

Irvine Area Committee  
12 October 2011

**IRVINE, 12 October 2011** - At a Meeting of the Irvine Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

**Present**

Pat McPhee, Matthew Brown, Ian Clarkson, Ruby Kirkwood, John Moffat, David O'Neill and Joan Sturgeon.

**In Attendance**

A. Bodie, Head of Infrastructure and Design and W. Turpie, Operations Manager, Environment and Related Services (Streetscene) (Finance and Infrastructure); J. McHarg, Assistant Manager (Community Services) and B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Education and Skills); Garry Hamilton, Festivals and Events Officer and M. Anderson, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

**Also In Attendance**

J. Ledgerwood, Irvine Bay Regeneration Company; Inspector J. Conway, Strathclyde Police; and Station Commander T. Davidson, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue.

**Chair**

Provost McPhee in the Chair.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 16.

**2. Minutes**

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 31 August 2011 were signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

**3. Ayrshire Minority Ethnic Communities Association**

The Committee agreed to continue consideration of this item to the next meeting.

#### **4. Strathclyde Police**

Inspector Conway provided information on local crime statistics for the Central Irvine, Vineburgh/ Castlepark/ Redburn, Fullerton/ Harbour and Girdle Toll/ Bourtreehill/ Broomlands areas of Irvine, advising that, during the month of September 2011, there had been 177, 624, 114 and 565 calls from each of the 4 areas, respectively, compared with 271, 596, 144 and 466 for the same period in 2010. These included calls relating to complaints, disturbances, assaults, 1 case of car crime, vandalism, drug misuse, street drinking, 2 racist incidents and a number of housebreakings.

Inspector Conway gave further detail on the following:-

- an indecent exposure incident which had resulted in an arrest;
- an arrest in connection with an incident of public indecency where alcohol had been consumed;
- 2 serious assaults;
- an increase in reports of youth disorder in Broomlands and the work of the multi-agency team in that area; and
- the increase in break-ins to garden sheds and garages.

Members asked questions, and received further information, on the following:-

- the background, and Police response, to recent incidents of vandalism at 183 Bank Street;
- the role of the mobile CCTV unit; and
- action to address parking and motoring-related issues in the town centre.

The Committee agreed to (a) receive feedback at the next meeting on any further developments in respect of the reported vandalism at 183 High Street, Irvine; and (b) otherwise note the content of the report.

#### **5. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue**

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activity in the Irvine area between 23 August and 2 October 2011.

Station Commander Davidson also reported on:-

- the availability of free Home Fire Safety visits;
- recent work by the Service to liaise with tenants and residents;
- post incident 'hot strikes'; and
- work being done in preparation for Guy Fawkes night.

Members asked questions, and received further information, on the following:-

- the fire hazard presented by stacked timber in the lane adjacent to Ashgrove Home Improvements;
- the circumstances surrounding a recent fire in Burns Street; and
- the high incidence of equipment faults involving sheltered housing complexes.

The Committee agreed to note (a) that Strathclyde Fire and Rescue would investigate the fire hazard reported in the lane adjacent to Ashgrove Home Improvements; and (b) the content of the report.

## **6. Irvine Town Centre Development**

### **6.1 Governance Arrangements for Irvine Town Centre Development**

The Committee received a verbal report from the Head of Infrastructure and Design, as chair of the Combined Town Centre Group, on the governance arrangements for the development of Irvine Town Centre and on the co-ordinated approach to the management of the town centre projects and the overall regeneration of the town centre. The Head of Infrastructure and Design advised that regular reports would be submitted to the Area Committee on progress in relation a range of projects, including the development of a new leisure centre, the refurbishment of Bridgegate House, the Trinity Church refurbishment, improvement works to the public realm and the development of a Parking Strategy for the town centre.

Thereafter, James Ledgerwood of Irvine Bay Regeneration Company reported on the recent 'Pop-Up' Shop initiative at Unit 2B Bridgegate, Irvine. Operating over a 2-day period from 7-8 October 2011, the initiative saw some 500 local people taking the opportunity to look at a display board showing information on 4 key town centre projects and a video display of the 'flythrough' and promotional film, as well as receiving information directly from officers of the Council and representatives of Irvine Bay Regeneration Company. A paper summarising the 'Pop-Up' Shop consultative initiative was circulated at the meeting.

