

North Ayrshire Council
5 July 1995

Irvine, 5 July 1995 - Minutes of the Meeting of the North Ayrshire Council held in Cunninghame District Council Chambers, Cunninghame House, Irvine on Wednesday 5th July, 1995 at 6.30 p.m.

Present

George Steven, John Donn, Thomas Barr, Patrick Browne, Jack Carson, Ian Clarkson, James Clements, Stewart Dewar, Thomas Dickie, David Gallagher, Samuel Gooding, Elliot Gray, Irene Oldfather, Margaret Highet, James Jennings, Elizabeth McLardy, Peter McNamara, Thomas Morris, David Munn, Margaret Munn, Alan Munro, Robert Rae, Robert Reilly, Gena Seales and Samuel Taylor.

In Attendance

The Chief Executive, the Director of Social Work, the Director of Financial Services, the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment, the Personnel Services Manager, the Architectural Services Manager and an Administration Officer of CDC.

Chair

Mr. Steven in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Jane Gorman, Joseph McKinney, David O'Neill and John Sillars.

1. MINUTES CONFIRMED

The Minutes of the Meeting of the North Ayrshire Council held on 24th May, 1995, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

2. CHIEF OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

On 24th May, 1995 the Council agreed the adoption of a Chief Officer Structure. The following Chief Officer appointments detailed within this structure have now been made:-

Director of Education - Mr. John Travers
Director of Social Work - Mr. George Irving
Director of Financial Services - Mr. Robert Hunter
Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment - Mr. Robert Loney
Personnel Services Manager - Mr. Murray McFarlane
Architectural Services Manager - Mr. Matthew Marshall
Legal Services Manager - Mr. Ian Mackay
Information Technology Services Manager - Ms. Elma McAdam.

Noted.

3. DSO/DLO STRUCTURE

The Council agreed that this issue be considered together with proposals for the Council's Transition Committees at Item 4.

4. TRANSITION COMMITTEES

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on proposals for Transition Committees to allow the Council to oversee the steps necessary to establish the North Ayrshire Council and provide a political overview of this process. The importance of ensuring that the Council is established as a corporate entity with an identity which subsumes all directorate roles was emphasised.

Transition Committees to oversee the work of officers in establishing the new Authority are therefore proposed. These will give way in time to full Operational Committees when detailed planning for taking over the operational role of the existing Councils is required.

The proposed remit of each Committee is as follows:-

(a) Reorganisation Committee

- (i) Co-ordinating the work and approving with powers on behalf of the Council the decisions of the other transition committees, and dealing with correspondence, as necessary.
- (ii) Dealing with local government finance, provisional grant aided expenditure figures, notional budgets, etc.
- (iii) Dealing with requests for meetings with outside bodies, attendance at seminars, etc.

(b) Recruitment Committee

- (i) To shortlist, interview and appoint the remaining Chief Officers (at Depute and Assistant Director level) i.e. DLO/DSO Manager(s), and Heads of Service, etc.

(c) Staffing Structures Committee

- (i) To consider and recommend draft departmental structures.
- (ii) To oversee the Staff Transfer Order issues.
- (iii) To consider and recommend on Conditions of Service issues.
- (iv) To liaise with the Trade Unions, etc.

(d) Property/Accommodation Committee

- (i) To evaluate office accommodation requirements for all directorates in the immediate and short term for the numbers of employees to be transferred from existing authorities.
- (ii) To identify sufficient accommodation and equipment.
- (iii) To deal with all issues arising from the Property Transfer Order.

(e) Joint Working Issues Committee

- (i) To deal with all joint working issues arising between the two existing authorities including:-
 - (A) Police and Fire Joint Boards.
 - (B) Education and social work cross boundary and other joint working arrangements.
 - (C) Roads disaggregation issues.
 - (D) Relations with the Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive.
 - (E) Assessor (and Electoral Registration Officer) issues.
 - (F) Ayrshire Structure Plan Joint Committee.
 - (G) IT disaggregation.

(f) Member Structures Committee

- (i) To make recommendations on Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs).
- (ii) To examine best practice options for Member/Committee Structures.
- (iii) To examine decentralisation options.
- (iv) To consider service delivery plans.
- (v) To prepare for public consultation.
- (vi) To oversee marketing and public relations in the shadow year.

