

Corporate Strategy Committee
4 March 1997

Irvine, 4 March 1997 - At a Meeting of the Corporate Strategy Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

James Clements, Patrick Browne, Jack Carson, Ian Clarkson, Stewart Dewar, John Donn, David Gallagher, Samuel Gooding, Jane Gorman, James Jennings, Thomas Morris, David O'Neill, Robert Rae, Robert Reilly, John Sillars, George Steven and Samuel Taylor.

In Attendance

The Chief Executive; The Head of Corporate Business; The Directors of Financial Services, Education, Social Work, Community and Recreational Services, Commercial Services and Planning, Roads and Environment; G Lawson, Principal Officer (Policy/Administration); M Pepper, Principal Officer (Marketing/Publicity); A Osborne, Corporate Policy Officer and J Bannatyne, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Chair

Mr Clements in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Thomas Dickie.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of Meetings of the Committee held on 21 January and 13 February 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Capital Plan 1997/98: All Services Except HRA

Submitted reports by the Director of Financial Services showing (a) Capital resources and the committed programme for 1997/98; (b) a summary of bids submitted by Service Committees; and (c) details of a possible programme for 1997/98.

The Scottish Office have provided an allocation of £8.834m to the Council which, with other additions, brings the total estimated resources available to the Council to £11.658m. The Council's committed programme for 1997/98 amounts to £6.911m.

The Service Committees have had the opportunity of considering bids for the Capital programme for 1997/98 and these amount to £11,364,600.

As the total bids submitted by Service Committees exceeds £4.747m which is the amount available for new projects, a possible programme for 1997/98 was submitted. This programme prioritised various projects within the Services and amounts to £5,199,100 which can be accommodated within the resources available for new

projects.

The Committee agreed to approve the Capital programme for 1997/98 on the basis of the already committed programme and the prioritised projects within each Service.

3. Compulsory Competitive Tendering

(a) Leisure Management

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the tendering process for Leisure Management.

The current Leisure Management Contract is held by the in-house DSO and will terminate in October 1997.

The Leisure Management work which will now require to be placed for tender includes the management and operation of the Magnum Leisure Centre, Irvine, Auchenhavie Leisure Centre, Saltcoats, Garnock Swimming Pool, Kilbirnie, the Vikingar! Centre, Largs and North Ayrshire's outdoor sports facilities. The management of the Council's golf courses is not included within the leisure management specification since the courses are operated by golf professionals on behalf of the Council. Details were given of a draft timetable for the stages of CCT issued by the Scottish Office commencing with the insertion of an advertisement on 7 March 1997 and indicating the minimum and maximum lengths of time for each stage of the CCT process culminating in the award of the contract on 1 October 1997.

Local authorities are required to seek actively to stimulate competition for work to be tendered and details were given on the contractor consultation process involved, following which North Ayrshire Leisure DSO, Glendale Leisure and Scottish Power expressed an interest in tendering for the Leisure Management Contract. It is proposed that the Leisure Management function is tendered in one contract, and information was provided on the Contract Specification.

For the forthcoming contract, it is proposed that an Income Share Gross Expenditure Contract is operated whereby the contractor is paid the gross contract operating expenditure and the client sets annual anticipated income levels. The anticipated income is retained by the Council but where the contractor exceeds anticipated income levels then an income share arrangement takes in. It is proposed that the North Ayrshire Leisure Management Contract will be for a period of five years with possible extension to seven years dependent on suitable contractor performance. To ensure quality of service delivery it is proposed that effective contract monitoring procedures be put in place which will include monthly formal client/contractor meetings, informal client/contractor meetings, site inspections, contract compliance/record inspections and the provision by the contractor, as instructed, of a written report on any item of contract performance.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve (i) the tendering of the Leisure Management function as one contract; (ii) the revised basis of the specification; (iii) operation of an income share gross expenditure contract; (iv) the duration of the contract being

five to seven years; and (b) otherwise to note the report.

(b) Review of Extension of Compulsory Competitive Tendering Guidance

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on changes to the implementation timetable for Support Services for CCT.

