

Corporate Policy Committee
20 March 2007

IRVINE, 20 March 2007 - At a Meeting of the Corporate Policy Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

David O'Neill, Margaret McDougall, John Reid, Thomas Barr, John Bell, Jacqueline Browne, Stewart Dewar, Drew Duncan, Jane Gorman, Jean Highgate, John Moffat, David Munn, Margaret Munn, Alan Munro, Donald Reid, Samuel Taylor and Richard Wilkinson.

In Attendance

I. Snodgrass (Chief Executive); J. M. Macfarlane, Assistant Chief Executive (Personnel); A. Herbert, Assistant Chief Executive and D. Nibloe, Chief Accountant (Finance); R. Small, Head of Roads and J. Paul, Head of Technical Services (Property Services); A. Milson, Learning Manager (Quality Development)(Educational Services); J. Montgomery, Head of Policy and Performance, A. Wattie, Communications Officer; S. Bale, Policy Officer and M. McKeown, Corporate Support Officer (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Councillor O'Neill in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Peter McNamara.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 6 February 2007, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Barr, Browne and O'Neill declared interests in the application by Ancho Community Link Project at item 5 on the minutes of the meeting of the Irvine, Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee held on 1 March 2007, and took no part in the discussion thereon.

Councillors Browne, Barr and O'Neill declared interests in the application by Ancho at item 11 below and took no part in the discussion thereon.

Councillor Donald Reid declared an interest in the application by North Ayrshire Cats Protection at item 19 below and took no part in the discussion thereon.

3. Area Committees and Liaison Meetings

Submitted the annexed reports (Appendices CP1, CP2, CP3, CP4, CP5 and CP6), being the Minutes of the Meetings of Area Committees and Liaison Meetings held on the following dates:

28 February 2007	Three Towns Area Committee
28 February 2007	Liaison Meeting between the Three Towns Area Committee and the Community Planning Partners
1 March 2007	Irvine, Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee
1 March 2007	Liaison Meeting between the Irvine, Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee and the Community Planning Partners
2 March 2007	Garnock Valley, North Coast, Arran and Cumbrae Area Committee
2 March 2007	Liaison Meeting between the Garnock Valley, North Coast, Arran and Cumbrae Area Committee and the Community Planning Partners

The Committee agreed to approve the Minutes.

4. Revenue Budget 2006/07: Budgetary Control

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on the budgetary control position for the Council at the end of January 2007, and on projections to the end of financial year 2006/07.

The Council's budgetary position at the end of January 2007 has been projected to the end of the financial year. These projections indicate a potential favourable cumulative balance on General Services of £8.513m and a year-end surplus of £2.512m on the Housing Revenue Account.

The Committee agreed (a) to note the position at the end of January 2007 and the year-end projections; and (b) that a report be submitted to the new Council setting out proposals on utilising part of any balances for 'spend to save' or one-off projects.

5. Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates Write Off 2005/06

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) seeking approval to write off Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates debts identified during the 2005/06 financial year

The value of Non-Domestic Rates debts deemed to be irrecoverable and written off during financial year 2005/06 was £627,597.47. Council Tax debts totalling £231,581.22 were also written off during the year. Whilst debts are written off, recovery continues whenever possible.

The Committee agreed to approve the write off of Council Tax debts and Non Domestic Rates debts for financial year 2005/06, as set out in the report.

6. Sundry Debtors Write Off

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on the sundry debtor balances written off under delegated powers and seeking approval to write off individual debts in excess of £1,000.

The total value of sundry debts deemed to be irrecoverable is £133,594.77. In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations, £83,032.56 has been written off under delegated powers by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) after consultation with the Chief Executive. Committee approval is required to write off the remaining balance of £50,562.21 which is made up of individual debts in excess of £1,000.

The Committee agreed to approve the write off of individual debts in excess of £1000 totalling £50,562.21, as set out in the report.

7. Ex-Council Tenant Rent Arrears Write Off

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) seeking approval to write off ex-Council tenant rent arrears deemed to be irrecoverable.

The total value of ex-Council tenant rent arrears, inclusive of court costs, deemed to be irrecoverable is £141,743.72. In accordance with the Council's Code of Practice relating to the control of income, £81,373.40 has been written off by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) after consultation with the Chief Executive. Committee approval is required to write off the remaining balance of £60,370.32 which is made up of individual rent arrears in excess of £1,000.

The Committee agreed to approve the write off of individual rent arrears in excess of £1000 totalling £60,370.32, as set out in the report.

8. Financial Reserves

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on a proposed strategy for the financial reserves and balances held by the Council.

Local Authorities are permitted to establish reserve funds as part of good financial management. The purpose of these reserves is to provide a working balance to help cushion the impact of uneven cash flows and avoid unnecessary temporary borrowing, to provide a contingency against the impact of unexpected events or emergencies, and to provide a means of building up funds to meet known or predicted liabilities (earmarked reserves). For each reserve or fund held, there should be a clear protocol setting out the reason for and purpose of the reserve/fund, how and when the reserve/fund can be used, procedures for the reserve's/fund's management and control, and a process and timescale for reviewing the reserve/fund to ensure continuing relevance and adequacy.

The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 provides powers for Local Authorities to establish a General Fund, part of which may be earmarked towards certain events or purposes. The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1975 provides further powers to establish specific funds e.g. repairs and renewals funds, capital funds, and insurance funds. Local Authorities may also hold a balance in respect of their Housing Revenue Account. North Ayrshire Council has established each of these funds, details of which were provided in the report.

The establishment of a policy for reserves and balances is seen as part of the sound financial management strategy for the Council. It was proposed that:-

(a) at the time of considering the annual revenue budget proposals, the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) should report on the adequacy of the Council's reserves in comparison to the medium term financial strategy (both in relation to non committed and earmarked funds);

(b) the Council should agree to hold 3% of the net annual budget as an uncommitted balance and that any balance in excess of the 3% should be used as part of the budget exercise to fund projects with no ongoing revenue consequences. Where the balance falls below 3% as a result of meeting any unforeseen emergencies or liabilities, then future budgets should provide for a restoration of the balance to 3% over a period of time. Proposals should be agreed at the time of agreeing the annual budget; and

(c) at the same time, for the various reserves, the Council should be advised of (i) the estimated opening balance for the year ahead; (ii) the proposed use of any transfers to or from the reserve/fund; (iii) the estimated year end balance; and (iv) the impact of the use of any of the balance particularly where ongoing revenue implications arise.

