

Corporate Services Committee
20 October 1999

Irvine, 20 October 1999 - At a Meeting of the Corporate Services Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

David Munn, Robert Reilly, Ian Clarkson, David Gallagher, Jane Gorman, Elliot Gray, John Moffat, Alan Munro, Robert Rae, John Reid and Samuel Taylor.

Also Present

Joseph McKinney.

In Attendance

B Devine, Chief Executive; M Macfarlane, Assistant Chief Executive (Personnel); I Mackay, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Regulatory); B MacDonald, Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion); J Barrett, Assistant Chief Executive (Information Technology); D Addison, Head of Revenue Service (Finance); A Osborne, Corporate Policy Officer and S Bale, Administration Officer (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Mr Munn in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Samuel Gooding, John Donn and David O'Neill.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 8 September 1999, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Saltcoats: Rennie Place: Transfer to Joint Venture Company

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on an investment appraisal to establish the value of the Council's ownership of the Rennie Place Business Units, Saltcoats, with a view to transferring the Council's interest in Rennie Place to North Ayrshire Ventures, a Joint Venture Company including the Council and EDI.

The Committee agreed to approve in principle the transfer of the Rennie Place Units, Saltcoats to North Ayrshire Ventures, subject to a further report being submitted to a future meeting of the Committee once the investment appraisal has been undertaken.

3. Sailing Tourism

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on sailing tourism in North Ayrshire.

The Committee agreed to contribute (a) as part of a Partnership with Enterprise Ayrshire, Argyll and the Isles Enterprise and the Scottish Tourist Board, up to £9,000 per annum for three years to the cost of the Sailing Development Project at Largs/Cumbrae; and (b) in conjunction with Argyll and the Isles Enterprise, a one-off cost of £8,000 towards a feasibility study into the potential development of a Marina at Lamlash, Isle of Arran.

4. European Structural Funds 2000-2006

Submitted (a) report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on progress regarding the review of European Structural Funds; and (b) supplementary report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) providing an update on progress regarding the review of European Structural Funds and the recent announcement by the Government on Objective 2 Status.

Under the Government's proposal, around 90% of North Ayrshire's mainland will be eligible for funding from the new Objective 2 programme. Around 40% of Scotland's population is proposed for inclusion in an Objective 2 Transition Area including the mainland areas of three former North Ayrshire wards, Largs North, Largs South and Fairlie, Skelmorlie and Cumbrae. The European Union have agreed that transitional monies will be available for those parts of the country no longer included in Objective 2.

The Committee agreed (i) to homologate the actions taken to date to formulate responses to the Draft Programme Plans for European Structural Funds consultations; (ii) that further progress reports be submitted to future meetings on Programme Plan development; (iii) to welcome the continuing eligibility of all North Ayrshire's mainland and island areas for European Structural Funds; and (iv) that further representations be made to the European Commission on the case for the inclusion of the entire mainland area in Objective 2.

5. Proposed Access Legislation: Pilot Projects with Local Authorities

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the implications for the Council in respect of the proposed legislation on Access and seeking agreement to participate in a study as one of 7 Pilot Authorities.

The Committee agreed that the Council participate, as one of the seven Pilot authorities, in the study being conducted by Scottish Natural Heritage, in conjunction with COSLA, on assessing the implications of the proposed access legislation.

6. Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan: Modifications Proposed by the Scottish Ministers

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on modifications to the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan proposed by the Scottish Ministers and the Council's proposed response.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that a response be submitted to the Scottish Executive by the deadline of 22 October 1999 indicating that (a) the Council request Proposed Modifications 1 - Glengarnock and 11 - Minerals Resources be reconsidered; and (b) all other Proposed Modifications are acceptable.

7. South Ayrshire Council: Local Plan: Consultation Draft

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the South Ayrshire Local Plan Consultation Draft, submitted to North Ayrshire Council, as neighbouring planning authority, for information and comment.

The Committee agreed to advise South Ayrshire Council that they have no objections to the South Ayrshire Consultative Draft Local Plan.

8. Irvine: Bogside Landfill Site: Sale of Ground to Irvine Golf Club

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the sale of ground at Bogside to Irvine Golf Club.

