

Irvine Area Committee
3 April 2008

IRVINE, 3 April 2008 - At a Meeting of the Irvine Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

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

In Attendance

A. Milson, Learning Manager (Quality Development) and B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Community Learning and Development) (Educational Services); M. McKeown and A. Little, Corporate Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

Inspector D. McIntyre, Strathclyde Police.

Chair

Councillor McPhee in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

David O'Neill.

1. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Clarkson declared an interest in the applications by Marymass Chess Congress at item 4.2 and Marymass Development Committee at items 4.2 and 6 on the agenda, and withdrew from the meeting for those items of business.

2. Strathclyde Police

Inspector McIntyre provided the Committee with information on the following matters:-

- **Personnel Changes:** Chief Superintendent Hamish Cormack has been appointed as Assistant Chief Constable (Personnel) of Strathclyde Police and will be replaced by Superintendent Russell Irvine. Superintendent James Kirkwood has now retired and will be replaced by Acting Superintendent David Conquer.
- **Mobile CCTV:** Redeployable cameras are now in operation.
- **Anti violence campaign:** Intelligence gathering shows that in cases of domestic violence, individuals who offend often return to the marital home. As part of the anti violence campaign, the Police undertake weekend visits to the homes of offenders who have recently been bailed.

- Duke of Edinburgh Scheme: Nine local young people have successfully completed the Scheme and have received their certificates.
- LEAP Project: The anti-gang project is continuing at Greenwood Academy.
- Travellers: There have been recent incidents of violence between groups of travellers who have congregated on Irvine Moor.

Discussion took place on the causes behind fly-tipping of general building and roofing materials on Irvine Moor. Inspector McIntyre reported that three portable, outdoor, wireless surveillance cameras are available and can be moved to monitor any location where it is suspected that offences are taking place. Incidents of underage drinking in the Dreghorn area were also raised and this information will be passed to Inspector McIntyre.

Noted.

3. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on incidents and activities within the Committee's area.

Strathclyde Fire and Rescue attended 160 emergency calls in the Committee's area during the period 24 January - 25 March 2008. 13 fires involved property, 7 of which were residential. Grass fires have increased from 7 to 23 and it would appear these fires occur from late afternoon to early evening. Firefighters attending a bonfire near a factory in Long Drive, Irvine, were verbally and physically attacked by a group of youths and required to call the Police for assistance. Home fire safety visits and fire reach and work experience courses continue within the Irvine area.

Noted.

4. Community Grants and Local Youth Action Funds 2008/09

4.1 Budget Allocations

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the budget allocations for Community Grants and Local Youth Action Funds in 2008/09.

The Area Committee has been allocated £42,964 from the Community Grants budget and £18,540 from the Local Youth Action Fund.

Noted.

4.2 Community Development Grants Scheme: 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:-

Organisation	Award
Dreghorn Gala Committee	£1,300
Irvine and District Angling Club	£600
Marymass Chess Congress	£500
Irvine Horticultural Society	£684
Marymass Development Committee	£2,400

5. Grants to Elderly Groups

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the allocation of the elderly groups grants budget across the five Area Committees in 2008/09.

The Area Committee has been allocated £17,698.53 from the elderly groups grants budget to fund summer outings and Christmas events in 2008/09. The appendix to the report provided details of the groups that will receive funding subject to satisfactory applications being received.

Noted.

6. Irvine Common Good Fund

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on historical annual commitments and an application for financial assistance from Irvine Common Good Fund.

An indicative budget of £87,300 will be available for disbursement in 2008/09. Appendix 1 to the report provided details of awards that the Committee's predecessor bodies previously agreed to meet annually from the Common Good Fund. The Committee was invited to endorse the continuation of these awards. Appendix 2 to the report set out an application from the Marymass Development Committee for an award of £53,485 in respect of the 2008 Marymass Festival.

The Committee agreed (a) to continue to set aside funds to meet annual commitments to the Marymass Development Committee and Irvine Old Folks Joint Wards, and to contribute towards the provision of Christmas lights in Irvine, all subject to satisfactory applications being received; (b) to award Marymass Development Committee £53,485 in respect of the 2008 Marymass Festival; and (c) that the Council's Festival and Events Officer be requested to report to the next meeting on the breakdown of income and expenditure for the 2008 Marymass Festival.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee agreed that the Chief Executive be requested to investigate moving meetings to earlier in the week within the Committee timetable.

8. Future Agenda Items

The Committee agreed that any items for inclusion on future agendas be submitted to M. McKeown and A. Little, Corporate Support Officers.

9. Urgent Items

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

9.1 Shopping Trolleys

Members again raised concerns at the number of abandoned shopping trolleys in and around Irvine Town Centre.

The Committee agreed that local supermarkets and the owners of the Rivergate Centre be contacted and invited to meet with Irvine Members to discuss ways to resolve this problem.

The meeting ended at 2.45 p.m.