The Committee agreed to the proposals set out in the report.

9. North Ayrshire Community Plan: Action Plan 2006/07

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on progress against the actions contained within the North Ayrshire Community Plan Action Plan 2006/07.

The appendix to the report presented details of all actions contained in the 2006/07 Action Plan, and provided a summary of progress against each in the quarter to 31 December 2006. In general implementation of the Action Plan is progressing well. Action is being taken to address any slippage against specific actions and revised target dates have been identified where appropriate. The Action Plan is in the process of being reviewed and a new Action Plan will be produced for 2007/08.

Noted.

10. Progress Report on North Ayrshire's Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) 2004/05-2007/08

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on progress of the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership's Regeneration Outcome Agreement.

The aim of the Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) is to guide local regeneration developments in the most deprived areas of North Ayrshire from 2005/06 to 2007/08. These most deprived areas have been designated 'Regeneration Areas' for the purposes of the ROA by the Community Planning Partnership (CPP). The ROA is supported via the Scottish Executive's Community Regeneration Fund (CRF), with an award totalling £10.9 million being allocated to North Ayrshire for 2005/06-2007/08.

The ROA has been developed around 5 regeneration priorities and 9 regeneration programmes. Overall progress is being made, with all initiatives actively working towards achieving the planned outputs. Impacts are being made in the community, and positive feedback is being received by the initiatives in relation to the improvements and developments being achieved. Some initiatives have not progressed as quickly as planned due to recruitment and other difficulties. Underspend has been notified to the CPP Team, mainly in the Healthy North Ayrshire and 'B' Active initiatives, and this has been reallocated with the approval of the Community Planning Co-ordination Group and Communities Scotland to enhance other existing initiatives and to ensure full spend of the overall budget by the end of the financial year.

Noted.

11. Regenerating Our Community Fund 2007/08

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on recommendations made by the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership in relation to funding applications for the Regenerating our Community Fund 2007/08.

The Regenerating our Community Fund has a budget of £125,000 for disbursement in 2007/08. The purpose of the Fund is to provide grants to support community-based activities which benefit people living in North Ayrshire's regeneration areas. The Fund is open to community and voluntary groups and organisations as well as frontline statutory agency workers.

The 2007/08 funding round was launched at 4 community events held in November 2006. The Fund was also publicised via the North Ayrshire 4 Funding web portal, the Community Planning Partnership's website, and the Community Planning Partnership's Update. An Application Workshop was also held offering further advice and support on completing applications. Of the 24 applications received, the Community Planning Partnership's Appraisal Panel recommended that 12 should be funded to a total of £116,257. The appendix to the report provided a summary of these recommendations. The remaining balance of £8,743 will be reallocated to other projects which fit within the ROA criteria.

The Committee agreed to approve the recommendations made by the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Appraisal Panel in relation to funding applications for the Regenerating our Community Fund 2007/08.

12. Council Plan 2006/09

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on progress in implementing the Council Plan 2006/09.

The Council Plan 2006/09 was approved by the Corporate Policy Committee in May 2006. The Plan sets out an overall aim of building a better North Ayrshire through sustainable regeneration and the continuous improvement of Council services. The Plan contains 12 strategic priorities in the areas of the economy, the environment, communities, and organisation. Each of the 12 priorities is supported by a number of outcomes and actions, 143 in total. As at 31 December 2006, 107 actions were on target or complete, 35 actions were slightly adrift of target, and 1 action was yet to commence. The report provided an update on the progress of the 22 actions being driven by the Council's Corporate Management Team.

Noted.

13. National Asset Management Framework for Roads

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on steps being taken to produce an Asset Management Framework following the failure of the Efficient Government Fund bid for Roads.

In May 2006, the Corporate Policy Committee agreed to approve the Stage 2 bid by the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS) to the Efficient Government Fund for a National Asset Management Framework for Roads. The Stage 2 bid was submitted in August 2006 and, in December 2006, SCOTS was advised by the Scottish Executive that it had been unsuccessful.

Roads Authorities are of the view that the Roads Asset Management project is worth pursuing. At the SCOTS Executive meeting held in January 2007 the way forward for the project was discussed and it was agreed that the SCOTS Asset Management Group be invited to develop detailed project proposals for Road Asset Management. Individual Authorities have been asked to confirm their continued participation in the SCOTS Roads Asset Management project prior to SCOTS Annual Business Meeting in April 2007.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the continued participation of Roads Services in the SCOTS Road Asset Management project; and (b) authorise the Chief Executive or other appropriate officer to sign any new legal agreement regarding the project.

14. Council Travel Plan

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on a proposal to develop and maintain a Travel Plan for all Council staff and premises.

The Scottish Executive is committed to increasing the uptake of sustainable Travel Plans across Scotland. Travel Plans are packages of measures, specific to an individual site and/or employer, and aimed to promote more sustainable travel behaviour both to and whilst at work through, for example, the promotion of car sharing, cycling and walking, and the use of public transport. Travel Plans can be either voluntary, as an effective measure by employers to tackle issues with travel to and at the workplace, or can be required by local authorities of developers.

The Scottish Executive published the booklet 'Travel Plans : An Overview' in 2001 which highlighted the benefits of Travel Plans. Work with public bodies and the Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs) is ongoing to promote Travel Plan best practice across Scotland. There is a key role for the RTPs, and also for local authorities, in demonstrating leadership in this regard. The Scottish Executive have provided funding to the RTPs to appoint dedicated Travel Plan Officers to help organisations produce sustainable transport plans to promote better environmental options like public transport, walking, cycling and car sharing. In addition, the Scottish Executive want all local authorities to have operational Travel Plans in place by April, 2008, as stated in the recently published National Transport Strategy document.

Against this background, the report set out proposals to recruit a Travel Plan Officer within Roads Services to develop and implement a Council Travel Plan. The Committee discussed the proposals as set out in the report and considered issues around the development and practical implementation of the Plan.