On 5 February 1997 the Scottish Office announced changes in Compulsory Competitive Tendering, the most significant of which was the proposed six month delay in the implementation timetable for Support Services for CCT, which will now be subject to competitive tendering between 1 October 1998 and 1 October 1999. The other changes involved relate to credits for work carried out which are of a largely technical nature and there are no financial implications for the Council resulting from these changes.

The Committee agreed (a) to continue the process of preparation for CCT; and (b) to proceed with the Seminar on Support Services for CCT agreed at a previous meeting of the Committee.

4. Corporate Strategy Grants Budget 1997/98

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on proposals for grants to community and voluntary organisations and other outside bodies.

Budget headings within the scheme outlined in the report correspond broadly to the headings in the budget for 1996/97 although adjustments have been made to reflect changing demands and priorities. The Corporate Strategy grants budget has been reduced by £41,457 representing an 8.5% saving from 1996/97. In determining priorities within the overall figure, consideration has been given to those activities targeted exclusively on North Ayrshire, organisations operating wholly within North Ayrshire and other bodies whose activities can be shown to benefit North Ayrshire or are consistent with policies and strategies of the Council. Where awards have previously been made on a formula basis relating to per capita criteria, e.g. Community Council administration, supporting grants to elderly/age concern groups, this will continue. A future report to the Committee will review and evaluate the criteria for such awards and make proposals for adjustment as necessary. A detailed breakdown of the grants budget by budget heading was given in the report, including details of adjustments to budget headings.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the Corporate Strategy grants budget in the terms indicated in the report; and (b) to consider at future meetings further applications for funding against outstanding balances within the relevant budget headings.

5. Draft Scheme of Decentralisation

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on the Council's Draft Scheme of Decentralisation including the arrangements for its publication for consultation and comment.

Each council is required to publish a Draft Scheme of Decentralisation by 1 April 1997. The Council has made considerable progress in implementing proposals relating to community consultation, public communication, the establishment of Area Committees, local access to council services, managerial and service boundary decentralisation and member support. The Scottish Office and COSLA have published guidance notes on this process which have been taken fully into account. The Council is required to give public notice that such a draft scheme is available for inspection and comment over a period of 8 weeks minimum, during which period specific consultation with Community Councils must be undertaken.

The report outlined three main aspects of decentralisation covered by the Draft Scheme, namely :-

- (a) Political Decentralisation particularly in relation to the Area Committees;
- (b) Managerial Decentralisation which aims at moving functions and responsibilities from the centre to where services are actually being provided; and
- (c) Physical Decentralisation to improve and simplify access to the Council and to raise awareness of services available to the public.

The report also recognised the complementary role played by Marketing and Communications Strategies.

The Committee agreed (i) that the report as presented to Committee form the basis of the Council's Draft Scheme of Decentralisation; (ii) that a document be produced, based on the report, for circulation to interested parties and be made available for public comment; (iii) that public notice be given that such a scheme has been prepared and giving details of places within the Council area where copies may be inspected, such notice to invite representations on the scheme to the Council within a period of eight weeks; (iv) that Community Councils be consulted concerning the draft scheme during the eight week consultation period; (v) that after consideration of representations made under (iii) and (iv) above, a final decentralisation scheme be adopted and a copy sent to the Secretary of State for Scotland; (vi) that further consideration be given to the rationalisation of offices throughout North Ayrshire to ensure best value for money; and (vii) that monitoring and evaluation procedures be put in place to ensure the implementation of the Scheme and the ongoing development of the Council's decentralisation policies.

6. Scheme of Delegation to Officers: Amendment

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on a proposed amendment to the powers remitted to him under the terms of the Scheme of Delegation to Officers as a result of the commencement of Section 96 of the Environment Act 1995 (Circular 34/1996).

The Environment Act 1995 introduces new requirements for the initial review and updating of all mineral planning permissions and the periodic review of all mineral permissions thereafter. The requirements came into force in Scotland on 1 January 1997 and require local authorities to review active sites in two successive phases. By 1 April 1997 every planning authority must prepare a list of all dormant and active Phase I and Phase II mineral sites in their area and by January 2000 every planning authority must prepare a list of active Phase II sites in their area and specify two dates for submission of applications for approval of new conditions. Periodic reviews will take place every fifteen years.

