

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of special meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 19 September 2007

Chair:

Provost Russell Clearie

Councillors Present:

Alex Allison, John Anderson, David Baillie, Eileen Baxendale, Walter Brogan, Archie Buchanan, Jackie Burns, Graeme Campbell, Andy Carmichael, Gordon Clark, Pam Clearie, Gerry Convery, Peter Craig, Maureen Devlin, Jim Docherty, Barry Douglas, Hugh Dunsmuir, Douglas Edwards, Allan Falconer, Lynn Filshie, Beith Forrest (Depute), Tommy Gilligan, Jim Handibode, Anne Higgins, John Higgins, Bill Holman, Graeme Horne, Eileen Logan, Joe Lowe, James Malloy, Edward McAvoy, Brian McCaig, Michael McCann, Clare McColl, Lesley McDonald, Jim McGuigan, Alex McInnes, Denis McKenna, Jean McKeown, Davie McLachlan, John McNamee, Mary McNeill, Danny Meikle, Alice Marie Mitchell, Henry Mitchell, John Murray, Patrick Ross-Taylor, Graham Scott, David Shearer, Graham Simpson, Mary Smith, Hamish Stewart, George Sutherland, Chris Thompson, Sheena Wardhaugh, David Watson

Councillors' Apologies:

John Cairney, Bev Gauld, Ian Gray, Bobby Lawson, Anne Maggs, Archie Manson, Brian McKenna, Bert Thomson, Jim Wardhaugh, Pat Watters

Attending:

Chief Executive's Service

A Strang, Chief Executive

Community Resources

N Anderson, Executive Director

Corporate Resources

R McIlwain, Executive Director; R Lake, Administration Manager; S Somerville, Administration Adviser; D Wilson, Head of Administration Services

Education Resources

L Forde, Executive Director; S Fellows, Head of Education (Resources)

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

Also Attending:

PricewaterhouseCoopers

C Revie, Partner – Government and Public Sector Assurance; J McWilliams, Manager

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

Councillor Buchanan referred to the adjourned special meeting of the Licensing Committee held the previous day and requested clarification regarding the intention of members of the Labour Group to participate in the special meeting of the Council. Councillor Docherty referred to items of correspondence with the Chief Executive and indicated that members would participate at meetings pending receipt of a response to further issues raised. Following discussion on the matter, the meeting was adjourned at 11.55am. Councillor Douglas was not present when the meeting reconvened at 12.20pm.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the special meeting of the Council held on 2 July 2007 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Secondary Schools Modernisation - Independent Review of Strathaven Academy

A report dated 7 September 2007 by the Chief Executive was submitted on the outcome of the independent review undertaken by PricewaterhouseCoopers, the external auditor, of decisions taken in relation to the Strathaven Academy project.

C Revie, PricewaterhouseCoopers presented the report entitled "Secondary Schools Modernisation – Review of Certain Factors Relating to Strathaven Academy" which:-

- ◆ highlighted areas of good practice identified in the course of the review
- ◆ put forward key learning points for the Council to consider
- ◆ concluded that the overall outcome in terms of Strathaven Academy was likely to remain unchanged

The Chief Executive referred to paragraph 4.5 of his report which indicated that the key learning points highlighted by PricewaterhouseCoopers were accepted.

Various issues in respect of leisure provision costs, pupil safety at Crosshouse Campus and travel risk assessments were raised by members and responded to by officers.

The public meeting to be attended by the Chief Executive and senior officers, as previously agreed by the Council, would be held on Tuesday 25 September 2007 at 7.30pm in the Ballgreen Hall, Strathaven.

The Council decided:

- (1) that the report prepared by PricewaterhouseCoopers which concluded that the overall outcome in terms of Strathaven Academy was likely to remain unchanged be noted; and
- (2) that the key learning points be agreed for future appropriate action, in particular:-
 - ◆ engagement practices and communication arrangements to be reviewed for the remaining period of the Schools Modernisation Programme and for future initiatives
 - ◆ 50% discount on original charges for alternative sports usage at South Lanarkshire facilities, particularly for outdoor facilities in Hamilton and East Kilbride, to be introduced for Strathaven block bookings and classes with the costs being met from the General Fund

- ♦ practice of providing supervisors at transport pick up points for a period following holiday periods to be continued throughout the decant period with the arrangements for bus travel to be kept under review

[Reference: Minutes of 2 July 2007 (Paragraph 2)]

4 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.