Councillor Barr, seconded by Councillor Wilkinson, moved that the report should be remitted back to the Corporate Management Team for further consideration.

As an amendment, Councillor O'Neill, seconded by Councillor Margaret Munn, moved that the Committee accept the recommendations set out in the report.

On a division there voted for the amendment 10, and for the motion 6, and accordingly the amendment was declared carried.

Accordingly the Committee agreed (a) to approve the concept of a Council Travel Plan; and (b) that a new post of Travel Plan Officer be created within Roads Services, on the terms outlined in the report, to take the project forward.

15. North West Area Resource Centre: Largs

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on progress in discussions with Ayrshire & Arran NHS Trust regarding the North West Area Resource Centre, Largs.

In March 2006, the Committee agreed to progress proposals to relocate North Ayrshire Council Social Services, Housing, Registration and Local Office services based in Largs, to a new shared facility with Ayrshire and Arran NHS Trust based at Brooksby House, Largs. Since the decision was reached, Council Officers have been pursuing a unified approach based on sharing both the original Brooksby House building and the new accommodation being constructed as part of the new Resource Centre.

The Council's contribution to the development will consist of the value of land for the car park, the cost of construction of the car park, and a contribution to the cost of the new build element of the Centre which is necessary to house North Ayrshire Council services. The capital cost of constructing a planned creche within the facility will be met through Sure Start and Working for Families. A further capital contribution from the Council will be required to fund the I.T., furniture and equipment provision in the new Centre.

In return for the capital contributions, the Council and the creche will receive rent free accommodation in the new build element of the centre and rent remission for 25 years on the original part of the Centre. These arrangements will make it possible to declare the Social Services accommodation in Boyd Street, Largs, surplus to requirements. The appendix to the report set out the capital and revenue implications for the Council.

The Committee agreed to (a) make the necessary adjustments to capital and revenue budgets as set out in the appendix to the report; (b) declare the Boyd Street property surplus to requirements and begin the process of marketing the premises; and (c) continue discussions with NHS Ayrshire and Arran regarding the detailed arrangements for operating the Resource Centre.

16. Working for Families Update

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on progress in the delivery of the North Ayrshire Working for Families Initiative, and considerations for continuation of the Fund post March 2008.

The Working for Families (WfF) Initiative is funded directly by the Scottish Executive to support parents on low income, lone parents, and parents with stresses in the household, where childcare is a barrier towards accessing employment, further education or volunteering opportunities. Working for Families in North Ayrshire has been delivered in partnership with other providers. The Initiative currently delivers a programme of 10 projects aimed at progressing clients towards employment. To the end of 2006, WfF North Ayrshire had supported 830 clients of whom 641 had achieved a major transition e.g. finding employment, or entering training or further education.

The Scottish Executive has reviewed the operation of the Initiative in North Ayrshire and, in recognition of the success achieved in performance and number of outcomes in North Ayrshire, has set higher target of 600 transitions for 2007/2008. The Scottish Executive is currently evaluating the national impact of the Initiative and has advised that, subject to satisfactory conclusions, funding is likely to continue in 2008/09.

The Committee agreed (a) to note the progress made by North Ayrshire Working for Families and the revised targets for 2007/08 as set out in the report; and (b) that the Council continue its discussions with the Scottish Executive in relation to the continuation of the Initiative post March 2008.

17. Printing Services

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Personnel) on proposals to extend the current contract with Xerox Business Services (XBS) for the provision of printing services to the Council.

East Ayrshire Council has approached the Council with regard to the feasibility of sharing reprographic services in line with Scottish Executive's Efficient Government Initiative. In addition the Council is considering implementing a new style of governance following the elections in May 2007, and I.T. Services are undertaking a review of the use of desk top printers. All these developments could have a major impact on copy volumes.

The Council's current contract with Xerox Business Services for the provision of printing services is due to expire on 30 June 2007. In the light of the above, discussions have been held with XBS regarding an extension to the current contract. The report set out the terms for extending the existing contract with XBS to 30 June 2008.

The Committee agreed to approve an extension to the contact with XBS for the provision of printing services until 30 June 2008, on the terms set out in the report.

18. Children's Panel Advisory Committee: Concurrent Membership Scheme with East Ayrshire Children's Panel

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a request from the East Ayrshire Children's Panel Advisory Committee for an extension of the existing Concurrent Membership Scheme.

Since November 2005, there has been an agreement between East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire Children's Panel Advisory Committees whereby the East Ayrshire Panel has access to the male members of the North Ayrshire Panel. The agreement was put in place due to shortage of male panel members in East Ayrshire. The current scheme is due to terminate on 1 June 2007. East Ayrshire CPAC have requested an extension for a further year to 1 June 2008.

The Committee agreed to extend the existing Concurrent Membership Scheme with East Ayrshire to 1 June 2008.

19. Corporate Policy Grants 2006/07 and 2007/08: Financial Assistance to Outside Bodies

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on applications for financial assistance received from outside bodies.

The Committee agreed to approve (a) the following awards in respect of financial year 2006/07:-

Organisation	Award
Chinese Information and Advice Centre	£1,500
Isle of Arran Museum Trust	£4,500
Volunteer Centre North Ayrshire	£1,500
North Ayrshire Cats Protection (NACP)	£1,000
Add It Up	£1,000
Childline Scotland	£3,097

and (b) the following awards in respect of financial year 2007/08:-

Caledonia Award	£1,000
Workers Educational Council	£4,000
Doors Open Day	£500
Barrmill Community Association	£5,000
Sense Scotland	£896
Clubs for Young People	£1,000

20. Urgent Items

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

21. Exclusion of Public

The Committee 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 item of business on the grounds indicated in terms of Paragraphs 8, 9 and 12 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

22. Largs Academy: Construction of I.T. Building

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on the procurement of a contract for the construction of an I.T. building at Largs Academy.

The Committee agreed to accept the tender of £1,637,201.50 from Barr Limited, in the circumstances and on the terms set out in the report.

The meeting ended at 3.30 p.m.

