

North Ayrshire Council
25 October 1995

Irvine, 25 October 1995 - Minutes of the Meeting of the North Ayrshire Council held in Cunninghame District Council Chambers, Cunninghame House, Irvine on Wednesday, 25th October 1995 at 6 p.m.

Present

George Steven, Patrick Browne, Jack Carson, Ian Clarkson, James Clements, Thomas Dickie, David Gallagher, Samuel Gooding, Jane Gorman, Elliot Gray, James Jennings, Elizabeth McLardy, Peter McNamara, Thomas Morris, David Munn, Margaret Munn, Alan Munro, Robert Rae, Robert Reilly, Gena Seales and Samuel Taylor.

In Attendance

The Chief Executive, the Directors of Education, Social Work, Community and Recreational Services, Financial Services and Housing Services, the Head of Accountancy Services, the Head of Planning, the Legal Services Manager, the Personnel Services Manager, the Information Technology Services Manager, the Architectural Services Manager and a Senior Administration Officer of CDC (Mrs. King).

Chair

Mr. Steven in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Stewart Dewar, Irene Oldfather, Joseph McKinney and David O'Neill.

1. MINUTES CONFIRMED

The Minutes of the Meeting of the North Ayrshire Council held on 6th September 1995, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

2. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The annexed reports of Committees, being the Minutes of their Meetings as undernoted, were submitted, moved and seconded in terms of Standing Order No. 8 and approved and/or amended as aftermentioned:-

Committee	Pages
Recruitment Committee: 8th September 1995	1 - 2
Recruitment Committee: 13th September 1995	3
Recruitment Committee: 18th September 1995	4
Recruitment Committee: 20th September 1995	5
Joint Working Issues Committee: 21st September 1995	6 - 9
Recruitment Committee: 22nd September 1995	10
Recruitment Committee: 25th September 1995	11 - 12
Member Structures Committee: 25th September 1995	13 - 14
Joint Working Issues Committee: 26th September 1995	15 - 17
Staffing Structure Committee: 26th September 1995	18 - 19
Reorganisation Committee: 26th September 1995	20 - 24
Recruitment Committee: 28th September 1995	25
Recruitment Committee: 2nd October 1995	26
Member Structures Committee: 9th October 1995	27 - 29
Recruitment Committee: 17th October 1995	30 - 31
Staffing Structure Committee: 18th October 1995	32 - 34
Reorganisation Committee: 18th October 1995	35
Recruitment Committee: 19th October 1995	36
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3. AREA COMMITTEES

With reference to the Meeting of the Member Structures Committee on 9th October 1995, submitted report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had previously been circulated, with proposals for the establishment of the following 5 Area Committees rather than 4 as originally proposed:-

(a) Garnock Valley Area Committee (5 members)

Wards 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20.

(b) Three Towns Area Committee (7 members)

Wards 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25.

(c) North Coast and Arran Committee (5 members)

Wards 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30.

(d) Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee (6 members)

Wards 6, 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13.

(e) Irvine Area Committee (7 members)

Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9.

The Council agreed (a) to approve the terms of the report; and (b) that the Head of Corporate Business discuss with the Chairs, the Leader and the Convener the terms of remit to the Area Committees at an early date.

4. APPOINTMENTS

(a) Committee Appointments

With reference to the report of the Member Structures Committee of 9th October 1995, the Council agreed the following appointments as Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members to the following Committees:-

(i) Corporate Strategy Committee (18 Members)

	Chair	J. Clements	
	Vice-Chair	P. Browne	
	Members	J. Carson	J. McKinney
		I. Clarkson	T. Morris
		S. Dewar	D. O'Neill
		T. Dickie	R. Reilly
		D. Gallagher	J. Sillars
		S. Gooding	S. Taylor
		J. Jennings	
	Minority Member	To be confirmed at next Meeting	

	Ex Officio Members	G. Steven	
		J. Donn	
			(ii) Service Committees

(A) Education (17 appointed from Council Members)

	Chair	T. Morris	
	Vice-Chair	I. Oldfather	
	Vice-Chair	M. Highet	

	Members	T. Barr	D. Munn
		S. Dewar	A. Munro
		T. Dickie	D. O'Neill
		S. Gooding	R. Rae
		P. McNamara	J. Sillars
	Ex Officio Members	J. Clements	
		G. Steven	
		P. Browne	
		J. Donn	

The Council noted the appointment of Rev. John Taylor by the Church of Scotland and Father Matthew McManus by the Roman Catholic Church in terms of Section 31

of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1995 and agreed to defer consideration of further Church representation and other possible lay representation for a report by the Director of Education.

