

Corporate Policy Standing Sub Committee
7 June 2006

IRVINE, 7 June 2006 - At a Meeting of the Corporate Policy Standing Sub Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Tom Barr, Jean Highgate, Margaret McDougall, Margaret Munn and David O'Neill.

In Attendance

I. Snodgrass, Chief Executive; J. M. Macfarlane, Assistant Chief Executive (Personnel); and J. Bannatyne and C. Graham, Corporate and Democratic Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Councillor Barr in the Chair

Apologies for Absence

John Reid and Richard Wilkinson.

1. Audit of Best Value & Community Planning - Improvement Plan Progress Report as at 31 March and 31 May 2006

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on progress to 31 March 2006 on implementing the Improvement Plan following the Audit of Best Value and Community Planning. The report also contained information, updated to 31 May 2006, on a number of key actions.

The Chief Executive provided a general overview of the progress to date of the Improvement Action Plan, with particular reference to the undernoted:-

- 1. A1** - The Council's external auditors provided financial scrutiny training to the Audit & Standards Committee on 17 May 2006 and the Chief Executive of the Local Government Improvement Service (LGIS) delivered policy scrutiny training to elected Members on 30 May 2006.
- 2. B2** - The Council agreed to approve the new Community Plan 2006-16 at its meeting on 16 May 2006.
- 3. C2/D8/D9/G1/I3** - The Corporate Policy Committee agreed, at its meeting on 9 May 2006, to approve (a) the new Council Plan 2006-09; (b) a Trading Accounts Strategy; (c) a new Records Management Policy; and (d) a new Procurement Strategy.

4. F2 - The Chief Executive stressed the importance of the review and update of the Human Resource Strategy and confirmed the CMT would progress this through the summer months.

5. H - The Council has already made progress in the preparation of its Asset Management Strategy. The Procurement Manager is now in post and it is anticipated the Pecos system can be used to compile the budget agenda for 2007/08.

6. K - The Council is progressing well in its review of and approach to managing sustainability and a report will be submitted to the Corporate Policy Committee in due course.

The Chief Executive responded to Members' questions on the undernoted points:-

- Open Book Accounting/Procurement and Tenders for Contracts
- Audit and Standards training checklist
- Plans for consolidation of Council Offices
- Leisure, and
- Economic Development

The Chief Executive also confirmed that Audit Scotland are now the Council's auditors and that an update of the Improvement Action Plan will be discussed with the auditors at their next meeting with the Council.

The Sub Committee acknowledged the progress to date in implementation of the Improvement Action Plan; and agreed (i) to receive a further report on progress at its next meeting; and (ii) that a report be submitted to the Sub Committee on the findings, to date, of the North Ayrshire Leisure Limited Member/Officer Sub Group, including details on future funding strategies.

2. Customer Contact Strategy - Progress Report

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Personnel) on progress in implementing the Council's Customer Contact Strategy.

Services and processes agreed by the Corporate Policy Committee in relation to implementation of Phase 3 of the Strategy, include:-

- transfer of the Cunninghame House switchboard to the Call Centre
- amalgamation of facilities provided by Social Services and the Local Office at Saltcoats and
- transfer of Roads and Lighting Faults service (RALF) to the Call Centre, with effect from August 2006

Plans for Phase 4 of the Strategy are progressing well and will include:-

- the transfer of staff to the Call Centre from Personnel, Environmental Health and the Financial Services Benefits Section and
- assessment of the Trading Standards office at Bridgegate House with a view to increasing the provision of services

The Assistant Chief Executive (Personnel) responded to Members' questions and undertook to provide a report to the next meeting of the Sub Committee on the Hall Lets booking system, including local and emergency arrangements.

The Sub Committee acknowledged the progress to date in implementing the Customer Contact Strategy and agreed that the Assistant Chief Executive (Personnel) report to the next meeting of the Sub Committee on the Hall Lets booking system.

The meeting ended at 3.20 p.m.