

Corporate Strategy Committee
9 September 1997

Irvine, 9 September 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, Joseph McKinney, Thomas Morris, David O'Neill, Robert Rae, John Sillars, John Steven and Samuel Taylor.

In Attendance

The Chief Executive; The Director of Housing; The Head of Corporate Business; I Mackay, Legal Services Manager; M. Marshall, Architectural Services Manager; A. Hewitt, Head of Service Management (Social Work); A Herbert, Head of Accountancy (Financial Services); M. Peffer, Principal Officer (Marketing and Publicity); A. Osborne, Corporate Policy Officer and J. Bannatyne, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).
Also Attending
Inspector R Pollock, Liaison Officer (Strathclyde Police).

Chair

Mr Clements in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Thomas Dickie, James Jennings and Robert Reilly.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 29 July 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Capital Programme: 1997/98: Resources Budget Statement

(a) Other Services

Submitted report by the Director of Financial Services on the Capital Programme for 1997/98. The probable outturn for 1997/98 shows an overspend of £0.660m which is £0.218m in excess of the maximum carry forward allowed. It is anticipated however that expenditure can be held back to keep within carry forward rules.

A review of the Capital Receipts has been undertaken which shows a reduction from the original estimated figure from £2.076 million to £1.027 million. This is largely due to receipts slipping into 1998/99. A further reduction in the capital allocation is likely following the finalisation of Strathclyde Regional Council's capital payments in 1995/96 which is expected to reveal a further overspend.

The likely capital allocation for 1998/99 will be less than in 1997/98 at approximately £8.5 million. The Capital Receipts will amount to £1 million giving a total resource of £9.5 million against a commitment of £7.655 million which leaves less than £2 million for new programmes in 1998/99.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Director of Financial Services in consultation with appropriate Chief Officers review the Capital Programme and seek to identify alternative sources of funding; and (b) otherwise to note the position meantime.

(b) Housing Revenue Account

Submitted report by the Director of Financial Services on expenditure on the Capital Programme for 1997/98 through the Housing Revenue Account including the probable outturn at 31 March 1998.

The Council approved the Capital Programme for Housing in March 1997 totalling £6.292 million which included programmes carried forward from 1996/97. Expenditure to 25 August 1997 amounts to £1.272 million this being 17% of the total. The projected outturn figure at 31 March 1998 is £6.901 million representing an underspend of £0.793 million. The revised resources available for the HRA have been adjusted to take account of the increased carry forward of capital expenditure from 1996/97 and the increased carry forward of usable Capital Receipts which financed the carry forward expenditure thus preserving the total capital resources. Further adjustments have been made to account for the up to date costs of the various projects and savings have been achieved in tender prices.

Given that the Capital Plan probable outturn expenditure at 31 March 1998 is well within the planned resources, it is proposed that consideration be given to funding the new Housing Rents IT Benefits Systems, presently being installed, from the capital balance rather than from the Housing Revenue Account balance.

The Committee agreed (a) that the new Housing Rents Information Technology Benefits Systems be funded from the capital balance; and (b) otherwise to note the outturn figure for 1997/98.

3. Compulsory Competitive Tendering

(a) Contracts for General building Repair and Maintenance: (i) Housing Properties; and (ii) Non-Housing Properties

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager on the outcome of the tendering process of contracts for General Building Repair and Maintenance and on the award of the contracts.

The Committee agreed (a) to award the contract for general building repair and maintenance for all housing properties for the period 1997 to 2000 to the Works Section, Commercial Services Directorate, North Ayrshire Council, at an aggregate annual value of £10,869,250; and (b) to award the contract for general building repair and maintenance for all non-housing properties for the period 1997 to 2000 to the Works Section, Commercial Services Directorate, North Ayrshire Council at an aggregate annual value of £1,542,000.

(b) Measured Term Contracts for Maintenance and Minor Works 1997/2000 (Non-Housing): Single Trade and Specialist Work Contracts

Submitted report by the Architectural Services Manager on tenders received in respect of nine Single Trade and Specialist Trade Term Contracts.

