

Community and Recreational Services Committee
13 October 1998

Irvine, 13 October 1998 - At a Meeting of the Community and Recreational Services Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Stewart Dewar, Jane Gorman, Patrick Browne, James Clements, John Donn, James Jennings, Elizabeth McLardy, Peter McNamara, Margaret Munn and Robert Reilly.

In Attendance

The Director of Community Services; The Head of Sports and Recreational Services; The Head of Cultural and Community Services (Community Services); The Head of Architectural Services; A Fraser, Principal Legal Officer, T Baulk, Accountant, Accountancy, (Financial Services); M Hewitt, Corporate Policy Officer and S Paxton, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Chair

Mr Dewar in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

John Sillars and George Steven.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 1 September 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Scottish Association for Mental Health

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services regarding a request from the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) that the Council allow participants in the Active for SAMH Personal Swim Challenge one free swim at any of the Council's swimming pools.

The Committee agreed to the request.

3. Leisure Card Review

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services on the current Leisure Access and Leisure Club Schemes which have been in operation since April 1995.

Following a review, the objective of which was to ensure that those most in need have access to recreational opportunities, a new North Ayrshire Leisure Card Scheme will be launched in January 1999. The revised Scheme seeks, amongst other things, to promote the use of the Council's services for residents and non-residents,

increase access to leisure facilities by the most disadvantaged members of the community, and secure private partnership to offer discounts to members.

There will be three types of Leisure Card, a North Ayrshire Card available to residents and non-residents, a Priority North Ayrshire Card available to applicants who meet certain qualifying criteria including men and women aged 60 and over, young people aged 16 in full time education and student nurses, and a North Ayrshire Group Card available to clubs throughout the Council area.

The Committee agreed to the revised North Ayrshire Leisure Card Scheme.

4. Arran: Brodick: Auchrannie Leisure Complex

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services regarding a new operating agreement with the Auchrannie Hotel, Brodick, Isle of Arran, which provides community access to swimming pool facilities on the Isle of Arran.

In 1991 Cunninghame District Council entered into an agreement with the Hotel to provide financial assistance towards the operation of the pool at the Hotel which has been subject to regular review. The last concluded agreement with the Hotel terminated in June 1998 and the Hotel have requested a new agreement with the Council.

The new agreement will consist of a block grant of £4,161 per year to the hotel along with a per capita subsidy of £104 per swimmer to a maximum of 32,000 attendances which will be reviewed every two years.

The Committee agreed (a) to the two year operating agreement with the Auchrannie Hotel, Brodick for the provision of a swimming facility on Arran; and (b) that the Director of Community Services submit a further report on the number of visitors to Arran, the Hotel, their use of the pool and associated costs.

5. Garnock Rugby Club

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services on a request by Garnock Rugby Club to locate a storage container on a temporary basis at Lochshore, Kilbirnie.

Cunninghame District Council had provided temporary changing units at Lochshore as the original clubhouse and changing facilities operated by the Garnock Valley Sports Club had become structurally unsound as a result of subterranean subsidence. The Council is currently pursuing legal action.

The Club, require accommodation for the storage of training equipment and have obtained a portable storage container which they wish to locate at Lochshore on a temporary basis at their own expense.

The Committee agreed to the request.

6. Scottish Office Capital Grants Scheme for Community Facilities

(a) 1998/99: Arran: Corrie and Sannox Hall

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services on proposed alterations to the phasing of expenditure in relation to works to be carried out at the Corrie and Sannox Hall, Arran.

The Corrie and Sannox Hall Renovation Project, to which the Council and other partners, including the Scottish Office, the local Hall Committees and Scottish Halls Investment Programme (SHIP), contributed, was originally phased over the current financial year and financial year 1999/2000 at a total cost of £150,050. The Scottish Office have now indicated that they wish to fund the whole project in the current financial year as they have the necessary funding in place. The remainder of the funding package, including the Group's own contribution to the Project can be re-arranged to meet this timetable. Accordingly, £10,000 is required in this financial year as the Council's contribution. This can be met by relocating part of the funding from the Kilwinning Tower Renovation Project as it is unlikely that this project will take place this year. The sum of £10,000, will be reallocated to the Corrie and Sannox Hall Project which will allow the project to be completed this financial year. The sum of £10,000 allocated to the Corrie and Sannox Hall in next year's Capital Programme will therefore be reallocated to the Kilwinning Abbey Tower Renovation Project at that time.

The Committee discussed the impact on the Council's Capital Programme of the Scottish Office rephasing of its expenditure and agreed (a) the revised phasing of expenditure associated with the Corrie and Sannox Hall Regeneration Project; and (b) to advise the Scottish Office of the Committees' concerns regarding the rephasing the funds for the Project.

(b) 1999/2000: Initial Bids

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services on prospective bids to the 1999/2000 Scottish Office Local Capital Grants Scheme, which has benefited rural communities in Arran.

