

Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee
4 October 2007

SALTCOATS, 4 October 2007 - At a Meeting of the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 4.00 p.m.

Present

Margie Currie, William Gibson, Anthony Gurney, John Hunter, Peter McNamara, Ronnie McNicol, David Munn and Alan Munro.

In Attendance

A. Milson, Learning Manager, Quality Development (Educational Services); M. Anderson and D. McCaw, Corporate Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

Chief Inspector A. Sweeney and Inspector J. Seenan (Strathclyde Police); and Station Commanders J. McKenna and D. Davidson (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

Chair

Councillor Munn 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 Currie, seconded by Councillor McNamara, moved the appointment of Councillor Munn as Chair of the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee.

As an amendment, Councillor Gibson, seconded by Councillor Hunter, moved the appointment of Councillor Gurney as Chair of the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee.

On a division, there voted for the amendment 4 and for the motion 4.

There being a tied vote, the Committee agreed in the circumstances (a) that Councillors Munn and Gurney rotate the position of Chair of the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee on a meeting by meeting basis; (b) that the decision to rotate the Chair be reviewed in 6 months; and (c) that Councillor Munn take the Chair for the first meeting of the Committee.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Gurney declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6: Local Youth Action Fund: Application for Financial Assistance and took no part in the discussion thereon.

3. Remit of the Area Committee

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

The Council, at its meeting on 5 September 2007, agreed to incorporate in the Council's Scheme of Administration provision for 5 Area Committees covering:-

- Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston (Wards 4 and 5);
- Garnock Valley and West Kilbride (Wards 6 and 7);
- Irvine (Wards 1 and 2);
- Kilwinning (Ward 3); and
- 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". Area Committees are specifically tasked with:-

- promoting Council strategies, agreements and partnerships at a local level,
- considering and commenting upon any Traffic Management Schemes or Orders to be promoted by the Council affecting the area and submitting any such comments to the Council's Roads and Transportation Service; and
- administering 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.

Decisions taken in relation to grants and other financial awards, together with the naming of streets, are binding and do not require ratification.

Area Committee meetings will take place at 8-weekly intervals within suitable local venues. Members will also have an opportunity to meet informally to discuss Committee business.

In order to assess the effectiveness of the arrangements for Area Committees, a review will be undertaken in September 2008.

The Committee discussed the timing of meetings and considered altering the proposed 4pm start time.

The Committee agreed (a) that the timing of future Area Committee meetings be amended to 3.30 pm; and (b) that the Chief Executive be requested to consider provision for occasional evening meetings of the Committee.

4. Strathclyde Police

Chief Inspector Sweeney reported that there would be a change to the format of future Police reports submitted to the Area Committee in order to focus on local issues, emerging trends and abnormalities highlighted by the statistics.

Chief Inspector Sweeney then provided the following information to Members:-

- A review is currently taking place within Strathclyde Police and this will include enhancement to the community policing levels and a variable shift pattern which will come into force in February 2008. A copy of the revised Police structure will be circulated to all Members of the Area Committee when available.
- Arran statistics are now included with Ardrossan in order to reflect the change to the Council's Ward structure.
- Funding for campus police officers is due for review at the end of next year. Continuation of extension of the initiative will be subject to the availability of necessary funding.
- The development of new call centres is having a positive impact on the force's ability to process calls.
- Discussions are ongoing regarding the provision of a national non-emergency number for the Police with calls then being forwarded to the local contact centre.

Noted.

5. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Station Commander Davidson reported that information previously provided to Area Committees would continue to be made available and would incorporate fire statistics together with details of local initiatives and national campaigns.

Discussion took place regarding the recent fire at the Nobel factory in Ardeer and on security issues regarding the storage of materials.

Station Commanders Davidson and McKenna then provided the following information to Members:-

- Strathclyde Fire and Rescue are continuing to deal with the problem secondary fire-raising and attacks on fire crews in the Hayocks area of Stevenston. Members suggested that the Council's Cleansing section be contacted regarding a possible relaxation of pick up times for special uplifts in this area to try to reduce any opportunity for unsupervised youths to fire-raise.
- 8 courses for young people are planned for next year at Dreghorn Fire Station to highlight the effects of wilful fire-raising.

The Committee agreed that the Clerk contact the Council's Cleansing Section regarding pick up times for special uplifts in the Hayocks area of Stevenston.

6. Local Youth Action Fund 2007/08

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on (i) the budgetary allocation for the Local Youth Action Fund for 2007/08; (ii) awards paid to date; and (iii) 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 2007 Elections, all grant applications have been considered by the Executive of North Ayrshire Council. Applications under the Community Development Grants Scheme will continued to be considered by the Executive for the remainder of this financial year. Grant applications in respect of Common Good and Trust Funds will in future be submitted to relevant Area Committees for consideration.

In terms of the Local Youth Action Fund, the Executive has approved awards to date in the sum of £25,332, leaving a balance available for disbursement in 2007/08 of £36,468. This balance has been allocated across the Council's 5 Area Committees on the basis of populations in the youth age group. The Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee has been allocated £10,211 for disbursement during the remainder of 2007/08.

An application has been received from Ardrossan Academy Outdoor Activity Club for assistance in developing the outdoor activities available to young people.

The Committee agreed to award £1,000 to the Ardrossan Academy Outdoor Activity Club.

7. Common Good Funds

7.1 Ardrossan Common Good Fund

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

A budget of £3,240 was made available for disbursement from Ardrossan Common Good Fund in 2007/08. One award has been granted from the Fund to date leaving a balance available for disbursement of £2,740.

Noted.

7.2 Saltcoats Common Good Fund

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

A budget of £1,440 was made available for disbursement from Saltcoats Common Good Fund in 2007/08. Two awards have been granted from the Fund to date leaving a balance available for disbursement of £440.

Noted.

7.3 Stevenston Common Good Fund

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

A budget of £18,000 was made available for disbursement from Stevenston Common Good Fund in 2007/08. Awards have been granted from the Fund to date, as detailed in the report, leaving a balance available for disbursement of £12,100.

Noted.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Area Committee will be held on Thursday 6 December at 3.30 p.m.

The Committee expressed the view that the majority of meetings should be held in the Argyle Centre, Saltcoats, with one visit to Arran annually. If difficulty arises with the booking of the Argyle Centre, then an alternative venue will be sought. Strathclyde Police and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue both advised of suitable accommodation available through them should the need arise.

Noted.

9. Future Agenda Items

Members of the Committee highlighted a number of items for possible inclusion as future agenda items:-

- Drop-in facilities for young people in Brodick, Isle of Arran;
- Public toilet provision at Kildonan, Isle of Arran;
- Diversion activities for young people to assist in preventing anti-social behaviour;
and
- traffic management issues.

The Meeting ended at 5.10 p.m.