

Corporate Policy Committee
21 September 1999

Irvine, 21 September 1999 - At a meeting of the Corporate Policy Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

David O'Neill, Ian Clarkson, David Gallagher, Thomas Barr, John Bell, Stewart Dewar, John Donn, Jane Gorman, Margaret McDougall, David Munn, Robert Reilly, Samuel Taylor, and Richard Wilkinson.

In Attendance

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

Chair

Mr O'Neill in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

John Donn, Samuel Gooding and Robert Rae.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 5 July 1999, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Strathclyde Passenger Transport: Bus Infrastructure Provision

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the proposed provision by Strathclyde Passenger Transport (SPT) of bus infrastructure within the Council's area for 1999/2000.

SPT have requested a capital allocation of £50,000 to replace 15 old bus shelters in North Ayrshire, and a further £4,350 for the provision of 6 new bus stops and other related infrastructure.

The Committee agreed to make a contribution of £54,350 from the Capital Programme 1999/2000 towards bus infrastructure in North Ayrshire.

3. Report of the Commission on Local Government and the Scottish Parliament

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the recommendations contained in "Moving Forward", the Report of the Commission on Local Government and the Scottish Parliament (the McIntosh Committee).

The Report sets out a modernising agenda for Scottish local authorities and expects all local authorities to embrace reform by the end of 2000 and meantime to give a commitment to the self review process by January 2000. Whilst the Council had already done much to embrace the change advocated in the report, more is expected and the Chief Executive set out a framework for the self review process.

The Committee agreed to (a) note the recommendations of the Commission on Local Government and the Scottish Parliament; (b) request COSLA to pursue the Scottish Executive on those recommendations where no or no immediate action or response is forthcoming; (c) to establish four 'Commissions of Inquiry' to undertake a self-review of the Council's management of business and working practices; (d) remit to the Council to appoint the Chairs/Commissioners/Rapporteurs of these Commissions and to consider further membership of the four Commissions; (e) remit to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, the appointment of external facilitators to the four Commissions and report; and (f) advise the Deputy Minister for Local Government of the action taken by the Council on his visit to North Ayrshire Council scheduled for 21 October 1999.

4. Revenue Budgets 1999/2000: Budgetary Control

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on the budgetary control statements submitted to Service Committees.

The Committee (a) noted the current financial position and the year end projections; and (b) agreed that Service Committee Chairs, in consultation with Corporate Directors, agree measures to reconcile expenditure with agreed budgets and report back to the Committee on further action proposed.

5. Community and Voluntary Sector Steering Group: Proposals

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the outcome of the consultation process undertaken by the Community and Voluntary Sector Steering Group and setting out initial proposals.

The report of the Steering Group, which was appended to the report records the process undertaken by the Steering Group and set out the recommendations arrived at as a result. The remit of Divisional Committees includes community consultation and the proposals contained in the Steering Group report will allow this role to be developed and formalised.

The Committee agreed to (a) note the consultation process outlined within the report; (b) support the proposals to set up a North Ayrshire Council for Voluntary Service; (c) reaffirm that the membership of Divisional Committees should remain the elected Members while urging the Steering Group to ensure that the new organisation's structure allows for groups to come together at a local level to liaise with the Council's Divisional Committees as part of the Council's community consultation process; and (d) consider further proposals at a future meeting.

6. North Ayrshire Community Plan

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the procedures in place to prepare a draft North Ayrshire Community Plan for future consideration and adoption.

Stage one of the process involves the production of draft Community Plans by the end of 1999 and in order to meet this time-scale, it has been agreed that North Ayrshire Social Inclusion Partnership should be the Forum through which a draft North Ayrshire Community Plan is developed, with the Council's own Corporate Plan forming the basis of the draft Community Plan.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the procedures in place to prepare a draft North Ayrshire Community Plan; and (b) to consider the draft plan at the December meeting of the Committee.

7. Best Value: Key Performance Indicators

Submitted report by the Chief Executive detailing the information on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

The Council is required by 30 September 1999 to confirm that the KPI information submitted to The Scottish Office in March 1999, in line with proposals for the development of KPIs for Best Value, remains valid. This information was submitted on the understanding that the new Administration

would have the opportunity to revise the information in due course. The information has now been reviewed, revised where appropriate and set out with targets for 2001/02.

The Committee agreed to approve the revised Key Performance Indicator information for submission to the Scottish Executive.

8. Report of the Youth Strategy Steering Group

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the findings of the consultative exercise undertaken by the Youth Strategy Steering Group.

Under the previous Administration it was agreed that a Youth Strategy Steering Group be formed to develop a strategic way forward for Youth Services in North Ayrshire.

The exercise, which began in August 1998, involved wide ranging consultation with young people and adults working with children, and sought the views of other public groups, organisations and community representatives. This process culminated in July 1999 with the production of the Steering Group's report, copies of which had previously been circulated.

The Committee agreed to (a) accept the report from the Youth Strategy Steering Group and endorse the recommendations contained therein; and (b) remit the report to the Educational Services Committee for implementation.

9. Outside Bodies: Requests for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on requests for financial assistance from Outside Bodies.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Award</u>
The Poverty Alliance	£1,500
The Scottish Low Pay Unit	£3,000
West of Scotland Community Relations Council	£500

10. Millennium Grants

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on applications received in respect of the Millennium Grants Scheme.

As there is no budget allocation for Millennium Grants it is necessary to make savings from other budget headings. Consequently it is recommended that only those applicants whose bids most clearly identify specific Millennium activities be supported, with all other competent applications remitted to the Divisional Committees for consideration under the Community Development Grants Scheme.

The Committee agreed to approve the recommendations as outlined in the attached Appendix CP1 with the exception of Application MGS 027 which was remitted to Irvine, Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Divisional Committee for consideration under Irvine Common Good.

11. Divisional Committees

Submitted notes of recommendations made by the three Divisional Committees at their meetings on 15 September 1999.

The Committee agreed the recommendations.

12. Conferences/Seminars

(a) Attendance at Conferences, Seminars

The Committee agreed (i) in future Service Committees authorise representatives to attend only one conference in any financial year; (ii) that a list of conferences for possible attendance be submitted to the Council; and (iii) that invitations to attend seminars etc., on a day attendance basis be considered by Service Committees as appropriate.

(b) Remaking Scotland's Local Government: Radical Reform Ahead for Scottish Council

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an invitation to attend the "Remaking Scotland's Local Government: Radical Reform Ahead for Scottish Council" conference to be held on 25 October 1999 in Edinburgh.

The Committee agreed that the Chair, or his nominated representative, attend the conference.

The meeting ended at 2.35 p.m.