The Scottish Office have requested that Councils submit details of bids for the 1999/2000 Programme. Interest in the Scheme has been

expressed by the Committees for the Lochranza, Kilmory and Kildonan Village Halls. The cost for each project to renovate the local Village Halls is £350,100, £250,000 and £70,000 respectively. The Council's contribution would be approximately £82,150 which would be part of the total cost of £670,100 for the three halls. The Scottish Office, Scottish Halls Investment Programme (SHIP) and the applicants would meet the remainder of the funding.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve (i) in principle the bids in respect of Lochranza, Kildonan and Kilmory Village Halls, Arran; and (ii) the submission of a bid to the Council's Capital Programme in 1999/2000 for £82,150 as the Council's funding element for the projects; and (b) that a report on the progress of the bids be submitted in due course.

7. Childcare Strategy for Scotland: Allocation of Initial Funding to North Ayrshire Council

The Corporate Strategy Committee on 13 October, 1998 agreed to allocate £113,500 received from the Scottish Office to assist in the implementation of a National Childcare Strategy for Scotland.

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services on the means by which part of this proposed expenditure of allocation will be used.

£7,000 will be used to support the creation of additional childcare places within the voluntary sector for "Out of School" care; and £27,000 to establish two pilot projects providing innovative activity based after school services for young people in the 11-14 years age range.

The report gave details of the immediate steps the Directorate will take, including facilitating approaches to the voluntary sector, and the recruitment of sessional staff in order to establish the two projects. Progress reports will be submitted as appropriate.

The Committee, agreed to develop the pilot projects.

8. Declaration of Property Surplus to Requirements

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services on a request to declare surplus to requirements the former Claremont Drop-In Centre, Kilwinning.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the request; and (b) to remit the matter to the Support Services Committee for consideration.

9. Millennium Celebrations

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services regarding the potential demand and cost of assisting local communities in accessing Council facilities for Millennium celebrations.

The current letting policy and pricing structure for the use of community halls and centres and the community use of schools excludes lets on a public holiday unless otherwise authorised and the full charge is recovered from the lessee. The Council has also agreed to close all such facilities between Christmas and New Year to reduce revenue expenditure.

The Government's intention that 31 December 1999 in addition to 1 and 2 January 2000 will be public holidays could have a significant revenue budget implication should certain community facilities open for Millennium celebrations as all increased staff expenditure rate will be incurred. In addition, costs for the lets of community centres and schools could be considerably greater than lets for community halls as there may be requirements for more than one janitor or centre supervisor to be in attendance.

It is proposed as a basis for accommodating specific Millennium events -

- a) that specific premises be considered for opening depending on demand from users;
- b) that staff be consulted regarding their availability for service at this time;
- c) that indicative costs be circulated to prospective lessees on the basis that all costs shall be recoverable; and
- d) that discussions take place with Strathclyde Police, the Clerk to the Licensing Board and the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment in order that safety, security and other organisational advice can be offered to Millennium Celebration Organising Committees.

A further report will be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee regarding the outcome of negotiations with staff regarding their availability for service at this time and the availability of accommodation in respect of Millennium Celebration Events.

The Committee agreed the procedures as detailed in the report with regard to accommodating Millennium Celebration events.

10. Museums Service: Authority to Pursue External Funding Opportunities

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services on a number of options regarding the pursuit of external funding for the Museums Service.

A number of Council run projects, the North Ayrshire Museum, the Glasgow Vennel Gallery and the Kilwinning Abbey Tower are eligible for additional funding from a number of sources including the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). Applications to the NLHF and other funding bodies require verification that the applicant has the full support of the Council and the officer making the application is authorised to do so. This will allow Museum Curators to pursue applications with the NLHF and other funding bodies.

The Committee agreed to endorse approaches to the National Heritage Lottery Fund and other funding providers for funding to expand and develop the North Ayrshire Museums Service.

11. “A National Strategy for Scotland’s Museums”: Consultation Document

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services on a draft response to the Scottish Museum Council's Consultation Document entitled “A National Strategy for Scotland’s Museums”.

The National Strategy, which sets a framework for improving museums for public benefit, has been developed by the Scottish Museums Council in conjunction with the National Museums for Scotland and the National Galleries of Scotland. The Strategy, which covers all Scotland’s museums whether funded by Central Government, local authorities or independently, is aimed at addressing the debate about the future of the museum service in the new Scottish Parliament.

The report provided details of the proposed response which highlighted amongst other things the resource problems facing museums, the need for improved access to museum collections and presented options for the restructuring of Scotland’s Museum Service.

The Committee agreed the terms of the draft response to the Scottish Museum Council’s Consultative Document.

12. Young People's Services: BP Grizzly Challenge 1998

The Committee received representatives of young people who had participated in the undernoted environmental projects sponsored by British Petroleum:-

- (a) Redburn "Gruff" Kids (Under 13);
- (b) Ardeer Friends Group;
- (c) Fullarton Young Men's Group; and
- (d) Stevenston "Bored Games" Group.

The Committee received a brief overview on each of the projects by the Head of Cultural and Community Services and the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated and presented certificates to the young people in recognition of their participation in the environmental projects.

The meeting ended at 3.05 p.m.