

Liaison Meeting between the Three Towns Area Committee and the Community
Planning Partners
17 August 2005

SALTCOATS, 17 August 2005 - At a Liaison Meeting between the Three Towns Area Committee and the Community Planning Partners at 11.05 am.

Present

Councillors David Munn, Margaret Munn, Alan Munro, Sam Taylor and Nan Wallace (North Ayrshire Council); Pauline Fyfe and Marella O'Neill (North Ayrshire Community Health Partnership); Chief Inspector Harry Young and Inspector Ian Ness (Strathclyde Police); and Trixie Sheddin and Assistant Divisional Officer Stephen Logan (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

In Attendance

S Paxton, Senior VQ Officer (Personnel); J Kelly, Operations Manager, Catering and Cleaning (Property Services); and J Murray, Community Planning Co-ordinator, A Todd, Community Planning Officer, S Bale, M Anderson and E Fisher, Corporate and Democratic Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Councillor D Munn in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Councillors Gordon Allison and Peter McNamara (North Ayrshire Council) and Ian Baird (Communities Scotland).

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Liaison Meeting held on 1 June 2005 were confirmed.

2. Modern Apprenticeship Programme In Ayrshire

The Liaison Meeting received a verbal report from the Senior VQ Officer, Personnel Employee Development, on North Ayrshire Council's role in the Modern Apprenticeship Programme in Ayrshire.

A Modern Apprenticeship is a training course which leads to a qualification and which may be taken by anyone in an employed situation at any age, but generally by a young person under the age of 25. Each Modern Apprenticeship consists of three parts within a framework determined by industry lead bodies and funded by Scottish Enterprise.

Modern Apprentices in North Ayrshire Council undertake a 2 - 3 year training course within a range of Council Services. There are currently 19 Modern Apprentices in Building Services being trained as plumbers, joiners, electricians and in warehousing, 2 in the Transport Section and 14 in Administration. The Council is also in the process of recruiting 1 in Architectural Services and 4 in youth work. Modern Apprentices receive both on-job training, delivered by experienced Council staff, and off-job training through day release to college and specialised training providers.

Recruitment to the Modern Apprenticeships takes a variety of forms, through press adverts, the Careers Service, direct recruitment from the Council's skillseeker programme and through industry lead bodies, which also help to manage initial recruitment and selection. There is no specific time for recruiting, which offers Council Services freedom to recruit as and when they are able. There is, however, no guarantee of a permanent job within North Ayrshire Council at the end of training.

In response to questions, the Senior VQ Officer advised that 3 Standard Grades at level 3 and above are required for clerical modern apprenticeships, but assessment for trade modern apprenticeship takes into account other skills. She also advised that Educational Services are running a pilot schools vocational training programme in Largs Academy, Ardrossan Academy and Irvine Royal Academy.

The Liaison Meeting agreed to ask Educational Services to report on their schools vocational training programme to the next meeting.

3. Regeneration Outcome Agreement

Submitted report by the Community Planning Co-ordinator (North Ayrshire Council) on the final North Ayrshire Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) 2005/05-2007/08, which was approved by the Minister for Communities on 4 August 2005.

The ROA includes spending plans for the Executive's new Community Regeneration Fund (CRF), of which a total of £10.9 million has been allocated to North Ayrshire. The ROA was developed around 5 national regeneration priorities, namely getting people into work; building strong, safe and attractive communities; improving health; raising educational attainment; and engaging young people. These were prioritised further by the Community Planning Partnership and 9 regeneration programmes have been developed, as follows:-

1. Employability Programme
2. Community Safety Programme
3. Environmental Improvement Programme
4. Active Communities Programme
5. Improving Health Programme
6. Tackling Drugs Misuse Programme
7. Raising Educational Attainment Programme
8. Engaging Young People Programme
9. Support and Community Engagement Programme

The Support and Community Engagement Programme includes an allocation of £375,000 for 2005/06-2007/08 for a new Regenerating Our Community Fund to be distributed via the Area Committees. The Fund will be available to community/voluntary organisations and frontline statutory agency staff to support community-based initiatives which benefit people living in the 33 data zones in North Ayrshire classified as within the most deprived 15%, which include much of the Three Towns.

A number of regeneration initiatives will also be specifically targeted on or based with the Three Towns over the next 3 years, including funding to:-

- Support the development of the new Ardrossan Training and Enterprise Centre;
- Support an employability facility/drop-in unit within the 3 Towns Centre for Enterprise;
- Enhance the use of the new community facility at Ardeer;
- Provide free leisure passes for under 17s to use the Auchenharvie leisure centre;
- Support the new North Ayrshire Skate Park in Stevenston; and
- Provide structured alternative activities for service users of the Vernon Centre in Saltcoats to move on from addiction.

The ROA aims to complement other regeneration initiatives in the Three Towns, including the Irvine Bay urban regeneration initiative and the Better Neighbourhoods scheme in Ardeer.

Launch events for the Regenerating Our Community Fund will take place towards the end of September 2005. Community Learning and Development will be able to provide advice and assistance to groups submitting applications, which will then be appraised by a panel of partner representatives who will make recommendations to the Area Committees.

Noted.

4. Health Issues

At previous Liaison meetings, the Partners discussed issues associated with oral health and nutrition and on ways in which Partners might work together to improve the eating habits and general health of the people living in the Three Towns area.

The Liaison Meeting received updated reports by the various services of the Council and from the Community Health Partnership.

Community Health Partnership

The Community Health Partnership advised that they were looking for Partners to become more involved in health improvement in the area and will provide a more focused report on this matter to the next Liaison meeting. They will also submit a report on the Primary Care Planning Programme on new contractual arrangements for GPs and premises development, including the extension to Saltcoats Health Centre.

Catering and Cleaning (Property Services)

The Operations Manager (Catering and Cleaning) reported that the Catering and Cleaning Service was unable to progress the initiative to teach cookery during the summer break because of other staff commitments, but it was hoped to introduce this initiative in the future.

It was also planned to take up the opportunity of speaking on healthy eating at parent evenings. Catering and Cleaning are gradually phasing out carbonated drinks in vending machines in schools and will be providing flavoured water as an alternative.

It is planned to put an advert in the Council's "Now" magazine to advertise lunch clubs for the elderly, which are on the decline in terms of numbers attending. Discussions will be held with Social Services on healthy eating in homes for the elderly and children's homes.

The Clerk reported that Social Services would submit an updated report on a possible Community Health House at Garven Road, Stevenston to the next Liaison meeting.

The Liaison Meeting agreed that the various Partners report on any further progress to the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 12.35 pm.