

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 21 March 2007

Chair:

Councillor Edward McAvoy

Councillors Present:

Archie Buchanan, Gerry Convery, Alan Dick, Jim Docherty, Beith Forrest, James Handibode, Eileen Logan, Anne Maggs, John McGuinness, Gretel Ross, Mary Smith, Chris Thompson

Councillors' Apologies:

Jim Daisley (Depute), Pat Watters

Attending:

Chief Executive's Service

A Strang, Chief Executive

Community Resources

R Howe, Head of Environmental Services

Corporate Resources

R McIlwain, Executive Director; G Bow, Administration Adviser

Education Resources

K Arthur, Executive Director; L Forde, Executive Director (Designate)

Enterprise Resources

I Urquhart, Executive Director

Finance and Information Technology Resources

L Hardie, Executive Director

Housing and Technical Resources

J Hayton, Executive Director

Social Work Resources

H Stevenson, Executive Director

1 Declaration of Interests

The following interests were declared:-

Councillor(s)	Item(s)	Nature of Interest(s)
Logan, C Thompson	Coalburn Leisure Centre and South Lanarkshire Rural Communities Trust	Director and Treasurer of Trust respectively

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 28 February 2007 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Capital Budget Monitoring for Period 1 April 2006 to 23 February 2007

A report dated 5 March 2007 by the Executive Director (Finance and Information Technology Resources) was submitted on both physical and financial progress at 23 February 2007 on the various Capital Programmes.

The General Fund Capital Programme covered Education Resources, Social Work Resources, Roads and Transportation Services and General Services. The General Fund Capital Programme totalled £123.026 million and the Housing Capital Programme £40.722 million. At 23 February 2007, £102.291 million had been spent on the General Fund Capital Programme and £33.002 million on the Housing Capital Programme.

Details were also given on the:-

- ◆ Community Regeneration Fund Capital Programme
- ◆ South Lanarkshire Development Partnership Capital Programme

Ongoing monitoring of the Capital Programmes would be undertaken by the Capital Budget Scrutiny Forum.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 28 February 2007 (Paragraph 4)]

4 Revenue Budget Monitoring for Period 1 April 2006 to 23 February 2007

A report dated 5 March 2007 by the Executive Director (Finance and Information Technology Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure against budgeted expenditure for the period ending 23 February 2007.

The figures included an underspend on the General Fund Revenue Account of £0.107 million and a breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account. Also contained in the figures was an additional £2.917 million due to be received by the Council following Revenue Support Grant re-determinations.

The forecast outturn for the General Fund Revenue Account was an underspend of £0.025 million with a breakeven position forecast for the Housing Revenue Account.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 28 February 2007 (Paragraph 5)]

5 Trading Services Financial Performance for Period 1 April 2006 to 23 February 2007

A report dated 5 March 2007 by the Executive Director (Finance and Information Technology Resources) was submitted on the projected results for 2006/2007 on the Council's Trading Services. It was forecast that the surpluses for the year ending 31 March 2007 would total £6.896 million. At 23 February 2007, surpluses of £5.935 million had been achieved.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 28 February 2007 (Paragraph 6)]

6 Additional Funding from the Scottish Executive and Other External Sources

A report dated 26 February 2007 by the Executive Director (Finance and Information Technology Resources) was submitted on additional funding available to the Council from the Scottish Executive and other external sources to undertake various initiatives. The funding was summarised as follows:-

Revenue Funding Resource

	£ million 2006/2007	£ million 2007/2008
Education	0.696	0.057
Housing and Technical	0.250	-
Social Work	0.123	-
Total Revenue Funding	1.069	0.057

Capital Funding Resource

	£ million 2006/2007
Social Work	0.307
Total Capital Funding	0.307

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 28 February 2007 (Paragraph 7)]

7 Revenue Budget Strategy 2008 to 2012

A report dated 26 February 2007 by the Executive Director (Finance and Information Technology Resources) was submitted on the principles and assumptions taken into account in the construction of the Revenue and Capital budgets for the 4 year period to 2011/2012.

The Financial Strategy would ensure affordability in delivering the Council's key priorities identified in "Fourcast". The Strategy would also guide the drive for continuous improvement and Best Value as well as identifying efficiency savings.