**Corporate Policy Committee
20/03/2007**

Appendix No
CP1

Three Towns Area Committee
28 February 2007

STEVENSTON, 28 February 2007 - At a Meeting of the Three Towns Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.00 am.

Present

David Munn, Margaret Munn, Alan Munro, Sam Taylor and Nan Wallace.

Also Present

A Milson, Learning Manager and B Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer, Community Learning and Development (Educational Services); T Paterson, Assistant Transportation Manager (Roads); and M Anderson and E Fisher, Corporate Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

In Attendance

Inspector I Ness (Strathclyde Police); and L Brady, Community Safety Co-ordinator (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

Chair

Councillor D Munn in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Gordon Allison and Peter McNamara.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 17 January 2007, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Support to Organisations

A presentation was given by Robert McGuire of the International, Historical, Cultural and Geographical Agency on its work within the Three Towns Area.

The Committee was advised that the group was involved in a range of historical, cultural and environmental projects which includes:-

- working with different nationalities and their cultures, including staging shows;
- visiting older people's complexes and church guilds to show archive film footage of the area and films of the different cultures within the area;

- working with schools on environmental projects, including the trail at Kerelaw Castle and Scotland in Bloom projects;
- staging, as part of the Burns and a'that Festival, a Cultural Evening and a Scottish Night.

Noted.

3. Strathclyde Police

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police detailing the number and types of crime in the Committee's area to 28 February 2007.

There has been an overall decrease in crimes of violence over the period, as well as a decrease in domestic housebreakings. However, non-domestic housebreakings have increased and the Community Safety department have been visiting these locations to offer security advice. Vandalism figures continue to be at an unacceptable level, but excellent work by the Community Officers in conjunction with the Campus Officers is continuing to produce an increase in detections. Operations relating to the 'Drug Dealers Don't Care' campaign have been successful with a number of individuals charged.

Following a successful pilot in the 3 Towns Area, the bottle marking scheme to tackle sales of alcohol to underage consumers has now been rolled out across Ayrshire. An 8 week campaign, which has the partner backing of the 3 Ayrshire Councils and Licensing Boards, ADAT, Community Wardens, Trading Standards and local Licensing Officers, will allow the police to trace bottles to retailers.

There was discussion on the following issues:-

- the success of Campus Officers in schools and the desirability of extending this provision to all schools, including Seafield School; and
- drug dealing at Stevenston Cross and begging within Saltcoats Town Centre.

Noted.

4. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue detailing response figures and activities in the Committee's area between 8 January and 19 February 2007. There were 88 incidents in the Three Towns area for that period and the report gave details of these.

There were 17 incidents which resulted in a fire report during the period. Despite widespread local media coverage and awareness raising, 5 of these fires involved the careless use of cooking equipment and materials. There was also an increase in secondary fires and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue are working in partnership with Strathclyde Police, Environmental Services and the Community Wardens to address this trend.

The Community Safety Co-ordinator reported on community intervention activities, including an Emergency Services Day planned for 15 June 2007 at Ardrossan Academy.

There was discussion on the issue of road safety and the value of the live presentation 'Reckless Driving Wrecks Lives' shown by South Ayrshire Community Safety Partnership in Ayr. Concern was expressed that not all North Ayrshire schools have taken the opportunity of attending this event.

The Committee agreed that the Clerk write to those schools who have not been represented at the presentation 'Reckless Driving Wrecks Lives' to establish why they have not yet taken up this opportunity.

5. Traffic Regulation Order: Caledonia Road, Ardrossan: One Way Operation

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on Traffic Regulation Order: Caledonia Road, Ardrossan: One Way Operation.

Clydeport PLC have been granted outline planning consent for a Masterplan proposal to redevelop the Ardrossan harbourside area and former Shell site. This plan proposes to develop new residential, retail, industrial and leisure developments over a period of several years.

Caledonia Road is 2-way a residential road located between A738 Eglinton Road and North Crescent Road, Ardrossan. In the interests of road safety and management of the predicted increase in both vehicular and pedestrian traffic by development in the area, the junction of Dalry Road, Eglinton Road, Caledonia Road is to have traffic signals installed as part of the Clydeport planning consent. In addition, it is proposed to introduce one-way operations, namely northbound from Young Street to Eglinton Street (A738) and southbound from Young Street to North Crescent Road, as indicated in the appendix to the report.

The Committee (a) noted that the investigation, preparation and statutory process is underway for a Traffic Regulation Order identified in the report; and (b) agreed to implement the Order should no objections be received.

6. Community Development Grants Scheme: Applications for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational services) on applications for financial assistance under the Council's Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Action Fund.

The Community Development Grants Scheme has a balance of £5,412.53 and the Local Action Fund has a balance of £5,942, (the latter including a refund of £2,000 in terms of unspent grant funding awarded to Auchenhavie Hillwalking Club in June 2006.

The Committee agreed (a) to make the following awards:-

Community Development Grants Scheme

Organisation	Award
Saltcoats Young Mums	£1,500
Add it Up	£1,500
F.R.I.E.N.D.S.	£ 210
1138 Ardrossan Squadron ATC	£1,430
1st Ardrossan Girls Brigade	£ 700

Local Action Fund

Organisation	Award
Saltcoats Youth Action	£1,500
Ardrossan Youth Association	£1,185.45
Tate Hall Youth Group	£2,000*

*To be held in trust by Ardrossan Youth Association

and (b) remitted to the Clerk in consultation with the Chair (i) to award the sum of £1,000, to HCTP the Pilgrimage Trust Group 207 subject to satisfactory assessment of the group's application; and (ii) to disburse the remaining Local Action Fund funding for 2006/07, subject to satisfactory assessment.

7. Ardrossan Common Good Fund: Request for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application from Ardrossan Christmas Decorations Committee for financial assistance from Ardrossan Common Good Fund.

The balance of funding available for disbursement from Ardrossan Common Good Fund is £1,060.

The Committee agreed to award a grant of £1,000 to Ardrossan Christmas Decorations Committee.

The Meeting ended at 11.20 am.

Corporate Policy Committee
20/03/2007

Appendix No
CP2

Liaison Meeting between the Three Towns Area Committee and the Community Planning Partners
28 February 2007

STEVENSTON, 28 February 2007 - At a Liaison Meeting between the Three Towns Area Committee and the Community Planning Partners at 11.30 am.

