

Corporate Strategy Committee  
10 September 1996

**Irvine, 10 September 1996** - At a Meeting of the Corporate Strategy Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

**Present**

James Clements, Patrick Browne, Jack Carson, Ian Clarkson, Stewart Dewar, Thomas Dickie, John Donn, David Gallagher, Samuel Gooding, Jane Gorman, James Jennings, Joseph McKinney, Thomas Morris, David O'Neill, Robert Rae, Robert Reilly, John Sillars, George Steven and Samuel Taylor.

**In Attendance**

The Chief Executive, The Director of Financial Services, The Head of Corporate Business, The Personnel Services Manager, The Principal Officer (Policy/Administration), The Principal Officer (Marketing/Publicity) and Mr Bannatyne, an Administration Officer.

**Chair**

Mr Clements in the Chair.

**1. Minutes**

The minutes of the Meetings of the Committee held on 30 July and 28 August 1996, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. Area Committees**

**(a) North Coast and Arran Area Committee**

Submitted the annexed report (Appendix CS1) of the North Coast and Arran Area Committee, being the Minutes of their Meeting held on 26 August 1996.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

**(b) Garnock Valley Area Committee**

Submitted the annexed report (Appendix CS2) of the Garnock Valley Area Committee, being the Minutes of their Meeting held on 27 August 1996.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

**(c) Kilwinning, Dregghorn and Springside Area Committee**

Submitted the annexed report (Appendix CS3) of the Kilwinning, Dregghorn and Springside Area Committee, being the Minutes of their Meeting held on 28 August 1996.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

**(d) Irvine Area Committee**

Submitted the annexed report (Appendix CS4) of the Irvine Area Committee, being the Minutes of their Meeting held on 28 August 1996.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

#### **(e) Three Towns Area Committee**

Submitted the annexed report (Appendix CS5) of the Three Towns Area Committee, being the Minutes of their Meeting held on 29 August 1996.

The Committee agreed (i) that the Director of Social Work, in consultation with the Director of Commercial Services, examine the feasibility of extending the garden tidy scheme by utilising the Community Service Scheme administered by the Social Work Directorate Criminal Justice Services and report to a future meeting; (ii) that the Director of Community and Recreational Services be requested to arrange for the removal of debris, the repair of broken headstones and if necessary the erection of a boundary wall or fence at Ardrossan Cemetery; and (iii) otherwise to note the report.

### **3. Cycling into the Future**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the National Cycle Network and the provision of cycling facilities in North Ayrshire. The report was remitted by the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee on 14 August 1996 with the request that further consideration be given to the provision of funding through the Capital budget, to enable the completion of the Cycle Network.

The current definitive government guidance on cycling and cycling infrastructure for Scotland requires that the Council's Transport Strategy prepared by the Roads Division must now include provision for cycling. Although no funds have been allocated for this financial year to construct or upgrade sections of the cycle route, funding for cycle provision has been included in the uncommitted expenditure in the Council's Capital Programme.

The Committee agreed that, before considering the request, the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee be requested to consider the priority they attach to this project and to clarify the levels of funding which will require to be allocated in future years.

### **4. Closed Circuit Television**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive remitted by the Irvine Area Committee on 28 August 1996 on the proposed introduction of a pilot scheme for Closed Circuit Television in the Irvine Town Centre area.

Capital funding for CCTV projects may be available through the Scottish Office while Revenue costs will require to be met by local authorities and traders. Following approaches from a number of town traders in Irvine, the Irvine Area Committee considered the possible introduction of a pilot project for CCTV in Irvine Town Centre. Consultations will require to be undertaken with the Scottish Office, Strathclyde Police and the Irvine Town Traders in order to develop this proposal further.

The Committee agreed (a) subject to the availability of Capital and Revenue funding, to approve in principle, a pilot CCTV scheme for Irvine Town Centre; and (b) to remit to the Irvine Area Committee to carry out the necessary consultations etc. to progress this matter, and report.

### **5. North Ayrshire Litter Awareness and Prevention Campaign**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a proposal approved by the Commercial Services Committee to initiate a North Ayrshire Litter Awareness and Prevention Campaign.

Notwithstanding the results of a recent survey undertaken by the Commercial Services

Directorate seeking views on the methods of refuse containment, collection and recycling in North Ayrshire which indicated a general view that the Cleansing Services are currently of an extremely high standard, the Commercial Services Committee expressed concern over the continuing problem of litter in North Ayrshire. Consequently the Commercial Services Committee on 21 August 1996 agreed to initiate a Council-wide campaign on litter awareness and prevention and to request that the Corporate Strategy Committee agree the participation of all other relevant Directorates of the Council. The Commercial Services Committee further agreed that a review of the progress of the campaign be undertaken in six months time.