The Committee agreed (a) to note the implications of the commencement of Section 96 of the Environment Act 1995 (as of 1 January 1997) and, as outlined in Circular 34/1996, the review of old mineral permissions; (b) that the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment under the Scheme of Delegation to Officers (i) prepare and advertise a list of all dormant and active mineral sites with extant planning permissions granted before 22 February 1982, and, in liaison with the mineral operators, agree a programme for the submission of applications for updating planning conditions; and (ii) determine all applications lodged for updating planning conditions, it being understood that the power to grant applications so delegated shall include power to impose such conditions on the existing planning permissions as the Director thinks fit, where (A) the conditions are acceptable to the applicant and clearly required to ensure that modern standards are being met, i.e. site operations are being carried out in an environmentally sustainable manner and that modern landscaping, restoration, aftercare and afteruse standards are imposed; and (B) the conditions are not such that they are likely to lead either to a claim for compensation being made against the Council under Parts viii and xi of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1972, under Section 153, unmodified by Section 167A of said Act, or any regulations made thereunder.

7. North Ayrshire Law Centre: Urban Aid Project

Submitted report by the Director of Social Work on the progress to date of the Urban Programme funded North Ayrshire Law Centre, including details of its financial position and future proposals for its management.

The Committee agreed that the Chief Executive, in consultation with appropriate Chief Officers, submit a further report to the next meeting.

8. Review of Delivery of Local Business Development Services in North Ayrshire: Business Enterprise for North Ayrshire

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the work undertaken to date by the Steering Group for the reorganisation of the Local Delivery Organisation (LDO) including proposals for the Council to take up membership, to appoint Directors and to continue to commit appropriate funding to the new organisation.

The Steering Group has now agreed the mechanisms and procedures to be used to establish the single Local Development Organisation for North Ayrshire which is to be named Business Enterprise for North Ayrshire. The ASSET and GVDE Companies will cease to function from 17 March 1997 and their basic structures will be used to form the legal framework for the new LDO. The Board of Business Enterprise for North Ayrshire will comprise two Directors from North Ayrshire Council, two Directors from Enterprise Ayrshire and six Directors drawn from businesses throughout North Ayrshire.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Council take up membership of the new LDO, appoint Directors and continue to provide appropriate funding; (b) to appoint Samuel Gooding and David Munn as Directors to represent the Council on the new LDO Board; and (c) that the new Board, at its first meeting, be requested to consider allowing substitute Directors to attend and participate in meetings of the Board.

9. Proposal for Review of Information and Advice Services

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on the proposals for a review of the Information and Advice services currently provided.

The Council supports a range of agencies and organisations providing welfare benefits, money advice and client representation as well as providing services directly by means of staff within Council Directorates. In co-operation with the North Ayrshire Regeneration Partnership it is presently engaged in an evaluation of all projects within the Urban Programme portfolio. A review team is to be set up to collect, analyse and evaluate data and information, form conclusions and report with recommendations. An interim report will be provided on 15 April 1997 and a final report to the Committee on 27 May 1997.

The Committee agreed (a) to take a corporate approach to the provision of information and advice services to ensure that the Council receives value for money; (b) to set up a review team as proposed within the report; (c) to approve the timetable as detailed within the report; (d) to continue consideration meantime in respect of the proposed funding for Cunninghame Women's Aid; (e) that the Directors of Housing Services and Social Work prepare a joint assessment of the work of Cunninghame Women's Aid and make recommendations on the appropriate level of funding required to enable the services to be provided to a satisfactory standard and that the Chief Executive report to the next Corporate Strategy Committee on this; and (f) otherwise to approve the recommendations for funding pro-rata for a six month maximum period, subject to the terms and conditions

indicated in the report.

10. North Ayrshire Regeneration Partnership: Urban Programme Evaluations

(a) Crossroads (Cunninghame) Care Attendant Scheme

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on the outcome of the evaluation of Urban Programme Project No. C/64/92, the Crossroads (Cunninghame) Care Attendant Scheme.

The Committee agreed (a) to extend the funding of Crossroads (Cunninghame) Care Attendant Scheme at the 1996/97 costs of £138,319; (b) to note the recommendation of the Evaluation Panel for a three year extension; and (c) to approve the proposals to improve the operation of the project relating to (i) more formal supervision of the Management Committee; (ii) addressing an accrued underspend of project funds; and (iii) preparation of an exit strategy which explores future options for commercial operations.

