

Community and Recreational Services Committee  
2 March 1999

**Irvine, 2 March 1999** - At a Meeting of the Community and Recreational Services Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

**Present**

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

**In Attendance**

The Corporate Director (Educational Services); D Anderson and F Keddlity (Heads of Service) (Educational Services); D Nibloe, Principal Officer, Accountancy Services (Financial Services); M McCormack, Media Relations Officer and S Paxton, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

**Chair**

Mr Dewar in the Chair.

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 19 January 1999, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. Charges for Community Facilities 1999/2000**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the effect of the current letting scheme on lessees and requesting agreement in respect of charges for 1999/2000.

The current Scheme of Charges for Community Facilities, introduced in February 1998, has been reviewed by a group comprising users, representatives from the voluntary sector, and Community Associations. The Review Group concluded that the Council should consider a period of consolidation with regard to charges for community facilities as any further increases could adversely affect some community organisations, many of which were still in the process of adjusting to the new charging regime.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to maintain charges at their existing level for one year.

### **3. Revision of Library Charges**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the proposed revision of library charges.

Library Charges are reviewed annually. In light of (a) the increased use of the Internet, especially by young people for educational purposes; (b) the successful introduction of computer games for lending purposes in libraries; (c) the increasing costs of replacing lost library cards; and (d) the need to bring letting charges within libraries in line with other community facilities, the undernoted revision to charges was proposed:-

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Charge</b>
Internet charge after 6.00 p.m.	£2.00 per half hour
PlayStation game hire	£3.00 per week per item
Replacement set of tickets	£0.40
Room Hire - Community/Commercial use	£3.00/£6.00

Over the past year access to the book stock for other users has been restricted as a result of concessions on overdue book returns. The current concessions system will be reviewed and a report submitted to the Council in due course.

The Committee agreed (i) the revised charges detailed above with effect from 1 April 1999; and (ii) that reports on (a) the review of current concessions; and (b) Internet usage in libraries be submitted to a future meeting of the Council.

### **4. Leisure Centres: Review of Charges**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on a revised scale of charges for the use of leisure facilities following a review of charges undertaken. The review took account of the average level of charges for leisure facilities in Scotland and variations in levels of use. The last review took place in January 1998.

It is proposed that the majority of charges, with the exception of those for soft play facilities, should increase by varying degrees as the current level of charges is set lower than the Scottish average. Full details of the proposed charging regime were provided in the report. Current schemes, including the Access Card, which encourage use of leisure facilities will continue as they represent value for money for customers and a new Leisure Card will be introduced and promoted in April 1999. It is anticipated that the revised charges, taken together with efforts to improve

attendance figures, will address the shortfall in income in the financial year 1999/2000.

The Committee agreed the revised charges as detailed in the report.

## **5. Provision of Bar Services in Community Facilities**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the outcome an interim evaluation of the Pilot Scheme for the provision of bar services in community facilities and which had operated within two contracts (Ardrossan Civic Centre and Saltcoats Town Hall and the Volunteer Rooms and Woodlands Centre). The Scheme had been in respect of occasional licenses only, as defined in Section 33 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 1976, and excluded occasional permissions which are used by voluntary and charitable organisations.

By the end of the pilot scheme in 31 March 1999, it is anticipated that the contractors, Messrs Ewan and Gavin McLaughlin, will have received twelve occasional licenses. Only four of these fell within the remit of the interim evaluation study. This is a small proportion of the total number of licensed functions as many were booked in advance of the scheme. The study revealed that although the contractors had provided a high quality of service with the potential for substantial income generation, a number of concerns had been raised by community organisations and the North Ayrshire Licensing Board, details of which were given in the report. These issues will be considered by the new Licensing Board after the May 1999 elections following a final review of the Pilot Scheme.

The Committee agreed (a) to conclude the Pilot Scheme at the end of the contract period on 31 March 1999; and (b) that the final evaluation of the Scheme be considered by a future meeting of the Council.

## **6. Ayrshire Millennium Games**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the proposed Ayrshire Millennium Games which will be organised jointly with East and South Ayrshire Councils and held during the year 2000.

The Games will consist of up to ten different sports, including football, swimming and athletics, with each local authority hosting one of the competitions in turn. Assistance in holding the events will be provided by local sports clubs. Towards the end of 2000 a Millennium Fun Sports Day will be held for all participants at the Inverclyde National Sports Training Centre, Largs at which awards will be presented. The total cost of the Games will be £6,000 and this will be shared equally between the three Ayrshire Councils. The Council's share of the cost can be met from existing resources.

The Committee agreed that the Council participate in the Ayrshire Millennium Games.

## **7. Millennium Events in Community Facilities**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on expressions of interest received for Millennium celebration events in Community Centres.

In October 1998 the Committee agreed to a small number of community facilities being available for community use on condition (a) that all costs be met by the lessee; (b) that staff were willing and able to work during the holiday period; and (c) that satisfactory arrangements were in place in respect of safety and security.

A short life working group of officials from the Council and Strathclyde Police has been formed to examine these issues and will be made aware of all events taking place over the period from 30 December 1999 to 14 January 2000. To date 13 events are at various stages of planning. When deciding whether to confirm bookings various matters such as the nature of the event, plans the organisers have in place to ensure the safety of participants and the availability of Council staff to provide adequate cover will be taken into account. Successful lessees will be issued with guidance on the standards of planning and organisation necessary and no events of a private or family nature will be permitted in community facilities.

