

North Ayrshire Council
24 May 1995

Irvine, 24 May 1995 - Minutes of the Meeting of the North Ayrshire Council held in Cunninghame District Council Chambers, Cunninghame House, Irvine on Wednesday 24th May, 1995 at 6.00 p.m.

Present

George Steven, Patrick Browne, Ian Clarkson, James Clements, Stewart Dewar, David Gallagher, Samuel Gooding, Elliot Gray, Irene Oldfather, Margaret Highet, James Jennings, Elizabeth McLardy, Peter McNamara, David Munn, Margaret Munn, David O'Neill, Robert Rae, Robert Reilly, Gena Seales, John Sillars and Samuel Taylor.

In Attendance

The Chief Executive (Bernard Devine) and an Administration Officer of CDC (Marjorie Hewitt).

Chair

Mr. Steven in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

John Donn, Thomas Barr, Jack Carson, Thomas Dickie, Jane Gorman, Joseph McKinney, Thomas Morris and Irene Murdoch.

1. FIRE SERVICES: DRAFT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME

The Council received Mr. David Kennedy, an Assistant Firemaster of Strathclyde Fire Brigade, together with his assistant Mr. Malcolm Currie. Mr. Kennedy gave a presentation on Strathclyde Fire Brigade's comments regarding the Draft Mid and South Western Combined Fire Services Area Administration Scheme.

Following the presentation, the Convener thanked Mr. Kennedy for his comments and he and Mr. Currie then withdrew from the Meeting.

2. MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF TRUNK ROADS

The Council received Mr. Alistair Gow, the Strathclyde Roads Network Manager for the Ayr South Area, together with Mr. Jim Scott and Mr. Brian Graham of Dumfries and Galloway Region Roads Department. Mr. Gow gave a presentation on the Scottish Office's proposals for the future management and maintenance of the trunk road network in North Ayrshire following reorganisation.

The Convener thanked Mr. Gow for his presentation and Mr. Gow together with Mr. Scott and Mr. Graham then withdrew from the Meeting.

3. DEATH OF HAROLD WILSON

Prior to the commencement of the main business of the Council, the Convener referred to the death of the former Labour Prime Minister, Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, and paid tribute to his service to the Country. The Council then stood in silent tribute to the memory of Lord Wilson.

4. MINUTES CONFIRMED

The Minutes of the Meeting of the North Ayrshire Council held on 10th May, 1995, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

5. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURES AND RECRUITMENT OF CHIEF OFFICERS

Mr. Clements, seconded by Mr. Clarkson, moved (a) the adoption of the Chief Officer Structure proposed by the Chief Executive including the division of responsibilities to six Directorates with principle responsibility for the Community Education Service being assigned to the Community and Leisure Directorate; (b) authorisation of the advertisements of the posts of Director of Financial Services and Director of Planning, Roads and The Environment and the Central Support Manager posts - Architectural and Related Services, Personnel Services, Legal Services and Information Technology Services; (c) adoption of salary structures as per Table 2 with flexibility to recruitment panels in fixing final salaries in accordance with JNC Spinal Column Points; (d) the deferring of consideration of other two Directorates for a report by the Chief Executive; (e) continuation of consideration of DLO/DSO structures pending the submission of a report commissioned by the Chief Executive as to the best DLO/DSO structure for North Ayrshire to meet the threat of CCT; and (f) the appointment of recruitment panels with powers to shortlist, interview and appoint Directors of Education and Social Work comprising (i) for the Director of Education's post, the members for Wards 2, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 17, 20, 21, 24 and 29 and (ii) for the Director of Social Work's post, the members for Wards 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13, 16, 18, 20, 23 and 25.

6. URGENT ITEMS

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

7. FIRE SERVICES: DRAFT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME

Submitted letter dated 21st April, 1995 from the Scottish Office Home and Health Department on the Mid and South Western Combined Fire Services Area Administration Scheme. The Council is invited to comment on the Draft Scheme by 30th June, 1995.

The Council agreed to continue consideration of the Draft Scheme for a report by the Chief Executive on a proposed response, taking into account the comments made by

Strathclyde Fire Brigade at the Meeting.

8. MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF TRUNK ROADS

Submitted letter dated 3rd May, 1995 from SRC Roads Department regarding the management and maintenance of trunk roads within North Ayrshire. Copies of the letter had previously been circulated and a briefing note by SRC's Director of Roads was circulated at the Meeting in connection with the presentation made by the Network Manager for Ayr South.

