

Kilwinning Area Committee  
26 May 2011

**KILWINNING, 26 May 2011** - At a Meeting of the Kilwinning Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

**Present**

John Ferguson, Andrew Chamberlain and Ryan Oldfather.

**In Attendance**

J. McHarg, Assistant Manager, Community and Culture, Community Development Team and B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Education and Skills) and M. Anderson, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

**Also In Attendance**

Inspector J. Conway (Strathclyde Police).

**Chair**

Councillor Ferguson in the chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Margaret McDougall.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

**1.1 Advice to Elected Members**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the requirements of Standing Orders and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors in relation to declarations of interest.

In a recent report by the Standards Commissioner for Scotland, the Commissioner recommended that:-

- all Elected Members be made aware of the provisions of Section 5 of the Code of Conduct, including specifically paragraph 5.15, in relation to declarations of interest;
- that Elected Members receive training on how properly to make declarations of interest, including the need to state the nature of the interest; and
- Committee Chairs and officers with responsibility for the conduct of Council or committee meetings should ensure adherence to the proper mode and content of declarations of interest.

Standing Order 16 provides that if any Member of the Council has a financial or non-financial interest in any contract or any other matter as defined by Section 5 of the Councillors' Code Conduct, and is present at any meeting at which that matter is to be considered, he or she must, as soon as practicable after the meeting starts, disclose that he or she has an interest and, importantly, state the nature of this interest. Section 5 of the Code, which was appended to the report, sets out the rules in relation to declarations of interest.

To facilitate such declarations, a heading "Declarations of Interest", routinely appears as the first item on agendas for all meetings of the Council and its Committees. The report provided information on the future arrangements for the Committee Chairs when dealing with the Declarations of Interest item on the agenda, the Commissioner's suggested wording for Members declaring an interest in an agenda item and induction training for Elected Members following next year's local government elections.

Noted.

## **1.2 Declarations of Interest**

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

## **2. Minutes**

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Kilwinning Area Committee held on 14 April 2011 were signed in accordance with paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

## **3. Strathclyde Police**

Inspector Conway provided information on local crime statistics, advising that, during the month of April 2011, there had been a total of 492 calls from the Kilwinning ward area, compared with 542 calls in the same period in 2010. These included calls relating to complaints (120), disturbances (17), assaults (10), domestic break-ins (10), non-domestic break-ins (2), car crimes (5), vandalism (30), drug misuse (5) and street drinking (13), the number of incidents recorded in each category being lower in April 2011 than in April 2010. Inspector Conway also reported that there had been 43 detections in April 2011, compared with 54 for the same period last year.

Inspector Conway further advised of the following:-

- the arrest of 2 males in connection with recent serious crimes;
- the arrest of a 14-year-old male in connection with an attack on a 21-year-old male;
- numerous complaints about youths gathering in Eglinton Country Park;
- changes to local Police personnel serving the Kilwinning area;
- a number of forthcoming Orange Walk and Kilwinning Carnival events at which the Police would be on duty; and
- the community policing plans produced as part of the Police's public reassurance strategy, to tackle the public's top 3 priorities of drunk/disorderly behaviour, drug misuse and violence, as well as the other priorities identified; and
- the 2358 stop-and-searches carried out in Kilwinning over the past year as part of the public reassurance strategy.

Members asked questions, and received further information, on the following:-

- the circumstances which might lead the Police to carry out a stop-and-search;
- the continuing issue of the fear of crime despite comparatively low levels of crime;
- recent incidents relating to youths gathering at Eglinton Country Park.

Noted.

#### **4. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue**

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activity within the Committee's area in the period 1 April to 13 May 2011.

Noted

#### **5. Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education & Skills) on applications received in respect of the Community Development Grants Scheme and the Local Youth Action Fund.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

##### **Community Development Grants Scheme**

###### **Organisation**

Kidzone

###### **Award**

£1,720.00

##### **Local Youth Action Fund**

###### **Organisation**

Woodwynd Community Association

Youth Under Construction

###### **Award**

£1,000.00

£1,500.00

## **6. Corporate Grants to Elderly Groups**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the distribution of corporate grants for elderly groups within the Committee's area in 2011/12.

At its meeting on 12 October 2010, the Executive of North Ayrshire Council agreed the disbursement of the Corporate Policy Grants budget for 2011/12, awarding an allocation of £69,533 for disbursement to elderly groups. Of this, the sum of £7,440 has been allocated for disbursement by the Kilwinning Area Committee.

Traditionally, grants are paid to elderly groups to fund social events, such as summer outings and Christmas lunches. From 2009/10, it was agreed awards can also be used to support other activities for the benefit of the elderly population in the area, including running costs of centres. The budgets allocated to each Area Committee are distributed (in two instalments) to a number of identified groups in each area. Appendix 1 to the report set out the allocations by Area Committee, and provided a breakdown of how funding might be allocated to groups in the Kilwinning area based on previous practice.

The Committee agreed to make the following allocations from the 2011/12 budget:-

### **Elderly Grants**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Award</b>
Kilwinning Burgh Old People's Welfare Committee	£5,100.00
Kilwinning Landward Old People's Welfare Committee	£2,340.00

## **7. Future Agenda Items**

The Committee agreed to note that any additional items for consideration at the next meeting should be submitted to M. Anderson or C. Graham.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Area Committee is scheduled for Thursday 4 August 2011.

## **9. Urgent Items**

The meeting ended at 2.45 p.m.