

Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee  
31 January 1996

**Irvine, 31 January 1996** - At a Meeting of the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

**Present**

Samuel Gooding, David Munn, Patrick Browne, Jack Carson, Ian Clarkson, James Clements, John Donn, Margaret Highet, Elizabeth McLardy, Thomas Morris and Robert Reilly.

**In Attendance**

The Chief Executive, the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment, the Principal Policy Officer (Policy/Administration), the Principal Officer (Business Development), the Principal Officer (Central and Strategic Services), the Head of Accountancy Services, the Head of Planning and the Environment, the Head of Roads and an Administration Officer of CDC (Mr. Bannatyne).

**Chair**

Mr. Gooding in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

John Sillars and George Steven.

**1. Revenue Budget 1996/97**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had previously been circulated. The Corporate Strategy Committee on 22 January 1996 agreed to refer a report by the Director of Financial Services on Revenue Budget proposals for 1996/97 to the Committee showing that the Draft Budget is above the capping limit advised by the Scottish Office and that savings will be required to prevent capping.

The Committee agreed that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee along with the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment establish how the savings target can be achieved and report back to a Special Meeting of the Service Committee to be held on either 21 or 22 February 1996.

**2. Economic Development Strategy for North Ayrshire**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment on the proposed Economic Development Strategy for North Ayrshire. Copies of the report together with the formal strategy document including a summary had previously been circulated. The Principal Officers of Business Development and Central and Strategic Services gave a brief presentation on the proposed strategy.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) to adopt the proposed Economic Development Strategy for North Ayrshire; (b) to note that the Strategy contains proposals for growth in service provision to meet identified economic development

needs and that the implementation of these additional services will be dependent upon the availability of financial resources; (c) to refer the Economic Development Strategy document to the Corporate Strategy Committee with the recommendation that priority be given to the allocation of financial resources to permit full implementation of the Strategy; and (d) that a seminar on the Economic Development Strategy be organised and that all members of North Ayrshire Council be invited to attend.

### **3. Three Towns Initiative Company Ltd.**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment on the background and progress to date of the Three Towns Initiative. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) that North Ayrshire Council continue to support the Three Towns Initiative in the terms indicated in the report; (b) in principle, that the Council consider committing appropriate funding for the Initiative in the 1997/98 and 1998/99 budgets; and (c) that the Chair and Vice-Chair be nominated to serve on the Three Towns Initiative Management Board.

### **4. Stevenston: The Nobel Project**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment on the current position regarding the Nobel Project, Stevenston requesting that the Committee consider North Ayrshire Council's commitment to the elements of the Project. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The Committee agreed in principle, subject to clarification of the necessary legal and financial considerations, (a) that the Council accept as joint owners with Enterprise Ayrshire, land and buildings to be gifted by ICI at Ardeer, Stevenston for the purposes of regeneration; and (b) to continue meantime consideration of the Council's support for a further bid to the Millennium Commission for the Nobel Exhibition/Visitors' Centre, pending a further report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment clarifying the new location for the project.

### **5. Joint Working Issues**

#### **(a) Ayrshire Joint Structure Planning Committee**

Submitted reports by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment outlining the progress which has been made in establishing the Ayrshire Joint Structure Planning Committee. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (i) to approve the proposals for the establishment of the Ayrshire Joint Structure Planning Committee in the terms indicated in the report; (ii) to approve the proposal to second 3 staff from North Ayrshire Council to the Structure Plan Core Team; (iii) to approve the proposal that the cost of the core team be met by the 3 Ayrshire Councils on the basis of 3 equal

shares; (iv) to appoint the Chair, Vice-Chair, Mr. Clarkson and Mr. Reilly as the Council's 4 representatives to the Ayrshire Joint Structure Planning Committee; and (v) otherwise to note the progress to date.