The Committee agreed to accept the lowest offer for each Single Trade and Specialist Work Term Contract.

4. North Ayrshire Women's Aid

Submitted joint report by the Directors of Housing Services and Social Work on the outcome of a review of the services of North Ayrshire Women's Aid. A copy of the outcome of the review was attached to the report.

The review report (a) described the range of services provided by the organisation; (b) gave details of the comments of the officers who carried out the review on the financial information provided by the organisation; and (c) provided conclusions from the review exercise and listed detailed recommendations.

In April 1997 the Committee agreed to make a payment of £170,288 to North Ayrshire Women's Aid to cover the initial six months of the financial year 1997/98 which payment was funded equally by the Housing and Social Work Directorates.

The outcome of the review recommended that the total grant for North Ayrshire Women's Aid for the current financial year be unchanged from the grant paid in 1996/97, i.e. £340,575. The breakdown for the proposal to make a payment of £170,288 for the remainder of the financial year would be on the basis that the Social Work Directorate would meet £73,807, the Housing Services Directorate would meet £76,943, with Housing Benefit meeting the balance of £19,538. This will result in an overspend of £26,505 on the Housing Services budget.

The Committee agreed (i) to pay the second instalment of grant aid to North Ayrshire Women's Aid for the current financial year amounting to £170,288 on the recommended basis; (ii) to approve the report on the Review of North Ayrshire Women's Aid; and (iii) that the appropriate officers within the Housing Services and Social Work Directorates take the necessary action on the recommendations in the review report as follows:-

(A) the format of the accounts be modified from that prescribed by the predecessor authority to reflect more fully the detailed breakdown of expenditure;

(B) in addition to the existing annual accounts a consolidated financial statement be prepared incorporating all income and expenditure and including a balance sheet;

(C) that the existing half-yearly review meetings with officers from the Directorates of Housing Services and Social Work be continued;

(D) that specific issues relating to rent and rates be remitted to the half-yearly meeting for discussion and resolution; and

(E) that budget performance be monitored at the half-yearly meetings.

5. Community Alarms

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the outcome of a meeting between the Chair of the Housing Services Committee, the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Social Work Committee and the Directors of Housing Services and Social Work on the Community Alarm Service.

There are approximately 250 council tenants on the waiting list for community alarms but this list has not been assessed for two years and may be reduced. The Director of Housing has advised that his Directorate has the resources to install up to 125 units in council houses in the current financial year. This would be done when the Director of Social Work arranges for assessments to be carried out on those on the waiting list. There also 88 private sector residents on a waiting list and assessments will also be carried out to those persons on this list. Any additional units required once assessments have been carried out will be funded from the Housing Services budget for 1998/99.

In future the Director of Social Work will assess council house applicants at the time of

their application and refer them to the Housing Services Directorate as appropriate.

Noted.

6. Assistance to Community and Voluntary Organisations

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on research currently being undertaken to determine the level of “in-kind” assistance provided to community and voluntary organisations in North Ayrshire.

In 1996/97 the Council awarded grants of approximately £840,000 to a wide range of groups. Awards of approximately £1,555,000 were given to voluntary Urban Programme projects. No assessment has been carried out however on what “in-kind” assistance has been provided.

The research therefore seeks to identify the total amount of financial assistance awarded by the Council to voluntary and community groups together with the total value of “in-kind” assistance provided to those groups who have received financial assistance from the Council and those who have not. Examples of “in-kind” assistance are:- nominal or rent free lets, the provision of professional services at little or no cost and free provision of goods. Appropriate questionnaires have been issued to all Directors and Managers. An assessment will be made of the responses received and a further report submitted in due course.

Noted.

7. North Ayrshire Regeneration Partnership: Urban Programme

(a) Crossroads (Cunninghame) Care Attendant Scheme; and Health in Mind Project

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the current position regarding the Crossroads (Cunninghame) Care Attendant Scheme and the Health in Mind Project.

