

Scrutiny Committee
4 October 2010

IRVINE, 4 October 2010 - At a Special Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 1.10 p.m.

Present

John Hunter, Anthea Dickson, Matthew Brown, Anthony Gurney, Jean Highgate and Alan Munro.

Also Present

Ronnie McNicol and John Reid.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; A. Herbert, Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure); I. Colvin, Corporate Director (Social Services and Health); I. MacKay, Solicitor to the Council (Corporate Services); J. Montgomery, General Manager and A. Little (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Councillor Hunter in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

David Munn and Pat McPhee.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 16.

2. Call in Request: Review of General Services Capital Programme

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a call in request in relation to a decision taken by the Executive at its meeting held on 21 September 2010 on the above matter.

At its meeting on 21 September 2010, the Executive of North Ayrshire Council received a report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on proposed new projects outwith the approved programme to utilise £1.665m generated through real savings in project costs in 2010/11.

The Executive agreed to (a) approve the use of current savings in projects towards the projects listed in Section 3 of the report; and (b) receive a further report before the end of the calendar year on other projects outwith the current plan that may require funding.

The Committee was advised of the undernoted call in request subsequently received from Councillor Munro, supported by Councillors Gibson and McNicol in terms of Standing Order 23:-

"Not enough consideration was given to other projects particularly replacement of hitted accommodation at Hayocks".

The Committee sought, and obtained, assurance from the Solicitor to the Council that the call in request was competent.

Councillors Munro and McNicol addressed the Committee in support of the call in request. Councillor Munro expressed concern that Members had not been consulted on those projects considered by the Officers' Group, and requested information on the method used by the Group to prioritise projects outwith the approved programme.

Councillor Reid was also present as Chair of the meeting of the Executive on 21 September 2010 and the relevant portfolio holder. He advised that a further report will be considered by the Executive before the end of the calendar year on other projects that are outwith the current plan and that may require funding.

After discussion, Councillor Gurney, seconded by Councillor Brown moved that the Committee agree to call in the Executive's decision in relation to the Review of General Services Capital Programme. There being no amendment, the motion was carried.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed (a) to scrutinise the decision of the Executive to (i) approve the use of current savings in projects towards the projects listed in Section 3 of the report; and (ii) receive a further report before the end of the calendar year on other projects outwith the current plan that may require funding; and (b) that the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) report to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on the concerns raised by Members.

The meeting ended at 1.35 p.m.