Present

David Munn, Margaret Munn, Alan Munro, Sam Taylor and Nan Wallace (North Ayrshire Council); Inspector I Ness (Strathclyde Police); M McMillan, Lead Public Health Practitioner and R Neill, Operational Support Manager (North Ayrshire Community Health Partnership).

In Attendance

S Bale, Acting Community Planning Co-ordinator and M Anderson and E Fisher, Corporate Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Councillor D Munn in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Gordon Allison and Peter McNamara (North Ayrshire Council); Station Officer L Elliot and L Brady (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue); Sgt S Leary (Strathclyde Police); and P Fyfe (North Ayrshire Community Health Partnership).

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Liaison Meeting held on 15 November 2006 were confirmed.

2. Health Issues

(a) Health Improvement and Reducing Inequality in North Ayrshire

Submitted report by the Lead Public Health Practitioner, North Ayrshire Community Health Partnership on health promotion activities in the Committee's area.

The undernoted points were highlighted:-

- it is intended that every school or nursery establishment in the area will be health promoting at least the minimum commitment level by the end of December 2007;

- in terms of the Healthy North Ayrshire initiative, some 840 health check MOTs were carried out between April and December 2006. Most checks were carried out on women and the average age of participants was 46. A slightly older age group and, in particular, men will, therefore, be a priority in the final year of the scheme;
- smoking cessation, weight management and mental health have been identified as key issues arising from the health check MOTs; and
- the 'Childsmile' initiative will seek to improve the oral health of children aged 0 to 3 years who live in areas of deprivation. The project will be implemented in the Three Towns by a part time health visitor and 2 dental health support workers.

Noted.

(b) Health Service Developments

Submitted report by the Operational Support Manager on new and emerging service developments in the Committee's area.

The proposed development of a replacement surgery for South Beach General Practice remains at the briefing stage. Some issues, including car parking for users, require to be addressed before the project can proceed to the Schedule of Accommodation stage.

Concern was expressed about difficulties experienced by wheelchair users in accessing dental and GP services and the Operational Support Manager undertook to raise this issue on behalf of the Liaison Meeting.

Noted.

3. Community Plan: Progress Report

Submitted report by the Chief Executive (North Ayrshire Council) on progress against the actions specific to the 3 Towns area contained within the Community Plan Action Plan 2006/07.

The Community Plan sets out the strategic direction for North Ayrshire and identifies seven priorities for the next ten years. An Action Plan has been produced with actions against each priority. The Community Planning Team and the Community Planning Co-ordination Group will monitor the Action Plan on a quarterly basis. An Annual Review and Action Plan will be produced in Spring 2007, outlining both key achievements in 2006/07 and planned actions for 2007/08.

Progress against the actions specific to the 3 Towns area was detailed in the appendix to the report.

The Liaison Meeting discussed the following issues:-

- delays in the development of the site at New Street, Stevenston by Cunninghame Housing Association;
- the operation of the quality bus corridor, particularly traffic congestion at the roundabout in Stevenston and bottlenecks in Stevenston Town Centre; and
- the value of seeking a Campus Police Officer for Auchenhavie Academy.

The Liaison Meeting agreed that (a) the Clerk write to Cunninghame Housing Association to express concern at delays in the development of New Street, Stevenston; and (b) the Acting Community Planning Co-ordinator report back to the relevant elected Members in respect of the other individual issues raised.

The Meeting ended at 12.15 pm.

**Corporate Policy Committee
20/03/2007**

Appendix No
CP3

Irvine, Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee
1 March 2007

Irvine, 1 March 2007 - At a Meeting of the Irvine, Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Ian Clarkson, Thomas Barr, Jack Carson, Stewart Dewar, Drew Duncan, Jane Gorman, David O'Neill and Donald Reid.

In Attendance

A. Milson, Learning Manager, Quality Development, and B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer, Community Learning and Development (Educational Services); and M. McKeown and E. Fisher, Corporate Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

Inspector N. Kerr (Strathclyde Police); and Station Manager K. Alcroft (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

Chair

Councillor Clarkson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Margaret McDougall and John Moffat.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 18 January 2007, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on incidents and Fire Service activities in the Committee's area in the period 9 January to 22 February 2007.

During the period, the Service responded to 175 emergency calls in the Committee's area, involving property fires, secondary fires, malicious calls, fire alarm apparatus false alarms, and emergency calls of a non-fire related nature.

During the period the Service carried out 94 Home Fire safety Visits. Visits have been carried out to a number of premises as a means of reducing the number of call outs associated with fire alarm apparatus failures. These will continue.

The malicious activation of fire alarms within Greenwood Academy continues to be a problem. The Fire Service continues to work closely with the school to reduce these incidents and a presentation has been made to S1 and S2 pupils. A risk assessment has also been undertaken within the school relating to the removal of specific call points.

In February 2007, a number of pupils from North Ayrshire schools participated in a week long work experience programme at Dreghorn Fire Station.

Noted.

3. Strathclyde Police

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police on crime trends and Police activities in the Committee's area in the period 1 April to 30 December 2006.

Statistics were provided in relation to crimes involving violence, indecency, dishonesty, vandalism, drugs supply, and disorder. Inspector Kerr provided additional information in relation to recent incidents. Safer Scotland Town Centre Initiatives will continue until 31 March 2007. North Ayrshire Safer Community Group has received funding for its campaign which will be used to provide taxi wardens and additional Police patrols at weekends, and to fund under 18s discos at Pitches as a means of reducing youth related anti social behaviour. The campaign has proved successful.

The Committee discussed issues relating to youths gathering in Irvine High Street area and possible disorder, Police responses to incidents caught on CCTV, and the use of mobile CCTV.

Noted.

4. Analysis of Funding 2003 - 2007

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the grants awarded by the Irvine, Kilwinning, Dreghorn, Springside Area Committee during the four year period 2003 - 2007.

