

HOUSING COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Housing Committee held within the Sub-Regional Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 6th December, 1995.

Present: Councillors Andrew White (LAB), Duncan Mills (LAB), Mary Campbell (LAB), Anthony Devine (LAB), Patricia Rice (LAB), John Syme (LAB), Craig McLaughlan (SNP), James McElhill (SNP), Margaret McGregor (SNP) and John Wailes (SNP).

Attending: Michael J. Watters, Chief Executive; Ian Leitch, Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council; David B. Campbell, Director of Housing Services; Eric Walker, Director of Finance; Tim Huntingford, Director of Social Work.

Apologies for Absence: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Geoffrey Calvert (LAB) and William Kemp (IND).

Councillor Andrew White in the Chair.

REMITTED NOTICE OF MOTION

There was submitted report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council (previously circulated) relative to Councillor Craig McLaughlan's notice of motion which had been considered by the Council at its meeting on 25th November and remitted to the Housing Committee.

As recommended by Councillor White, it was agreed that the remitted notice of motion be dealt with together with the next item of business.

TENANT PARTICIPATION

There was submitted report by the Director of Housing Services (previously circulated) in respect of tenant participation.

Following consideration and having heard the Director of Housing Services in explanation thereof, the Committee agreed to note the position meantime and to await a further report.

In view of the decision taken the Committee also agreed to continue to the next meeting the remitted notice of motion.

RENT COLLECTION PERIODS

There was submitted report by the Director of Housing Services (previously circulated) regarding the rent collection periods for both authorities. Dumbarton District

Council collected on the basis of a 46 week year and Clydebank District Council collected on the basis of a 48 week period.

Following consideration and having heard the Director of Housing Services thereon, the Committee agreed that in the meantime the two separate rent accounting systems based on 46 and 48 week collection basis be continued for the Dumbarton District and Clydebank District tenants respectively.

COUNCIL HOUSE RENT LEVELS

There was submitted report by the Director of Housing Services (previously circulated) regarding the difference in rent levels between Clydebank District Council houses and Dumbarton District Council Houses and highlighting the reasons for the rent differential and possible options to reduce or eliminate the difference.

Following consideration and having heard the Director of Housing Services who pointed out that investigation was ongoing as to what recommendations could be made to reduce expenditure for 1996/97 such investigations to include (1) reduction in staffing levels, (2) negotiations on administration charges, (3) consideration of tenant participation costs, (4) reduction in emergency service provision costs by merging of the service and (5) examination of all budget headings in the budgetary process.

The Committee agreed to note the position meantime.

MONITORING PERFORMANCE OF THE HOUSING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

There was submitted report by the Director of Housing Services (previously circulated) on performance monitoring for the Housing Services. The Committee agreed the terms of the report.

OTHER ISSUES CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED/INVESTIGATED

There was submitted report by the Director of Housing Services (previously circulated) stating that the report was intended purely to provide Members with some information on other issues which were currently being considered either by the Director of Housing Services or various Working Groups made up of officers of the two Housing Departments.

Following consideration and having heard the Director of Housing Services in explanation thereof, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the report meantime.

HOUSING COMMITTEE VISITS

There was submitted report by the Director of Housing Services (previously circulated) recommending that at the conclusion of the A Group Committees Members might wish to consider a visit to the Housing Offices in Dumbarton and Vale of Leven and after lunch, time permitting, a visit to the Clydebank Housing Office.

The report was agreed.