(g) DLO/DSO Committee

- (i) To consider options on the best structure for DLO/DSO operations.

(ii) To oversee preparation for CCT for Roads and Building and Works DLOs.

(iii) To review plans for “white collar” CCT.

The Council agreed (a) to approve the establishment and remits of the proposed Transition Committees; (b) that the membership of each committee be as follows:-

Reorganisation Committee - 27 members

Chair - James Clements

All members of the Majority Group of the Council.

Recruitment Committee - 11 members

Chair - James Clements

Vice-Chair - Margaret Munn

Vice-Chair - Irene Oldfather

Jack Carson, David Gallagher, Jane Gorman, Samuel Gooding, Elliot Gray, Thomas Morris, Robert Reilly and George Steven.

Staffing Structure Committee - 8 members

Chair - Thomas Morris

Vice-Chair - David Munn

James Clements, John Donn, David Gallagher, Jane Gorman, Joseph McKinney and George Steven.

Property/Accommodation Committee - 8 members

Chair - Samuel Gooding

Vice-Chair - Peter McNamara

Thomas Barr, James Clements, Stewart Dewar, Margaret Hightet, John Sillars and George Steven.

Joint Working Issues Committee - 8 members

Chair - James Jennings

Vice-Chair - Ian Clarkson

Thomas Barr, James Clements, Margaret Hightet, Margaret Munn, Gena Seales and George Steven.

Member Structures Committee - 9 members

Chair - Samuel Taylor

Vice-Chair - Patrick Browne

Vice-Chair - David O'Neill

James Clements, David Gallagher, Elliot Gray, Irene Oldfather, Robert Reilly and George Steven.

DLO/DSO Committee - 8 members

Chair - Thomas Dickie

Vice-Chair - Jack Carson

James Clements, Stewart Dewar, Jane Gorman, Elliot Gray, Alan Munro and George Steven.

(c) that the Chief Executive consult with COSLA on the application of Special Responsibility Allowances to the Transition Committees and report to the Reorganisation Committee; and (d) that the Member Structures Committee report in three months on proposed committee structures for the Council.

5. ACCOMMODATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BIDS

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a Scottish Office invitation to shadow authorities to submit bids in respect of any Capital Expenditure requirements they may have in the financial year 1995/96. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

These bids for resources are to meet authorities' immediate needs and the Government anticipate that urgent capital requirements will mainly be confined to areas of accommodation and information technology. Bids will be considered in two rounds to allow time for detailed bids to be prepared. The closing date for receipt of bids for the first round was 30th June and for the 2nd round is 30th September.

In view of the timescale involved, the Director of Financial Services has submitted a bid on behalf of the Council for £1,090,000 to meet the costs of additional office accommodation and adaptations; office furniture and equipment; and IT communications.

Noted.

6. IRVINE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION: COMMUNITY RELATED ASSETS

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the disposal of community related assets (CRAs) by IDC. CRAs are amenities such as parks, woodlands and community facilities. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

Amenities like Irvine Beachpark and Eglinton Park are widely used and it will be necessary to ensure present standards are maintained. This will have revenue implications for the North Ayrshire Council and will be subject to PES transfer arrangements.

In order to offset part of the costs arising from the annual maintenance of the CRAs, a schedule of land and buildings which could be included with the CRAs as a "balancing package" has been identified.

On 27th June 1995 CDC agreed to accept the entire balancing package in principle subject to a number of conditions, including clarification on the valuation of properties

contained in the proposed packages and determination of the total income which it will produce. In addition, a number of items of detail have been referred to the North Ayrshire Council for consideration.

Clarification was sought on additional monies which are to be provided to Enterprise Ayrshire to assist in meeting the costs of the loss to the local economy resulting from the wind-up of IDC.

The Council agreed (a) to authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to deal with matters relating to the transfer of community related assets which require to be agreed on an urgent basis from this Meeting until the next Meeting of the Council; and (b) that the Chief Executive investigate the position regarding funds to be provided to Enterprise Ayrshire in connection with the wind-up of IDC and report.

7. ARDROSSAN: ST. PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL: FUTURE USE

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an approach from SRC regarding their proposal to dispose of St. Peter's Primary School, Ardrossan. Consideration of this item was continued from the last Meeting of the Council pending a report on the future use of the school buildings and the site.