The issues raised by this Committee at its meeting on 4 March 1997 with regard to the operation of the Crossroads (Cunninghame) Care Attendant Scheme and the Health in Mind Project have been satisfactorily addressed by the Social Work Directorate. However, in order to continue the service provided by Health in Mind beyond its present Regeneration Programme funded period of 31 December 1997 to 31 March 1998, an application requires to be made to the North Ayrshire Regeneration Partnership for additional funding. This would allow negotiations regarding future funding from Ayrshire and Arran Health Board and the Council's Care in the Community budget to be completed.

The Committee agreed (a) that representations be made to the North Ayrshire Regeneration Partnership to extend the funding for the Health in Mind Project from January to March 1998 to a maximum cost of £27,236.00; and (b) to note the position regarding the Crossroads (Cunninghame) Care Attendant Scheme.

(b) Irvine Befriend a Child Project

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the outcome of a request to the North Ayrshire Regeneration Partnership seeking extension funding for this project from the Regeneration Programme to 31 March 1998.

The North Ayrshire Regeneration Partnership has agreed to the extension of funding for the project provided that an early evaluation takes place to allow the Social Work Directorate to determine possible sources for future funding. This will allow the project to continue to the end of the current financial year at an approximate cost of £50,000.

The Committee agreed (a) to authorise the Chief Executive to carry out an evaluation of the project by 31 October 1997; and (b) to note the decision by the Regeneration Partnership to

extend the funding to 31 March 1998.

(c) Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Monitoring And Evaluation Plan of the North Ayrshire Regeneration Partnership which has been submitted to the Scottish Office. Details of the monitoring and evaluation plan were given in the report.

The Committee agreed (a) to endorse the content of the Monitoring And Evaluation Plan; and (b) that a report detailing modifications to the Plan as requested by the Scottish Office be submitted to a future meeting.

8. Interim Arrangements for a Rape Counselling Service in North Ayrshire

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on interim arrangements for a Rape Counselling Service.

A package of proposals is being drawn together for submission to the Social Work Committee on 17 September 1997 in relation to the introduction of interim arrangements for the provision of a Rape Counselling Service in North Ayrshire until March 1998. This will require funding of approximately £1,500. The Corporate Strategy Committee has within its budget an allocation of £26,000 to promote community safety and £7,000 of that allocation is designated to promote Zero Tolerance of violence against women and children.

The Committee agreed to authorise the use of the Corporate Strategy Budget allocation for Community Safety to implement interim arrangements for a Rape Counselling Service within North Ayrshire from 31 August 1997 to 31 March 1998.

9. Local Government Ombudsman Annual Report 1996/97

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on the main aspects of the Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Report for 1996/97.

The Ombudsman had no cause to investigate any complaints against North Ayrshire Council during 1996/97.

Noted.

10. Customer Comments Scheme

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on the Council's performance on managing customer comments for the three month period to 30 June 1997.

Details of comments for this period indicate that the Council continues to maintain a favourable performance in responding to comments speedily and effectively.

Noted.

11. Strathclyde Passenger Transport: Arran: Postbus Service

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an approach by Royal Mail Postbuses to Strathclyde Passenger Transport regarding support for the Postbus Services in the former Strathclyde Region, which, in the case of North Ayrshire, affects Arran.

The Postbus service operates on Arran and figures show that 757 ordinary passengers and 576 concessionary passengers used the service in 1996/97. This provided a fare income of £1,281.10. The current proposal seeks support amounting to £2,060.92 from the Council for the

Arran Service in 1996/97.

The Committee agreed (a) to seek further information on the action of other rural councils from COSLA's Rural Forum; and (b) that a further report be submitted to the next meeting.

12. West of Scotland European Consortium: Representation to Ecos-Ouverture

Submitted reported by the Head of Corporate Business advising that Councillor Oldfather, as Vice-Chair of the West of Scotland European Consortium has assumed the lead role in relation to negotiations in respect of the Ecos-Ouverture Programme. In carrying out her duties Councillor Oldfather will incur various travelling expenses etc.

