

Corporate Strategy Committee  
21 January 1997

**Irvine, 21 January 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, Joseph McKinney, Thomas Morris, Robert Rae, Robert Reilly, George Steven and Samuel Taylor.

**In Attendance**

The Chief Executive; The Director of Financial Services; The Head of Corporate Business; G Lawson, Principal Officer (Policy/Administration); M Pepper, Principal Officer (Marketing/Publicity); and B Hannah, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

**Chair**

Mr Clements in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Thomas Dickie, David O'Neill and John Sillars.

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of Meetings of the Committee held on 27 November and 12 December 1996 and 7 January 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. FE College Development in North Ayrshire**

(Previous Minute Reference: Special Corporate Strategy Committee 12 December 1996.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on (a) current developments by James Watt, Kilmarnock and Ayr Colleges in respect of their proposals for the provision of further education and training in North Ayrshire; and (b) the response received from Enterprise Ayrshire with regard to the Council's representations on Further Education provision.

On 27 November 1996 the Committee agreed to endorse the James Watt proposal and to encourage Enterprise Ayrshire to provide additional assistance by diverting resources to the Three Towns, with a further evaluation of college proposals for that area being undertaken upon receipt of business plans etc. from Kilmarnock and Ayr Colleges.

On 12 December 1996 the Committee further agreed to ask Enterprise Ayrshire to reconsider their position and accept that, in strategic terms, the James Watt proposal represented the best value to North Ayrshire and Ayrshire as a whole and to seek a meeting with Enterprise Ayrshire at Member/Board level.

Enterprise Ayrshire have now responded to the Council on this matter and a meeting involving the Board and Leader of the Council will take place on 23 January 1997.

A detailed business plan and revised planning application is awaited from Kilmarnock College in respect of the site of the former St Peter's School, Ardrossan. Ayr College have

decided not to pursue the former St Peter's School site and a business plan has been submitted by the College in respect of Kyleshill Primary School, Saltcoats.

James Watt College have kept the Council fully apprised of their development and funding proposals but with the approaching deadline for ERDF funding applications, the Council require to make a determination on the exact nature of financial assistance to be provided to the College. In addition, the Council require to advise the West of Scotland European Partnership of its support for the James Watt College proposals in principle, as providing the best value to the economy of North Ayrshire.

After discussion the Committee agreed (i) to approve the level of partnership funding requested by James Watt College for the purposes of their ERDF funding application; (ii) to remit to a Member/Officer Working Group to consider submissions from Kilmarnock and Ayr Colleges for the Three Towns and to determine their input on the viability of proposals for further education in North Ayrshire as a whole and report; (iii) to note that a revised submission has been made by Ayr College in respect of Kyleshill School, Saltcoats and that a further submission is anticipated from Kilmarnock College in respect of St Peter's School, Ardrossan; and (iv) to agree that the Chair be authorised to attend a meeting with Enterprise Ayrshire on 23 January 1997 to discuss further education provision in North Ayrshire.

### **3. Compulsory Competitive Tendering**

(Previous Minute Reference: Corporate Strategy Committee 27 November 1996.).

#### **(a) Professional Services**

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on Competitive Tendering for Professional Services.

CCT for Professional Services will commence in 1998. In order to obtain value for money for the Council and to ensure that the interests of the services are protected, the packaging of the contracts requires to be addressed. The packaging of CCT contracts for Professional Services is complicated by the fact that many service areas overlap and therefore careful consideration will require to be given to the assignation of functional responsibilities.

The Committee agreed that a Seminar be held for all members to discuss the issues relating to the packaging of Professional Services CCT.

#### **(b) Building Cleaning**

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on the tendering process for Building Cleaning following the issue of the consultation advertisement.

The Committee agreed (i) that the contract for Building Cleaning be issued as one contract comprising the former Strathclyde Regional and Cunninghame District Council Building Cleaning contracts; and (ii) to approve the timetable for the tendering process as detailed in the report.

#### **(c) Refuse Collection and Other Cleaning**

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on the tendering process for Refuse Collection and Other Cleaning following market consultation.

The Committee agreed (i) to combine and package the functions of Refuse Collection and Other Cleaning as one contract for North Ayrshire; and (ii) to approve the timetable for the tendering process as detailed in the report.

#### **4. Cemeteries Operation**

(Previous Minute Reference: Corporate Strategy Committee 22 October 1996.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive detailing the conclusions and recommendations (a) arising from a comprehensive review of the operational and administrative procedures of cemeteries and (b) Executive Summary on the cemeteries operation.

