

Corporate Policy Committee  
13 December 1999

**Irvine, 13 December 1999** - At a Meeting of the Corporate Policy Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 pm.

**Present**

David O'Neill, Ian Clarkson, David Gallagher, John Bell, Stewart Dewar, John Donn, Samuel Gooding, Margaret McDougall, and David Munn.

**In Attendance**

B Devine, Chief Executive; G Irving, Corporate Director (Social Services); A Herbert, Assistant Chief Executive (Finance); B MacDonald, Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion); J Montgomery, Principal Performance Review Officer, G Lawson, Principal Policy/Administration Officer, A Osborne, Corporate Policy Officer, and M McKeown, Administration Officer (Chief Executive's).

**Chair**

Mr O'Neill in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Jane Gorman, Robert Rae, John Reid and Richard Wilkinson.

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 1st November 1999, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. McIntosh Commission: Response by Scottish Executive**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Council's comments on the Scottish Executive's response to the report of the McIntosh Commission.

In November 1999 the Committee agreed to set up a Working Group to prepare the Council's comments on the Scottish Executive's response to the recommendations contained in the McIntosh Report. The Working Group met on 25th November 1999 and agreed the terms of a response, which was subsequently submitted to the Scottish Executive by the 29th November deadline. A copy of the response was appended to the report.

The Committee agreed to homologate the response which has been submitted to the Scottish Executive.

**3. Best Value Service Reviews**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive which provided an update on the ongoing programme of Best Value Service Reviews.

In January 1999 the then Corporate Strategy Committee approved a programme of 122 Service Reviews over a 5-year period. Following a strategic review by the Corporate Management Team, which identified the key issues facing the Council over the next five years, and highlighted the drawbacks of the current programme, it was proposed that the programme be updated to accommodate two types of review, namely, Strategic Reviews, supported by Efficiency Reviews.

This approach would facilitate a greater strategic emphasis to the review process.

The Committee agreed to (a) in principle update the Service Review Programme to accommodate Strategic Service Reviews supported by Efficiency Reviews; (b) note the considerable efforts of staff involved in service reviews to date and recognise the value of their work in informing future Strategic Service Reviews and Efficiency Reviews; (c) remit to the Chief Executive to negotiate an agreement with the Scottish Executive for the change to the Service Review Programme; and (d) receive a progress report, including proposals for a programme of Strategic Service Reviews and Efficiency Reviews, at a future meeting.

#### **4. Review of Customer Comments Scheme**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a review of the Council's Customer Comments Scheme which was introduced in 1996 to ensure the Council has a mechanism for continuously improving services by listening to, and acting upon feedback from customers.

The reorganisation undertaken in 1998 has resulted in a slimmer, flatter and more accountable management structure. The opportunity was taken during the period July - October 1999 to carry out a holistic review of the Customer Comments Scheme, to ensure that it takes account of the new management structure. The findings, conclusions and recommendations arising from this review were appended to the report.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the recommendations contained in Appendix A of the report; and (b) that copies of Customer Comments forms be made available to local Members as appropriate.

#### **5. North Ayrshire Community Plan**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the development of a North Ayrshire Community Plan.

On 21st September 1999 the Committee approved procedures for the preparation of a Community Plan for North Ayrshire through North Ayrshire Social Inclusion Partnership using the Council's own Corporate Plan as the basis for consultation.

As lead partner, the Council invited a wide range of public, private and voluntary sector agencies to be involved in the construction of the Community Plan and the resulting Plan, a copy of which was attached, takes accounts of the comments submitted by these diverse Organisation.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the adoption of the draft Community Plan; and (b) that the Chief Executive together with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council participate in the public launch of the document.

#### **6. Report on the 1998/99 Audit of North Ayrshire Council**

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on the Report on the 1998/99 Audit of North Ayrshire Council which as well as commenting on the 1998/99 audit, also sets out an Action Plan for areas requiring attention.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and the action being taken to address matters requiring attention.

#### **7. Joint Venture/EDI Group**

Submitted a report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the programme of activity to be undertaken to establish a framework for future joint ventures.

At a seminar following the meeting of the Corporate Services Committee on 1 December 1999,

EDI Group, the Council's partners in North Ayrshire Ventures Ltd, presented a series of options for potential future joint ventures to be undertaken by the Joint Venture Company. The options presented by EDI would be based on a mechanism which involved the Council vesting some of its assets in the joint venture with an equivalent financial input from EDI. This would have the effect of releasing to the Council capital and/or revenue which would be used to meet the Council's policy objectives.

Much background work will be required before any proposals can be submitted to Committee for approval. It was therefore proposed that a senior Officer Working Group be set up to look at the options proposed by EDI; investigate alternative options for providing finance; establish the financial impact on the Council in future years; and identify the projects to be funded by this programme.

The Committee agreed to (a) the Establishment of a Senior Officers Working Group which will incorporate Member involvement at an appropriate stage; and (b) approve the examination of the framework for future joint ventures.

#### **8. Establishment of an Ayrshire Transport Group**

Submitted joint report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) and the Corporate Director (Property Services) on the establishment of an Ayrshire Transport Group.

At its meeting on 24th September 1999 Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Committee approved a report on the establishment of an Ayrshire Transport Group to articulate the common strategic transport interests that exist in Ayrshire, and to co-ordinate the development of policy and promote Ayrshire's case. The report also recommended that the remit of the Joint Structure Plan Committee be extended to become the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Committee.

The Committee agreed (a) to the establishment of an Ayrshire Transport Group at Officer level; and (b) that the role of the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Committee be extended to encompass transportation.

#### **9. Housing Action Area: Kilbirnie 42-50 Kirkland Road: Refurbishment of Flats**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on the acceptance of tenders in respect of the refurbishment of flats at Kirkland Road, Kilbirnie.

The Committee agreed to accept the lowest Tender of £714,181 as submitted by McTaggart Construction Ltd, Dalry.

#### **10. Financial Assistance to Outside Bodies**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on financial assistance to outside bodies.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

<u>Name of Organisation</u>	<u>Award</u>
British Korean Veterans Association (Lothian and West of Scotland Branch)	£200
Crimestoppers	£1000

#### **11. Divisional Committees**

Submitted notes of the recommendations made by the undernoted Divisional Committees at their meeting held on 8 December 1999.

The Committee agreed to approve the recommendations.

The meeting ended at 2.30 p.m.