The Committee agreed to meet expenses incurred by Councillor Oldfather in her role as the West of Scotland European Consortium's representative to the Ecos-Ouverture Programme.

13. COSLA Report on Economic and Monetary Union

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on the content of a COSLA Task Group Consultative Report on the effects of Economic and Monetary Union in Scotland. The Consultative Report examines the effect of an Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) in Scotland.

In early 1988 membership of the EMU will be determined and this will come into operation on 1 January 1999. A single currency, the Euro will be introduced three years later. Countries entering into the EMU will do so in two stages. It is not certain if the United Kingdom will be in a position to be considered for the first entry in 1999.

The report indicates that a successful EMU could have the effect of cementing the benefits of the single market bringing about lower interest rates and offering currency stability within the European Union which will assist Scottish exports. The report also emphasises that Scotland will be affected by the EMU whether or not the UK is part of it due to various factors such as Scotland having a small domestic market and having to export to the EU, having a thriving service sector and earning foreign currency from tourism and financial services and having its manufacturing base largely dependent on multi-nationals.

The report gives a balanced view of the positive and negative effects of EMU but concludes that whether or not the UK joins the EMU, Scotland will require to have its economy prepared in such a way as to benefit from the challenges and opportunities posed.

The Committee agreed to advise COSLA that the Council (a) commends the work carried out to date by the EMU Task Group; (b) welcomes the positive approach which the report adopts regarding EMU and supports the proposed strategy to enable the Scottish economy to maximise the benefits of EMU; and (c) supports the suggestion that regular reports on the regional effects of EMU be produced by the European Commission.

14. Irvine Town Centre: Closed Circuit Television

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on Enterprise Ayrshire's response to a request from the Council for financial support towards the development of Closed Circuit Television in Irvine.

Enterprise Ayrshire have in the past provided funding assistance for CCTV in Kilmarnock and Ayr on the grounds that they have made financial investment in the development of these town centres. No similar significant investment has been made in Irvine Town Centre and Enterprise Ayrshire continue to regard financial support for the introduction of CCTV as being inappropriate. In the absence of support funding from Enterprise Ayrshire, it would appear that the Council will be unable to proceed with the introduction of CCTV in Irvine Town Centre at the present time.

The Committee expressed its disappointment at the continual failure of Enterprise

Ayrshire to provide financial support and agreed to invite the support of North Ayrshire's Members of Parliament to make further representation to Enterprise Ayrshire on this matter.

15. Garnock Valley Biblical Garden

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on a proposal to investigate the possibility of creating a Biblical Garden in the Garnock Valley as both a Millennium Project and a potential major tourism development in that area.

The Committee agreed (a) that further evaluation and exploratory work be undertaken in support of the development of a Biblical Garden in the Garnock Valley; and (b) that a detailed evaluation report be submitted to a future meeting.

16. Dog Fouling: Pilot Project Areas

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the outcome of discussions by the Area Committees on the impact of the Pilot Project Areas to combat dog fouling and to advise the Corporate Strategy Committee of the action which they wish to take.

Each Area Committee has considered a full report on the work within the Pilot Project Areas which has generally shown the initiatives to be very successful and has acknowledged that the key ingredient in ensuring their success has been the presence of the Dog Warden and officers from Strathclyde Police. It has also been generally recognised that considerable staffing input is required; no single Directorate has sufficient resources to handle the workload generated; and the present system involving several Directorates is both cumbersome and confusing. In the light of these findings, the Area Committees were asked to consider the following three options:-

(a) whether to identify a further site in their area to extend the measures within the existing Pilot Scheme;

(b) whether to now apply these measures more generally throughout their area; or

(c) whether to defer spending at present and pursue the appointment of an officer to deal with issues in relation to dog fouling.

Unanimous agreement was reached in relation to the proposals for the appointment of an officer but only three of the five Area Committees agreed to defer spending.

