

FINANCE COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Finance Committee held in the Council Offices, Rosebery Place, Clydebank on Wednesday, 10th November, 1999.

Present: Councillor Anthony Devine (LAB), Provost Alistair Macdonald (LAB) and Councillors Mary Campbell (LAB), Andrew White (LAB), Iain Robertson (SNP), Geoffrey Calvert (LAB & CO-OP), James McCallum (LAB & CO-OP), James Bolland (IND), Craig McLaughlin (SNP), Ronnie McColl (SNP), Margaret McGregor (SNP), James Flynn (LAB) and Connie O'Sullivan (LAB).

Attending: Tim Huntingford, Chief Executive, Eric Walker, Director of Finance, Nigel Ettles, Principal Solicitor and Vincent Gardiner, Manager of Exchequer.

Apologies for absence: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Daniel McCafferty (LAB) and John Trainer (LAB).

Councillor Anthony Devine in the Chair

SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL: LOCAL AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP FUND

In terms of remit from the meeting of the Environmental Protection and Leisure Services Committee held on 13th October 1999 (**volume page 5158 refers**), there was submitted for approval the recommendations that (1) it be noted that West Dunbartonshire Council required to find a partnership contribution of £77,774 over 3 financial years, with £25,925 being made available in the financial year 2000/2001 and (2) to agree that the Environmental Protection and Leisure Services budget be increased by the amounts indicated in (1) above. A copy of the report considered by the Environmental Protection and Leisure Services Committee was enclosed for information.

Following discussion, and clarification by the Director of Finance, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note that an outline proposal had been drawn up and submitted to the Scottish Arts Council, with a final decision to be made by 28th March, 2000; and
- (b) in view of the timescale involved, a decision on increasing the Environmental Protection and Leisure Services budget to meet the partnership contribution be made during the budget exercise in February, 2000.

TREASURY TRANSACTIONS

There was submitted and noted report by the Director of Finance advising of the treasury transactions of the Council for the period from 1st April to 31st October 1999.

INTEREST RATES (1ST APRIL 1999 - 31ST OCTOBER 1999)

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance advising of the interest rates during the period from 1st April to 31st October 1999.

Having heard the Director of Finance, the Committee noted the contents of the report.

UPDATE ON FINANCE REVENUES COLLECTION

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance giving an update on the progress of the collection of the Council Tax levied.

Having heard the Manager of Exchequer further, the Committee noted the contents of the report and that the current year's collection performance as at 30th September was ahead of the level attained in each of the three previous financial years at the same point in time.

GENERAL SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT

There was submitted and noted report by the Director of Finance advising of the performance of the General Services budget for the current year, and showing that at present there was a small favourable variance to date.

DUMBARTON COMMON GOOD FUND

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance providing actual and projected Income and Expenditure for Dumbarton Common Good Fund.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) that a report detailing the assets and income sources of Dumbarton Common Good Fund be submitted to the next meeting of the Finance Committee;
- (b) that with regard to the maintenance of the Denny Statue situated at the Municipal Buildings, Dumbarton, the Director of Finance investigate and advise Councillor McGregor of the progress being made; and
- (c) to otherwise note the contents of the report.

GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance in respect of further funding of grants to voluntary organisations. A further letter received from the Normandy RN/RM Memorial Fund was circulated to those present.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) that a donation of £200 be made to the Normandy RN/RM Memorial Fund;
- (b) that the applications received for Education Grants be dealt with as shown in Appendix 1 to this Minute;
- (c) that the applications received for Social Work Grants be dealt with as shown in Appendix II to this Minute; and
- (d) that the applications received for Local/General Grants be dealt with as shown in Appendix III to this Minute.

DONATIONS TO PENSIONERS AT CHRISTMAS

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance on donations to pensioners at Christmas 1999.

The Committee, following consideration, agreed:-

- (a) to authorise the payment of grants amounting to £111,290 as listed in Appendix IV to this Minute;
- (b) that the payment of such grants be conditional upon the submission of completed grant application forms from the organisations concerned, such applications to be to the satisfaction of the Director of Finance, failing which, a further report will be made to a future meeting of the Finance Committee; and
- (c) that such grants be funded by the Council, the Common Good Fund and Staff fund as indicated in paragraph 3 of the report.

CONFERENCE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE: OPTIONS FOR REFORM EDINBURGH CITY CHAMBERS - 13 DECEMBER 1999

There were submitted details of the above Conference.

The Committee agreed that the Convener of the Finance Committee or substitute be authorised to attend.