

Garnock Valley Area Committee
31 March 1998

Dalry, 31 March 1998 - At a Meeting of the Garnock Valley Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

Robert Reilly, James Jennings and George Steven.

In Attendance

J. Tulips, Head of Education Services (Education); T. Jones, Operations Manager, Cleansing (Commercial Services); L. Scott, Supervising Engineer, Maintenance (Planning, Roads and Environment); R. Lee, Assistant Principal Officer (Financial Services); J. McKinlay, Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); J. Bannatyne, Administration Officer and D. McCaw, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Also In Attendance

Inspector C. McCreath (Strathclyde Police); Sergeant M. Oates (Police Liaison Officer; and T. Barr, Community Fire Officer (Strathclyde Fire Brigade).

Chair

Mr. Reilly in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Thomas Dickie and Thomas Morris.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 February 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Monitoring Reports

(a) Education Area Committee Statistics

Submitted report by the Director of Education detailing statistical information in relation to schools in the Garnock Valley area.

The key information detailed in the report included (a) attendance and absence surveys; (b) budgeted school running costs; and (c) school leaver destinations.

After a full discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to receive annual reports on attendance, running costs and leaver destinations in relation to schools serving pupils from within the Committee's area; and (b) otherwise to note the report.

(b) North Ayrshire Council Industrial Estate Factories

Submitted quarterly report by the Legal Services Manager on the letting/availability of factories on Council Industrial Estates within the Garnock Valley area.

The Bridgend Industrial Estate, Kilbirnie comprises 7 units. The current occupancy rate is 100% and 16 full-time and 2 part-time staff are employed in connection with these units.

The Paddockholm Industrial Estate (Riverside Place), Kilbirnie comprises 4 units. The current

occupancy rate is 100% and 33 full-time staff are employed in connection with these units.

The Paddockholm Industrial Estate (River Place), Kilbirnie comprises 9 units. The current occupancy rate is 55% and 19 full-time and 3 part-time staff are employed in connection with these units. The Legal Services Manager is currently dealing with enquiries for lease of units at River Place.

Noted.

(c) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 18 February 1998

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Community Development Grants paid to 18 February 1998 in respect of the Garnock Valley area, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

3. Community Development Grants Budget for Area Committees 1998/99

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Community Development Grants budget for Area Committees 1998/99.

The Community Development Grants budgets for Area Committees, totalling £73,947 for the financial year 1998/99 were approved by the Corporate Strategy Committee on 3 March 1998. The Garnock Valley Area Committee budget for the forthcoming year, which has been maintained at the 1997/98 level, amounts to £11,742.

Playscheme grants will continue to be decided by the Area Committee but drawn from the central Playschemes Support Budget totalling £26,000.

The Challenge Budget for Community Safety for 1998/99 is set at £2,000 for each Area Committee.

Noted.

4. Community Development Grants Scheme: Requests for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on requests for financial assistance.

(a) Ayrshire Aiki Jutsu Club

The Committee agreed, subject to appropriate public liability insurance being obtained by the group, to award the Ayrshire Aiki Jutsu Club £200.

(b) Barrmill Community Association

The Committee agreed to award the Barrmill Community Association £500.

(c) Garnock Valley Karate Club

The Committee agreed to award the Garnock Valley Karate Club £825.

(d) Longbar Community Association

The Committee agreed to award the Longbar Community Association £360.

(e) Megasonic Youth Club

The Committee agreed to award the Megasonic Youth Club £400.

(f) Beith Camera Club

The Committee agreed to award the Beith Camera Club £300.

(g) Kilbirnie Tennis Club

The Committee agreed to award the Kilbirnie Tennis Club £200.

5. Easter Playschemes

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on allocations to Easter Playschemes for 1998.

The Chair approved the undernoted applications in relation to Easter Playschemes as a matter of urgency:-

(i) Garnock Valley Lunch Club - £132.67; and

(ii) Women's Aid, Kilbirnie - £181.73.

The Committee agreed to homologate the decision.

6. Operation Spotlight: Fly-Tipping

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on progress in the Joint Initiative between Strathclyde Police and North Ayrshire Council to tackle the problem of fly tipping.

Since the launch of the initiative on 9 March 1998 warnings have been given to several companies and individuals in relation to fly-tipping and some more serious cases have been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal whose response is still awaited. Although the formal initiative has now ended, the partnership which has been established between Strathclyde Police and North Ayrshire Council will continue, supported by appropriate advertising initiatives.

The Committee welcomed (i) the degree of attention being given to this issue by Strathclyde Police; and (ii) the opportunities which the partnership presents for the Council throughout the current initiative and in the longer term.

7. Roads Management and Maintenance Revenue Budget Programme

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the Roads Management and Maintenance Revenue Budget Programme for 1998/99 as approved by the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee on 18 March 1998.

The report gave details of the type of work to be carried out within the programme at various locations within the Garnock Valley area. Under the Best Value Regime approximately one third of all schemes will require to be put out to competitive tender.

Noted.

8. Community Safety

(a) Crime Statistics

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on crime statistics within the Garnock Valley for period

to January 1998, provided by Strathclyde Police.

Total crime in the Garnock Valley reported during January was 65 crimes. This compared favourably with the 1997 figure of 105 crimes. The detection rate for all reported crime is presently 38%. Serious crime has fallen considerably by 68% with a detection rate of 83%. Crimes of dishonesty have reduced over the same period by 29%.

Drug related offences have dropped slightly from 91 to 85, the majority of these offences being for possession of controlled substances. Breach of the Peace offences are down slightly from 241 to 227 with the detection rate remaining high at 94%. Petty or Minor Assaults are also down from 176 to 141 with a detection rate of 95%.

Noted.

(b) Fire Statistics

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Fire Statistics within the Garnock Valley for the period 1 January to 28 February 1998.

The report detailed incidents within the Garnock Valley by station area and using specific Fire Brigade codes. It was noted that the number of Other Code 3 incidents involving rubbish or skips in Kilbirnie and Dalry for the period had dropped quite considerably. There were no fatalities or serious injuries during this period.

Noted.

9. Urgent Items

The Chair agreed that the following item be considered as a matter of urgency.

10. Garnock Valley Area: Wheely Bin Refuse Collection Pilot Scheme

The Operations Manager, Cleansing, advised that to date three wheely bin refuse collection demonstration sessions have taken place which have been well attended by the public.

Complaints have been received that forms assessing the capabilities of individuals to put wheely bins outside their property for collection are currently only available from the Dalry Area Office. This acts as a disincentive to disabled or elderly persons in the Kilbirnie and Beith areas to submit forms for consideration. It was reported that although arrangements had been made to deliver information leaflets to all houses in the area giving details of a hotline number for the issue of assessment forms some streets have been missed. The first collection day will be Monday 20 April 1998.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Commercial Services arrange (a) for assessment forms to be made available in the Kilbirnie and Beith Local Offices; and (b) to have leaflets detailing the hotline number delivered to the streets omitted from the initial leaflet drop.

The meeting ended at 11.15 a.m.