

## **REORGANISATION COMMITTEE**

**Sub Regional Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton**

**Friday, 12th January, 1996**

- Present:** Councillors Mary Campbell (LAB), Daniel McCafferty (LAB), Anthony Devine (LAB), Andrew White (LAB), James Flynn (LAB), James McElhill (SNP) and John Wailes (SNP).
- Attending:** Michael J. Watters, Chief Executive; Eric Walker, Director of Finance; Ian B. Fernie, Director of Planning and Economic Development; Mary Cullen, Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations and Angela Clements, Head of Information Services.
- Representing the Voluntary Sector:** Eddie Kelly, Clydebank Trade Union Council; W. Reach and June Todd, Dumbarton/Clydebank Community Councils Liaison Group; Mhairi Williams and Angela Rankin, Clydebank Unemployed Community Residents Committee; Jim Smith and Gordon Mackay, Clydebank Citizens Advice Bureau; Georgina Allison, Clydebank Elderly Forum; Margaret Morrison and Jackie Heaney, Clydebank Forum on Disability; Bill Rankin and Ann Cullen, Dumbarton District Forum on Disability; Sheila Campbell, Dumbarton Citizens Advice Bureau; Barbara Duffy and Ann Hemphill, Dumbarton District Unemployment Initiative Group; Ann Ryan and Mary Mackay, Clydebank Womens Aid; Margaret McLaren and Irene Campbell, Dumbarton Womens Aid; and Hugh Morgan, Clydebank Elderly Forum.
- Apology for Absence:** An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor William Kemp.

### **INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME BY THE CONVENER**

Councillor Devine addressed the Committee and advised those present of the initiative taken and of the membership of the Committee. He informed those present that he hoped to keep the communities informed as much as possible and that it was proposed to introduce a news sheet similar to that presently issued to members of staff.

Following consideration and an exchange of views the Committee noted the position with approval.

### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTARY GROUPS**

Mr. Eric Walker, Director of Finance, was present and he advised the Committee of the Council's role with voluntary organisation and that the Council were aware of the need to financially assist the various organisations. He indicated however that the level of funding could not be defined at the present time as the Council's budgets were not yet

approved. He further advised that applications from voluntary organisations were due to be received and would be considered some time next month and that the Council's budget would be approved early in March. Depending on the funding available the Council may not be in a position to give the same level of grants as in the current financial year. He anticipated however that a percentage of payment would be paid in the first instance and the remainder later in the year. He also advised the Committee that the Scottish Office had still to supply figures to the Council before their budget for 1996/97 could be finalised.

The position was noted.

**Councillor Mary Campbell now left the meeting.**

## **THE ROLE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN THE DECENTRALISATION OF COUNCIL SERVICES**

The Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations and the Head of Information Services addressed the Committee on the Council's position on information services in the community.

Following a full and frank discussion and an exchange of views the Committee noted the position particularly in relation to the proposed networking system and the information which could be put in to the system.

During the course of the discussion and at the request of the voluntary groups, the Committee noted that the Director of Finance would issue a paper to all voluntary groups once he was in a position to know the funding from the Scottish Office.

A question had been raised regarding assistance for the blind and the Committee, while agreeing in principle, noted that the groups would be consulted before assistance was given.

## **THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS**

The Director of Planning and Economic Development addressed the Committee regarding the statutory rights of the consultation process particularly in relation to development control.

Following consideration and an exchange of views, the Committee noted the position and agreed that as soon as possible a paper be prepared by the Director of Planning and Development for issue to the various community organisations.

## **TRANSPORT ISSUES**

This matter had been placed on the agenda at the request of Dumbarton District Forum on Disability. Mr. Rankin of the Dumbarton District Forum on Disability addressed

the Committee and enquired about the future transport arrangements particularly with regard to the responsibility of such.

Following consideration and having heard the Chief Executive, the Committee noted that the Chief Executive would obtain further information from the Director of Social Work and advise the Forum on Disability of the position.

### **PROPOSED CONFERENCE**

The community organisations suggested that the Council should endeavour to arrange a conference on the various matters which had been discussed at today's meeting. The Committee agreed to continue consideration of this matter meantime.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The Committee noted that it was anticipated that there would be a further meeting of the Reorganisation Committee during the course of February.