

Irvine Area Committee
29 November 2007

IRVINE, 29 November 2007 - 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, John Moffat, David O'Neill and Joan Sturgeon.

In Attendance

R. Small, Head of Roads and Transportation, T. Paterson, Assistant Transportation Manager, Y. Hunter, Cleansing Controller, M. Gillies, Area Officer and M. McNeil, Litter Officer (Property Services); J. McKinlay, Team Leader (Youth Services) and B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Community Learning and Development) (Educational Services); A. Fraser, Manager Legal Services (Legal and Protective); D. Nibloe, Chief Accountant (Finance), M. McKeown and A. Little, Corporate Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

B. MacDonald, Regeneration Director and J. Ledgerwood, Project Manager, Irvine Bay Regeneration Company; Inspector McIntyre, Strathclyde Police; and Commander K. Alcroft, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue.

Chair

Councillor McPhee in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Ruby Kirkwood.

1. Declarations of Interest

Councillor O'Neill declared an interest in the application by Trinity Trust at item 7 on the agenda and took no part in the discussion thereon.

Councillor Brown declared an interest in the application by Irvine Burns Club at item 7 on the agenda and took no part in the discussion thereon.

2. Progress of Irvine Bay Urban Regeneration Company

Brian MacDonald, Regeneration Director, and James Ledgerwood, Project Manager, Irvine Bay Urban Regeneration Company (URC) provided a presentation on the progress of the company since it was established in late 2006, and in particular on the company's plans for the town of Irvine.

Irvine Bay URC is Scotland's largest urban regeneration company in terms of its land mass. The area covered by the company includes 14 miles of coastline, the four seaside towns of Ardrossan, Saltcoats, Stevenston and Irvine, and the town of Kilwinning.

The company's objectives are shaped by the Scottish Government's Regeneration Policy Statement: People and Place. Through rediscovering the coast and local connections to Glasgow, the URC aims to create a vibrant Irvine Bay with a strong economy, a high quality of life, and an enhanced environment. This vision is developed through five themes:-

- iWork - the economy of the area
- iSea - rediscovering the sea
- iLive - quality of life for existing and new residents
- iPlay - promoting leisure activities
- iBay - transforming the area's image

These themes feed into a series of proposed projects and into the masterplans for each of the towns. They are also guided by a set of principles to ensure that all of the projects are viable, sustainable, command local support and are of the highest quality. Plans for Irvine include a combination of environmental improvements, the creation of a lively mixed-use area, and the reconfiguration of part of the shopping centre.

Noted.

3. Strathclyde Police

Inspector McIntyre provided information in relation to the following issues:-

- Warrix Interchange appears to have a higher amount of single vehicle accidents than average. This has been referred to Amey who are investigating.
- Strathclyde Police will be launching an intelligence led test purchasing exercise aimed at detecting licensed traders who sell alcohol to under-18s. The three week exercise is taking place in the run up to Christmas. Supporting leaflets will be issued to licensed traders.
- The Private Security Industry Act 2001 (Designated Activities)(Scotland) Order 2007, now requires door stewards to be licensed.
- A drug enforcement operation will take place in the first week in December.

A statistical report on crime levels within Irvine was tabled for information. Arising from discussion, the Committee sought assurances that cuts in the numbers of Community Police Officers in the Irvine area would not have a detrimental effect on Policing in Irvine.

The Committee agreed (a) that Strathclyde Police provide Members with the contact details of the Community Police Officers in Irvine, together with details of the areas they each cover; and (b) to otherwise note the report.

4. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Commander Alcroft provided information in relation to fire statistics and local initiatives in the Irvine area.

Strathclyde Fire and Rescue attended 203 emergency calls in the Committee's area during the period 2 September - 27 November 2007. 22 fires involved property, 9 of which were residential. There have been a number of fires in and around a disused factory at Riverside Avenue, Irvine. The building has been vandalised and youths are gaining entry to the building which is in a dangerous condition. Contact has been made with the receivers of the property to get entry points bricked up.

To date over 500 home fire safety visits have been completed in the Irvine area, The School Liaison Officer based at Irvine Royal Academy, Firefighter Holt, has returned to active duty, and has been replaced by Firefighter Fyfe. The Fire reach and work experience courses continue to be successful.

Noted.

5. Local Action Fund 2007/08

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on applications for funding from the Local Action Fund.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Award</u>
KSC Girls	£114
ANCHO Community Link Project	£500

6. Irvine: Townhouse

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective) on the present condition and works required to the Townhouse, Irvine.