The Council has responsibility for 23 cemeteries and churchyards. Three Directorates are currently involved in the cemetery process, namely Community and Recreational Services (Client), Commercial Services (Contractor) and the Chief Executive's (Registration). Budgetary responsibility is with the Community and Recreational Services Directorate although, in effect, it is controlled by the Commercial Services Directorate. A policy on cemeteries operation does not exist in North Ayrshire at present although there are a number of organisations which have established policies and charters such as the Confederation of Burial Authorities (CBA).

The review of administrative and working procedures has highlighted that agreed procedures are not consistently applied in relation to interments and that the area offices would prefer more flexibility in the operation of the system. Cemeteries are also suffering from a lack of investment and fees currently being charged for interments, etc. require to be adjusted to meet the Council's costs in relation to the burial etc. process. North Ayrshire Council has the lowest level of burial fees of any mainland authority in Scotland.

After a full discussion the Committee agreed (i) that the Commercial Services Directorate be responsible for the entire cemeteries budget with effect from 1997/98 with provision for all activities involved in providing this service i.e. management, administration and operational costs; (ii) that, subject to the approval of the Support Services Committee, a new post of Cemetery Services Manager (Grade PO10) be established with the existing Cemeteries Officer position being regraded and re-designated as Assistant Cemetery Services Manager (APV/PO1); (iii) to establish (A) both posts within the Commercial Services Directorate in 1997/98; (B) a Cemetery Services Manager/Member Group to oversee policy and developments within cemeteries; and (C) a Cemeteries Partnership Group comprising Officers, Funeral Directors, Memorial Masons and representatives of the Clergy; (iv) that the day to day administration of cemeteries be carried out by the Registrar staff of the Legal Services Department, on behalf of the Commercial Services Directorate; (v) that the Council take up membership of the Confederation of Burial Authorities with effect from 1 February 1997; (vi) that a Policy Statement be prepared and published incorporating service standards for the cemetery service; (vii) that a centralised computerised administration system be introduced as soon as finances permit; (viii) that the two day rule as detailed in the report be refined to provide more flexibility and that the double check by non-cemetery based staff should cease as early as possible with responsibility for lair identification being restored to the Cemetery Superintendents; (ix) that the revised fee structure, as detailed in the report, be introduced over a phased three-year period commencing in the 1997/98 financial year; (x) to develop and implement a programme of corporate signage and consistent dress codes in relation to cemetery operations; (xi) that improvements in drainage and mechanisation at cemeteries be considered as priorities in Capital bids to the Commercial Services Committee; and (xii) to implement, as soon as possible, a number of other recommendations in relation to working practices at cemeteries.

#### **5. Repairs Processing**

##### **(a) Review of IMPACT, RAMS and RACE Systems**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on progress of the review of the systems for ordering, processing, invoicing and paying works carried out by Commercial Services for Housing Services and Architectural Services.

The Building and Works Section of the Commercial Services Directorate, the Housing Services Directorate and the Architectural Services Department operate on the IMPACT, RAMS

and RACE computer systems respectively.

The operation of the 3 distinct systems which are not integrated has created a backlog in relation to the payment of invoices. The IT Services Manager has prepared a plan to reconcile these differences. As an interim measure and to expedite procedures the Director of Housing Services has proposed the removal of exception parameters below a certain monetary limit when clearing invoices for payment. This would require the Commercial Services to provide an analysis of invoices by appropriate monetary value bandings to Internal Audit for checking. The Architectural Services Department would require to work in conjunction with Internal Audit on checks on invoices they receive from the Commercial Services Directorate.

This proposal will release staff from their existing duties and permit them to seek methods of improving, on a more permanent basis, the systems.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the Director of Housing Services proposal in relation to the payment of invoices for payment which should extend to the operation of the invoice clearance system within the Architectural Services Department subject to an appropriate programme of control being instituted by Internal Audit; and (b) to note the progress made in achieving compatibility between the operational systems used by the Commercial Services and Housing Services Directorates and the Architectural Services Department.

#### **(b) Full Business and Systems Review: Housing Services, Commercial Services, Architectural Services - Interface with Repairs Processing**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive detailing action required to meet the requirements of the new Competitive Tendering contracts to be let on 1 July 1997, having regard to the different operational systems of the Commercial Services and Housing Services Directorates and the Architectural Services Department.

In order to clear the backlog of invoices and to facilitate inter-service co-operation, it is considered that the Chief Executive should use his existing powers in relation to the authorisation of overtime and the appointment, if appropriate, of an external facilitator to progress future meetings of the Working Party established to conduct the business review and systems analysis in time for the new contracts for Housing Repairs which are due to commence on 1 July 1997.

