

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of special meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 2 July 2007

Chair:

Provost Russell Clearie

Councillors Present:

Alex Allison, David Baillie, Eileen Baxendale, Jackie Burns, John Cairney, Andy Carmichael, Gordon Clark, Pam Clearie, Gerry Convery, Peter Craig, Maureen Devlin, Hugh Dunsmuir, Douglas Edwards, Allan Falconer, Lynn Filshie, Beith Forrest (Depute), Tommy Gilligan, Ian Gray, Jim Handibode, Bill Holman, Bobby Lawson, Eileen Logan, Joe Lowe, Anne Maggs, James Malloy, Archie Manson, Edward McAvoy, Michael McCann, Clare McColl, Lesley McDonald, Alex McInnes, Denis McKenna, Jean McKeown, David McLachlan, John McNamee, Mary McNeill, Alice Marie Mitchell, Henry Mitchell, John Murray, Patrick Ross-Taylor, Graham Scott, David Shearer, Mary Smith, Hamish Stewart, George Sutherland, Chris Thompson, Jim Wardhaugh, Sheena Wardhaugh, Pat Watters

Councillors' Apologies:

John Anderson, Walter Brogan, Archie Buchanan, Graeme Campbell, Peter Craig, Jim Docherty, Barry Douglas, Bev Gauld, Anne Higgins, John Higgins, Graeme Horne, Brian McCaig, Jim McGuigan, Brian McKenna, Danny Meikle, Graham Simpson, Bert Thomson, David Watson,

Attending:

Chief Executive's Service

A Strang, Chief Executive

Community Resources

N Anderson, Executive Director

Corporate Resources

R McIlwain, Executive Director; S Dickson, Head of Legal Services; R Lake, Administration Manager; S Somerville, Administration Adviser

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:

K Hyde, Senior Manager, Grant Thornton

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Secondary Schools' Modernisation Programme - Strathaven Academy

In response to a requisition for a special meeting of the Council to consider issues in connection with a previous decision taken in relation to Strathaven Academy, a report dated 26 June 2007 by the Chief Executive was submitted on the effects of:-

- ◆ delaying the handover of Strathaven Academy by a variation to the Project Agreement
- ◆ locating the new Strathaven Academy at Kirklandpark
- ◆ establishing a modular village within Strathaven as an alternative decant location for Strathaven Academy during the construction of the new school

Following receipt of the requisition, independent financial and technical advisers had been asked to estimate the implications associated with the 2 options presented:-

- ◆ Option 1 involving the construction of a new school at Kirklandpark at an estimated additional cost of £10.080 million
- ◆ Option 2 involving the rebuild of the school on the current site and the establishment of a modular village on Kirklandpark to allow the decant of pupils during the construction period at an estimated additional cost of £18.552 million

Details were provided on the implications and associated financial costs of both options.

Copies of the following documents were tabled:-

- ◆ requisition for special meeting of the Council signed by the following 22 members:-
Councillors Anderson, Baillie, Baxendale, Buchanan, Campbell, Clark, Craig, Filshie, Forrest, Gilligan, A Higgins, J Higgins, Holman, Horne, Maggs, Murray, Shearer, Simpson, Stewart, Sutherland, B Thomson, Watson
- ◆ further letters from Councillors Campbell and Gilligan
- ◆ communications received from members of the public following publication of the notice for the special meeting

Councillor Holman, seconded by Councillor Filshie, moved that there be no demolition of Strathaven Academy at the current time and that a review of the previous decision be undertaken in the course of the next 2 months.

Councillor McAvoy, seconded by Councillor McCann, moved that the recommendations detailed in the report be approved.

Councillor Stewart, seconded by Councillor Ross-Taylor, moved that the Strathaven Academy project within the Schools' Modernisation Programme continue in line with the agreed contract/programme and that:-

- ◆ PriceWaterhouseCoopers, the external auditor, be instructed to review the Council's previous decision in relation to Strathaven Academy from a best value point of view
- ◆ the external auditor present a report on the findings to a special meeting of the Council at the end of a period of 2 months
- ◆ the Chief Executive and the relevant senior officers attend a public meeting, to be chaired by Councillor Campbell, in Strathaven to set out the Council's position in relation to the Strathaven Academy project

Councillor McAvoy amended his motion to include that proposed by Councillor Stewart. This was seconded by Councillor McCann. Councillors Holman and Filshie and Councillors Stewart and Ross-Taylor formally withdrew their proposals.

Members were invited to indicate their support for that proposal. The Chief Executive called the roll and all Members present, with the exception of Councillor Holman who abstained, indicated their support for the proposal.

The Council decided:

- (1) that the information contained within the report be noted;
- (2) that the presently approved position which allowed the project to proceed as planned, involving the temporary re-location of Strathaven Academy and the rebuilding of the school within the existing campus, be retained and that:-
 - ◆ PriceWaterhouseCoopers, the external auditor, be instructed to review the Council's previous decision in relation to Strathaven Academy from a best value point of view
 - ◆ the external auditor present a report on the findings to a special meeting of the Council at the end of a period of 2 months
 - ◆ the Chief Executive and the relevant senior officers attend a public meeting, to be chaired by Councillor Campbell, in Strathaven to set out the Council's position in relation to the Strathaven Academy project

3 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.