Details were provided on:-

- ◆ the current position
- ◆ expenditure
- ◆ funding
- ◆ arrangements for dealing with reserves
- ◆ risk management
- ◆ projections of future Scottish Executive funding

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Financial Strategy, as detailed in the report, be approved; and
- (2) that the assumptions made in compiling future revenue and capital budgets, as detailed in the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 8 February 2007 (Paragraph 6)]

8 Local Action Fund 2007/2008

A report dated 19 February 2007 by the Executive Director (Community Resources) was submitted on the allocation of funding available from the Scottish Executive's Local Action Fund.

The Fund, amounting to £588,000, had been allocated over financial years 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 by the Scottish Executive to fund locally targeted initiatives to divert young people away from crime. It had been developed to support small, locally run projects and, in 2006/2007, £294,000 had been allocated to appropriate projects.

Council Resources and partner agencies had been invited to bid for the funds available. Those bids had been assessed by the Community Planning Partnership to ensure compliance with funding criteria.

The following applications had been nominated to develop actions in keeping with the Fund criteria:-

Application	Proposed Funding
SLC Arts Development	£67,900
Blantyre Problem Solving	5,000
Strathclyde Police	21,640
Larkhall Problem Solving	7,306
Cambuslang/Rutherglen Problem Solving	25,000
Outdoor Resource Base	24,100
Youth Learning – Regen:fx Youth Trust	19,834
Stonehouse Youth Forum	11,700
NHS Lanarkshire	4,900
Youth Learning Services	40,000
Clydesdale Problem Solving	11,620
Regen:fx Youth Trust	55,000
Total	£294,000

Details were provided on how each project would be evaluated. Each successful applicant would be required to identify a responsible officer to ensure that the set criteria were adhered to and administrative arrangements were in place to monitor and evaluate the outcomes.

The Committee decided: that £294,000 be allocated from the Local Action Fund to support the various projects detailed in the report.

[Reference: Minutes of 26 April 2006 (Paragraph 13)]

9 Hamilton Towers Development - Amendment to Development Agreement

A report dated 27 February 2007 by the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Hamilton Towers Development Agreement including proposals to extend the longstop date due to works carried out to remove Japanese Knotweed and consequent additional foundation works.

Tenders for Phase 4 of the Hamilton Towers Development had been received by Lynnham and progress was being made to award the contract. During the tendering process additional work had been necessary to clear the site of Japanese Knotweed. This work had resulted in Lynnham having to redesign the foundations at a cost provisionally assessed to be approximately £50,000. It was proposed that this cost be met by the Council as the owners of the land.

Delays in the tendering process and the additional foundation works had delayed the start and finish dates of the contract to March 2007 and March/April 2008 respectively. The revised completion date was now too close to the longstop date for the completion of all of the phases of the project by June 2008 and it was, therefore, considered necessary to extend the longstop date to December 2008.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Development Agreement for the Hamilton Towers Project be amended by extending the longstop date for completion of all of its phases from 10 June 2008 to 31 December 2008;
- (2) that the Council contribute up to £50,000 to meet the cost of additional foundation works required on the site; and
- (3) that the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources), in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, if appropriate, be authorised to agree terms and conclude the necessary legal agreements on behalf of the Council.

[Reference: Minutes of 31 January 2007 (Paragraph 12)]

10 Highstonehall Road, Hamilton - Development Option Agreement

A report dated 1 March 2007 by the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) was submitted on:-

- ◆ the advertisement of the site extending to 25.5 hectares at Highstonehall Road, Hamilton to developers looking to acquire option rights to develop the site
- ◆ proposals to enter negotiations with David Wilson Estates to agree and conclude an option agreement for the master planning and future development of the site

Following advertisement of the site, 13 bids had been received from a range of major residential developers. Those bids had been fully assessed against a number of quality and financial criteria which were detailed. David Wilson Estates had been scored as the preferred bidder and it was proposed that the Council commence negotiations with them to enter into an option agreement for the purchase and development of the site. Any agreement would be subject to completion by 30 September 2007 and would be dependent on the successful inclusion of the site in the adopted South Lanarkshire Local Plan which would be considered at a forthcoming Public Local Inquiry.

If an agreement could not be reached with the preferred bidder, or in the event of withdrawal, Park Lane had been identified as the reserve bidder.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that an option be granted to David Wilson Estates, as preferred bidder, to purchase and develop land at Highstonehall Road, Hamilton for residential use, subject to terms being agreed by 30 September 2007;
- (2) that, in the event of withdrawal by, or failure to agree with, the preferred bidder, Park Lane be approached as reserve bidder to progress the development; and
- (3) that the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources), in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, if appropriate, be authorised to conclude the option agreement on terms and conditions which were considered to be in the best interests of the Council.