After discussion the Committee agreed to authorise the Chief Executive to take all necessary steps including the authorisation of overtime and appointment of temporary staff to clear the remaining invoice backlog and, if appropriate, to appoint necessary external assistance to complete the business and systems review in time for the award of the new CCT contracts.

### **6. North Ayrshire Regeneration Partnership: Urban Programme Funding**

(Previous Minute Reference: Corporate Strategy Committee 27 November 1996.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the implementation of the Regeneration Programme approved by the Scottish Office.

On 27 November 1996 the Committee instructed the Chief Executive to hold discussions with the other Partners involved in the North Ayrshire Regeneration Partnership and to meet with Scottish Office officials to clarify the details of the decision not to grant Priority Partnership Area status in respect of the Three Towns.

A meeting between officials of the Scottish Office and officers of the Council will be held on 31 January 1997 to discuss, amongst other things, the possible realignment of the geographical areas of the successful Regeneration Programme bid to include the eligible areas within the Three Towns.

An Officers Task Group has been established to carry out an evaluation of North Ayrshire's Urban Programme projects portfolio to report initially to the Regeneration Partnership and then to the Corporate Strategy Committee in relation to the continuation or otherwise of

projects.

A sum of £200,000 was allocated for the Regeneration Programme within the 1996/97 budget. £150,000 of this sum has been committed to extend projects otherwise due to terminate prior to 31 March 1997. The Council's Directorates were invited to submit proposals for the balance of Capital funds available (i.e. £50,000) and submissions totalling £25,000 have been received from the Director of Community and Recreational Services and £17,300 from the Director of Social Work.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to approve the evaluation of Urban Programme Projects, in the first instance by the Evaluation Task Group, such evaluation to include investigating (i) possible duplication in projects; and (ii) alternative funding sources for projects; (b) to approve the bids submitted by the Director of Community and Recreational Services and the Director of Social Work for the use of Regeneration Programme resources for 1996/97; and (c) to advise North Ayrshire Regeneration Partnership of the foregoing decisions.

## **7. Local Volunteering Development Agency Programme**

(Previous Minute Reference: Corporate Strategy Committee 27 November 1996.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the proposed establishment of a Volunteering Development Agency within North Ayrshire.

The North Ayrshire Voluntary Organisations Forum gave a presentation to appropriate members and officers of the Council on 10 January 1997 on their proposals for the establishment of a Voluntary Development Agency in North Ayrshire as agreed by the Committee on 27 November 1996.

After a full discussion the Committee agreed to defer consideration of North Ayrshire Council's involvement in the establishment of a Local Volunteering Development Agency until completion of the evaluation of Urban Programme Projects.

## **8. Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland**

(Previous Minute Reference: Corporate Strategy Committee 22 October 1996.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive detailing the outcome of discussions with officers of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland on proposals in connection with the third statutory review of electoral arrangements.

The Commission have advised that the current proposals are unacceptable in terms of the parity of electors between wards. The Council therefore have several options to consider in relation to this matter, namely:-

(a) to submit the revised draft boundaries to the Commission;

(b) to instruct the Chief Executive to redraft the boundaries to comply with the Commission's guidance on electoral parity; or

(c) to advise the Commission that the Council has no proposals to make on the review.

After discussion the Committee agreed (i) that a Seminar be held for all Members of the Council to consider the Council's draft proposals for submission to the Boundary Commission; and (ii) that a report on the outcome of the Seminar be submitted to the next meeting of the Corporate Strategy Committee.

## **9. Energy Management Policy**

Submitted report by the Architectural Services Manager on a proposed Energy Management Policy.

North Ayrshire Council currently spends approximately £2m per annum on energy expenditure on its buildings and it is considered that the establishment of an Energy Policy which would cost approximately 10% of the current energy spend would yield a saving of 15% in energy costs over a five-year period. The adoption of such a policy would also assist the Council in promoting a positive environmental image.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the Energy Management Policy; (b) to approve, in principle, an allocation of £200,000 from the current energy expenditure budget to be allocated towards the implementation of the Energy Management Policy; and (c) to publicise the Council's long-term commitment to energy efficiency by becoming a signatory to the "Making a Corporate Commitment Campaign" promoted by the Energy Efficiency Office.

## **10. West of Scotland Water: Waste Water Treatment Facilities along the Clyde Coast**

(Previous Minute Reference: Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee 25 September 1996.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the provision of waste water treatment facilities along the Clyde Coast.

On 25 September 1996 the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee considered proposals by West of Scotland Water who were examining the possibility of pumping sewage from Ayr for treatment at Meadowhead, Irvine rather than providing a new facility at Ayr. The water authority also indicated at that time that they would seek derogation to install primary treatment only at Meadowhead and Stevenston.