The Committee agreed (a) in principle to support the proposal to initiate a Litter Awareness and Prevention Campaign throughout North Ayrshire; and (b) that all other relevant Directorates of the Council participate in the Campaign.

#### **6. Irvine Unemployed Advice and Resource Centre (Jobs Action Group)**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the outcome of a meeting with the Irvine Unemployed Advice and Resource Centre (Jobs Action Group) to discuss the financial position facing the group after October 1996. The present Lottery funding which supports the Group's Welfare Rights Service terminates on 31 October 1996. Approximately £8,500 is required to fund the service to the end of the financial year. The Council provides funding of £32,700 for the Adult Education element of the Group's activities but no financial provision was made in the current year for the Welfare Rights Service.

The Committee agreed to authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with the Directors of Social Work and Education to (a) explore options to assist in meeting the organisation's projected financial shortfall; and (b) advise the organisation as to how they might pursue any options identified with a view to allowing its Welfare Rights Service to continue until the end of the financial year.

#### **7. Further Education Provision in North Ayrshire**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment on the outcome of a consultancy study into Further Education provision within North Ayrshire commissioned by the former Cunninghame District Council, Enterprise Ayrshire and Kilmarnock College. The consultants were commissioned to produce an in-depth review of the balance between demand and supply of Further Education in North Ayrshire.

The Committee agreed to advise interested organisations and Further Education establishments of the results of the study with the aim of increasing Further Education provision in North Ayrshire.

#### **8. Scottish Water and Sewerage Customers Council**

The Scottish Water and Sewerage Customers Council was established under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1995 to represent the interests of the customers of the three new water and sewerage authorities in Scotland. The Customers Council has set up three Area Committees and is keen to develop links with local authorities and a number of other organisations throughout Scotland to advise them of the way in which it proposes to conduct its business, the work of its three Area Committees, and how complaints are dealt with etc. They have offered to visit North Ayrshire Council to discuss the work of its West of Scotland Area Committee.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Scottish Water and Sewerage Customers Council have accepted an invitation to make a presentation on their activities to a future meeting of North Ayrshire Council.

Noted.

## **9. Largs North Promenade: Proposed New Lifeboat Station for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the outcome of discussions between a Member/Officer Working Group and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution on their proposals to lease an area of ground at Largs North Promenade to erect a new Lifeboat Station.

The Working Group have now considered revised plans submitted by the RNLI in relation to the proposed new Lifeboat Station, which although not proposing any major reduction in the size of the building, are considered to be acceptable.

The Committee agreed to approve the lease of the ground at Largs North Promenade to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution for the erection of a new Lifeboat Station on terms and conditions to be negotiated by the Principal Estates Officer.

## **10. Apprenticeship and Trainee Programmes**

Submitted report by the Personnel Services Manager on the promotion of Apprenticeship And Trainee Programmes throughout North Ayrshire.

The Personnel Services Manager reported that following discussion between relevant Chief Officials concerning the promotion of Apprenticeship and Trainee Programmes within North Ayrshire, a number of key issues have arisen which, in his view, would benefit from more detailed discussion with Members.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the establishment of a Member/Officer Working Group to examine the issues surrounding the promotion of Apprenticeship and Trainee Programmes throughout North Ayrshire and report; and (b) that the group will comprise the Convener, and the Chairs of the Corporate Strategy Committee, Commercial Services Committee, Community and Recreational Services Committee, Education Committee, Housing Services Committee, Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee, Protective Services Committee, Social Work Committee and Support Services Committee together with appropriate officers.

## **11. Scottish Anti Poverty Network**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Scottish Declaration on Poverty drawn up by the Scottish Anti-Poverty Network.

The Scottish Anti-Poverty Network consists of groups and organisations committed to combating poverty in rural and urban Scotland and the Declaration is being launched as part of Scotland's contribution in 1996 to the UN Year for the Eradication of Poverty. A special Declaration Event for the launch of the Declaration is to be held on the forenoon of 18 October 1996 in the City Chambers, Glasgow and a representative from the Council has been invited to attend.

The Committee agreed (a) to support the Scottish Declaration on Poverty on the terms indicated in the report and (b) that Councillor Ian Clarkson be authorised to attend the Declaration Event on 18 October 1996 to represent the Council.

## **12. Nomination of Council Representatives to Serve on Outside Agencies**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the nomination of members to serve on outside agencies.