[Reference: Minutes of 11 October 2006 (Paragraph 13)]

11 Langlands West, East Kilbride

A report dated 8 March 2007 by the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) was submitted on:-

- ◆ the award of the Phase 2 access and utilities works contract at Langlands West, East Kilbride
- ◆ arrangements to negotiate and let appropriate public utilities contracts at the site

In order to bring the site at Langlands West to a market ready condition for industrial and business use, the contract for access and utilities required to be finalised. The process of identifying a preferred bidder had been completed and it was recommended that R J MacLeod be awarded the contract at a cost of £2,611,092. The contract would be completed by 31 December 2007. In addition, a number of other utilities contracts to facilitate the full servicing of both plots on the site required to be let at an estimated cost of £1,141,540.

The Council's partner in the development of the site, Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire (SEL), had intimated that they could not provide further funding to support the development of the site and a number of savings had been implemented.

The revised capital cost of site development taking into account the contract costs, the savings proposed and European Development Funding was £3,235,688, an increase of £777,188 from the Council's original commitment of £2,458,500. It was proposed that the Council meet this additional cost and that negotiations be undertaken with SEL with a view to increasing the Council's share of the capital receipt for the completed site to reflect this additional commitment.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that £777,188 be allocated from the Council's Repairs and Renewal Fund to meet the cost of site development works at the Langlands West Project;
- (2) that the Phase 2 access and utilities works contract be awarded to R J MacLeod at a cost of £2,611,092;
- (3) that the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) be authorised to negotiate and let appropriate contracts with statutory providers for public utilities up to a value of £1,141,540; and
- (4) that the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) be authorised, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, as appropriate, to negotiate amendments to the Funding Agreement with SEL to reflect the revised funding arrangements detailed in the report.

[Reference: Minutes of 1 February 2006 (Paragraph 16)]

12 Coalburn Leisure Centre and South Lanarkshire Rural Communities Trust

A report dated 14 March 2007 by the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the proposed purchase of Coalburn Leisure Centre by the Council from South Lanarkshire Rural Communities Trust (SLRCT) in order to secure the long-term future of the facility.

SLRCT operated Coalburn Leisure Centre from income received annually from Scottish Coal based on the amount of coal extracted and sold from the South Lanarkshire area. It was forecast that this income would substantially reduce after 2009/2010 and that the future of the Coalburn Leisure Centre would become uncertain.

To ensure the long-term future of the facility, it was proposed that the Council purchase the Leisure Centre for £300,000 with an entry date of 1 April 2008. South Lanarkshire Leisure would continue to have responsibility for the day to day operation of the Centre and would receive an endowment package valued at £240,000 on the entry date.

A number of other financial arrangements required to be finalised as part of the agreement and those were detailed in the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Council purchase Coalburn Leisure Centre at a cost of £300,000 from South Lanarkshire Rural Communities Trust subject to the receipt of an endowment package by South Lanarkshire Leisure and on the terms and conditions detailed in the report; and
- (2) that the Executive Directors (Enterprise Resources) and (Community Resources), in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, as appropriate, be authorised to conclude the necessary arrangements with South Lanarkshire Rural Communities Trust in the best interests of the Council.

Councillors Logan and C Thompson, having declared an interest in the above item, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration

13 Clyde Gateway Initiative - Urban Regeneration Company Formation and Revised Business Plan

A report dated 1 March 2007 by the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) was submitted on progress made with the Clyde Gateway Regeneration Initiative including:-

- ◆ proposed revisions to the Clyde Gateway Regeneration Initiative Business Plan
- ◆ the establishment of an Urban Regeneration Company to steer the implementation of the key elements of the initiative

Work was ongoing across all elements of the initiative and a summary of key areas where progress had been made was given.

To lead the co-ordination of the Initiative and to monitor progress, it was proposed that an Urban Regeneration Company (URC) be established. The role of the URC, together with details on how it would be established, was outlined. The member bodies of the URC would be South Lanarkshire Council, Glasgow City Council and Scottish Enterprise. It was envisaged that a Board of 12 members would be established to oversee the activities of the URC comprising 2 representatives from each of the member bodies and 6 from the private sector. A report detailing how the Board would operate and requesting nominations from the Council for membership would be submitted to this Committee.