Members asked questions, and received further information, on the following:-

- follow-up actions arising from the 'Pop-Up' Shop consultation;
- plans for the ongoing use of the Bridgegate unit as a focal point for consultation; and
- the proposed relocation of the war memorial and the benefits arising from a similar project in Kilwinning.

The Committee agreed (a) to note that there would be regular reports to the Area Committee on the development of Irvine Town Centre; (b) that, following an analysis of the 'Pop-Up' Shop consultation data, Irvine Bay Regeneration Company arrange for a report on the outcome of the consultation to be circulated to Members of the Area Committee for their interest; and (c) that, in relation to plans for the relocation of the war memorial, the Combined Town Centre Group (i) keep Members informed of progress; and (ii) give consideration to including a memorial plaque to commemorate those who had died in more recent conflicts.

## **6.2 Irvine Town Centre Car Parking Strategic Direction**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the Irvine Town Centre car parking strategic direction. Paperwork in relation to a recent complaint about parking on West Road, Irvine and proposals to implement waiting restrictions to address the issue identified, was also circulated at the meeting.

In order to avoid parking shortages in the town centre, it is considered good practice to try to achieve peak car parking demand at no more than about 85% of the capacity of car parks. Parking surveys were carried out in Irvine during September 2010, both on-street and off-street. Appendix 1 to the report summarised the results and Section 2 of the report set out the key findings in relation to off-street and on-street car parking in Irvine South and Irvine North. The parking study data indicates that there are relatively low levels of average occupancy and utilisation in most streets both on a weekday and at weekends, with the average length of stay relatively low.

Proposals in relation to parking and enforcement were summarised at Section 3 of the report and included:-

- maintaining a proactive dialogue with private car providers in Irvine South to try to ensure that coordinated parking management is provided in the town centre;
- retaining the current arrangements in terms of uncontrolled parking in the Maritime Museum car park and a mix of restricted and uncontrolled on-street parking in Irvine South;
- in due course, introducing a disc parking scheme, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report, to a number of existing Council-operated car parks in Irvine North;
- identifying a potential new site for a long-stay car park in Irvine North;
- seeking to identify potential new short-stay car parking sites in the town centre; and
- reviewing as necessary existing on-street parking restrictions in Irvine North;

The report also provided information on the Council's intention to seek Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement powers and the anticipated benefits associated with this.

Members asked questions, and received further information, on the following:-

- the designation of car parks in Irvine North as short-stay only;
- difficulties arising from all-day parking demand from those working in the town centre and the issue of displacement to neighbouring residential streets;
- the importance of timing, in terms of seeking to identify new long- and short-stay car park sites before implementing measures to manage short-term parking within the town centre;
- the benefits of re-opening West Road as a through-road, subject to suitable consultation with residents; and
- the impact of the recent extended closure of East Road, particularly with regard to taxi and private hire vehicles, and the need for more integrated planning between the Council and utility companies.

The Committee agreed to (a) approve the strategic direction for Irvine Town Centre Car Parking, as set out in the report; (b) request that the Head of Infrastructure and Design (i) further investigates potential sites for new long- and short-stay car parks in Irvine North; and (ii) thereafter, implements the recommended measures to manage short-term parking within the town centre; and (c) that the Head of Infrastructure and Design submits a report to a future meeting on re-opening West Road as a through-road, with no waiting restrictions implemented meantime;

### **6.3 Irvine: Sainsbury's Superstore: Section 75 Legal Agreement**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the current position in relation to the Section 75 Legal Agreement and the early payment of funds.

In March 2010, the Council granted conditional planning permission to Sainsbury's Supermarkets Limited and Dawn Developments for the erection of a Class 1 retail superstore with associated car parking, access, serving and landscaping on Ayr Road, Irvine. This permission included a condition requiring the applicants to enter into a Section 75 Agreement in respect of off-site roadworks, the upgrading of open space/play facilities, off-site landscaping and a contribution to the Irvine Christmas Lights and Events Group (as successor to the Town Centre Management Group).