The Area Committee is responsible for disbursing grants from the Community Development Grant Scheme, the Local Action Fund, Irvine Common Good Fund, Woodgreen Mortification Trust, the Sturrock Trust, and the Town Twinning Fund. To date the Committee has considered 223 applications for funding from a range of community groups and individuals and awarded grants totalling £531,432. The report provided a breakdown of the awards made under each budget heading.

Noted.

5. Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Action Fund 2006/07: Applications for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on applications for financial assistance under the Community Development Grants Scheme and the Local Action Fund 2006/07.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

Community Development Grants Scheme

Organisation	Award
1. Dreghorn Co-operative Women's Guild	£ 400
2. Ayrshire Community Education and Sports	£1,000
3. Add it Up	£1,500
4. ANCHO Community Link Project	£1,551.68

Local Action Fund

Organisation	Award
1. 19th Ayrshire Scout Group (Kilwinning)	£1,000
2. Irvine/Vineburgh Boxing Club	£2,000
3. Kilwinning Fitness Club	£1,800

6. Urgent Item

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

7. Woodgreen Mortification Trust

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application for financial assistance from Woodgreen Mortification Trust.

The Committee agreed to make an award of £600 to the applicant.

8. Valedictory

The Chair thanked Members for their contribution to the work of the Committee over the last 4 years.

The meeting ended at 2.50 p.m.

Corporate Policy Committee
20/03/2007

Appendix No
CP4

Liaison Meeting between the Irvine, Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee and the
Community Planning Partners
1 March 2007

Irvine, 1 March 2007 - At a Liaison Meeting between Irvine, Kilwinning, Dreghorn & Springside Area Committee and the Community Planning Partners at 3.00 p.m.

Present

Councillors Ian Clarkson, Tom Barr, Jane Gorman, David O'Neill and Donald Reid (North Ayrshire Council); Inspector Neil Kerr (Strathclyde Police); Station Manager K. Alcroft (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue). Marlene McMillan, Roseann Neill and Margaret Pieroni (North Ayrshire Community Health Partnership).

In Attendance

S. Bale, Acting Community Planning Co-ordinator, and M. McKeown and E. Fisher, Corporate Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Councillor Clarkson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Drew Duncan, Margaret McDougall and John Moffat.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Liaison Meeting held on 16 November 2006 were confirmed.

2. Community Planning: Progress Report

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on progress against the actions contained within the Community Plan Action Plan 2006/07, which are specific to the Irvine, Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside area.

The appendix to the report provided an update on progress with regard to:-

- establishing Irvine Bay Urban Regeneration Company and the preparation of a masterplan for the Irvine Bay area
- redevelopment of the Ayrshire Central Hospital site
- preparation of a masterplan for Vineburgh Housing regeneration area
- redevelopment of Springside Terrace, Springside

- completion of the Ardrossan to Kilmarnock Quality Bus Corridor
- a Town Heritage Initiative for Irvine Town Centre

Progress against the Regeneration Outcome Agreement was also noted.

Noted.

3. Health Issues

3.1 Health Improvement

Submitted report by the Lead Public Health Practitioner, North Ayrshire Community Health Partnership on health promotion activities in the Committee's area.

The report provided information in relation to the progress of the Health Promoting Schools Initiative and the Healthy North Ayrshire, including the progress of MOT health checks.

Noted.

3.2 Health Service Developments

Submitted report by the Operational Support Manager on new and emerging service developments in the Committee's area. The following developments were detailed:-

Eglinton Street Practice

Rutland Scotland has been selected as the preferred developer for the new premises on the Ayrshire Central Hospital site. A meeting of all relevant parties has taken place to agree timescales for completion of the project.

Fullarton Health House

NHS Modernisation Funding has awarded £346,000 to expand the accommodation and provide a wider range of services. Discussion is also ongoing with the Community Centre regarding a joint development.

Montgomerie Park

Discussions are underway regarding the possibility of an integrated development with the new school. Funding implications require further investigation.

Kilwinning Group Practice

A site feasibility study requires to be undertaken to ascertain whether all of Kilwinning Group Practice and Fergushill Clinic requirements can be provided on the existing Kilwinning Group Practice site at Almswall Road, Kilwinning. Investigations are also being made into utilisation of an area of open public space in Kilwinning are also being undertaken.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 3.30 p.m.

Corporate Policy Committee
20/03/2007

Appendix No
CP5

Garnock Valley, North Coast, Arran and Cumbrae Area Committee
2 March 2007

SKELMORLIE, 2 March 2007 - At a Meeting of the Garnock Valley, North Coast, Arran and Cumbrae Area Committee at 10.00 a.m.

Present

Richard Wilkinson, John Bell, Elizabeth McLardy and Elisabeth Marshall.

In Attendance

A Milson, Learning Manager, Quality Development (Educational Services); J Mason, Transportation Manager (Roads) (Property Services); P Shiach and C Graham, Corporate Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

Inspector J Seenan (Strathclyde Police) and L Brady, Community Safety Co-ordinator (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

Chair

Councillor Wilkinson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Gordon Clarkson, Margie Currie, Jean Highgate, Alan Hill, Robert Rae, John Reid and Ian Richardson.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 19 January 2007, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Marshall declared a non-pecuniary interest in the application from the Largs Viking Festival at Item 5 on the agenda.

3. Strathclyde Police

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police on trends in crime figures in the Committee's area in the period 2 to 29 January 2007.

Violent Crime remains the same as in the previous reporting period although the 6 crimes which occurred cover a wider geographical area. Crimes of dishonesty have increased in comparison to the previous reporting period, with a particularly notable increase in Theft by Housebreaking in the Largs area. Car crime has also shown a marked increase in the Kilbirnie area.

Community officers continue to utilise their local knowledge in an effort to detect crimes and this has resulted in 3 youths in the Kilbirnie area being reported regarding incidents of vandalism to 2 schools. However, acts of vandalism have shown an increase from 38 to 45 crimes, the majority of which have again occurred in Kilbirnie and West Kilbride.

Crimes of Disorder number 51, a decrease of 14 since the last report with Breach of the Peace accounting for more than half of that total.

A crime of Assault with intent to rob occurred in Dalry and enquiries are ongoing to trace 2 youths in this regard. In Beith, 3 males have been reported for possession with intent to supply drugs.

Inspector Seenan responded to Members' questions and provided clarification on the information presented in the report.

