

COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 8 April 2008

Chair:

Councillor Gerry Convery

Councillors Present:

John Anderson, Eileen Baxendale, Walter Brogan, Gordon Clark, Russell Clearie, Hugh Dunsmuir, Allan Falconer, Lynn Filshie, Graeme Horne, Joe Lowe, Brian McCaig, Alex McInnes, David Shearer, Hamish Stewart (Depute), David Watson

Councillors' Apologies:

Andy Carmichael, Peter Craig, Beith Forrest, Anne Maggs, Edward McAvoy, Michael McCann, Clare McColl, Graham Simpson

Attending:

Community Resources

N Anderson, Executive Director; S Clelland, Head of Land and Fleet Services; C Fergusson, Finance Manager; S Kelly, Head of Facilities and Cultural Services; J Stirling, Environmental Services Manager

Corporate Resources

M Anderson, Public Relations Officer; N Docherty, Administration Assistant; A Knudsen, Administration Adviser

Finance and Information Technology Resources

L O'Hagan, Finance Manager (Accounting and Budgeting)

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Resources Committee held on 22 January 2008 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Committee decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

3 Minutes of Special Meeting

The minutes of the special meeting of the Community Resources Committee held on 31 January 2008 were submitted for approval as a correct record

The Committee decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

4 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2007/2008 - Community Resources

A joint report dated 11 March 2008 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Information Technology Resources) and (Community Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 25 January 2008 against budgeted expenditure for 2007/2008 for the various Services within Community Resources.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 22 January 2008 (Paragraph 3)]

5 Capital Budget Monitoring 2007/2008 - Community Resources

A joint report dated 11 March 2008 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Information Technology Resources) and (Community Resources) was submitted advising of progress on Community Resources' capital programme for 2007/2008 and summarising the position at 25 January 2008.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 22 January 2008 (Paragraph 4)]

6 Community Resources - Workforce Monitoring - December 2007 to February 2008

A joint report dated 11 March 2008 by the Executive Directors (Corporate Resources) and (Community Resources) was submitted on the following employee information for Community Resources for the period December 2007 to February 2008:-

- ◆ attendance statistics
- ◆ occupational health statistics
- ◆ accident/incident statistics
- ◆ disciplinary hearings, grievances and Dignity at Work cases
- ◆ analysis of leavers
- ◆ Joint Staffing Watch as at 8 December 2007

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 22 January 2008 (Paragraph 5)]

7 Environmental and Strategic Services – Re-designation of Posts

A joint report dated 4 March 2008 by the Executive Directors (Corporate Resources) and (Community Resources) was submitted on the re-designation of 12 temporary posts of Technical/Environmental Health Officer within Environmental and Strategic Services to permanent posts.

The posts had previously been established on a temporary basis to meet the duties imposed by the Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004 and to implement the provisions of the Prohibition of Smoking in Certain Premises (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Funding to implement the legislation had previously been provided on a year to year basis with the postholders' contracts being renewed on the confirmation of the annual funding. However, as part of the Single Outcome Agreement and the Concordat between the Scottish Government and local authorities, funding was no longer ringfenced and had been consolidated within Community Resources' budget which allowed the posts to be redesignated as permanent.

The Committee decided: that the 12 temporary posts of Technical/Environmental Health Officer within Environmental and Strategic Services be redesignated as permanent posts.

[Reference: Minutes of 7 March 2006 (Paragraph 14)]

8 Hamilton Town House – Additional Staff

A joint report dated 12 March 2008 by the Executive Directors (Corporate Resources) and (Community Resources) was submitted on the requirement to establish the following posts to support increased business levels at Hamilton Town House:-

- ◆ 1 post of Venue Supervisor on Grade 2, Level 1-4 (£15,621 to £24,417)
- ◆ 1 post of Venue Assistant on Grade 1, Level 1-3 (£10,603 to £15,165)

The existing staffing structure had been agreed as part of the original Town House business plan in 2004. However, the level of business had grown significantly over the period with the number of lets increasing from 716 in 2004/2005 to 1470 in 2007/2008.

The costs of £39,582 associated with the posts would be met from existing budgets.

The Committee decided: that the following posts be established to support increased business levels at Hamilton Town House:-

- ◆ 1 post of Venue Supervisor on Grade 2, Level 1-4 (£15,621 to £24,417)
- ◆ 1 post of Venue Assistant on Grade 1, Level 1-3 (£10,603 to £15,165)

[Reference: Minutes of 9 March 2004 (Paragraph 9)]

9 Grounds Trading Services - Additional Staff

A joint report dated 7 March 2008 by the Executive Directors (Corporate Resources) and (Community Resources) was submitted on the requirement to establish 2 full-time posts of Land Services Operative (Grounds) graded SCP1-28 (£11,208 to £16,764) within Grounds Trading Services.

The posts were required to carry out the additional workload associated with the increased grounds maintenance specification requested by Social Work Resources and the costs associated with the posts would be recovered from Social Work Resources.

The Committee decided: that 2 full-time posts of Land Services Operative graded SCP1-28 (£11,208 to £16,764) be established within Grounds Trading Services.

10 Clean Sweep - An Initiative for Tackling Environmental Crime

A report dated 10 March 2008 by the Executive Director (Community Resources) was submitted on a new initiative to tackle the issues associated with litter, dog fouling, fly tipping, graffiti and abandoned cars.

The Council had approved a strategy to deal with problems of this nature in 2000 and interventions to date had included:-

- ◆ cleaning open areas which the Council had a responsibility to maintain at frequencies which achieved compliance with the recognised national code of practice
- ◆ awareness raising within schools and generally through public information campaigns. Work had also been undertaken to assist voluntary groups in clean-ups

However, it was now considered appropriate to review the framework for dealing with the various issues and a number of initiatives were highlighted as follows:-

- ◆ improving the visibility of standards being achieved in street cleansing to raise public awareness through information on the website, Council publications and local media
- ◆ expanding the area covered by the Eco-School Programme to include the immediate environs of schools
- ◆ ongoing discussion to tackle the issue of litter resulting from the combination of secondary schools and fast food outlets
- ◆ production of a range of promotional materials to reinvigorate the “No Excuses” campaign
- ◆ implementation of dog exercise areas in suitable public parks
- ◆ provision of information to the public through various channels to raise awareness of what was being done to tackle the problems
- ◆ awareness raising amongst South Lanarkshire Council employees
- ◆ effective use of enforcement powers

The costs of the proposals would be met from existing budgets.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the framework outlined in the report to deliver a range of measures to deal with litter, dog fouling, flytipping, graffiti and abandoned cars be approved; and
- (2) that a further report be submitted to Committee in 6 months’ time providing an update on progress.

[Reference: Minutes of 12 September 2000 (Paragraph 3)]

11 Notification of Contracts Awarded - 12 December 2007 to 12 March 2008

A report dated 12 March 2008 by the Executive Director (Community Resources) was submitted on contracts awarded by Community Resources during the period 12 December 2007 to 12 March 2008.

In terms of Standing Order No 19.6 of the Standing Orders on Contracts, Resources were required to notify the relevant Committee of contracts awarded. Details of the contracts awarded by Community Resources were provided in the appendix to the report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

12 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.