Negotiations have now been concluded between the Council and the applicant on the wording of the Section 75 Agreement, as set out at 1.5 of the report. As part of the negotiations, the applicants proposed making a one-off payment of £125k within one year of the development opening for use. These funds will be paid directly to North Ayrshire Council to administer and distribute in accordance with the Agreement. The Council was later advised that an early part-payment of £6,000 will be made in 2011.

The Council has agreed that it be remitted to the Area Committee to consider how the monies will be utilised. A 'Combined Town Centre Group', comprising officers of the Council and Irvine Bay Regeneration Company, will develop and bring forward proposals for the disbursement of the bulk of the monies. In the meantime, the report proposed that the £6,000 early payment be utilised to fund festive displays in the town centre during the 2011 festive period.

Members discussed the fact that the Irvine Christmas Lights and Events Group has been disbanded and suggested that the Council's Streetscene Manager investigate a suitable vehicle for ensuring that the £6,000 early payment is utilised for festive displays in the town centre.

The Committee agreed that (a) the Combined Town Centre Group develop and bring forward proposals to a future meeting of the Area Committee on how the bulk of the Section 75 monies should be spent; and (b) it be remitted to the Streetscene Manager to find a suitable vehicle to ensure that the early payment of £6,000 is used to fund festive displays in the town centre during the 2011 festive period.

## **7. Irvine Town Centre: Cleansing**

The Operations Manager (Streetscene) provided information on the cleansing operations in Irvine Town Centre and the surrounding area.

Following a recent review of the Streetscene Operational Service, a shift-working arrangement for the cleansing of Zone 1 areas and the emptying of litter bins will be introduced from November 2011. This takes the form of a 4-day shift rota covering the period for 6.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. seven days per week, including weekends. In addition to the core service, each geographical area will have two rapid response teams to tackle issues such as graffiti. The revised service will offer benefits in terms of extended cover and reduced costs.

Members asked questions, and received further information, on the following:-

- the rationale for commencing cleansing operations at 6.30 a.m.;
- the potential for streets to become heavily littered overnight once cleansing operations have been concluded at 5.30 p.m.;
- arrangements for the monitoring and review of the new system;
- litter in rural areas, including Springside, Dreghorn and on the path network around Bourtreehill; and
- the role of education and enforcement in relation to litter near schools, including a recent initiative by South Lanarkshire Council.

The Committee agreed (a) to note the information provided; and (b) that the Streetscene Manager be requested to look at options for tackling the issue of litter near schools.

## **8. Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund 2011/12: Applications for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on applications received in respect of the Community Development Grant Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund 2011/12. Paperwork in relation to a further application, from North Ayrshire Scout Council (Irvine Section) was circulated at the meeting.

The Assistant Manager (Community Services) (Education and Skills) advised of the withdrawal of an application from Irvine Town Twinning Association, which had been continued at the last meeting of the Area Committee.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

### **Community Development Grants**

Irvine Women's Lunch Club	£1,500
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### **Local Youth Action Fund**

Oasis Duke of Edinburgh Award New Start Group	£2,000
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North Ayrshire Scout Council (Irvine Section)	£1,100
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## **9. Future Agenda Items**

The Committee agreed that the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee on remedial works to the access road between Sandy Road and Bogside, which is partly owned by Irvine Common Good.

## **10. Urgent Item**

The Chair agreed that the undernoted item be considered as a matter of urgency to update Members prior to the Remembrance Day Parade.

### **10.1 Remembrance Day Parade**

Councillor Moffat, the Council's Veterans' Champion, and the Festivals and Events Officer, advised the Area Committee of the outcome of a meeting with representatives of the British Legion on arrangements for the forthcoming Remembrance Day Parade.

Members discussed the implications of the proposed changes to the way in which Elected Members participate in the Remembrance Day arrangements.

The Committee agreed that the Festivals and Events Officer liaise with the British Legion to advise that Elected Members will form part of the parade to the Cenotaph, with a gap between Members and the military parade ensuring that the parade can proceed in an orderly fashion as the Members fall out in order to join the line-up.

The meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.