

Corporate Services Committee
3 May 2006

IRVINE, 3 May 2006 - At a Meeting of the Corporate Services Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

David Munn, Tom Barr, John Moffat, Jack Carson, Drew Duncan, Elizabeth McLardy, Margaret McDougall, Elisabeth Marshall, Alan Munro, David O'Neill, Robert Rae, Donald Reid, John Reid and Ian Richardson.

In Attendance

I. Snodgrass, Chief Executive; I.T. Mackay, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective); J. Barrett, Assistant Chief Executive (Information Technology); B. MacDonald, Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion); J.M. Macfarlane, Assistant Chief Executive (Personnel); C. McCourt, Finance Manager (Finance); G. Lawson, Head of Corporate and Democratic Support, A. Wattie, Communications Officer and M. Anderson, Corporate and Democratic Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Councillor Munn in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Gordon Clarkson, Jane Gorman and Peter McNamara.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14 March 2006, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Declaration of Interest

Councillor Rae declared an interest in item 3 and took no part in the discussion thereon.

3. Deputation: Ardrossan: 26A Dalry Road: Request for Landlord's Consent for the Erection of Mobile Phone Antennae

In terms of Standing Order No. 17, the Chair agreed that the Committee receive a deputation from James McFarlane School Board on a request by Home Hardware for landlord's consent to allow the erection of mobile phone antennae at 26A Dalry Road, Ardrossan.

James McFarlane School Board was represented by Angela Clements, Susan Brown and Elizabeth Majeri. Ms. Clements outlined the case for the Council withholding landlord's consent, citing in particular the close proximity of the proposed mobile phone antennae to the school grounds and suggesting that the Council take into account the possibility of the proposal having an adverse effect on special needs pupils with multiple and complex health issues.

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective) inviting the Committee to consider whether the Council as landlords should grant consent for the proposed erection of mobile phone antennae on the roof of the Home Hardware premises at 26A Dalry Road, Ardrossan.

The land on which the warehouse building is erected is owned by North Ayrshire Council and is leased to Home Hardware under a 125 year lease. Home Hardware have applied to the Council as landlord for permission to sub-let an area of the roof of the premises to Vodafone for the erection of radio telecommunication apparatus, a use which does not accord with the terms of the lease. Vodafone have separately obtained planning permission for the proposed development.

The Committee was asked to consider a number of arguments in favour and against the granting of landlords consent for the proposed development, as set out in detail in Section 3 of the report.

Having asked questions of both the deputation and the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective), the Committee agreed to refuse consent for Home Hardware to sub-let an area of roof at 26A Dalry Road, Ardrossan to Vodafone for the erection of mobile phone antennae (a) in the light of any possible adverse impact on the health of the special needs pupils of James McFarlane School and (b) given that the proposed mast did not relate to Home Hardware's normal business.

4. Efficient Government Fund: Ayrshire Partnership

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Information Technology) on the submission of a bid for funding from the Scottish Executive's Efficient Government Fund.

The Scottish Executive's Efficient Government Fund (EGF) makes available a total of £60m in funding "to stimulate a sustainably more efficient public sector and to demonstrate the re-allocation of resources for better frontline use". Earlier in the year, the 3 Ayrshire Councils and Ayrshire and Arran NHS submitted a stage 1 bid for EGF funding. Stage 2 of the process required the submission of a business case by the end of March 2006.

PriceWaterhouseCoopers worked with the 3 Ayrshire partners to prepare the business case. The objectives of the joint bid are to reduce the operational costs of the partners, implement best practice processes, improve the quality of service delivery and release back office staff for redeployment to frontline duties. The aim is to introduce a Shared Correspondence Distribution Centre to process inbound paper correspondence for Revenue, Benefits and Accounts payable processes and a Shared Disaster Recovery Centre for IT.

Due to national initiatives and contracts for ICT, it was not been possible for NHS Ayrshire and Arran to participate as fully as expected in the original stage 1 bid, but NHS involvement has not been ruled out at a later state.

The funding bid is for 75% of the total project costs of £1.7m. The Council's own contribution to the project would be approximately £150,000, provision for which has been made in the Capital Programme. Total savings for the 3 Councils are projected at £1.5m per annum.

The Assistant Chief Executive (Information Technology) advised of a recent refocussing of the Fund by the Scottish Executive, with 5 key themes identified for funding. The Ayrshire partners' bid will be re-submitted to align with these key themes.

The Committee agreed to (a) note that a stage 2 submission has been made and will be re-submitted, as necessary; and (b) receive a report on the outcome of the submission.

5. Stevenston: Land at Donaldson Avenue

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the sale of land at Donaldson Avenue, Stevenston.

The site, a former garage court held on the Council's Housing Services account, was recently marketed for sale. The highest offer received, for £60,000, was from Focus Urban Limited in connection with a proposal to construct 8 residential units. The site is partly used for vehicular access to the rear of a number of houses at Donaldson Avenue and Reid's Avenue and any development will, therefore, require to maintain existing access provisions.

The Committee agreed to approve the sale of land at Donaldson Avenue, Stevenston, to Focus Urban Limited at a price of £60,000 and on other terms to be agreed, including the payment of fees.

6. Irvine: 8 Bridgegate: Shop Premises

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the granting of a 3-year lease of the shop premises at 8 Bridgegate, Irvine.

The previous tenancy of the premises has been terminated and an application for lease received for use of the premises as an O2 franchise operation. A rent of £22,000 per annum is proposed.

