

Irvine Area Committee
8 December 2008

IRVINE, 8 December 2008 - At a meeting of the Irvine Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.00 a.m.

Present

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

In Attendance

J. McKinlay, Team Leader, Youth Services (Educational Services); R. Conner, Solicitor (Legal and Protective); and A. Little, Committee Services Support Officer (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

Inspector S. Irvine and Sergeant A. Brown (Strathclyde Police).

Chair

Councillor McPhee in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

K. Alcroft (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

1. Strathclyde Police

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police on crime figures in the Committee's area.

The following issues were also discussed:-

- An attempted abduction in Woodlands Avenue - local schools alerted
- Operation Avalanche - a Christmas initiative which will provide extra police patrols, plain clothed police and taxi marshals in town centres
- Violence and vandalism in Dreghorn
- Community policing
- Mobile cameras
- Additional police officers and changing shift system for community policing
- Parking obstructions in Irvine town centre
- Enforcement of the vehicle ban in Bridgegate

The Committee was advised of recent incidents of violence and vandalism in the Dreghorn area. Discussion took place on the community police presence in the area and the benefits of strong communication links between community police officers and local community groups and organisations.

Strathclyde Police advised that a mobile police camera can be located in areas which require extra vigilance. New police recruits are currently in training and following graduation, 46 new officers will be based within North Ayrshire. Community police officers will operate on a back shift basis from March 2009 which will result in a more visible police presence in local areas at times when incidents of violence and vandalism take place.

Noted.

2. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

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

The Committee commented on the increase in the number of malicious calls from Greenwood Academy and noted that discussions between Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and the Headteacher of Greenwood will continue in an effort to reduce these calls.

Noted.

3. Fly Tipping

The Committee discussed the proliferation of fly tipping in and around the Riverside Business Park area of Irvine and whether there were any new preventative measures that could be put in place to prevent fly tipping.

Cleansing currently sift through rubbish and debris in an effort to identify ownership of materials dumped within North Ayrshire. Strathclyde Police confirmed that charges can only be brought against individuals if incidents of fly tipping have been witnessed or if the ownership of rubbish can be positively identified and the owners subsequently traced. Mobile police cameras may be of assistance in recording instances of fly tipping and could be used to monitor known 'hot spots'.

The Committee discussed other areas within Irvine and Dreghorn which are subjected to fly tipping and/or litter, such as Castlepark perimeter road, the rear of the shops at Dickson Drive, Irvine, the parkland and disused railway line behind Greenwood Academy, Dreghorn and Townfoot, Dreghorn.

The Committee agreed that (a) Strathclyde Police be requested to investigate the use of mobile police cameras at known fly tipping 'hot spots' and report to the next meeting; and (b) the Corporate Director (Property Services) be requested to report on the operations of Cleansing including the staffing complement within the Committee's area, the street cleaning rota, the duties of street cleaners and the sickness levels of staff, to the next meeting of the Committee.

4. Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund 2008/09: Applications for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on applications for funding from the Community Development Grants Scheme and the Local Youth Action Fund.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

Community Development Grants Scheme

Organisation	Award
John Ogilvie Group	£ 820
Newtown Gymnastics Group	£1,500
Dreghorn Co-op Women's Guild	£ 400

Local Youth Action Fund

Organisation	Award
Galloway Youth	£ 180
Noonday (Broomlands and Bourtreehill Baptist Church	£2,000
Duke of Edinburgh New Start Group	£2,000
North Ayrshire Ice-Hockey Club	£ 350

5. Future Agenda Items

The Committee agreed that future agenda items be forwarded to A. Little, Committee Services Support Officer (Chief Executive's).

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Area Committee will be held on Monday 9 February 2008 at 10.00 a.m.

The Meeting ended at 11.10 a.m.