Details of the revised Business Plan for the Initiative which took account of the changing scope and scale of the project were provided. The revised Business Plan had been submitted to the Scottish Executive and a response was expected in the near future.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that an Urban Regeneration Company be established to progress key projects and lead the co-ordination of the Clyde Gateway Regeneration Initiative as set out in the terms, conditions and Memorandum of Articles detailed in the report;
- (2) that the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) be authorised, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, as appropriate, to conclude the Terms of Reference for the Urban Regeneration Company; and
- (3) that the revised Business Plan, as detailed in the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 2 February 2005 (Paragraph 10)]

14 Clyde Gateway Project - Acquisition of Cuningar Loop

A report dated 23 February 2007 by the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the purchase of an area of land extending to 27.7 hectares (68.4 acres) or thereby at Cuningar Loop, Farme Cross, Rutherglen from the Turnberry Trust at a cost of £840,000 plus costs estimated at £40,000 as part of the Clyde Gateway Project.

The land had been identified as the location for the development of a strategic open space to serve the needs of the new community. The Council had agreed to acquire, remediate and landscape the area as part of its overall contribution to the Clyde Gateway Initiative.

The costs associated with the acquisition would be met from funds secured from the Scottish Executive's City Growth Fund.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Council purchase an area of land extending to 27.7 hectares (68.4 acres) or thereby at Cuningar Loop, Farme Cross, Rutherglen from the Turnberry Trust for the sum £840,000 plus costs estimated at £40,000; and
- (2) that the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) be authorised, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, as appropriate, to agree terms and conclude the transaction on behalf of the Council.

[Reference: Minutes of Enterprise Resources Committee of 13 December 2006 (Paragraph 6)]

15 Land Purchase at Burgh Primary School, Rutherglen and Land Transfer at Wester Overton Primary School, Strathaven

A report dated 13 February 2007 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the proposed:-

- ♦ purchase of the former Scottish Executive Area Reporter's office adjacent to the site of the new Burgh Primary School, Rutherglen to allow more space for external play and the construction of a multi-use games area
- ♦ transfer of a small area of land from Community Resources to Education Resources which was required to complete the school grounds at Wester Overton Primary School, Strathaven

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the former Scottish Executive Area Reporter's office adjacent to the new Burgh Primary School, Rutherglen be purchased at a cost to be determined by the District Valuer; and
- (2) that the small area of land, as detailed in the report, be transferred from Community Resources to Education Resources for use as additional school ground at Wester Overton Primary School, Strathaven.

[Reference: Minutes of 10 November 2004 (Paragraph 8)]

16 Colonsay Field, Strathaven Road, East Kilbride

A report dated 1 March 2007 by the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the marketing of an area of land extending to 4.1 hectares (10.1 acres) or thereby at Colonsay Field, Strathaven Road, East Kilbride.

The site had been marketed subject to a number of planning brief conditions to ensure that the development, when completed, would be of high quality reflecting the strategic importance of the site. At the closing date, 11 offers had been received and those had been fully evaluated in terms of quality and financial value. The highest offer, which was fully compliant with the planning brief, had been received from Keir Homes Limited, in the sum of £8,689,662, on the basis of a development of 100 units. A deduction to this offer might be required to reflect abnormal site conditions. Any deductions proposed would be the subject of a further report to this Committee.

The capital receipt realised from the disposal of the site would be used to help fund the planned improvements at Calderglen Country Park estimated at £7 million. The balance of the receipt would be reinvested through the Council's General Services Capital Programme.

Councillor McAvoy, seconded by Councillor Docherty, moved that the recommendations contained in the report be approved. Councillor Maggs, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, moved as an amendment that none of the proposals in the report be approved until the Local Plan Inquiry process had been completed. On a vote being taken by a show of hands, 4 members voted for the amendment and 9 for the motion which was declared carried.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the site at Colonsay Field, Strathaven Road, East Kilbride, extending to 4.1 hectares (10.1 acres) or thereby, be sold to Keir Homes Limited for the sum of £8,689.662 and on the terms and conditions detailed in the report; and
- (2) that the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources), in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, be authorised to conclude all matters and enter into the necessary legal agreement on terms which were in the best interests of the Council to complete the sale, subject to the outcome of the Public Local Inquiry.

[Reference: Minutes of 11 October 2006 (Paragraph 11)]

17 Sale of Former Blantyre Library, Calder Street, Blantyre

A report dated 23 February 2007 by the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the sale of the site of the former public library at Calder Street, Blantyre to HRI

Trading Limited, in the sum of £353,000, subject to the necessary planning and other statutory consents being granted for the development of 13 flatted units and the developers being responsible for the Council's reasonably incurred legal expenses.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the site at Calder Street, Blantyre, extending to 0.21 hectares (0.5 acres) or thereby, be sold to HRI Trading Limited, in the sum of £353,000, subject to the terms and conditions detailed in the report; and
- (2) that the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources), in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, be authorised to conclude all matters and enter into the necessary legal agreements on terms which were in the best interests of the Council.