The Committee agreed to grant a lease to Mr G & Mrs Y Smith for a period of three years at a rental of £22,000 per annum and on other terms to be agreed.

7. Irvine: High Street: Former Police Station

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the acquisition of the former Irvine Police Station land and buildings.

An opportunity exists to acquire the former Irvine Police Office at High Street, Irvine. Its location and proximity to Irvine Townhouse offer a significant re-development opportunity to the Council in terms of the regeneration agenda. Provisional agreement has been reached in the amount of £150,000, including a clawback agreement in favour of Strathclyde Police Joint Board should the Council dispose of the site in the future. The Police garage on site will remain operational for the time being on a nominal rent basis.

The Committee agreed to approve the acquisition of the former Irvine Police Station at a price of £150,000 and on other terms and conditions to be agreed.

8. Amendment to the Special Leave Scheme

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Personnel) on an amendment to the Special Leave Scheme to include members of the Children's Panel Advisory Committee.

On 27 January 2004, the Committee agreed to introduce 2 half days per calendar month paid time off from work for employees who are members of the Children's Panel to allow them to attend Hearings. This provision was agreed for a 2 year period pending the conclusions of a review of the Children's Hearing system by a Scottish Ministers' group. However, any legislation resulting from the review is not now anticipated until 2008/09 and it is, therefore, proposed to continue the existing provisions for paid time off meantime.

It is also proposed to extend these provisions to employees who are members of the Children's Panel Advisory Committee to allow time off for attendance at Panel Hearings and other duties.

The Committee agreed to (a) continue the existing provision of paid time off totalling two half days per calendar month for employees to attend Children's Panel Hearings as Panel Members, pending the outcome of the Scottish Ministers' review; and (b) extend the Special Leave provisions to cover employees who are members of the Children's Panel Advisory Committee.

9. Corporate Services (Conditions of Service) Sub Committee

Submitted the annexed report (Appendix CS1) being the Minutes of the Meeting of the Corporate Services (Conditions of Service) Sub Committee held on 14 March 2006.

Noted.

10. Corporate Services (Recruitment) Sub Committee

Submitted the annexed reports (Appendices CS2 and CS3) being the Minutes of the Meetings of the Corporate Services (Recruitment) Sub Committee held on (i) 23 March 2006; and (ii) 30 March 2006.

The Committee agreed to approve the Minutes.

The Meeting ended at 2.50 p.m.

Corporate Services Committee
03/05/2006

Appendix No
CS1

Corporate Services (Conditions of Service) Sub Committee
14 March 2006

IRVINE, 14 March 2006 - At a Meeting of the Corporate Services (Conditions of Service) Sub Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 1.30 p.m.

Present

David Munn, Peter McNamara and Alan Munro.

In Attendance

L. Skehal, Head of Service (Community Care) (Social Services); G. Young, Personnel Manager (Personnel); and M. Anderson, Corporate and Democratic Support Officer (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Councillor Munn in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Samuel Taylor and David O'Neill.

1. Exclusion of the Public

The Sub Committee resolved in terms of Section 50(A)4 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting the press and the public for the following item of business on the grounds indicated in terms of Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Act.

2. Requests for Early Retirement: Social Services

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Personnel) on 2 requests for early retirement from employees within Social Services (Community Care).

The report indicated the implications for the Council should the requests be approved.

The Sub Committee agreed to approve the requests for early retirement on the terms and conditions as detailed in the report.

The Meeting ended at 1.35 p.m.

Corporate Services Committee
03/05/2006

Appendix No
CS2

Corporate Services (Recruitment) Sub Committee
23 March 2006

IRVINE, 23 March 2006 - At a Meeting of the Recruitment Sub Committee of Corporate Services Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 11.00 a.m.

Present

David Munn, Margie Currie, Elizabeth McLardy, Alan Munro and David O'Neill.

In Attendance

B. Docherty, Corporate Director (Social Services) and G. Young, Personnel Manager (Personnel).

Chair

Councillor Munn in the Chair.

1. Exclusion of the Public

The Sub Committee 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 item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

2. Post of Head of Service (Finance and Performance) (Social Services)

Submitted joint report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) and Assistant Chief Executive (Personnel) which provided an assessment of the 7 candidates selected for longleat interviews for the post of Head of Service (Finance and Performance) (Social Services) and made recommendations in respect of the candidates to be selected for final interview by the Sub Committee.

The Sub Committee agreed to interview 3 candidates for the post of Head of Service (Finance and Performance) (Social Services) as detailed in the report.

The meeting ended at 12.10 p.m.

Corporate Services Committee
03/05/2006

Appendix No
CS3

Corporate Services (Recruitment) Sub Committee
30 March 2006

IRVINE, 30 March 2006 - At a Meeting of the Recruitment Sub Committee of Corporate Services Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 9.15 a.m.

Present

David Munn, Margie Currie, Elizabeth McLardy, Alan Munro and David O'Neill.

In Attendance

B. Docherty, Corporate Director (Social Services) and G. Young, Personnel Manager (Personnel).

Chair

Councillor Munn in the Chair.

1. Exclusion of the Public

The Sub Committee 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 item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

2. Post of Head of Service (Finance and Performance) (Social Services)

The Sub Committee interviewed 3 candidates for the post of Head of Service (Finance and Performance) (Social Services), those candidates having been shortlisted at the meeting of the Sub Committee held on 23 March 2006.

The Sub Committee agreed to appoint Ms. Lisbeth Raeside to the post of Head of Service (Finance and Performance) (Social Services).

The meeting ended at 1.20 p.m.