

Corporate Policy Committee  
1 November 1999

**Irvine, 1 November 1999** - At a Meeting of the Corporate Policy Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

**Present**

Ian Clarkson, David Gallagher, Thomas Barr, John Bell, Stewart Dewar, John Donn, Jane Gorman, Margaret McDougall, Joseph McKinney, Peter McNamara, Alan Munro, Robert Rae, John Reid, Samuel Taylor and Richard Wilkinson.

**Also Present**

B. Devine, Chief Executive; J. Travers, Corporate Director and J. Tulips, Head of Service (Educational Services); A. Herbert, Assistant Chief Executive (Finance); I. T. Mackay, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Regulatory); J. Mason, Principal Engineer (Property Services); R. Forrest, Principal Planning Officer (Development and Promotion); A. Hewitt, Head of Service Management (Social Services); G. Lawson, Principal Policy/Administration Officer; A. Osborne, Corporate Policy Officer; and M. McKeown, Administration Officer (Chief Executive's).

**Chair**

Mr Gallagher in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

David O'Neill and David Munn.

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 21 September 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 Scottish Executive's response to the recommendations contained in the McIntosh Report.

The Scottish Executive has issued a Consultation Paper seeking views on how they propose to develop the recommendations contained in the McIntosh Report. Responses are sought by 29 November 1999.

The Committee agreed (a) to set up a Working Group comprising the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Corporate Policy Committee, the Chairs of the four Service Committees and the Leaders of the two Minority Parties to prepare the Council's comments on the Scottish Executive's response to the McIntosh Commission by the deadline.

### **3. White paper on Integrated Transport Strategy: "Tackling Congestion" Consultation Paper**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on the "Tackling Congestion" Consultation Paper issued by the Scottish Executive.

The Consultation Paper covers proposals for new traffic management measures of road use, and workplace charging to tackle congestion and pollution. Comments on the issues and specific questions raised in the Consultation Paper are sought by 30th September 1999 and, in order to meet this deadline, the Corporate Director (Property Services) prepared and submitted a detailed response to the Scottish Executive. A copy of this response was attached.

The Committee agreed to homologate the action taken by the Corporate Director (Property Services) in responding to the Scottish Executive in the terms indicated.

### **4. Interim Local Transport Strategy: Submission to Scottish Executive**

Submitted joint report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) and the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the development of a Local Transport Strategy for North Ayrshire.

To meet the Government's policy on Transport and Planning, the Council is required to prepare a Local Transport Strategy for North Ayrshire by July 2000. In the meantime an interim Transport Strategy has been prepared and submitted to the Scottish Executive. This interim document will form the basis of an extensive consultation exercise after which a draft Local Transport Strategy will be prepared for the consideration of Members in March 2000. The Strategy will then be finalised and submitted to the Scottish Executive by July 2000. Copies of the interim Strategy had been issued to Members and a seminar for Members is planned for 2 November 1999.

The Committee (a) noted the report; and (b) agreed to homologate the submission of the interim Local Transport Strategy to the Scottish Executive.

### **5. Environmental Projects funded by Landfill Tax Credits**

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the availability of additional Landfill Tax Credits.

In November 1998 the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee agreed a programme of environmental projects to be funded from Landfill Tax Credits generated in 1999. Since then the rate of Landfill Tax has been increased resulting in the amount of Landfill Tax Credits which the Council can divert to registered environmental projects being higher than anticipated. The report set out proposals for utilising these additional funds.

The Committee agreed that (a) the additional funding be made available to provide further support to some of the projects already agreed, and also to fund preparatory work for two further projects, as indicated in the attached Appendix CS1; and (b) a report setting out proposals for Landfill Tax Credits generated in 2000 be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

### **6. Urban Programme Evaluation - North Ayrshire Law Centre**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the outcome of the Evaluation Panel's visit to North Ayrshire Law Centre, which tackles unmet legal need through the provision of free professional advice, information and representation for residents of priority areas within North Ayrshire.

The Project commenced in February 1996 and is funded until May 2000. As part of the programme of evaluating Urban Programme Projects the Centre was visited by the Evaluation Panel on 7th October 1999, and interviews with the Joint Monitoring Officers of the Project took place on 21 October 1999. The Project has succeeded in meeting unmet need within the eligible areas and the

conclusions of the Evaluation Panel were set out in the report.

The Committee agreed to (a) note with concern the areas identified within the report where the Project has not performed satisfactorily and that the Project does not have a clear exit strategy in place; and (b) release the remaining funding on a quarterly basis subject to receipt of a detailed breakdown of redundancy payments due to staff, copies of staff contracts and detailed proposals for dissolution.

#### **7. Capital Programme: Support for Further Education Provision**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the reallocation of capital funding as support for Further Education provision in North Ayrshire.

The Committee agreed to remit this matter to the meeting of North Ayrshire Council on 4 November 1999.

#### **8. Luncheon Clubs - Subsidy**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the continuation of subsidies for luncheon clubs.

The level of subsidy continuing to be provided from the Social Work budget for assistance to Luncheon Clubs amounted to £27,568 in 1998/99 and in the current year a subsidy level of £31,703 is forecast to be charged to Social Work. It is proposed that the position with regard to these subsidies should be reviewed and the report set out options for doing so.

The Committee agreed (a) to establish an Officers Working Group to consider the matter in time for, and as part of, the draft Revenue budget 2000/2001; and (b) that the Working Group report to the next meeting of the Social Services Committee with proposals.

#### **9. The Year 2000**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the successful outcome of the Accounts Commission's independent assessment of the Council's readiness for the Year 2000.

Noted.

#### **10. The Climate Change Levy**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the implications of the climate change levy for the Council and local industries.

The 1999 Budget provided for the introduction of a tax on energy to be known as the Climate Change Levy. The Levy will apply to energy used for business purposes by the commercial, agricultural and public sectors but will not apply to transport or domestic use or to fuel oils which are already covered by a mineral oils duty. The report set out the implications of the Levy for the Council and local industries.

The Committee (a) noted the implications of the Climate Change Levy insofar as it will affect the Council; and (b) agreed to support the AEEU in making representations to the Government to minimise the impact of the levy on high energy using local industries.

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

Submitted notes of recommendations made by the three Divisional Committees at their meetings held on 27 October 1999.

The Committee agreed to approve the recommendations.

## **12. Children's Services Plan Review**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the annual review of the Children's Services Plan.

The Children's Services Plan for North Ayrshire 1998-2001 was published on 1 April 1998. The Plan is a strategic document designed to improve the co-ordination and planning of children's services over a three year period, and is required to be reviewed annually with a full review every three years. The report highlighted achievements against the Plan and set out be developments and issues which have arisen out of the review process.

The Committee agreed (a) that an Officer's Working Group continue to monitor the Plan and report annually to the Corporate Policy Committee; and (b) otherwise to note the report.

The meeting ended at 2.50 p.m.