(b) Health in Mind

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on the outcome of the evaluation of Urban Programme Project No. C/63/92, Health in Mind.

The Committee agreed (a) to extend the funding of Health in Mind to December 1997 at the 1996/97 costs of £108,943 (pro rata); and (b) to approve the proposals for addressing issues arising from the evaluation relating to (i) the purchase of the project base; (ii) the payment of management support fees to the Scottish Association for Mental Health from the project funds; (iii) the preparation of an exit strategy within six months in co-operation with the Health Board and other partners; and (iv) the accounting procedures in place to provide separate monitoring of the Urban Programme grant.

A further report will be submitted to a future meeting.

11. Office Accommodation Working Groups

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on proposals to establish working groups to examine the rationalisation of council properties.

It is proposed that initially a Member/Officer Working Group be established to agree appropriate terms of reference for an Officer Working Group which will thereafter be appointed. The review itself has no financial implications for the Council.

The Committee agreed (a) that a Member/Officer Working Group comprising the Chair, the five Area Committee Chairs and the Ex-officio members be established to agree the terms of reference for an Officer Working Group; (b) that an Officer Working Group be established to examine the options for rationalising council office accommodation in accordance with the terms of reference to be agreed; and (c) that

the Officer Working Group report back to the Committee prior to the end of 1997.

12. Arran Bus Services

(Previous Minute Reference: Corporate Strategy Committee 21 January 1997.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on action being taken in pursuit of future bus service provision on Arran.

The Council has sought the help of COSLA and the Office of Fair Trading in relation to the monopoly situation on Arran and its inherent problems but COSLA has been unable to provide examples of similar problems being experienced elsewhere. The Secretary of State has expressed the view that a meeting with the Council would serve no useful purpose although he has indicated that he would consider any further evidence which the Council has in support of its case for additional funding. The Office of Fair Trading have confirmed that they would only make a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission if it could be demonstrated clearly that Stagecoach, who hold the contract, was bidding at a level which secured monopoly profit. Arrangements are now in hand to meet with the Transport Commissioners on 10 March 1997 to determine their views on the Council's proposals to consider the operation of local authority run services. A visit will also take place to Castle Douglas to view and discuss with Dumfries and Galloway Council the local authority provision which they have made in relation to bus services. Progress will be reported to the Committee.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Special Sub-Committee, previously appointed, continue to pursue as a matter of urgency the possibility of local authority run services; and (b) otherwise to note the position meantime.

13. Local Agenda 21

(a) Environment Policy: Draft Consultation Document

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a proposed Draft Environmental Policy for North Ayrshire to be used as a public consultation document.

The Local Agenda 21 Officers' Working Group has produced a Draft Environmental Policy which takes the form of a series of eight challenges which the Council will set. Details of the challenges were given in the report. The document has been prepared in consultation with each Directorate and Department of the Council. The document will be made available to those who attended the Local Agenda 21 Seminar in Cunninghame House on 14 February 1997, other interested parties known to the Council including local industries and organisations, community groups and individuals and a number of other agencies. Details were also provided of the schedule for the preparation of a final policy document which will be submitted for approval to the Corporate Strategy Committee on 27 May 1997.

The Committee agreed that the Draft Environmental Policy document, as detailed in

the report, be used as a public consultation document.

(b) Authorities Buying Consortium (abc): Environmental Policy

Submitted report by the Director of abc on the Consortium's Environmental Policy in relation to purchasing.

abc, which comprises the twelve member councils covering the former Strathclyde Regional Council area, handles contracts to the value of £100m per annum. It has now formally agreed to continue its operations in environmental terms on the basis of the policies and initiatives established by the former Regional Council's Charter for the Environment. In addition new initiatives are being pursued to heighten awareness of environmental issues with its customers.

The Committee agreed (a) to authorise the Local Agenda 21 Officers' Working Group to liaise with representatives of abc and that regular reports be submitted on the application of its Environmental Policy and any environmental initiatives which it takes in relation to purchasing; and (b) that a copy of the report be submitted to abc in response.