The Transportation Manager (Roads) in conjunction with Strathclyde Police, undertook to investigate public transport traffic on the route between Castle Road/Annetyard Road, Skelmorlie and respond to Councillor Marshall who raised the issue.

Noted.

4. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activities within the Committee's area in the period 6 Jan to 18 February 2007, during which the Service attended 91 emergency calls.

Seventeen incidents resulting in a Fire Report were recorded during this period. While there is no increase in activity from the last reporting period, some of the incidents were of a serious nature. Fires occurred in Kilbirnie, Glengarnock, Dalry, Beith, Largs and Skelmorlie. Five reportable fires occurred on the Isle of Arran, 1 of which resulted in a fatality while another required 4 breathing apparatus, 3 main jets and 2 hose reel jets to successfully extinguish the fire.

Refuse/Container Fires have reduced considerably since the last report and there are no incidents to report in relation to fires in derelict property or derelict vehicles being set on fire. Twenty emergency calls related to non-fire incidents including flooding and 5 Road Traffic Collisions, resulting in 2 fatalities.

Twenty-four incidents of false alarms due to faulty apparatus have been reported and will continue to be monitored. The Service is currently working in partnership with the Community Police to resolve issues of Malicious Calls.

Due to the availability of wholetime personnel who have been placed on the alternative duty system, the Fire and Rescue Service has been able to continue the Home Fire Safety Visits Initiative throughout the Committee's area. Educational fire safety advice has also been given to tenants and householders. In addition, referrals continue to be made through Social Services and North Ayrshire Care and Repair Project.

The experiential learning event 'Arran Avoids Accidents' is currently being organised for local school pupils and will run from 27-29 March.

An Emergency Services Day will be held on 15 June for pupils attending Ardrossan Academy and will involve a number of agencies giving demonstrations and advice to pupils.

Noted.

5. Local Action Fund and Town Twinning Support Fund: Applications for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on awards paid to date, including the balances of funding remaining and applications for financial assistance under the Local Action Fund and the Town Twinning Support Fund.

The Committee (a) agreed to make the following awards:-

Local Action Fund

Organisation	Award
Fairlie Bowling Club	£1,208

Town Twinning Support Fund

<u>Organisation</u>	Award
Largs Viking Festival	£2,000

and (b) noted that the budgets for the Local Action Fund and the Town Twinning Support Fund for 2006/07 have now been fully expended.

6. Margaret Archibald Bequest

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on awards paid to 28 June 2006, including the balance of funding remaining and applications for financial assistance from the Margaret Archibald Bequest.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

Organisation	Award
St Margaret's Church Guild	£330
Trinity Church Guild	£330

7. Largs Common Good

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on awards paid to 14 February 2007, including the balance of funding remaining and on an application for financial assistance from the Largs Common Good Fund.

The Committee agreed (a) to award the sum of £347 to the No Poo on My Shoe organisation ; and (b) noted that the budget for the Largs Common Good Fund for 2006/07 has now been fully expended.

The Committee further agreed to remit to the Chief Executive to make arrangements for the consideration of grant applications in financial year 2007/08 during the intervening period between the current and new Council administrations.

8. Largs Traffic Management

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on the progress of the traffic management proposals for Largs.

The Council carried out 2 formal consultations on traffic management proposals for Largs during 2006. The proposals affect both the A78 trunk road and the local road network. A substantial level of responses had been received to each of the consultations resulting in a significant number of changes being made to the Scheme which was then re-advertised in November 2006.

Many of the original points of objection continue to be made and, in addition, several new objections have been received to some of the amendments, indicating support for parts of the original Scheme.

In view of the range and scale of objections and comments submitted on the advertised traffic management proposals, it was proposed that a restricted Scheme, containing the key elements affecting traffic movements within the town centre is taken forward initially, and that the revised proposals be processed and advertised in due course in accordance with the statutory requirements for Traffic Regulations Orders.

The Transportation Manager (Roads) responded to Members' questions and provided clarification on matters relating to taxi traffic in the town.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the revised proposals as outlined in the report; and (b) that the Head of Roads proceed to re-advertise and consult on the Scheme in accordance with the requirements of Traffic Regulation Orders.

9. Valedictory

The Chair recorded his thanks to all elected Members and Officers who have contributed to the work of the Committee since 2003.

The meeting ended at 10.40 a.m.

**Corporate Policy Committee
20/03/2007**

Appendix No
CP6

Liaison Meeting between the Garnock Valley, North Coast, Arran and Cumbrae Area Committee
and the Community Planning Partners
2 March 2007

SKELMORLIE, 2 March 2007 - At a Liaison Meeting between the Garnock Valley, North Coast, Arran and Cumbrae Area Committee and the Community Planning Partners at 11.00 a.m.

Present

Councillors Richard Wilkinson, John Bell, Elizabeth McLardy and Elisabeth Marshall (North Ayrshire Council); Alan Buckley, Primary Care and Community Services Manager (Community Health Partnership) and Stuart Reid, Planning Manager (Acute Services) (NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde); Roseann Neill, Operational Support Manager and Marlene McMillan, Lead Public Health Practitioner, North Ayrshire Community Health Partnership (NHS Ayrshire and Arran); Liz Brady, Community Safety Coordinator (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue); and Inspector James Seenan (Strathclyde Police).

Also Present

J McKnight, Principal Officer, Community Learning and Development (Educational Services); A Todd, Community Planning Officer and P Shiach and C Graham, Corporate Support Officers (Chief Executive's) (North Ayrshire Council).

Chair

Councillor Wilkinson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Councillors Gordon Clarkson, Margie Currie, Jean Highgate, Alan Hill, Robert Rae, John Reid and Ian Richardson (North Ayrshire Council); Katie Chan (Communities Scotland) and Inspector Kenny McLachlan (Strathclyde Police).

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Liaison Meeting held on 17 November 2006 were confirmed.

2. NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Alan Buckley, Primary Care and Community Services Manager (Community Health Partnership) confirmed that approval for the creation of a Community Health Partnership in Inverclyde had been granted by the Scottish Executive on 15 January 2007.

