

URGENT BUSINESS COMMITTEE

ABERDEEN, 8th October, 2008 - Minute of Meeting of the URGENT BUSINESS COMMITTEE. Present:- Councillor Dean, Convener; Depute Provost John West (substituting for Councillor Kiddie) and Councillors Cassie, Crockett (substituting for Councillor Allan), Fletcher, Graham (substituting for Councillor Young), Greig (substituting for Councillor John Stewart), McCaig (substituting for Councillor May), McDonald, Robertson (substituting for Councillor Clark), Kevin Stewart and Wisely.

DETERMINATION OF URGENT BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED

1. In terms of Standing Order 28(3)(vi), and in accordance with Section 50(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Scotland Act, 1973, the Committee was informed that it had to determine (1) that the item on the agenda was of an urgent nature; and (2) that the Committee required to consider the item and take a decision thereon.

The Committee resolved:-

to agree that the item was of an urgent nature and required to be considered and a decision taken thereon.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Committee resolved in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in the paragraph 6 of Schedule 7(A) to the Act.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Crockett declared an interest in connection with the matter referred to in the following Article as a member of the Board of Governors of the Royal Aberdeen Workshops for the Blind and left the meeting prior to the Committee's deliberations on the matter.

GLENCRAFT FUNDING

2. With reference to Article 8 of the minute of its meeting of 1st August, 2008, the Committee had before it a report by the Corporate Director for Strategic

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Leadership highlighting critical issues affecting Glencraft; and recommending a way forward for the business until November, 2008, by which time both their Board and the Council should have had an opportunity to assess the viability of their business plan.

The report outlined Glencraft's current financial position and the revenue support required until the end of October, 2008, in order for it to remain viable as a business.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee -

- (a) suspend Standing Order 22(1) to allow for the reconsideration of the decision of the Urgent Business Committee of 1st August, 2008;
- (b) approve funding of £97,000 from the Disability Action budget to Glencraft, to be paid in two phases, with £70,000 to be paid immediately after receiving confirmation that the money would be used to pay statutory creditors and a further £27,000 on receipt and approval of a business plan by Council;
- (c) instruct appropriate officers to work with Glencraft to support the production of a business plan by 31st October, 2008, and to present this business plan and an assessment thereof to the Council for consideration and approval on 12th November; and
- (d) request the Corporate Directors of Strategic Leadership and Resources Management to review weekly reports on progress and raise any urgent issues or concerns to CMT and the City Chamberlain and City Solicitor for immediate action.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to approve recommendations (a), (c) and (d) detailed above;
- (ii) to approve funding of £97,000 from the Disability Action budget to Glencraft, this to be paid in two phases, with £70,000 to be paid immediately after receiving confirmation that the money would be used to pay statutory and regular creditors and a further £27,000 on receipt and approval of a business plan by Council;
- (iii) to confirm that the funding already provided of £300,000 included the Workstep grant and that the £97,000 was additional funding;
- (iv) to emphasise to Glencraft that no further subsidy monies would be provided from the Council to Glencraft in future years; and
- (v) to authorise the Convener and Councillor Kevin Stewart to enter discussions with the interested third parties in order to progress matters.

- KATHARINE DEAN, Convener.