

Irvine Area Committee  
3 November 2010

**IRVINE, 3 November 2010** - At a Meeting of the Irvine Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 4.00 p.m.

**Present**

Pat McPhee, Tom Barr, Matthew Brown, Ian Clarkson, Ruby Kirkwood, John Moffat and Joan Sturgeon.

**In Attendance**

C. Sharp, Country Parks Manager, A. Corbett, Future Jobs Fund Co-ordinator, C. Hester, Lifelong Learning Manager and B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Education and Skills); K. Dyson, Communications Officer, A. Little, Committee Services Officer and E. Fisher, Committee Services Support Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

**Also In Attendance**

Sergeant A. Brown, Strathclyde Police and S. Hammond, North Ayrshire Citizen's Advice Service.

**Chair**

Provost McPhee in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

David O'Neill.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

In terms of Standing Order 16, Councillor Clarkson, as Chair of the Marymas Development Committee, declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 (Community Development Grants Scheme) in relation to an application by the Friends of Marymas.

**2. Minutes**

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 22 September 2010 were signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

**3. Strathclyde Police**

Sergeant Brown reported on Police activities in the Committee's area to 3 November 2010. He provided information in relation to:-

- An Attempted Murder;
- Robberies;
- Theft;
- Serious Assaults; and
- Vandalism.

Noted.

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

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on issues of local interest or concern.

Members discussed the number of rubbish fires that had occurred at Morar Place, Irvine and whether appropriate arrangements were in place to have rubbish removed and to prevent debris being relit.

The Committee agreed that the Chief Executive request further information from Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on the rubbish fires at Morar Place, Irvine and the protocol in place with Environment and Related Services involving the uplifting of rubbish when advised by the Fire and Rescue Service, preventing further rubbish fires.

#### **5. Presentation: North Ayrshire Citizens Advice Service (NACAS)**

The Committee received a presentation by the Saltcoats Bureau Manager of North Ayrshire Citizens Advice Service (NACAS) on the services provided throughout North Ayrshire and the take up within each area.

NACAS is a charity formed in 1998 with branches in Arran, Irvine, Kilbirnie, Largs and Saltcoats. Whilst the Service relies on Government, Council and Citizen's Advice Scotland for core funding, it receives contributions from other donors. The Service is a member of Citizens Advice Scotland and has been credited with a Scottish National Standards for Information and Advice Providers award by the Scottish Government.

NACAS aims to provide the advice people need for the problems they face and to improve the policies and practices that affect people's lives. The service is free, independent, confidential and provides impartial advice. In 2009/10 NACAS received 22,210 enquiries and generated £3.9m of financial gain to clients. The Service provides general advice and information on:-

- Benefits;
- Consumer issues;
- Debt;
- Education;
- Employment;
- Financial products and services;
- Health and community care;
- Housing; and Immigration.

Legal advice is also provided on:-

- NHS complaints;
- Relationships;
- Travel, transport and holidays; and
- Utilities and communications.

NACAS also provide information on the Affordable Warmth Programme, taking an active role in the fight against fuel poverty.

Noted.

## **6. Presentation: Future Jobs Fund**

The Committee received a presentation from the Country Parks Manager and the Future Jobs Fund Co-ordinator on the operation of the Future Jobs Fund and on the work of the trainees at Eglinton Park, employed through the Fund.

The Future Jobs Fund was set up in 2009, with around £1 billion available to support the creation of jobs for long term unemployed young people and others who face significant disadvantage in the labour market.

The Fund is run by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) with the aim of creating 150,000 jobs, including 10,000 green jobs and at least 15,000 jobs in social enterprises.

In July 2009, North Ayrshire's Community Planning Partnership successfully bid for £1.7m to create 180 new jobs over an 18-month period. 80% of those jobs were targeted at 18-24 year olds and the remaining 20% of vacancies were opened to those from the most deprived areas within North Ayrshire. To date, 94 Future Job Fund clients have been placed in employment i.e.

- 39 within the Council itself (in the Call Centre, the Money Matters Team and the Cleansing Service Flying Squad);
- 27 are in social enterprise organisations; and
- 28 are in 'green' organisations, including the project currently based in Eglinton Park and CCL North Ltd in Irvine.

The project at Eglinton Park currently employs 9 young people in landscape works. All the young people receive the minimum wage, are guaranteed 30 hours per week and attend a number of Council courses including first aid and tool skills. They are given advice from Job Centre staff and help compiling their CV. A youth worker has been allocated to the project to help with literacy and a financial advisor to help with debt management.

The Future Jobs Fund will finish in March and will be replaced by the Single Work Programme, details of which are still awaited from the Government. The North Ayrshire Future Jobs Fund will, however, commence a new programme in February of next year which will operate as normal for the following six months.

Members sought information on the leaver destinations of young people from the project and whether an evaluation of the project had been undertaken.

The Committee was advised that an evaluation was currently underway and would be reported to the Executive in due course. Statistical information on the leaver destinations was available and would be provided directly to Members.

Noted.

## **7. Community Development Grants Scheme: Applications for Financial Assistance**

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

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

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

Friends of Marymas  
St Mary's Over 50 Club

### **Award**

£1,500  
£800 on condition that the group fundraise for the cost of utility bills and Christmas dinner.

## **8. Irvine Common Good: Application for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application for financial assistance received in respect of Irvine Common Good Fund.

On 21 April 2010, the Committee agreed to continue to set aside funds from the Irvine Common Good Fund to meet annual commitments to various organisations including Irvine Old Folks Joint Wards, subject to satisfactory applications being received. An application has now been received from Irvine Joint Wards Old Folks Committee.

The Committee agreed to award £8,000 to Irvine Joint Wards Old Folks Committee.

## **9. Urgent Items**

The Chair agreed that the following item be considered as a matter of urgency to update Members on the position regarding the Irvine Christmas Lights and Events Group.

### **9.1 Irvine Christmas Lights and Events Group**

Councillor Sturgeon provided an update in respect of the Irvine Christmas Lights and Events Group and the poster competition for local schools.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 5.40 p.m.