The Committee agreed to nominate the following representatives to serve on the undernoted outside agencies:-

| Outside Agencies                 | Representatives              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board | George Steven and David Munn |
| Clyde Local Liaison Committee    | David Munn                   |

### **13. Prestwick International Airport Consultative Committee: Donation Towards the Upkeep**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a request from Prestwick International Airport Consultative Committee for a contribution towards the upkeep of that Committee.

The Committee agreed to authorise a contribution of £400 for 1996/97.

### **14. Isle of Arran Ferry Committee: Membership/Representation**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an invitation to take up membership of, and to be represented on, the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee.

The Committee acts as a consultative body to influence Caledonian MacBrayne on matters relating to the ferry timetable and on the development of the service and consists of twelve members. The Isle of Arran Community Council is also entitled to have a representative on the Ferry Committee but due to the limited financial resources of the Community Council the Membership Fee amounting to £50 has in the past been paid annually by the former Cunninghame District Council.

The Committee agreed (a) to nominate Councillor John Sillars to represent North Ayrshire Council on the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee; (b) to pay the membership fee of £50 for 1996/97; and (c) that in view of the special circumstances in this case, to pay the fee of £50 for 1996/97 in respect of the representative from the Isle of Arran Community Council.

### **15. Membership of the Scottish Environmental Forum (SEF)**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an invitation to take up membership of the Scottish Environmental Forum.

The Scottish Environmental Forum is the national co-ordinating body for sustainable development and is an independent organisation which acts as a link for information and discussion to highlight best practice in implementing Local Agenda 21.

The Committee agreed to take up membership of the Forum at a cost of £200.

### **16. Publicity Strategy: North Ayrshire Council**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a proposal to extend the Publicity Strategy currently applicable to the five Area Committees, to all other Committees of the Council.

The Committee agreed that the approved Publicity Strategy for Area Committees now be applied to all other Committees of the Council, with immediate effect.

## **17. Post of Director of Community and Recreational Services**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the action which requires to be taken following the resignation of the existing Director of Community and Recreational Services.

The Committee agreed to remit to a Special Recruitment Sub-Committee comprising the Convener, the Chair of the Corporate Strategy Committee, the Chair of the Support Services Committee and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Community and Recreational Services Committee to appoint a Director of Community and Recreational Services.

## **18. National Health Service Trusts**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the outcome of discussions with representatives from the three NHS Trusts in Ayrshire on matters of mutual interest.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Council establish an annual Consultative Forum with the Chairs and Chief Executives of the Ayrshire and Arran Health Board and the three NHS Trusts in Ayrshire; and (b) that the Council be represented on the Forum by the Convener, the Leader and Depute Leader of the Council, the Group Secretary, the Chairs of Social Work, Education and Housing Services Committees, the Chief Executive and the appropriate Chief Officers.

## **19. Guidelines on Responding to Consultative Documents**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the proposed introduction of a procedure to respond to consultative documents received by the Council.

The report indicated that due to the increasing numbers of consultation documents received by the Council from various sources, and given the limited timescale for responses, the need has arisen to consider remitting with powers to the Chief Executive, in consultation with appropriate Committee Chairs, to respond formally on the Council's behalf.

The Committee agreed (a) to remit with powers to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the appropriate Committees to approve the Council's formal response to a range of consultative documents; and (b) to write to COSLA to request that whenever possible they allow the maximum period of time for the submission of responses to consultation documents.

## **20. Housing Management Compulsory Competitive Tendering**

Submitted report by the Director of Housing Services on the proposed strategy to be adopted in respect of tendering procedures for the Defined Activities for Housing Management during 1998/99.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to adopt the strategic approach as detailed in the report to enable more detailed preparations to be carried out within the required timescale; (b) that consultations on the contract strategy be carried out with the market, with tenants and with Unions; and (c) that progress on the strategy, or amendments resulting from consultations and further discussions be reported to the Committee.

## **21. North Ayrshire Promotion Initiative**

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on proposals for the provision of a Promotional Initiative to ensure that a clear North Ayrshire identity is established and that the image of the area is in future promoted in a positive way. It is proposed that three inter-related areas be addressed, viz:- (a) civic identity; (b) partnerships with other organisations; and (c) promotion generally. Any promotion activities during the current financial year can be met from existing budgets. In future years however, a separate budget would require to be established to meet costs. Staff carrying out promotional tasks would not form part of a permanent team but rather officers with appropriate skills would be utilised as necessary within a team headed by the Chief Executive's Directorate.