The remaining two committees identified new sites at Bourtreehill Village Centre in Irvine and Laighdykes within the Three Towns to extend the measures which have proved so successful in the pilot areas. Each Area Committee currently has a remaining allocation of £1,100 for the 1997/98 financial year to pursue dog fouling initiatives.

The Committee agreed:-

(i) to pursue the appointment of an officer to deal with the issue of dog fouling; and

(ii) to make appropriate provision for this post within the draft budget allocation for consideration when priorities are being determined;

(iii) that the Chief Executive report to the Support Services Committee at an appropriate stage to confirm details and approval of this new post; and

(iv) to remit to the North Coast and Arran, Garnock Valley and Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committees to allow the opportunity to review their position on spending from the current budget.

17. European Year Against Racism

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the recommendation of the Equal Opportunities Member/Officer Working Group regarding European Year Against Racism.

The European Year Against Racism was designated by the Member States of the European Union last year, the aim being to combat racism, promote good practice and to communicate the message of tolerance, respect and understanding, highlighting the benefits of a diverse society. On 28 August 1997 the Equal Opportunities Member/Officer Working Group was advised of the various initiatives involving the ethnic minority communities which have been undertaken by the Community and Recreational Services, Education and Social Work Directorates.

The Committee agreed that the Directors of Community and Recreational Services, Education and Social Work report to the next meeting of the Committee on (a) proposed initiatives in connection with European Year Against Racism to combat racism in North Ayrshire; and (b) the effectiveness of existing initiatives for the local ethnic minority communities.

18. Women's Conference

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the proposed arrangements for the Council's Women's Conference 1998.

It is proposed that the theme for the 1998 Women's Conference should relate to women's skills which will include both traditional skills and modern skills in new technology. The proposed format will comprise three speakers and workshops on themes such as "Small Business Development", "Training Opportunities for Women" and "Valuing Women as a Resource". There is budgetary provision in 1997/98 of £5,000 to meet the costs of the Conference and the Working Group has recommended that an appropriate accessible venue for the event be identified in the Garnock Valley.

The Committee agreed that a Conference on Women's Skills be held on 6 March 1998 in the terms indicated in the report.

19. COSLA: Nominations to the Scottish Council Development and Industry Executive Committee

Submitted report by the Chief Executive seeking the nomination of a member to be submitted to COSLA as a candidate to serve on the Scottish Council Development and Industry Executive Committee.

The Committee agreed to submit the nomination of Samuel Gooding.

20. West of Scotland Water Authority: Nomination of Council Representatives

Submitted report by the Chief Executive advising the Committee on the COSLA nominations for the appointment of representatives to Water Authorities in Scotland. Councillor David Munn has been nominated by COSLA to serve on the West of Scotland Water Authority.

Noted.

21. Conferences, Seminars Etc.: Invitations

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on invitations to attend the undernoted Conferences/Seminars etc.:-

(a) COSLA/Scottish Financial Enterprise Conference entitled "Countdown to Economic

and Monetary Union" to be held in the Stakis Glasgow Airport Hotel on 6/7 October 1997;

(b) The Scottish Local Government Information Unit one day Seminar entitled "Policy-Lead Budgeting" to be held in Rosebery House, Edinburgh on 17 September 1997;

(c) The COSLA/Commonwealth Local Government Forum Conference to be held in Edinburgh City Chambers on 21 October 1997;

(d) The Accounts Commission for Scotland Conference entitled "Improving Quality Performance: The Best Value Agenda" to be held in the Edinburgh International Conference Centre on 7 October 1997;

(e) The Scottish Local Government Information Unit Conference entitled "The Future of Urban Policy in Scotland" to be held in the Central Hotel, Glasgow on 10 October 1997;

(f) Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe Conference (Plenary Session) to be held in La Rochelle on 8/9/10 October 1997;

(g) COSLA Seminar on the Nolan Report into Standards of Conduct in Local Government, to be held in Rosebery House, Edinburgh on 8 October 1997; and

(h) Summit Conference on Reducing Crime in Communities organised by Henry McLeish MP, Minister of State, to be held in the Scottish Police College, Tulliallan on 14 October 1997.