[Reference: Minutes of 16 August 2006 (Paragraph 8)]

18 Palace Grounds Retail Park, Hamilton – Proposed Extension

A report dated 27 February 2007 by the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) was submitted on an amendment to the Ground Lease covering the Palace Grounds Retail Park in Hamilton to permit a proposed extension and the construction of an additional fast food outlet.

The Milestone Trust had purchased the interest of British Land Plc in the Retail Park in December 2005 and held it in an investment vehicle known as Hamilton Trustee Limited. The Trust now wished to extend the Retail Park by up to 9,010 square feet through extending and sub-dividing Unit 4 into 2 units and by extending Unit 5. In addition, the Trust proposed to construct a new 3,000 square feet fast food outlet. A draft Heads of Terms had been produced setting out the basis of a Deed of Variation amending the Ground Lease of the Palace Grounds Retail Park to reflect those proposals.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that a Deed of Variation amending the Ground Lease of the Palace Grounds Retail Park, Hamilton be approved to permit an extension of retail floor space up to 9,010 square feet and an additional fast food outlet of 3,000 square feet;
- (2) that the sum of £550,100 be accepted from Hamilton Trustee Limited in consideration of the grant of a Deed of Variation to the Palace Grounds Retail Park Ground Lease; and
- (3) that the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources), in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, if appropriate, be authorised to conclude any other terms and conditions and enter into the necessary legal agreements on behalf of the Council subject to Standard Life's approval.

[Reference: Minutes of Estates Committee of 13 December 2005 (Paragraph 12)]

19 Sale of Land at Bent Road, Hamilton

A report dated 19 February 2007 by the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the sale of the site at Bent Road, Hamilton to Tulloch Homes Group Limited. Following site investigations undertaken by the developer, adverse ground conditions had been discovered. As a result, the purchaser had requested a reduction in the disposal price to reflect the additional ground works required as part of the development.

It was proposed that the gross purchase price be reduced from £1,942,000 to £1,803,926 to reflect the abnormal costs and the stamp duty land tax liability. This would result in a net receipt to the Council of £1,046,277 for the sale of the site at Bent Road, Hamilton.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the gross purchase price for the sale of the site at Bent Road, Hamilton be reduced from £1,942,000 to £1,803,926, exclusive of VAT, to reflect the abnormal costs and the stamp duty land tax liability as detailed in the report; and
- (2) that the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources), in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, be authorised to conclude all matters and enter into the necessary legal agreements on terms which were in the best interests of the Council.

[Reference: Minutes of Estates Committee of 19 September 2006 (Paragraph 12)]

20 Sale of Newlandsmuir Farm, Palmerston, East Kilbride

A report dated 26 February 2007 by the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the sale of the site at Newlandsmuir Farm, Palmerston, East Kilbride to Imagine Developments Limited. Following site investigations undertaken by the purchaser, adverse ground conditions had been discovered and a report was currently being prepared by the developer to support a request for a reduction in price to reflect abnormal costs for development of the site.

In November 2006, the Executive Director had, under delegated authority, authorised the sale of an additional 610 square metres of ground for a sum of £48,000. This extended the total site to 0.888 hectares (2.19 acres) or thereby with a combined purchase price of £1,574,000 before the deduction of any abnormal costs.

In addition, Imagine Developments Limited now wished to purchase the site in the name of Newlandsmuir LLP and it was proposed that this change in the name of the developer be approved subject to the necessary financial and company checks.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) be authorised to negotiate a reduction in the total purchase price to reflect the abnormal costs detailed in the report for the sale of the site at Newlandsmuir Farm, Palmerston, East Kilbride and to approve the change in name of the purchaser from Imagine Developments Limited to Newlandsmuir LLP; and
- (2) that the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources), in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, be authorised to conclude all matters and enter into the necessary legal agreements on terms which were in the best interests of the Council.