The Committee agreed (i) to endorse the steps taken to ensure the effective management of events in community facilities over the Millennium period; (ii) that the highest level of organisation and planning be demanded of event organisers; (iii) that, in order to give priority to community celebrations, no private or family events be permitted in community facilities over the Millennium period; and (iv) that a further report be submitted, as appropriate, to a future meeting of the Council.

## **8. Tender Procedures for Public Library Books**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the preparation of a tender document for the Public Libraries Book Fund in light of the demise of the Net Book Agreement.

Following consultation with the Chair, an advertisement will be placed in the European Journal and the Herald inviting tenders for all or part of the book supply. The Authorities Buying Consortium (ABC) will deal with the tendering process and the award of a contract will be made on a number of criteria including (a) ability to meet performance targets, including speed and accuracy of supply, accurate servicing and supply rate for out of stock orders; (b) ability to provide bibliographic information and catalogue records; and (c) ability to provide order reports and invoices.

The Committee agreed the tender process.

## **9. Arts and Cultural Services: National Lottery Awards**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on awards for the Dance Development Programme of £53,800 and the Public Art Development Programme of £51,650 from the National Lottery New Directions Programme which is managed by the Scottish Arts Council.

The Dance Development Programme, a joint initiative, involving various Council services, aims to bring a wide range of contemporary dance initiatives to participants in all areas of North Ayrshire. The Public Art Development Programme is co-ordinated by a part time Public Art Development Officer who works closely with local community groups, Housing Associations and statutory and voluntary bodies to encourage the creation of public art.

Noted.

## **10. Disposal of Playbus**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on proposals to dispose of the Playbus.

When the Towdabout and Playbus Projects terminated urban aid funding in 1998, resources were identified in the 1998/99 Revenue Programme to allow the children's play provision to continue. The resources did not cover the running costs of the Projects but resources were identified to meet the costs of running the Towdabout. No resources were, however, identified to cover the costs of running the Playbus.

In light of the increasing running and maintenance costs of the Playbus and the greater staff flexibility that the absence of the bus would provide it is proposed to dispose of the vehicle and re-deploy Playbus staff in the Towdabout Project. The National Playbus Association has already expressed an interest in the vehicle but advice will be sought on its disposal.

The Committee agreed to the disposal of the Playbus.

## **11. Leisure Centres: Programme**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the forthcoming programme within Leisure Centres. The report gave full details of special events to be held at the Magnum Leisure Centre, Auchenhavie Leisure Centre, Vikingar! and the Garnock Swimming Pool to be held in the period March to May 1999.

The Committee approved the Programme as detailed in the report.

## **12. Personal Liability Insurance on Golf Courses**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the proposed introduction of a Personal Liability Insurance Scheme in respect of Ravenspark, Routenburn and Auchenhavrie Golf Courses which are owned and managed by the Council.

At present insurance cover against accidents occurring to individuals on a golf course or property adjacent to the course is a personal matter for the golfer, although the Council has on several occasions received claims for property damage. The number of golfers on North Ayrshire courses who carry Personal Insurance Liability is very small.

The report gave details of a Personal Liability Insurance Scheme which had been formulated in consultation with the Scottish Golf Union's Insurance Brokers. The Scheme would be suitable for both season and day ticket holders. The premiums payable by the golfer will be around £3 for an annual season ticket and £0.50 for a day ticket. The Council will be able to retain a small amount (£0.50 for an annual season ticket and £0.20 for a day ticket) from the sale of the tickets.

The Committee agreed to the introduction of a Personal Liability Insurance Scheme as detailed in the report.

## **13. Declaration of Land Surplus to Requirements**

Submitted reports by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on requests to declare land surplus to requirements at (a) Paterson Avenue; (b) Cardow Crescent; and (c) Hepburn Way, Irvine.

The Committee agreed (i) to approve the requests; and (ii) to remit the matter to the Special Corporate Strategy Committee for its consideration.

## **16. Ayrshire Boys Golf Championships**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on a decision taken by the Ayrshire Boys Golf Championships Joint Constitution Committee to revise the format of the Ayrshire Boys Golf Championship.

The Championship, inaugurated in 1952 and promoted by the three Ayrshire Councils is open to boys between 12 and 18 years of age who reside in Ayrshire or are members of an Ayrshire Golf Club. In recent years the number of participants has declined. The Ayrshire Boys Golf Championship Joint Constitutional Committee at its Annual General Meeting met with representatives from the Ayrshire Junior Golf Association and the three Councils and considered and approved proposals to relaunch the Championships in 1999.

The Committee agreed the revised format for the Ayrshire Boys Golf Championship

as detailed in the report.

## **17. Community and Recreational Services Committee: Achievements 1996-99**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on a summary of achievements of the Community and Recreational Services Committee since April 1996. Achievements during that period included (a) the declaration of Stevenston Beach Park as a local nature reserve; (b) the opening of a new branch library at West Kilbride; (c) an exhibition of Picasso's late etchings at the Glasgow Vennel Gallery; (d) the establishment of Youth Drop In Facilities at Dalry, Kilbirnie and Beith; and (e) the development of children's play facilities at the Woodside Residential Development in partnership with Tay Homes.

Noted.

## **18. Valedictory**

The Chair paid tribute to the hard work and dedication of members and officers. The Committee agreed that the Corporate Director (Educational Services) write to all members of staff, on behalf of the Committee, thanking them for their commitment to the service.

The meeting ended at 2.50 p.m.