14. Millport: Garrison House

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on recent developments in respect of Garrison House, Millport.

The Council's insurers have indicated that it is likely that they will extend the insurance cover required to allow Garrison House to continue to be used to 31 July 1997 at minimal cost to the Council. The Council will then require to vacate the premises on that date with no further extension of insurance cover thereafter. It is therefore proposed that the Council continue to occupy Garrison House, Millport until 31 July 1997 and that steps be taken to identify alternative premises, to commission a feasibility study and to examine the possibilities for the establishment of a Trust for Garrison House. It is further proposed to invite Bute Estates and Argyll and the Isles Enterprise to contribute towards the costs incurred.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Council continue to occupy Garrison House until 31 July 1997; (b) that the Council write to the insurance company confirming that the Council will vacate Garrison House on 31 July; (c) that the Council invite Bute Estates and Argyll and the Isles Enterprise jointly to commission a feasibility study to (i) update architectural costs; (ii) examine alternative uses; and (iii) identify feasible funding packages; and (d) that the Council participate with others in the establishment of a Trust to secure the future of Garrison House.

15. Operation Spotlight: Update

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on the outcome of the Council's joint working arrangements with Strathclyde Police during the first three months of Operation Spotlight.

Strathclyde Police now propose to publish a Drugs Awareness Diary for distribution to two thousand young people in North Ayrshire involving contributions from a number of agencies and from the Community and Recreational Services and Education Directorates of the Council. Early analysis has indicated that Operation Spotlight to date has been a success, and will continue to be supported by the Council.

The Committee agreed (a) that the existing arrangements regarding co-operation with Strathclyde Police be continued; and (b) to co-operate with Strathclyde Police in the production of a Drugs Awareness Pocket Diary for schoolchildren.

16. Closed Circuit Television

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the progress of the pilot scheme to provide Closed Circuit Television for Irvine Town Centre.

A bid for funding from the Scottish Office CCTV Challenge Competition has been successful and the Council has been offered an award of £27,000 which must be accepted by 14 March 1997. Irvine Town Traders have offered to contribute £1,100 as a capital sum and £530 per annum for the first three years of the Scheme's operation. Enterprise Ayrshire have advised that they are unable to consider any major new Town Centre initiatives and are unable to contribute to the capital costs of CCTV in Irvine. The Chief Constable of Strathclyde Police has announced that revenue expenditure likely to be in the region of £500,000 is to be set aside for projects such as CCTV schemes and is to be made available to local authorities. It is proposed that a bid be made to Strathclyde Joint Police Board to meet the revenue costs (approximately £60,000) of operating the CCTV Scheme for Irvine Town Centre.

Capital costs will also amount to approximately £60,000 and in order to proceed with the Scheme, the Council, taking into account the contributions from the Scottish Office and Irvine Town Traders will require either to include £32,000 in its capital budget for 1997/98 or to find alternative sources of capital funding.

The Committee agreed (a) that a bid be made to Strathclyde Joint Police Board to meet the revenue costs of operating the proposed pilot scheme; (b) to accept the award of £27,000 from the Scottish Office to assist in meeting the capital costs of the pilot scheme; and (c) that further alternative means of meeting the revenue costs be investigated.

17. Arrangements for Parliamentary Election

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the arrangements for the forthcoming Parliamentary Election, including details of polling districts and polling places to be used.

Noted.

18. Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the current position regarding the Council's submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland on the statutory review of electoral arrangements.

The Seminar on 10 February 1997 highlighted the fact that in the Irvine area the proposed electorate for several wards is 12-14% below the parity figure sought by the Boundary Commission and in the North Coast area 18-21% higher than the parity figure. At the Seminar it was suggested that the Council may wish to pursue with the Commission the possibility of North Ayrshire Council being extended to comprise thirty-one members.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Chief Executive in consultation with appropriate officers, draw up proposals for revised ward boundaries for North Ayrshire on the basis of thirty-one wards; and (b) that these proposals be considered by members prior to submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland.

19. Environment Week 1997

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Council's involvement in Environment Week 1997 which runs from 10 to 18 May 1997.

