

PE741

GOVAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Secretary

*Dick Carabine
813 Govan Road, G51*

Treasurer

*James Minton
100 Arket Road*

Vice Chair

*William Nesbit
20 Elderpark Gardens*

Chair

*John Foster
845 Govan Rd*

Mr Michael McMahon MSP
Convener
Petitions Committee
Scottish Parliament

13 May 2004

Dear Mr McMahon

**CALL FOR AN INQUIRY INTO HOW FAR SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE AND
SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT TARGETS AND INCENTIVES
MILITATE AGAINST BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT
COMMUNITY LEVEL**

We enclose a petition signed by residents of the Greater Govan area and organised by Govan Community Council

The petition expressed concern that Govan, in common with other inner city urban communities, has suffered as result of the operation of development targets and incentives at Scottish level. It is argued that these have prioritised the construction of industrial and office space and warehousing at the expense of housing and the maintenance of a balanced and sustainable community.

In Govan such policies have led to the demolition of a very significant amount of socially rented housing and its replacement by industrial and warehousing units.

Few local people are employed in these units. There is a significant amount of under-utilisation and the sites have themselves remained undeveloped for long periods of time.

The loss of housing has resulted in a major decline of population and a change in its balance towards older people and those on sickness and disability benefit. This has taken the community below the level where it can sustain viable services in terms of shopping, schools, transport, leisure and youth facilities and basic community organisations such as churches.

The problem is recognised in the 2000 Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure which notes the importance of sustaining population to a level that can support viable town centre - including Govan.

Manifestly this is no longer case today for Govan and this is why we are asking for an inquiry. It is our contention that sustainable urban development should be focused primarily on sustaining viable communities. This requires the provision of housing, the maintenance of viable population levels and the existence of services that can make the locality a place where people want to live.

We ask that a small delegation be enabled present and speak to the petition and supporting evidence.

Yours sincerely

Jon Astle

Sponsored by Govan Community Council
Petition to the Scottish Parliament

Save Govan as a Community

As a resident, former resident or regular visitor to Govan I call on the Scottish Parliament Petitions Committee to investigate the actions of Glasgow City Council's Development & Regeneration department and that of the local economic development company Govan Initiative Ltd in destroying the fabric of the local community.

Both of these bodies have a duty to ensure the regeneration of Govan and to enhance the quality of life in Govan. This has not been the case.

- Their policy of maximising the construction of industrial units is at the expense of land previously used or zoned for residential housing – as at Teucharhill and Moorpark.
- The effect is to depopulate Govan – taking the community below the level that can sustain adequate services, transport and shopping
- The oversupply of industrial units has not resolved problems of local unemployment or poverty and is actively preventing the rebuilding of a balanced community, sustained by adequate schools and social services, that is essential for Govan's real economic and social development

We ask the Petitions Committee to examine how far the existing system of grants, subsidies and performance indicators – at Scottish, British and EU level – is causing bodies with responsibility for local economic development to act in a way that is prejudicial to socially inclusive, balanced and sustainable development.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
M. MAGGARTY	ST ANTHONY'S P.S. 651	Maggarty
J. WILSON	ST ANTHONY'S P.S. 651	Jan Wilson
E. Logan	St. Anthony's P.S. 651	E. Logan
J. McKay	St. Anthony's P.S. 651	J. McKay
M. DOHERTY	ST ANTHONY'S P.S. 651	M. Doherty
J. BARR	ST ANTHONY'S P.S. 651	J. Barr
S. Sebbard	467 Deilmayne Rd 651	S. Sebbard
J. Rae	" " 651	J. Rae

Return to Govan Community Council, c/o Govan Law Centre, 47 Burleigh Street