Officers from the Council have since met with representatives of West of Scotland, outlining the Council's concerns over their proposals and advising that an Environmental Impact Assessment be carried out covering the issue of why other sites have been discounted in favour of that at Meadowhead.

West of Scotland Water has now completed consideration of the choice of sites identified as being technically acceptable to treat effluent discharge from properties throughout North and South Ayrshire and while recognising the Council's concern, has concluded that the most suitable sites are at Stevenston and Meadowhead, Irvine. They have offered to meet with representatives of the Council to discuss this matter.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) that the Chief Executive (i) reiterate to West of Scotland Water the Council's concerns regarding their proposals for waste water treatment facilities at Stevenston and Meadowhead, Irvine, and (ii) seek clarification from West of Scotland Water on a number of technical issues raised; and (b) authorise the Chair and Vice-Chair, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee and the local member(s) to meet with West of Scotland Water to discuss the implications of their decision.

## **11. Irvine: Housing Association**

(Previous Minute Reference: Corporate Strategy Committee 22 October 1996.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the current position in relation to the Council's nomination of Mr Patrick Browne as its representative on the Management Committee of Irvine Housing Association.



On 19 September 1996 the Housing Services Committee agreed to nominate Mr Browne as the Council's representative on the Management Committee of Irvine Housing Association. The Management Committee of the Association thereafter agreed that there should be no representation from North Ayrshire Council on the Association. The Chief Executive has advised Scottish Homes of the Council's concerns at the rejection of their nomination and requested that Scottish Homes, as regulatory body for the Housing Associations, investigate this matter with a view to the Association's decision being reversed. A reply is awaited from Scottish Homes on this matter.

The Committee agreed to authorise the Chief Executive to take any further appropriate action required in the pursuance of this matter.

## **12. North Ayrshire Council Litter Awareness and Prevention Campaign**

(Previous Minute Reference: Corporate Strategy Committee 22 October 1996.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the forthcoming launch of the North Ayrshire Litter Awareness and Prevention Campaign which will take place at four schools on the mainland on 30 January 1997 and at one school on Arran on 31 January 1997.

A programme of activities has been developed in relation to the litter campaign involving a litter hotline and promotional items. It is anticipated that expenditure will be in the region of £1,000-£1,200 with costs associated with the launch being relatively small.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) to homologate the action taken by the Officers Working Group; (b) that progress reports on the campaign be submitted to the Committee as appropriate; and (c) to urge all Members of the Council to support the campaign.

## **13. The Nobel Exhibition Trust: The Big Idea**

(Previous Minute Reference: Corporate Strategy Committee 30 July 1996.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive detailing the current position in relation to the Nobel Exhibition Trust and requesting confirmation of the Council's representation thereon.

The Committee agreed (a) that Mr Clements and Mr Gooding be nominated to serve as Directors on the Nobel Exhibition Trust; and (b) otherwise to note the current position in relation to development of the Trust.

## **14. Ayrshire and Arran Health Board: Purchasing Intentions**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Ayrshire and Arran Health Board's purchasing intentions and proposed liaison arrangements.

On 10 September 1996 the Committee agreed to the establishment of an annual North Ayrshire Consultative Forum with the Chairs and Chief Executives of the Ayrshire and Arran Health Board and the three NHS Trusts in Ayrshire. The Consultative Forum will meet in August 1997 and will now be extended to include the MPs for Cunninghame North and Cunninghame South. The three areas identified for priority action both locally and nationally in 1996/97 will continue in 1997/98, and purchasing intentions in regards to proposed service departments have been established.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) to approve the proposed liaison arrangements with the Health Board; and (b) to note the Health Board's purchasing intentions.

## **15. Healthy Eating**

(Previous Minute Reference: Commercial Services Committee 18 December 1996.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Healthy Eating.

On 18 December 1996 the Commercial Services Committee welcomed the Healthy Eating 3-2-1 "Keep Your Balance" initiative which seeks to promote a healthy diet to schoolchildren in North Ayrshire.

The Committee agreed that the Chief Executive, in consultation with appropriate officers, investigate (a) the work currently being undertaken within North Ayrshire to promote a healthy diet generally; and (b) any further efforts which may be introduced to ensure promotion of a healthy diet to as wide an audience as possible.

## **16. Promotional Campaign**

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on the development of a Promotional Campaign for North Ayrshire Council.