The management of the trunk road network throughout Scotland is undertaken at present by nine Regional Councils on an agency basis on behalf of the Scottish Office. This includes inspection of the network, routine and structural maintenance, road lighting, winter maintenance, traffic management and control and accident investigation and analysis.

The Government now propose to sub-divide the country into eight groups consisting three premier units and five "all-purpose" units. All of the trunk roads within North Ayrshire are contained within the proposed South West Scotland "All-Purpose" Unit. The projected business value for the South West Unit is £6m, of which approximately 10% could be attributable to works in North Ayrshire. In order to compete for work on the trunk road network in South West Scotland, the new Unitary Authorities involved will require to form a consortium and to present a unified bid through a lead authority.

In recognition of the tight timescale for submitting bids, the Scottish Office has agreed that existing Regional Councils prepare and submit bids on behalf of successor authorities. If successful, the subsequent award would be made to a lead authority through an agency management agreement.

The South West Scotland Unit will encompass parts of the trunk road network in seven new authorities including Dumfries and Galloway, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, East Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire and Inverclyde. Given the relative length of trunk roads involved, it would appear likely that the appropriate lead authority for the South West Scotland Unit would be Dumfries and Galloway.

The Council agreed to authorise Strathclyde Regional Council, in consultation with Dumfries and Galloway Regional Council, to prepare and submit a bid for the management and maintenance of trunk roads within North Ayrshire on their behalf.

9. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES: TELEPHONE ACCOUNT PAYMENTS

The Council agreed that all members of the North Ayrshire Council who are not existing members of SRC or CDC have their telephone account payments refunded on the basis of the existing CDC Telephone Payment Scheme.

10. DECENTRALISATION

Submitted letter dated 22nd March, 1995 from the Scottish Office Environment Department seeking comments on their draft Guidance on the form and content of Decentralisation Schemes. The Council's comments are sought by 31st May, 1995. Copies of the letter and draft guidance had previously been circulated.

The Council agreed to advise the Scottish Office that in their view no modification is required to the draft Guidance.

11. CHIEF OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

Submitted letter dated 12th May, 1995 from the Local Government Staff Commission (Scotland) regarding the timescales for applications for Chief Officer Posts. The Commission advise new Councils that it would be reasonable to allow a period of not less than three weeks, ending on a Monday, from the date of issue of the notice inviting applications to the return of completed applications. Copies of the letter had previously been circulated.

Noted.

12. GUIDANCE ON CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICERS

Submitted letters dated 18th May, 1995 from the Scottish Office Social Work Services Inspectorate on (a) Guidance on Chief Social Work Officers; and (b) Guidance on Responsibilities, Appointment and Qualifications of Chief Social Work Officers. Copies of the letters had previously been circulated.

Noted.

13. AYRSHIRE AND ARRAN TOURIST BOARD

Submitted letter dated 3rd May, 1995 from the Scottish Office Industry Department inviting comments on the Draft Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board Scheme Order 1995 and seeking nominations to the Board. Copies of the letter had previously been circulated.

The Council agreed (a) to advise the Scottish Office that the Council supports the Order to establish the Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board without modification; and (b) to nominate two members to the Board, namely Mr. George Steven and Mr. David Munn.

14. IRVINE: KILWINNING ROAD: FORMER IRVINE ROYAL ACADEMY ANNEXE SITE

Submitted letter dated 16th May, 1995 from SRC Estates Department in response to previous correspondence regarding the marketing of the former Irvine Royal Academy Annexe Site at Kilwinning Road, Irvine. Copies of the letter had previously been circulated.

The Council agreed that SRC's Estates Department be advised that the Council has no further interest in the site.

15. ARDROSSAN: SOUTH CRESCENT: ST. PETERS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Submitted letter dated 16th May, 1995 from SRC Estates Department regarding St. Peters Primary School, South Crescent, Ardrossan which has recently been declared surplus to the operational requirements of the Regional Council and will be vacated in October 1995. Copies of the letter had previously been circulated.

The Council agreed to continue consideration on this matter for a report on possible future uses of the property and the site.

16. REVIEW OF SERVICES UNDER THE CHILDREN ACT 1989

Submitted letter dated 3rd May, 1995 from SRC Education Department regarding public meetings to be held throughout North Ayrshire as part of a review of services undertaken by the Education Department under its duties in terms of the Children Act 1989. Copies of the letter had previously been circulated.

The Council agreed (a) that the local members for Kilbirnie decide on representation at the Meeting to be held in Garnock Academy on 1st June; and (b) that the member for Ward 29 attend the Meeting to be held in Largs Academy on 8th June.

The Meeting ended at 6.50 p.m.