The Townhouse in Irvine is a Category B Listed Building in the ownership of Irvine Common Good. The Common Good is responsible for maintenance of the exterior and structure of the building and for keeping it wind and watertight. The Council as tenant is responsible for internal repairs and decoration of the building. The Townhouse is occupied by the District Court and the Council's Licensing Section, who pay a rent to the Common Good.

The fabric of the Townhouse is in a poor condition. Technical Services carry out regular inspections of the exterior of the building and where necessary take remedial action to ensure the building is safe and to mitigate against further deterioration of the fabric of the building. Technical Services have identified a need for urgent works involving temporary support to the portico, enclosing the fire escape, and netting, to avoid falling stone and loss of window timbers and glass. These works will start in the near future. In addition, repairs to make the roof weathertight and to avoid further destruction, as well as repairs to windows and lintels are also urgently required. If these works are not carried out, the longer-term cost of repairs will be much greater, and there may be public safety issues. A report has been submitted to the Executive seeking funding for these works from the Common Good.

Discussion took place on the frequency of rent reviews in respect of the occupation of the Townhouse, on the suitability of staff accommodation within the building, and on options for the future use of the building. The Council is in discussions with the Scottish Courts Service, and also with the Irvine Bay URC, on the medium to long term use of the building. A report setting out options for the future use of the building will be submitted to the Executive at a later date. The Chief Executive will provide local Members with an informal briefing on developments in due course.

The Committee noted (a) the position set out in the report; and (b) that the Chief Executive will provide an informal briefing in due course.

7. Irvine Common Good Fund

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on applications for financial assistance from Irvine Common Good Fund.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Award</u>
Irvine Joint Wards Old Folks Committee	£8,000
Trinity Trust	£2,000
Irvine Burns Club	£4,250

8. Traffic Regulation Order : Bridgegate, Irvine - Pedestrian Zone

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on proposals to introduce a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to control access by service vehicles to the pedestrian zone at Bridgegate, Irvine.

Bridgegate, Hill Street, and the Rivergate Shopping Centre concourse, are pedestrianised roads within Irvine town centre that provide pedestrian access to the retail areas of Irvine from the High Street, and the car parks of Bridgegate and Kirkgate. Currently there are several restrictions in place which prevent vehicle access to Bridgegate, Hill Street and the Rivergate Shopping Centre concourse. Moreover the introduction of the High Street, Irvine Traffic Management Order No.2 on 3 April 2007 negated the ability of service vehicles to service various retail units from the Bridgegate area. To overcome this, the proposed TRO will permit vehicle access from Bridgegate before 8.00 a.m. and after 6.00 p.m. every day for loading and unloading of goods. This access will only be available to premises which satisfy specific criteria and will be controlled by the issue of permits by Roads and Transportation Services.

The Rivergate Shopping Centre concourse is a private road which does not form part of the adopted public road network. The owners of the centre have agreed that this area of road be included within the proposed TRO. This will not however lead to adoption of the area as public in terms of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.

Arising from discussion, the Committee considered there was a need for a separate TRO to resolve road safety issues arising from cars parking at the corner of Kirkgate and Hill Street, Irvine.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the terms of proposed TRO covering the pedestrianised area at Bridgegate, Irvine, and the implementation of the Order should no objections be received during the statutory consultation period; (b) that the operation of the TRO be monitored and reviewed after 1 year; and (c) that the Head of Roads and Transportation investigate the road safety issues caused by parked cars at the corner of Kirkgate and Hill Street, Irvine, and promote a TRO to resolve these issues.

9. Street Cleaning in the Irvine and Dreghorn Area

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on the arrangements put in place by Grounds Maintenance, Cleansing and Transport, to keep Irvine town centre and the Dreghorn area of Irvine free from litter.

The report provided information about the equipment used, and the number of cleansing operatives utilised, within Irvine town centre and the Dreghorn areas. Discussion took place on the adequacy of the arrangements in place, and on the need to continue to raise awareness among the general public and the school community of the problems caused by littering.

The Committee agreed (a) that consideration be given to holding a community clean-up within the Committee's area; and (b) to otherwise note the report.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee (a) noted that the next public meeting of the Area Committee will be held on Thursday 7 February 2008; and (b) agreed that this meeting and all future meetings of the Area Committee commence at 2.00 p.m.

11. Future Agenda Items

It was agreed that notice of any future agenda items be directed to M. McKeown or A. Little, Corporate Support Officers.

The meeting ended at 6.15 p.m.