The Member/Officer Working Group set up to pursue a Promotional Campaign has concluded that four areas should be explored in relation to this matter, viz. Civic Identity; Inward Investment Issues; Lobbying Strategy; and a Marketing Strategy. The total cost of the campaign will be approximately £35,000 which can be met from within existing budgetary provisions.

After discussion the Committee agreed that the Chief Executive be authorised to progress the Promotional Campaign to be launched at the Employment Development Conference on 21 February 1997.

## **17. Millennium Festival**

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business advising of the Millennium Commission's invitation for proposals for the Millennium Festival.

The Millennium Commission has indicated that comments, ideas and suggestions for the Millennium Festival should be submitted by 21 February 1997.

The Committee agreed to established an Officer/Member Working Group comprising the Chair, Vice-Chair and Chairs of the Area Committees to conduct community consultations in relation to the Millennium Festival in North Ayrshire.

## **18. Millport: Office Accommodation**

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business detailing the current situation in relation to the Council's occupation of Garrison House, Millport.

The Council's insurers have intimated that public and employers liability insurance will be withdrawn from Garrison House with effect from 31 January 1997. The Council therefore requires to relocate the services currently provided from Garrison House by this date.

A feasibility study has been carried out to examine various options for the Council offices on Millport. The three options considered were (a) refurbishment of parts of Garrison House at a cost of £1,046,500; (b) refurbishment and conversion of the existing pier offices at a cost of £48,000; and (c) temporary accommodation within the grounds of Garrison House at a cost of £122,000. Consideration has also been given to relocating on a temporary basis, the area services to the Council offices at Largs or the Tourist Information Centre, Millport. The Tourist Information Office would only be available until 31 March 1997.



The Committee recognised the importance of Garrison House to Millport and acknowledged the desirability of refurbishing the property as far as possible.

The Committee therefore agreed (i) to pursue the proposal to refurbish parts of Garrison House and to contribute £200,000 as part of a Challenge Fund for the overall cost; (ii) to seek further sources of funding from other agencies towards the total cost; (iii) that the Council's contribution be payable when the remaining funding is secured; (iv) to provide a mobile library service in Millport on a one day a week basis as a temporary measure; and (v) meantime to relocate Area Offices to the Tourist Information Centre until 31 March 1997.

#### **19. Arran: Office Accommodation**

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on options for the improvement of services and renovation of office accommodation at the Council's offices at Lamlash, Arran. Staff are employed both in the Council's office at Lamlash and at offices at Arranton, which is adjacent to Arran High School.

A property survey was recently carried out on the Council offices at Lamlash which has indicated that alterations and renovations totalling £55,000 are required to improve disabled access and to provide the location of a first stop shop facility on Arran and better working accommodation for staff based in the Lamlash office.

In addition an Organisation and Methods review of the service provided on Arran is currently underway with conclusions and recommendations expected in February 1997.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) to approve expenditure of £55,000 to upgrade the Council offices at Lamlash to be met from the current Capital programme; and (b) to note that staff who do not have a day to day customer contact will be relocated, subject to negotiation, to the Arranton offices during the renovation process.

#### **20. Arran Bus Service**

(Previous Minute Reference: Corporate Strategy Committee 27 November 1996.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on action required to investigate options for the future provision of school and local bus services on Arran.

The absence of competition in the provision of the Arran bus service has caused an unreasonable rise in the cost of providing local and school bus services on the isle. The Council have previously made representations to COSLA and the Office of Fair Trading on the situation and replies are awaited.

A Sub-Committee which was established to pursue this matter met with the Director of Strathclyde Passenger Transport on 15 January 1997 and considered a number of options including the provision of a Council-operated service which may improve the public transport situation on the island.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) that the Chief Executive, in consultation with appropriate Directors, be authorised to investigate the provision of a Council-run service on Arran; and (b) to authorise the Sub-Committee to (i) visit Dumfries and Galloway Council to discuss their experience in the running of school/local transport services; (ii) meet with representatives of the Traffic Commissioner to assess their response to the proposal which the Council is investigating; and (iii) authorise Strathclyde Passenger Transport to review simultaneously the current service provision on Arran and report on possible economies in the future.

## **21. 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 6 January 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 7 January 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 8 January 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 8 January 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 9 January 1997.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

## **22. Requests for Financial Assistance**

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

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Decision</b>
The Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland	Nil
Greenpeace	£150 Affiliation/Subscription
National Association for Bikers with a Disability	Continued
Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen	£100

The Scottish Gypsy/Traveller Association	Nil
National Forum of Writers	Nil

### **23. Exclusion of Public**

The Committee resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting the press and the public for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Act.

### **24. Request for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a request for financial assistance.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations as detailed in the report.

The meeting ended at 2.50 p.m.