(B) Social Work (17 Members)

	Chair	J. Jennings	
	Vice-Chair	M. Munn	
	Vice-Chair	E. Gray	
	Members	J. Carson	E. McLardy
		I. Clarkson	I. Murdoch
		D. Gallagher	R. Reilly
		J. Gorman	G. Seales
		J. McKinney	S. Taylor
	Ex Officio Members	J. Clements	
		G. Steven	
		P. Browne	
		J. Donn	
			(C) Housing Ser (14 Members)

	Chair	S. Taylor	
	Vice-Chair	G. Seales	
	Members	T. Barr	J. Gorman
		T. Dickie	M. Munn

		D. Gallagher	I. Oldfather
		S. Gooding	R. Rae

	Ex Officio Members	J. Clements	
		G. Steven	
		P. Browne	
		J. Donn	(D) Community Recreational Services (12 M

	Chair	S. Dewar	
	Vice-Chair	J. Gorman	
	Members	J. Jennings	M. Munn
		E. McLardy	R. Reilly
		P. McNamara	J. Sillars
	Ex Officio Members	J. Clements	
		G. Steven	

		P. Browne	
		J. Donn	
			(E) Infrastructure Environment Services (13 M

	Chair	S. Gooding	
	Vice-Chair	D. Munn	
	Members	J. Carson	T. Morris
		I. Clarkson	R. Reilly
		M. Highet	J. Sillars
		E. McLardy	
	Ex Officio Members	J. Clements	
		G. Steven	
		P. Browne	
		J. Donn	
			(F) Protective Serv Members)

	Chair	J. Carson	
	Vice-Chair	T. Barr	
	Members	I. Clarkson	J. McKinney
		D. Gallagher	T. Morris

		E. Gray	I. Murdoch
	Ex Officio Members	J. Clements	
		G. Steven	
		P. Browne	
		J. Donn	(iii) Resource Committees

(A) Support Services Committee (12 Members)

	Chair	D. O'Neill	
	Vice-Chair	A. Munro	
	Members	S. Dewar	J. Jennings
		E. Gray	D. Munn
		M. Highet	I. Murdoch
	Ex Officio Members	J. Clements	
		G. Steven	
		P. Browne	
		J. Donn	
			(B) Commercial Se Committee (13 Members)

	Chair	T. Dickie	
	Vice-Chair	P. McNamara	

	Members	J. McKinney	R. Rae
		A. Munro	G. Seales
		I. Oldfather	S. Taylor
		D. O'Neill	
	Ex Officio Members	J. Clements	
		G. Steven	
		P. Browne	
		J. Donn	
			(iv) Area Committees

(A) Irvine Area Committee

Chair J. McKinney

(B) Kilwinning, Dreghorn & Springside Area Committee

Chair I. Clarkson

(C) Garnock Valley Area Committee

Chair R. Reilly

(D) Three Towns Area Committee

Chair D. Gallagher

(E) North Coast & Arran Area Committee

Chair J. Sillars

(b) Other Appointments

(i) Strathclyde Police Joint Board

Submitted letter dated 13th October 1995 from the Interim Clerk of the Strathclyde Police Joint Board inviting North Ayrshire Council to nominate 2 members and 2 substitute members to the Board.

The Council agreed to appoint J. Jennings and D. Gallagher as members with J. Donn and S. Taylor as respective substitute members.

(ii) Strathclyde Fire Board

Submitted letter dated 13th October 1995 from the Interim Clerk of the Strathclyde Fire Board inviting North Ayrshire Council to nominate 2 members and 2 substitute members to the Board.

The Council agreed to appoint E. Gray and J. Gorman as members with T. Morris and J. Carson as respective substitute members.

(iii) Association of Direct Labour Organisations: Scottish Region

Submitted letter dated 27th September 1995 from the Association of Direct Labour Organisations (Scottish Region: Building Division) inviting nominations for the posts of Chair and Secretary.

The Council agreed to nominate T. Dickie.

5. STAFFING STRUCTURES AND RECRUITMENT COMMITTEES

The Chief Executive reported that recruitment for all second tier posts should be completed by the end of November and that staffing structures for all departments would be prepared as quickly as possible. The Recruitment and Staffing Structures Committees would therefore require to continue to meet for that purpose.

Agreed.

6. POLICE AREA AMALGAMATION SCHEME AND FIRE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION SCHEME

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the revised drafts of the Strathclyde Combined Police Area Amalgamation Scheme Order 1995 and the Combined Fire Services Area Administration Scheme Order 1995 where amendments have been made

on the basis of comments/representations submitted by North Ayrshire Council and other authorities.

The Council agreed to accept the terms of the revised Orders.

7. European Funding for Business Development Projects 1996

Submitted report by the Chief Executive seeking approval in principle for the submission of EU Funding Bids for Business Development Projects in 1996. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The Council agreed to approve the terms of the report.