The school buildings are in a very poor condition and would require substantial improvement works. The site extends to approximately 5,640 sq.m. with a playground to the rear which is not in SRC's ownership. The buildings are to be vacated in October 1995.

From the consultations carried out, no interest has been expressed in any operational use of the buildings or the site as more economic options are available elsewhere. Demolition of the buildings and redevelopment of the site for residential purposes would appear to be the best option.

An enquiry regarding the building has been received from Solicitors acting on behalf of a local organisation. The Solicitors have been advised to contact SRC directly regarding their client's interest in the school.

The Council agreed that SRC be advised that the Council has no operational requirement for the buildings or the site at St. Peter's Primary School, Ardrossan.

8. MEETING OF COUNCIL LEADERS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVES

The Chief Executive advised that at a Meeting of Council Leaders and Chief Executives held in Glasgow on 30th June, 1995 various issues of interest to the 12 unitary authorities within the Strathclyde area were discussed and remitted to working parties of officers appointed by the Chief Executives of the unitary authorities with a view to reporting back to a further meeting of Leaders by the end of September 1995. It had however been agreed that Strathclyde Catering Services should plan to disaggregate.

Noted.

9. CONSULTATION PAPERS

(a) (i) Mid and South Western Combined Fire Services Area Administration Scheme; and (ii) Strathclyde Combined Police Area Amalgamation Scheme

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the draft of the Strathclyde Combined Police Area Amalgamation Scheme and the Mid and South Western Combined Fire Services Area Administration Scheme. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The Council's views were sought on a number of issues including the membership of the Joint Boards and the apportionment of expenditure. The Council were of the view that a smaller board of 30 members would be preferable and that expenditure for both police and fire services should be apportioned on the basis of the extent of the provision of the service.

The Council agreed to respond to the Scottish Office on the draft Police Amalgamation and Fire Administration Schemes in terms of the recommendations in the report.

(b) Structure Plan Areas

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a Scottish Office consultation exercise on the establishment of structure plan areas following reorganisation. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The consultation paper envisages a total of 17 structure plan areas with 1 structure plan area for North, East and South Ayrshire to be known as Ayrshire.

The Council agreed that the Scottish Office be advised they are satisfied with the proposed Ayrshire Structure Plan Area.

(c) Programme for Partnership

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a consultation on the Scottish Office Urban Regeneration Policy Statement entitled "Programme for Partnership". Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The Council is invited to comment on this document by 17th July 1995. The new policies will involve major changes in the operation of the Urban Programme where resources are to be used to assist in the implementation of regeneration strategies and programmes at Council Area and Initiative Area level rather than, as at present, to support individual projects submitted for consideration at a national level.

The Council agreed to authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader

of the Council, to respond to this consultation paper.

10. CORPORATE LOGO

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Design Companies which have been invited to submit proposals for a corporate logo for the North Ayrshire Council. Copies of the report had previously been circulated and the designs submitted were on display prior to the Meeting.

The Council approved adoption of a corporate logo for its stationery and other requirements.

11. URGENT ITEM

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

12. STAFF COMMISSION CIRCULARS

Submitted (a) draft Staff Commission Circular 4/95 on the preparation and agreement of Transfer Schemes; and (b) draft Staff Commission Circular 5/95 on secretarial and other support staff to new Councils, copies of which were circulated at the Meeting.

Noted.

13. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

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 items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Act as shown against each item.

14. ACCOMMODATION (Paragraph 9)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on proposals for accommodation in respect of the Council. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The Council agreed (a) to remit consideration of the report to the Property/Accommodation Committee; and (b) that the Committee investigate the availability of commercial property in Stevenston Town Centre.

15. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORATES (Paragraph 1)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the opinion of Senior Counsel in relation to the posts of Director of Housing Services and Director of Community and Recreational Services, copies of which were circulated at the Meeting.

The Council agreed (a) to proceed with the advertisement of the posts of Director of Housing Services and Director of Community and Recreational Services; and (b) that the shortlisting, interviewing and appointments to these posts be undertaken by the Recruitment Committee.

The Meeting ended at 6.55 p.m.