David Walker has been appointed as Director of the Community Health Partnership and Eleanor Smith as Chair. It is anticipated that the first meeting of the Community Health Partnership will take place in June 2007.

Mr Buckley confirmed that the majority of services currently being provided at Inverclyde Royal Hospital would be retained under the new arrangements.

Mr Buckley then responded to question on his report.

Stuart Reid, Planning Manager (Acute Services) (NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde) tabled a list of current proposals from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde providing a comparison with proposals made by NHS Argyll and Clyde in 2004, together with an explanation on why the changes were being proposed, who would be affected and the timescale for implementation.

Mr Reid then responded to questions on the revised proposals.

Noted

3. NHS Ayrshire and Arran

3.1 Health Improvement

Submitted report by the North Ayrshire Community Health Partnership on Public Health and Health Promotion activities in the Garnock Valley, North Coast, Arran and Cumbrae areas of North Ayrshire.

Marlene McMillan, Lead Public Health Practitioner, North Ayrshire Community Partnership (NHS Ayrshire and Arran) advised on Health Promotion initiatives undertaken to raise health awareness in Ayrshire and Arran as undernoted:-

Health Promoting Schools

The North Ayrshire Health Promoting Accreditation Scheme was nationally endorsed in October 2006 with the Accreditation Group continuing to meet in relation to issues of support and training for schools and nurseries. The first date for submission for schools and nurseries to apply for accreditation is June 2007 with further submission dates in September and November 2007. North Ayrshire has a baseline of the end of December 2007 whereby every nursery and school establishment should be promoting health at the minimum level of commitment.

Healthy Working Lives

The workplace team hosted a health event in Arran in September 2006, the aims and objectives of which were detailed in the report.

The topics which proved to be most popular were Safe and Healthy Working, and Fresh Air-shire, a smoking cessation and prevention programme.

Healthy North Ayrshire

The report contained statistics covering the period April to December 2006, detailing profiles on MOT Health Checks and Information, Intervention and Referrals in relation to smoking, weight control and mental health.

Noted.

3.2 Health Service Developments

Submitted report by the North Ayrshire Community Health Partnership on new and/or emerging service developments within the Garnock Valley, North Coast, Cumbrae and Arran localities.

Roseann Neill, Operational Support Manager, North Ayrshire Community Health Partnership advised on health service developments in the area as undernoted: -

Arran

A modular building within the grounds of the Arran War Memorial Hospital, providing suitable administration and clinical accommodation is on schedule to be in place and fitted out by 31 March. The new building will provide a new podiatry suite, an educational and training facility and consulting rooms for visiting services.

Kilbirnie

The modernisation and extension of Kilbirnie Health Centre has commenced with the contractor on site from December 2006 and demolition works completed. The anticipated completion date for the new facility is February 2008.

Cumbrae

Restoration work on the Garrison Project, Millport has slipped with a revised completion date estimated at June 2007. Furniture and equipment needs are currently being assessed to meet the needs of the GP Surgery and other Primary Care Services.

Noted.

3.3 North West Ayrshire Resource Centre (NWARC)

Submitted report by the North Ayrshire Community Health Partnership on progress on the North West Ayrshire Resource Centre (NWARC), Largs.

In May 2002 the Scottish Executive Health Department (SEHD) approved in principle the development of a Primary Care Resource Centre for the North West Ayrshire area, which would form part of an Ayrshire wide Property Strategy.

Details of the current position, including works undertaken to date and the Group Structure approved by the North West Ayrshire Project Board to progress the work completed to date on the new building and the service provision from the facility, were contained within the report.

Roseann Neill, Operational Support Manager, North West Community Health Partnership, advised the meeting of the measures taken by the Partnership's Acting General Manager to ensure appropriate representation on these groups and indicated that the Patient Public Co-ordinator will support the public representative(s) on the Service Delivery Group. On completion of the building, representatives from the groups will be asked to form a Users Group to ensure effective communication and use of the facility.

It was anticipated that following the commencement of works on the site of the car park, the Main Contractor will commence works in April 2007.

An Open Day will be held with regard to discussions on service delivery from the new facility.

Noted.

4. Community Engagement in the Kilbirnie area

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) North Ayrshire Council on Community Engagement activities in the Kilbirnie area.

The Principal Officer, Community Learning and Development reported on activities currently being undertaken in Kilbirnie, and provided details of programmes involving a variety of groups within the community. Details of future programmes, including revamped ground space for the MATES Project and increased usage of the Radio City facilities, were also contained within the report.

Noted.

5. Community Planning: Progress Report

Submitted report by the Chief Executive (North Ayrshire Council) on progress against the actions, specific to the Garnock Valley, North Coast, Arran and Cumbrae area, contained within the Community Plan Action Plan 2006/07.

The Community Plan sets out the strategic direction for North Ayrshire and identifies seven priorities for the next ten years. An Action Plan has been produced with actions against each priority. The Community Planning Team and the Community Planning Co-ordination Group will monitor the Action Plan on a quarterly basis. An Annual Review and Action Plan will be produced in Spring 2007, outlining both key achievements in 2006/07 and planned actions for 2007/08.

Progress against the actions specific to the Garnock Valley, North Coast, Arran and Cumbrae area was detailed in the appendix to the report.

Noted.

6. Open Forum

Two members of the public, Mr Murdoch and Mr Macfarlane, were in attendance, and raised concerns with regard to the Largs Traffic Management proposals.

The concerns related to the provision of taxi stances, the proposed introduction of speed bumps and the introduction of a number of traffic light systems within the town. Suggestions included the removal of a traffic island, with subsequent widening on the road to allow more room for buses, the introduction of traffic lights at Nelson Street only and parking restrictions at the bottom of Park Street.

The Chair advised that detailed discussions had taken place with local Members , and that further consultation would be undertaken at a later date.

7. Valedictory

The Chair recorded his thanks to the Members and the Partners for their attendance at the Liaison Meetings and their contribution to joint working in the Garnock Valley, North Coast, Arran and Cumbrae area.

In return, Councillor Bell, on behalf of the Meeting, offered a vote of thanks to the Chair for his courtesy and leadership and wished him well for the future.

The meeting ended at 12.10 p.m.