
- (2) Councillor Jean McFadden, Council Spokesperson for Strathclyde Joint Police Board.

Conference reports noted.

18 There were submitted and noted conference reports by:-

- (1) Councillor Charles Gordon on the Eurocities conference on "New European and Local Governance" which had been held in Vienna, Austria on 15th to 16th April 2002;
- (2) Councillor David Stevenson on the Neil Stewart Associates conference on "Community Consultation - Better Research and Communication within Local Authorities" which had been held in London on 9th May 2002;
- (3) Bailie Ruth Simpson on the e-City Network Milestone Review and Development workshop which had been held in Aberdeen on 16th May 2002; and
- (4) Councillor Robert Marshall on the Scottish Local Government Information Unit conference on "Working Together for Best Value" which had been held in Dundee on 18th April 2002.