The Committee agreed that the Chair and Vice-Chair or their nominees attend (a), (d) and (e) above; and that the Convener attend (c).

22. 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 its Meeting held on 25 August 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 its Meeting held on 26 August 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 its Meeting held on 27 August 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 its Meeting held on 27 August 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 its Meeting held on 28 August 1997.

Arising from the report of the Three Towns Area Committee, the undernoted matters were considered by the Committee:-

(i) Agenda Item 3(a) North Ayrshire Council Surplus Properties

The Area Committee considered that the sale of the two vacant janitors houses at Auchenhavrie Academy should not proceed until their future use is clarified.

As this matter had previously been considered by the appropriate Standing Committee which had declared the properties surplus to requirements and taken a decision to dispose of them, the Committee expressed concern that the Area Committee had expressed its views at this late stage.

The Committee therefore agreed that a Working Party comprising the Chairs of the Standing Committees and the Chairs of the five Area Committees be set up to review the role and workings of Area Committees and in particular their relationship with Standing Committees.

(ii) Item 11 Electricity Power Cards

Concern was expressed over the issue of Post Office Counters losing the distribution contract from Scottish Power to sell Electricity Power Cards.

The Committee agreed that the Chief Executive write to Scottish Power requesting clarification on the reasons for the withdrawal of the facility from Post Offices and on the alternative arrangements proposed.

The Committee otherwise agreed to note the report.

23. Requests for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on requests received for financial assistance:-

(a) Scotland Forward

The Committee agreed to note the application;

(b) Sustrans Disabled Access Project

The Committee agreed to award the Sustrans Disabled Access Project £1,500;

(c) Scottish Campaign for Public Angling

The Committee agreed to award the Scottish Campaign for Public Angling £100;

(d) The Howard League for Penal Reform

The Committee agreed to award the Howard League for Penal Reform £50;

(e) The Scottish Wildlife Trust

The Committee agreed to award the Scottish Wildlife Trust £1,000;

(f) Volunteer Development Scotland

The Committee agreed to award Volunteer Development Scotland £75;

(g) The Canon Collins Educational Trust for Southern Africa

The Committee agreed to refuse the application;

(h) National Gypsy Council

The Committee agreed to refuse the application; and

(i) Moray Flood Relief Fund

The Committee agreed to refuse the application.

24. Urgent Items

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

25. Enterprise Zone Special Status for North Ayrshire

The Chair confirmed that representatives from the Council had recently met with the Minister for Local Government and Housing in pursuance of the case for a Special Status for North Ayrshire. The Minister agreed that representatives of the Council and the Scottish Office now take steps to progress this matter.

Noted.

26. Clydeport: Hunterston Terminal

Reference was made to the Clydeport Liaison Meeting held on 30 May 1997 when assurances were given by the Clydeport representatives that while the scheduling of trains is a matter outwith their control, every endeavour would continue to be made to minimise train movements transporting shipments of coal south from the Clydeport Hunterston Terminal outwith daylight hours and to reduce noise problems. A substantial amount of coal still requires to be transported by rail from the terminal and complaints have recently been received from residents living in close proximity to Stevenston Railway Station. These relate to the excessive noise caused by trains carrying coal from the Hunterston Terminal passing through Stevenston outwith the hours of daylight and in some instances in the early hours of the morning.

The Committee agreed (a) to write to Clydeport Operations Limited advising them of the complaints and seeking clarification on the current arrangements for the transportation of coal from the terminal; and (b) that the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment be advised of the noise complaints and requested to investigate the matter and take appropriate action.

27. Committee Timetable: November 1997 - January 1999

Submitted the proposed Committee Timetable from November 1997 to January 1999 incorporating an extended summer recess between 30 June and 18 August 1998. Special Meetings of the Corporate Strategy Committee will be arranged to enable urgent matters to be dealt with.

The Committee agreed to approve the new Committee Timetable.

The meeting ended at 2.35 p.m.