**(b) Archaeological Service for Planning**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment on the arrangements proposed for providing planning related archaeological advice for Ayrshire and the Clyde Valley. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (i) to support the proposal to establish a joint planning related archaeological service involving 11 authorities within the Ayrshire and Clyde Valley Structure Plan areas in the terms indicated in the report, at an estimated annual cost of £11,500 per authority; and (ii) that the resultant core team be advised of the Committee's concern over the effects of lengthy archaeological surveys on the determination of planning applications in some areas and requested to consider the possible introduction of specific time limits for the carrying out of such surveys.

**(c) Traffic Signal Maintenance**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment on the proposed future arrangements for the maintenance of traffic signal equipment in North Ayrshire (31 installations). Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The Committee agreed (i) to continue the existing contractual arrangement for 1996/97; and (ii) to contribute the sum of approximately £14,400 to the City of Glasgow Council for this service.

**(d) Roads and Lighting Faults (RALF)**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment on the proposed future arrangements for the reporting of roads and lighting faults within North Ayrshire. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The Committee agreed (i) to participate in the proposed arrangements for 1996/97; and (ii) to contribute the sum of approximately £6,670 to the City of Glasgow Council who will manage the general contract for this service.

**(e) Trunk Road Bid**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment outlining the position regarding the bid for the role of Management Agent for the all-purpose trunk roads in the Southwest of Scotland. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The bid was lodged on 15 January 1996 and while it is expected that a decision will be announced early in February, early indications seem to suggest that the bid will be successful.

Noted.

## **6. Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment on the progress made in establishing the Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board including details of the Council's financial contribution towards the operating costs for 1996/97. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The Committee agreed (a) subject to the Tourist Board agreeing a balance budget, to include provision for a contribution of £200,000 towards the operating costs of the Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board in the Revenue Budget for Planning, Roads and the Environment in 1996/97; and (b) otherwise to note the progress made to date in establishing the Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board.

## **7. Local Authority Radiation and Radioactivity Monitoring Advice and Collation Centre (LARRMACC): West of Scotland Environmental Radiation Monitoring Scheme (WSERMS): Membership**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment on a request from the Regional Chemist and Public Analyst that North Ayrshire Council take out membership of LARRMACC and WSERMS. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The Regional Chemist and Public Analyst has suggested that his laboratory could act as lead organisation and the City of Glasgow Council have also intimated that they too would be prepared to act as lead authority. The matter will ultimately require to be determined by LARRMACC, City of Glasgow Council and the other participating authorities.

The Committee agreed (a) to continue corporate LARRMACC membership through the appropriate lead authority; and (b) to participate in the modified WSERMS as proposed by the Regional Chemist and Public Analyst.

## **8. Foodlink: National Food Safety Week: 10-16 June 1996**

In January 1996 Cunninghame District Council agreed that the District Council join the Foodlink National Food Safety Campaign to be held from 10-16 June 1996 at a cost of £280. It was also agreed that North Ayrshire Council Directors of Education, Commercial Services and Community and Recreational Services as well as Catering Direct and the Managers of supermarkets within Cunninghame be requested to provide appropriate assistance. It was further suggested that the matter be referred to North Ayrshire Council for further consideration.

The Committee agreed (a) to participate in the Foodlink National Food Safety Week Campaign for 1996; and (b) to promote and raise the profile of the Campaign including the issue of a press release prior to the week of the Campaign.

## **9. Conferences/Seminars Etc.**

Submitted invitations to the following Conferences/Seminars etc.:-

- a) One day conference entitled "Transport Prospects for Scotland" to be held in the Council Chambers, Lothian Regional Council, Edinburgh on Friday 23 February 1996;
- b) the International Building Control Conference and Exhibition to be held in the Brighton Metropol Hotel from 28-31 May 1996;
- c) the Association of Port Health Authorities Annual Meeting and Conference to be held in Glasgow from 18-20 June 1996; and
- d) The Metropolitan Regions Conference to be held in the Glasgow Hilton Hotel from 10-14 April 1996.

The Committee agreed (i) that Mr. Munn, Mr. Sillars and one Officer attend (a); (ii) that the Chair, Vice-Chair and Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment or their nominees attend (b); (iii) that there be no attendance at (c); and (iv) that two members and one Officer per day be authorised to attend (d).

The Meeting ended at 3.15 p.m.