

Property Services Standing Sub Committee  
22 February 2006

**Irvine, 22 February 2006** - At a Meeting of the Property Services Standing Sub Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

**Present**

John Bell, Jane Gorman, Samuel Taylor and Richard Wilkinson.

**In Attendance**

T. Orr, Corporate Director; O. Clayton, Head of Housing, J. Currie Head of Cleansing, Grounds Maintenance and Transport, J. Paul, Head of Technical Services and R. Small, Head of Roads (Property Services); and M. McKeown and A. Little, Corporate and Democratic Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

**Chair**

Councillor Bell in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

David O'Neill, Margaret McDougall, Elizabeth McLardy and Nan Wallace.

**1. Service Plans 2006/09**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) setting out the strategic priorities for Property Services in the period 2006/09.

Strategic Service Statements are a key feature of the joint service planning and budgetary process put in place by the Council to respond to recommendations contained in Audit Scotland's report of their audit of Best Value and Community Planning arrangements within the Council. The aim of this process is to ensure that financial and other resources are aligned with the Council's identified Service priorities.

The appendices to the report set out Strategic Service Statements for Property Services as a whole, and for Cleansing, Grounds Maintenance, Cemeteries, Housing, Roads, and Technical Services. The Statements set out the strategic priorities for each of these Service areas over the period 2006/09. These priorities reflect the challenges facing each of the Service areas in their current and future operating environments.

Other areas within Property Services i.e. Building Services, Catering, Transport, and Cleaning, are purely operational in nature and, as such, are not covered by Strategic Service Statements. These Services will be required to continue to meet their statutory duty of breaking even over a 3 year rolling period, and to demonstrate competitiveness.

The Sub Committee discussed each of the Service Statements in turn and asked questions of the Corporate Director and Heads of Service present.

Noted.

## **2. The Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care: Inspection of Ardrossan Short Stay Hostel**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on the outcome of the recent inspection of housing support services at Ardrossan Short Stay Hostel.

The Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care was established in April 2002 to regulate care services in Scotland. Prior to 2002, the regulation of care services was carried out by registration and inspection units within the 32 Councils and 12 health boards. All local authority care services are now required to register with the Commission and to meet the same standards as private and voluntary services. Housing support services such as those provided by hostels and tenancy support projects are subject to regulation.

In November 2005, the Ardrossan Short Stay Hostel became the first Housing Services project to be inspected by the Commission. The hostel provides accommodation and support for up to 33 homeless people, catering for a diverse client group, some with children and single adults of all ages. The service provides 24 hour support with a full time equivalent staff team of 14.

The inspection process included an on-site visit which involved interviews with staff, informal discussions with residents, and a detailed examination of records, policies and procedures. The inspection report showed that the hostel was complying with national standards. No enforcement action was needed and there were no action plan requirements in terms of complying with current legislation. Minor recommendations on access to policies and procedures for residents, and the timing of support for short-term residents, were made and these are currently being implemented.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 3.30 p.m.