The Environment Week launch will be held on 24 April 1997 in Eglinton Country Park and will include events organised by the Education Directorate. The costs relating to events being organised by the Education Directorate which relate primarily to prizes will largely be met from the remaining Environment Week budget in 1996/97 and £2,000 has been earmarked in 1997/98 for the additional activities mentioned. It is considered that this funding will be sufficient to organise these activities.

The Committee agreed that the proposals for the proposed programme for Environment Week be pursued through the appropriate Directorates.

20. School of Music and Recording Technology (SMART)

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on the possible submission by the Council of a bid for the location of a SMART College within North Ayrshire.

In November 1996 Enterprise Ayrshire invited the Ayrshire Councils to a meeting to discuss the SMART proposal for the provision of a prestigious Music School in the West of Scotland, preferably in Ayrshire. The three Ayrshire Councils were invited together with partner colleges, to submit a proposal with a suggested location within their area along with confirmation of the provision of a joint contribution of up to £40,000 in match-funding towards a proposed detailed feasibility study. Kilmarnock and James Watt Colleges have indicated that they would be prepared to join with the Council in the submission of a bid to locate the SMART College in North Ayrshire and the suggested sites are adjacent to Largs Railway Station, the Shell site at

Ardrossan and a site in Irvine adjacent to the Harbour.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Council, in partnership with Kilmarnock and James Watt Colleges, submit a bid for the location of a SMART College at the Shell site, Ardrossan; and (b) subject to James Watt and Kilmarnock Colleges jointly providing matching funding to a maximum of £20,000, to commit funding to a maximum of £20,000 towards the costs of a feasibility study for such a development within North Ayrshire.

21. Nobel Exhibition Trust: Appointment of Substitute Directors

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the proposed nomination of substitute members to represent the Council on the Nobel Exhibition Trust.

The Committee agreed that Patrick Browne and the Director of Community and Recreational Services be nominated to serve as substitute members on the Nobel Exhibition Trust.

22. Nomination to Central Advisory Committee

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the nomination of a Member of the Council to serve on the Central Advisory Committee on Justices of the Peace.

Mr Carson was invited by the Secretary of State to participate in the Central Advisory Committee on Justices of the Peace and in view of the timescale involved, the Leader of the Council agreed that Mr Carson to accept the invitation.

The Committee agreed to homologate the above decision.

23. Area Committees

(a) North Coast and Arran Area Committee

Submitted the annexed report (Appendix CS1) of the North Coast and Arran Area Committee, being the Minutes of their Meeting held on 17 February 1997.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

(b) Garnock Valley Area Committee

Submitted the annexed report (Appendix CS2) of the Garnock Valley Area Committee, being the Minutes of their Meeting held on 18 February 1997.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

(c) Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee

Submitted the annexed report (Appendix CS3) of the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and

Springside Area Committee, being the Minutes of their Meeting held on 19 February 1997.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

(d) Irvine Area Committee

Submitted the annexed report (Appendix CS4) of the Irvine Area Committee, being the Minutes of their Meeting held on 19 February 1997.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

(e) Three Towns Area Committee

Submitted the annexed report (Appendix CS5) of the Three Towns Area Committee, being the Minutes of their Meeting held on 20 February 1997.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

24. Requests for Financial Assistance

Having considered the requests for financial assistance the Committee agreed that the following payments be made:-

Organisation	Decision
Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB)	£100
Clyde Coast Search Marshalls	Nil
Crimestoppers (Scotland)	£1,500
Paddle Steamer Waverley Heritage Rebuild Project	Nil
Commission for Racial Equality Campaign on Black and Ethnic Minority Women	£200
The Duke of Edinburgh Award Unit, Beith (North Ayrshire)	£300

25. Urgent Items

The Chair agreed to deal with the following item as a matter of urgency.

26. Conference: The Regeneration of North Ayrshire

The Regeneration Conference was held on 21 February 1997 in the Civic Centre, Ardrossan. Over 150 delegates from a wide range of organisations including Government Agencies, local business and the local community attended. There was a very positive response to Working in Partnership with the Council to achieve the regeneration of North Ayrshire. The Conference also marked the successful launch of the North Ayrshire Promotional Initiative.

A meeting to discuss the outcome of the Conference and how to progress the initiatives which arose will be held shortly.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 2.45 p.m.