[Reference: Minutes of Estates Committee of 19 September 2006 (Paragraph 15)]

21 Sustainable Development Strategy

A joint report dated 28 February 2007 by the Executive Directors (Community Resources), Enterprise Resources) and (Corporate Resources) was submitted on:-

- ♦ progress made in preparing the Council's Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan

- ◆ the proposed vision and objectives of the Strategy and work streams to be progressed in order to implement the Strategy
- ◆ public and stakeholder consultation undertaken to date and arrangements for further consultation
- ◆ measures to be progressed at the current time to prepare for implementation of the Strategy

It was intended that the Sustainable Development Strategy would sit below the Council Plan and above Resource and Service Plans. The vision statement and objectives for the Strategy were detailed.

The arrangements for overseeing the implementation of the Strategy would be considered by the new Council following the elections and a cross Resource officer group would consider the arrangements for progressing specific workstreams which had been identified as:-

- ◆ Communications
- ◆ Strategic Environmental Assessment
- ◆ Carbon Management
- ◆ Sustainable Futures

To support the Council's approach to sustainable development and to improve capacity to implement key aspects of the Strategy, it was proposed to:-

- ◆ create a new post of Planning Officer (Environmental Assessment) through internal restructuring within Enterprise Resources to ensure effective arrangements for carrying out strategic environmental assessments on Council strategies, plans, policies and programmes
- ◆ strengthen capacity within Housing and Technical Resources through the appointment of an Energy Manager and a small team to undertake energy efficiency improvements within Council buildings to support the carbon management programme and the Council's commitments under Scotland's Climate Change Declaration
- ◆ establish a new employee award category to recognise contributions of employees to sustainable development in the course of their work
- ◆ provide additional support for schools and other educational establishments to increase participation in the Eco Schools programme
- ◆ improve recycling measures in Council buildings where practicable

Extensive consultation had already been undertaken and further consultation in respect of the draft Sustainable Development Strategy and Environmental Report was planned for April 2007.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that progress on the preparation of the Sustainable Development Strategy be noted;
- (2) that the proposed vision, objectives and work streams of the Strategy, as detailed in sections 5 and 6 of the report, be approved;
- (3) that a post of Planning Officer (Environmental Assessment) at Grade 3 Level 1 to Level 8 (SP46 to SP80) be created through internal restructuring in Enterprise Resources;
- (4) that the draft Sustainable Development Strategy and Environmental Report be issued for public consultation in April 2007;
- (5) that the Chief Executive be authorised to progress the proposals in relation to energy efficiency and Eco Schools prior to the Council elections in May 2007;

- (6) that a further report on the Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan be submitted to the Executive Committee following the Council elections in May 2007; and
- (7) that a separate category be established at the annual Employee Awards to recognise outstanding achievement in relation to sustainability.

22 Audit Scotland Report for the Accounts Commission on the Overview of the Local Authority Audits 2005/2006

A report dated 26 February 2007 by the Executive Director (Finance and Information Technology Resources) was submitted on a report by Audit Scotland on the overview of the 2005/2006 audits of Scottish councils.

The report by Audit Scotland covered the following 4 areas:-

- ◆ the strategic context for local government in Scotland
- ◆ governance and performance
- ◆ efficient use of resources
- ◆ developing the audit

Audit Scotland's findings in each of those areas were detailed together with the Council's position on each issue raised.

The Committee decided: that the report by Audit Scotland on the overview of the 2005/2006 local authority audits be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of Finance and Information Technology Resources Committee of 30 May 2006 (Paragraph 9)]

23 Urgent Business - Glasgow and Scotland's Bid to Host the Commonwealth Games 2014

In terms of Standing Order No 4, the Chair decided that, in view of the fact that this was the last Committee of the current Council, consideration be given to the following report as a matter of urgency.

A report dated 19 March 2007 by the Chief Executive was tabled on action taken by the Chief Executive in response to requests by Glasgow City Council to:-

- ◆ provide certain assurances required by the Commonwealth Games Federation in support of Glasgow and Scotland's bid to host the Commonwealth Games 2014
- ◆ confirm that there was no objection to the construction of a mountain biking course on land at Cathkin Braes owned by the Council

The Committee decided: that the action taken by the Chief Executive in confirming the support of the Council for Glasgow and Scotland's bid to hold the 2014 Commonwealth Games and to provide the requested assurances be endorsed.

[Reference: Minutes of 1 February 2006 (Paragraph 13)]

Chair's Remarks

The Chair thanked members and officers for their support over the last 4 years. He wished those members who were standing for re-election the best of luck and those who were standing down all the very best for the future.

The Chair also thanked K Arthur, Executive Director (Education Resources) for his contribution to the work of the Council and wished him a long and happy retirement.