

Irvine Area Committee
27 September 2007

IRVINE, 27 September 2007 - At a Meeting of the Irvine Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 4.00 p.m.

Present

Tom Barr, Ian Clarkson, Ruby Kirkwood, Pat McPhee, John Moffat, David O'Neill and Joan Sturgeon.

In Attendance

G. Lawson, Corporate Support Manager (Chief Executive's), J. McKnight, Principal Officer (Community Learning and Development) (Educational Services), M. McKeown and A. Little, Corporate Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

Inspector D. McIntyre, Strathclyde Police and Commander K. Alcroft, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue.

Chair

Councillor McPhee in the Chair.

1. Appointment of Chair

The Council, at its meeting on 5 September 2007, agreed that each Area Committee appoint a Chair at their first meeting. Accordingly, nominations were sought for this position.

Councillor O'Neill, seconded by Councillor Moffat, moved the appointment of Councillor McPhee as Chair of the Irvine Area Committee. There being no amendments, the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed that Councillor McPhee be appointed as Chair.

2. Remit of the Area Committee

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the remit of the Area Committee and arrangements for meetings.

At the meeting of North Ayrshire Council held on 5 September 2007, it was agreed to incorporate in the Council's Scheme of Administration provision for five Area Committees covering:-

- Ardrossan & Arran and Saltcoats & Stevenston (Wards 4 and 5)
- Garnock Valley and West Kilbride (Wards 6 and 7)
- Irvine (Wards 1 and 2)
- Kilwinning (Ward 3)
- North Coast (Ward 8)

The remit of the Area Committees is to:-

- consider in a co-ordinated manner matters of general and specific local concern relating to service delivery, activities and functions of the Council;
- promote Council strategies, agreements and partnerships at a local level;
- consider and comment upon any Traffic Management Schemes or Orders to be promoted by the Council affecting the area and submit any such comments to the Council's Roads and Transportation Service; and
- administer the disbursement of any grant or other financial payment to local organisations or individuals from within the area in terms of the relevant community development grants scheme, common good funds or other public trusts.

Area Committee meetings will take place at 8-weekly intervals within suitable local venues. Decisions taken by Area Committees in relation to grants and other financial awards, together with the naming of streets, will be binding and not require ratification. Members will also have an opportunity to meet informally to discuss Committee business. In order to assess the effectiveness of the Area Committee arrangements a review will be undertaken in September 2008.

Noted.

3. Strathclyde Police

Inspector McIntyre advised that information on policing issues and initiatives on both a national and local level will be reported to future meetings of the Area Committee. He provided information on the following current initiatives:-

- A change in shift patterns will come into force in February 2008.
- A Force Violence Reduction Initiative will take place between 1 - 19 October 2007. This initiative will look at ways to tackle violence and will include visits to schools, intelligence led searches and a publicity campaign.
- On 17 September 2007 a new system of Fixed Penalty Fines was launched to tackle disorder and anti-social behaviour. Fixed fines of £40 can now be issued to people caught committing certain offences, such as minor breaches of the peace, vandalism, drinking alcohol in public places, noise nuisance and urinating in a public places.

- An initiative in conjunction with Trading Standards will take place to ensure shops are adhering to restrictions on selling fireworks.

Arising from discussion the Chair raised the issue of an accident blackspot on a slip-road from the A71 to the A78.

The Committee agreed that (a) the Chair provide further information to Inspector McIntyre on the issue with regard to the slip-road at the A78/A71; and (b) future reports to the Committee include crime statistics as well as information on national and local initiatives.

4. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Commander Alcroft reported that information on local initiatives and national campaigns as well as fire statistics will be reported to each meeting of the Area Committee.

He further reported on the following initiatives:-

- The Firework Initiative will commence, 2 weeks before bonfire night, to encourage members of the community to report bonfires and any build up of materials/rubbish which could be used to create bonfires, to Strathclyde Fire and Rescue for collection.
- The Cut It Out Campaign is visiting schools to demonstrate a 'cut and rescue' from a motor vehicle.
- The ongoing Home Fire Safety Campaign and Domestic Sprinkler Campaign
- A Major Incident Command Unit (MICU) is based at Dreghorn Fire Station. An invitation was extended to the Committee to visit the station for inspect of the Unit and the station facilities.

Noted.

5. Local Youth Action Fund

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the budgetary allocation for Local Youth Action Fund in 2007/08, on awards paid to date, and on an application received in respect of the Fund.

At its meeting on 6 February 2007, the former Corporate Policy Committee of the Council agreed the allocation of the Corporate Policy Grants budget for 2007/08, including the Community Development Grants budget. As in previous years, a budget of £60,000 has also been made available through the Community Planning Partnership's Safer Communities Group to continue the Local Youth Action Fund in 2007/08.

Since the May election all grant applications have been considered by the Executive of North Ayrshire Council. Applications under the Community Development Grants Scheme will continue to be considered by the Executive for the remainder of this financial year. Grant applications in respect of the Local Youth Action Fund, Common Good and Trust Funds will be submitted to Area Committees for consideration.

In terms of the Local Youth Action Fund, the Executive has approved awards in the sum of £25,332, leaving a balance for disbursement in 2007/08 of £36,468. On the basis of populations in the youth age group, this balance has been allocated across the Council's five Area Committees. Irvine Area Committee has been allocated £11,268 for disbursement.

An application has been received from Noonday (Broomlands and Bourtreehill Baptist Church) for assistance with running costs and equipment.

The Committee agreed to award £2,000 to Noonday (Broomlands and Bourtreehill Baptist Church).

7. Irvine Common Good Fund

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the current position in relation to Irvine Common Good Fund.

The Committee was advised that following the finalisation of the Fund's accounts an additional £9,000 had been added to the funds available for disbursement, resulting in a balance of £9,093 remaining for 2007/08.

The Committee discussed a pending application from Irvine Town Centre Partnership in respect of the requirement for funding to be released prior to the next meeting of the Area Committee.

The Committee agreed to remit powers to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair to approve an award to Irvine Town Centre Partnership of £2,000, on receipt of a satisfactory application.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Area Committee will be held on Thursday 29 November 2007 at 4.00 p.m.

A schedule for the meetings of the Area Committees and for the informal meetings of the Irvine Area Committee will be prepared and circulated to all Members.

Noted.

9. Future Agenda Items

The Committee agreed that (a) reports on the following issues be included as future agenda items:-

- Litter in the Irvine town centre and at Greenwood Academy and surrounding area;
- Redevelopment of the Townhouse, Irvine.

and (b) any further items be submitted to A. Little, Corporate Support Officer.

The meeting ended at 5.00 p.m.