The Committee agreed (i) that a Member/Officer Group be established to explore the issues in promoting North Ayrshire comprising the Convener and the Chairs of the Corporate Strategy Committee, Commercial Services Committee, Community and Recreational Services Committee, Education Committee, Housing Services Committee, Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee, Protective Services Committee, Social Work Committee and Support Services Committee together with appropriate Officers; (ii) that consultations take place with Chairs of the Area Committees on how to develop the image of the various communities of North Ayrshire; (iii) that a lobbying strategy be developed for North Ayrshire; (iv) that existing marketing budgets be co-ordinated to maximise their impact on promoting North Ayrshire as an entity; and (v) that a clear policy be developed for marketing and promotional activities which take place in conjunction with other agencies.

## **22. The Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life**

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on the outcome of the Member/Officer Working Group discussions on the Nolan Committee consultation paper dealing with aspects of conduct in local government and giving details of the proposed response.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the recommendations of the Working Group on the terms indicated in the report as North Ayrshire Council's response to the Nolan Committee consultation paper; and (b) to establish an Officer Working Group to draw up a Code of Practice for employees and report.

## **23. Requests for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on requests for financial assistance from outside organisations.

Having considered the requests for financial assistance the Committee agreed that the following payments be made:-

| <b>Organisation</b>                             | <b>Decision</b> |
|---|-----------------|
| Ayrshire Travelaid Scheme                       | £1,000          |
| Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty | £500            |
| The Scottish Mining Museum Trust                | £200            |
| The Scottish Working People's History Trust     | £100            |



|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| John Wheatley Centre | £117.50 (Membership) |
| Sportability         | Nil                  |

#### **24. Conferences, Seminars Etc.: Invitations**

Submitted invitations to attend the undernoted conferences/seminars etc.:-

(a) The Scottish Local Government Information Unit Conference entitled "Partnerships: Making Them Work" to be held in the Copthorne Hotel Aberdeen on 24 October 1996;

(b) The Scottish Local Government Information Unit Conference entitled "Positive Alternatives to CCT" to be held in the Clyde Halls Glasgow on 30 October 1996;

(c) A COSLA Equal Opportunities Conference entitled "A Corporate Approach" to be held in the COSLA offices Edinburgh on 17 September 1996;

(d) The Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty Strategies into Action Seminar to be held at Edinburgh City Council, Parliament Square Edinburgh on 25 October 1996; and

(e) The Institute of Wastes Management Envirosco 96 Conference to be held in Glasgow on 19 and 20 November (to replace attendance at the Local Agenda 21 Conference and Exhibition in Nottingham on 1 and 2 October which was authorised by the Corporate Strategy Committee on 30 July and has now been cancelled).

The Committee agreed not to attend these conferences.

#### **25. Urgent Items**

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

#### **26. Compulsory Competitive Tendering**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the management arrangements for the preparation for CCT giving details of the member supervision necessary to comply with Scottish Office Circular 6/1996.

The report set out the roles of the various Committees in relation to CCT activities which are as follows:-

| <b>Committee</b>   | <b>Role</b>  |
|--------------------|--|
| Corporate Strategy | To act on behalf of the Council in the award of contracts so as to achieve best value for the Council; to issue all specifications and contracts documents; to shortlist contractors; to evaluate bids; and award contracts. |
| Support Services   | For all defined activities - to conduct negotiations with trade unions on salary/wage and conditions of service bargaining prior to in-house submissions.  |



|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
|                                     | For the new white collar support service Financial Services Legal Services, Personal Services, Information Technology and Construction and Related Services - to supervise the preparation and submission of the in-house bid and to represent the in-house interests to client departments, committees (Education, Social Work, Housing, and to the Corporate Strategy Committee. |
| Commercial Services                 | To represent the interests of the contractor in Building and Works, Highways, Refuse Collection Street Sweeping, Schools and other Catering Building Cleaning and Other Cleaning, Ground Maintenance, Vehicle Maintenance and Transport Management.  |
| Housing Services                    | To supervise the preparation of in-house bid for Housing Management and liaise with the Support Services Committee on trade union negotiations prior to such bid.  |
| Community and Recreational Services | To oversee the preparation and submission of in-house bid for Leisure Management and liaise with the Support Services Committee on trade negotiations prior to such bid.   |

The Committee agreed to note the terms of the report and in particular the remits of those Council Committees with an interest in CCT.

### Exempt Information

#### 27. Exclusion of Public

If so 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 involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Act.

#### 28. Accommodation Strategy Bridgegate House

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on the possible options for the development of Bridgegate House as the main Irvine office for North Ayrshire Council.

After discussion the Committee agreed to the terms and conditions as detailed in the report.

The meeting ended at 2.45 p.m.