8. Hunterston “A” and “B” Power Stations: Site Licence Applications

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment on applications for Site Licences for Hunterston “A” and “B” Nuclear Power Stations submitted by Nuclear Electric plc and Scottish Nuclear Ltd. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The Council approved the terms of the report.

9. Conferences/Seminars

Submitted invitations to attend the following conferences/seminars:-

(a) Volunteer Development Scotland’s Annual Conference to be held in Glasgow on 7th November;

(b) Disability Scotland’s Conference on “The Disability Discrimination Act” to be held in Edinburgh on 15th December 1995; and

(c) UNISON/Scottish Labour Party Conference on “The Future of Scottish Local Government” to be held in Edinburgh on 27th October 1995.

The Council agreed (i) to authorise attendance by any interested member at (a) and (b); and (ii) to authorise attendance by Councillor Gray at (c).

10. MEMBERS’ SRAs

The Chief Executive reported on the SRAs which are to apply to members of North Ayrshire Council. These allowances have been determined on the basis of recommendations by COSLA.

The Council agreed (a) to adopt COSLA’s recommended scales whereby Chairmen of Service and Resources Committees be paid level 2 with Vice-Chairmen at level 3

as also Chairmen of Area Committees; and (b) that allowances for ex officio members be retained as previously agreed.

11. IRVINE: TRINITY CHURCH

Submitted report by the Chief Executive with proposals for the development of a Museum and/or Museum and Library at the Trinity Church, Irvine. The proposals have been approved by CDC and IDC have offered a financial contribution of £300,000.

The Council agreed to approve these proposals in principle.

12. URGENT ITEMS

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

13. JOINT COSLA/TRADE UNIONS FORUM: TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Submitted report by the Personnel Services Manager on the six point plan agreed by the Joint COSLA/Trade Unions Forum on transitional arrangements to effect agreement on the transfer of employees to new Councils. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The plan which represents best practice has also been endorsed by the Local Government Staff Commission.

The Council agreed to adopt these transitional arrangements.

14. SAFETY POLICY

Submitted report by the Personnel Services Manager on a Health and Safety Policy Statement for the well-being of existing employees of the Council and those who will be employed at 1st April 1996.

The policy presented takes account of SRC and CDC's existing statements, advice on the adoption of best practice and comments by Directors and Managers.

The Council agreed (a) to adopt the Health and Safety Policy presented by the report; and (b) to approve the appointment of CDC's Safety Adviser on a secondment basis for the period to 31st March 1996 and without prejudice to the comparable professional staff transferring to the new Council on 1st April 1996.

15. NOTIONAL BUDGET FOR 1995/96

Submitted report by the Director of Financial Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, on discussions involving all unitary authorities on the financial difficulties facing local government and the need to address the mismatch of resources between the Councils i.e. the difference between the National Budgets and the Illustrative GAES. COSLA is keen to secure a consensus solution for submission to the Secretary of State and to date 6 options have been considered.

The report highlighted the advantages/disadvantages of each of the alternatives with option 6 providing the most favourable outcome for North Ayrshire Council given that it seeks to redistribute pro rata the resources on Regional Services at Regional level.

The Council agreed to support option 6 as the most favourable and equitable solution.

16. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

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 items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Act.

17. STAFFING: GROUND MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a referral from CDC asking the Council's views on a proposal to reduce the working week for the grounds maintenance and cemeteries employees. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

On the basis of the report the Council agreed to note the position and offer no objections to the proposal.

18. BANKING SERVICES

Submitted report by the Director of Financial Services seeking authority to proceed with negotiations on the appointment of a Lead Banker and making recommendations on the provision of further banking services. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

In the light of the report the members agreed that the Director of Financial Services (a) negotiate with the Royal Bank of Scotland the terms of an appointment as Lead Bankers for North Ayrshire Council (the appointment would extend to 31st March 1997 which is the term of existing arrangements); (b) make arrangements for the selection of a main Banker for 1st April 1997 by competitive tender; (c) make suitable arrangements for the provision of local banking services to establishments unable to use a branch of the Council's main bank; (d) open bank and giro bank accounts as required for the transfer of sums due to the Council; and (e) report to the Council on

the arrangements made.

19. APPOINTMENT OF SHERIFF OFFICERS

Submitted report by the Director of Financial Services requesting authority to make arrangements for the employment of Sheriff Officers up to and beyond 31st March 1996. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

In the light of the report the Committee agreed to authorise the Director of Financial Services (a) to extend the services of J. Dunlop Hannah for a period of up to one year from 1st April 1996 on terms to be agreed; (b) to select Sheriff Officers for North Ayrshire Council following competitive tender; and (c) to report to the Council in due course on future recovery arrangements.

The Meeting ended at 6.35 p.m.