

Three Towns Area Committee
8 January 1998

Stevenston, 8 January 1998 - At a Meeting of the Three Towns Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

David Gallagher, Samuel Gooding, Peter McNamara, Margaret Munn, Alan Munro and Samuel Taylor.

In Attendance

J. Leckie, Head of Education Services (Education); W. Nichol, Senior Accountant (Financial Services); S. McLaughlin, Area Community Development Officer; (Community and Recreational Services); J. Ferguson, Assistant Principal Estates Officer (Legal Services); J. Ledgerwood, Three Towns Initiative; S. Bale, Administration Officer and N. Miller, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Also In Attendance

Superintendent J. Young and Sergeant M. Fish (Strathclyde Police) and Community Fire Safety Officer T Kane (Strathclyde Fire Brigade).

Chair

David Gallagher in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

David Munn.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 20 November 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Monitoring Reports

Submitted the undernoted Monitoring Reports on local service provision:-

(a) Analysis of Examination Results

Submitted report by the Director of Education on published examination results relating to secondary schools within the Area Committee's boundaries.

A short presentation was given on (i) the relative ratings for Standard Grade subjects which are used for internal comparisons on individual subjects by schools, to determine how the subjects are performing against each other; and (ii) the Value Added Approach to results which seeks to ascertain the value added by a particular school in respect of achievement levels in individual subjects and what steps can be taken to improve performance in low performance subjects.

The SOEID initiative in Raising Standards aims to move to a three year average of school performance in an attempt to smooth out annual variations and enable trends to be identified and targets to be set. In the interests of fairness, comparisons can only be made between similar schools and a schools characteristic index is to be introduced to enable similar establishments to be identified for comparison purposes. In addition to keeping parents informed the detailed analysis of examination results is also a useful management tool for Head Teachers. The

Council's Education Committee has agreed that Secondary Schools should submit a report to the Director of Education outlining the actions proposed to raise attainment. The target of increasing the number of awards achieved with schools will be a priority for school plans for session 1998/99.

Noted.

(b) Three Towns Initiative

Submitted report by the Initiative Manager on the progress of the Three Towns Initiative, including the development of key projects and future project development.

The Three Towns Initiative representative advised the Committee that 21 applications have been made for funding of projects to the North Ayrshire Regeneration Partnership

Details of how many of the 21 applications are existing projects will be submitted to the next Meeting.

Noted.

(c) North Ayrshire Council Industrial Estate Factories

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager on the letting/availability of factories on Council Industrial Estates.

The Hill Street Industrial Estate, Ardrossan comprises 15 industrial units and the current occupancy rate is 94%.

The Moorpark Place Industrial Estate, Stevenston comprises 15 industrial units with the current occupancy rate being 80%.

The Portland Place Industrial Estate, Stevenston comprises 14 industrial units with the current occupancy rate being 72%.

During the course of discussion reference was made to the poor condition of the Sharphill Industrial Estate, Saltcoats which is owned by Scottish Enterprise.

The Committee agreed (a) to remit to the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee to urge Scottish Enterprise to make improvements to these units; and (b) otherwise to note the report.

(d) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 26 November 1997

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Community Development Grants paid to 26 November 1997 in respect of the Three Towns area, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

3. Community Development Grant Scheme: Requests for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on requests for financial assistance:-

(a) Hayocks Schools Out Club

The Committee agreed to award Hayocks Schools Out Club £1,500;

(b) Three Towns Carers Forum

The Committee agreed to award Three Towns Carers Forum £560;

(c) Irvine Gingerbread

The Committee agreed to award Irvine Gingerbread £250; and

(d) Hayocks Lone Parents

The Committee agreed to award Hayocks Lone Parents £500.

4. Strathclyde Fire Brigade: Fire Statistics for the Period 10 October to 21 November 1997

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on fire statistics for the period 10 October to 21 November 1997.

The number of malicious calls was an area of particular concern, which the Fire Brigade are trying to combat with the assistance of the Police and schools. The importance of maintaining smoke alarms was also highlighted.

After a full discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to examine methods of further publicising (i) these issues; and (ii) that low cost house contents insurance is available to tenants, including the possibility of an article in the next edition of "Look North"; and (b) otherwise to note the report.

5. Ardrossan: Christmas Decorations

A letter has been received from a resident of the Three Towns regarding the lack of Christmas decorations in Ardrossan, particularly at the Civic Centre.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the Chief Executive seek clarification of the position from the Director of Community and Recreational Services and report back to the next meeting.

The Meeting ended at 11.25 a.m.