

Irvine Area Committee
6 October 2008

IRVINE, 6 October 2008 - At a Meeting of the Irvine Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.00 a.m.

Present

Pat McPhee, Matthew Brown, Ian Clarkson, Ruby Kirkwood, John Moffat and Joan Sturgeon.

In Attendance

D. Nibloe, Chief Accountant (Finance); A. Milson, Learning Manager (Quality Development), B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Community Learning and Development) (Educational Services); A. Todd, Community Planning Officer, M. McKeown, Committee Services Officer and A. Little, Committee Services Support Officer (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

Inspector D. McIntyre, Strathclyde Police; K. Alcroft, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue.

Chair

Councillor McPhee in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Tom Barr and David O'Neill.

1. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Brown declared an interest in the application by Irvine Burns Club to the Community Development Grants Scheme at Item 5 on the agenda, and withdrew from the meeting for that item of business.

Councillor McPhee declared an interest in the application by Irvine Town Centre Partnership to the Community Development Grants Scheme at Item 5 on the agenda, vacated the Chair, and withdrew from the meeting for that item of business. Councillor Brown assumed the Chair for that item of business.

2. Community Planning in North Ayrshire

The Committee received a presentation by Anne Todd, Community Planning Officer, on the work of North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP). Information was presented on the following:-

- the role of the CPP in bringing together key agencies to plan and deliver better services;

- membership of the CPP, which includes agencies with a statutory duty to participate (the Council (as lead partner), NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire, and Strathclyde Partnership for Transport) and other agencies and bodies which contribute to the work of the CPP e.g. local colleges, North Ayrshire Leisure etc;
- the visions and priorities of the Partnership;
- the existing structure of the Partnership and the proposed new structure;
- the development of a CPP Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) by Spring 2009 to replace the existing SOA and the Community Plan and Council Plan;
- the allocation of funding under the Fairer North Ayrshire Fund to tackle poverty and deprivation; and
- the Compact Agreement between the CPP and the community/voluntary sector on how they will work together .

Questions were asked in relation to the lack of elected Member involvement in Community Planning generally, and in relation to the lack of Member input into how the Fairer North Ayrshire Fund was allocated. The Committee was advised that the proposed new CPP structure will provide for elected Member involvement in the CPP's Strategic Partnerships. In relation to the allocation of the Fairer North Ayrshire Fund, Members were advised that funding had been committed for 2008/09, with an indicative allocation agreed for 2009/10, subject to the performance of projects. From 2010/11 funding will form part of the local government financial settlement. A report will be presented to the CPP Board in December 2008 on the progress of projects and on recommended allocations for 2009/10.

The Committee (a) noted the information presented; and (b) requested that the CPP give consideration to how elected Members can input in to spending decisions in relation to the Fairer North Ayrshire Fund.

3. Strathclyde Police

Inspector McIntyre tabled a report detailing crime statistics for the Irvine area during the period 14 July to 8 September 2008. He advised that work is underway to make this information available via Strathclyde Police's website, and to present the statistics on a Ward basis.

The following issues were also discussed:-

- an incident in Kilwinning which necessitated the temporary reallocation of manpower from other surrounding areas;
- ongoing discussions to deal with incidents involving travelling people in North Ayrshire; and
- obstruction caused by taxi drivers using the taxi stance on Bank Street, Irvine.

The Committee (a) noted the information presented; and (b) requested that Strathclyde Police monitor the operation of the taxi stance in Bank Street and report back on any problems observed.

4. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Station Commander Alcroft tabled a report on fire related incidents and ongoing initiatives within the Committee's area during the periods 12 August to 2 October 2008. The following issues were highlighted:-

- fire risks arising from ongoing problems in relation to fly-tipping at the Riverside Business Park;
- vandalism to the disused Electro Connect factory at Riverside Avenue, Irvine, and the associated fire and health and safety risks; and
- continuing problems arising from false alarms, including within sheltered housing complexes in Irvine, and other locations, and on ongoing discussions to ensure that protocols are in place to deal with such incidents appropriately.

Noted.

5. Community Development Grants Scheme 2008/09: Applications for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on applications for funding from the Community Development Grants Scheme.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

North Ayrshire Sports Council	£ 840
SISG Enterprises Ltd	£ 310
Fullarton Tenants Association	£ 250
Irvine Seniors Forum	£ 425
Fullarton Community Association	£3,000
Irvine Burns Club	£3,000
Ayrshire Research and Detecting Group	£ 130
Barnardo's (North Ayrshire Families Service)	£ 500
North Ayrshire Forum on Disability	£ 200
Irvine Town Centre Partnership	£1,835

6. Irvine Common Good Fund

6.1 Draft Accounts

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on the draft accounts for Irvine Common Good Fund for the year ended 31 March 2008, on issues affecting the financial position of the Fund in 2008/09 and 2009/10, and on a proposed level of grant funding during 2008/09.

The report set out the detailed income and expenditure for the Fund to the end of financial year 2007/08. The estimated positions of the Fund for 2008/09 and 2009/10 will be influenced by the costs associated with ongoing repairs to the Townhouse, and on the eventual outcome of a proposed sale of land.

The Committee agreed to (a) note the information presented in the report; and (b) make £88,000 available for disbursement as grants during 2008/09.

6.2 Application for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application for financial assistance from Irvine Common Good Fund in the current financial year.

The Committee agreed to make an award of £2,000 to Trinity Trust.

7. Future Agenda Items

The Committee requested information be provided to future meetings in relation to:-

- Marress Road/Kilwinning Road corner: Reinstatement works required to address water running onto the footpath as a result of the banking up of ground at the entry to the Moor;
- Riverbank at Burns Statue: Works required to address concerns raised by local residents regarding overgrown willow trees at that location; and
- Irvine Town Centre: An assessment by Roads Services of the operation of Irvine Town Centre Traffic Management System.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Area Committee will be held on Monday 8 December 2008 at 10.00 a.m.

The meeting ended at 11.30 p.m.