

FINANCE COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Finance Committee held within the Council Offices, Rosebery Place, Clydebank on Wednesday, 25th February, 1998.

Present: Provost Patrick O'Neill (LAB) and Councillors George Cairney (LAB); Mary Campbell (LAB); Daniel McCafferty (LAB); Andrew White (LAB); Anthony Devine (LAB); Alistair Macdonald (LAB); John McCutcheon (SNP); James McCallum (LAB & CO-OP); John Wailes (SNP); William Mackechnie (SNP); Duncan Mills (LAB); Craig McLaughlin (SNP); Ronnie McColl (SNP); and James Flynn (LAB).

Attending: Michael Watters, Chief Executive; Ian Leitch, Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council; Eric Walker, Director of Finance; Ian Fernie, Director of Finance; Mary Cullen, Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations; Angela Clements, Head of Information Services and John Bak, Head of Personnel and Training.

Councillor George Cairney in the Chair

INTEREST RATES

There was submitted and noted report by the Director of Finance advising of the interest rates during the period from 1st April 1997 to 31st January 1998.

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 1997 to 31st January 1998.

UPDATE ON FINANCE REVENUES COLLECTION

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance updating the progress of the collection of the Council Tax levied.

Following discussion and having heard the Director of Finance advise that as at 31st January, 1998 the current year's collection rate was 1.8% (approx. £563,000) up on the previous year's rate the Committee noted the report.

NON HOUSING AND NON-HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME -

MONITORING REPORT

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance on the progress of the Non Housing and Non-HRA Capital Programme in the current year.

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

PAYROLL SYSTEM - MILLENNIUM COMPLIANCE

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance on the procurement of the Cyborg ST payroll system.

Following discussion, the Committee:-

- (a) agreed that Cyborg CSSS be upgraded to Cyborg ST and that this procurement be concluded by direct negotiations with Cyborg Systems Limited; and
- (b) noted that £148,000 would be met from the 1997/98 Capital Allocation and the balance of £38,100 would be paid in the next financial year representing a commitment on the 1998/99 Non Housing Capital Programme.

EUROPEAN MONETARY UNION ('EMU')

There was submitted and noted report by the Director of Finance regarding the European Monetary Union ('EMU').

THE NON-DOMESTIC RATING (RURAL AREAS AND RATEABLE VALUES LIMITS)(SCOTLAND) ORDER 1997 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RATING ACT 1997 (COMMENCEMENT NO.3) ORDER 1997

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance advising of the new Regulations concerning Mandatory and Discretionary Relief of Non Domestic Rates for Rural General Stores and Post Offices and recommending a policy for their implementation.

Having heard the Director of Finance further the Committee:-

- (a) noted the introduction of the Mandatory Relief Scheme; and
- (b) approved the recommendation that no discretionary scheme be introduced.

Councillor McLaughlin left the meeting following discussion of the above item.

GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS ETC.

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance on applications received from voluntary organisations for grant funding and showing the recommendations of the Member/Officer Working Group on Grants to Voluntary Organisations in respect of Education, Social Work and Finance.

Councillors McCafferty and Wailes declared non-pecuniary interests in the applications submitted by Clydebank Burgh Band and Knowetop Community Farm respectively and accordingly took no part in the consideration thereof.

Having heard the Director of Finance further, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) that the applications received for Education, Social Work and General Grants be dealt with as shown in Appendices I - III to this minute;
- (b) to fund Knowetop Community Farm for a period of six months, to September 1998, and that the appropriate officials prepare an exit strategy document for consideration;
- (c) to award the Antonine Centre, Clydebank a 1998/99 grant of £37,200 to assist with general running costs;
- (d) to award the Faifley, Hardgate and Duntocher Area Centre a 1998/99 grant of £39,480 to assist in the running costs;
- (e) to award Clydebank Burgh Band a grant of £3,500 to offset the loan which was required to maintain the Band's hall;
- (f) to increase the 1998/99 funding to Clydebank Citizens Advice Bureau by 0.75% on the grant awarded for the year 1997/98; and
- (g) that the balance remaining in the "General Grants" budget be vired to the "Local Grants" budget head.

WRITE OFF OF NON DOMESTIC RATES

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance requesting approval to write off debts in respect of Non Domestic Rates.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note that the debt recorded for Aslam Promotions Ltd., was not connected with the present day operations of 'Nightingales' Night Club; and
- (b) to write-off the Non Domestic Rate debts contained in Appendix IV to this minute.

CAPPING LIMIT 1998/99 AND REQUIRED SAVINGS/CUTS

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance on the possible adjustment to the 1998/99 Capping Limit and giving details of Scottish Office Circular 3/1998 which allows some discretion to Councils regarding Capping Limits 1998/99.

Having heard the Director of Finance, the Committee:-

- (a) noted that the capping excess was now £2,057,000 following the finalisation of various Joint Board etc., budgets; and
- (b) otherwise approved the contents of the report.