The Committee agreed, subject to (a) the Secretary of State granting planning permission for the landfill and sand extraction facilities; and (b) the Council acquiring the site from ICI, (i) to sell plots of ground extending to 89,970.26 square metres at Bogside to Irvine Golf Club for £13,500; and (ii) to make a payment to the Club of £6,000 in respect of the discharge of a servitude of drainage over the sand extraction area at Bogside.

9. Irvine: 19s Bank Street: Shop Unit

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on terms for the lease of a shop property at 19s Bank Street, Irvine.

The Committee agreed to approve the terms for the lease of the shop unit at 19s Bank Street, Irvine to Andrew Winning Monaghan, t/a Kingpin Marketing Ltd for a period of three years at a rental of £13,000 per annum.

10.Irvine: Greenwood Interchange

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) seeking homologation of the action of the Chair in approving the sale of land at Greenwood Interchange, Irvine.

The Committee agreed to homologate the action of the Chair in authorising the sale of land at Greenwood Interchange, Irvine, to Enterprise Ayrshire/Highland Properties Ltd for the sum of £425,000.

11.Fairlie: Main Road

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) seeking homologation of the action of the Chair in approving the sale of land at Main Road, Fairlie.

The Committee agreed to homologate the action of the Chair in authorising the sale of land at Main Road, Fairlie, to Nicolson Maps for the sum of £22,500.

12.Irvine: 3-11 Hepburn Way

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the sale of land at Hepburn Way, Irvine.

The Committee agreed to approve the terms and conditions for the sale of land at the rear of Hepburn Way, Lawthorn, Irvine, to individual occupiers at numbers 3 to 11 Hepburn Way, Irvine.

13.Stevenston: 11 Ashgrove Avenue: Ground and Pend Adjacent To

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the sale of land and pend between numbers 10 and 11 Ashgrove Avenue, Stevenston.

Having heard the Local Member, the Committee agreed to continue consideration of this item for further discussion with him.

14.Saltcoats: 53 Wellpark Road

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the sale of land at 53 Wellpark Road, Saltcoats.

The Committee agreed to approve the terms for the sale of ground at 53 Wellpark Road, Saltcoats, to Mr B G Narducci for the sum of £10,777.

15.Saltcoats: Campbell Avenue

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the sale of land at Campbell Avenue, Saltcoats.

The Committee agreed to approve the terms for the sale of ground at Campbell Avenue, Saltcoats, to McLaughlin Developments Ltd for the sum of £62,000.

16.Ardrossan: 25 and 38 South Isle Road: Ground Adjacent To

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the sale of land at 25 and 38 South Isle Road, Ardrossan.

The Committee agreed to approve the terms for the sale of 1,250 square metres of land, situated to the west of South Isle Road Ardrossan, to the occupiers of numbers 25 and 38 South Isle Road, Ardrossan, for the sum of £1,500.

17. Largs: Woodcroft Avenue

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the sale of land at Woodcroft Avenue, Largs.

The Committee agreed to approve the terms for the sale of ground extending to 203 square metres or thereby at Woodcroft Avenue, Largs to an adjoining owner, Mr Steven Gellan, 34 Eastern Avenue, Largs for the sum of £1,300.

18.Health and Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974: The Council's Duty as an Enforcing Authority for Health and Safety Law

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Regulatory) on the need to have an Enforcement Policy Statement which will be administered by the Environmental Health Section when enforcing Health and Safety Legislation.

The Committee agreed to approve the Enforcement Policy Statement, required to comply with the statutory guidance issued to local authorities by the Health and Safety Commission.

19.Treasury Management Annual Report 1998/99

Submitted the Treasury Management Report for 1998/99 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance).

Noted.

20.Finance Sub-Committee

Submitted report, being the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 14 September 1999.

Noted.

21.Pay Settlement 1999: Local Government Employees

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Personnel) on the implementation of the annual pay settlement for local government employees and the financial implications for the Council.

Noted.

22.Trades Unions Negotiating and Consultation Strategy

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Personnel) seeking approval for the Trades Unions Consultation/Negotiation Strategy.

The Committee agreed to approve the Trades Unions Consultation/Negotiation Strategy as follows-

(a) Joint Consultative Committee Structure

(i) 1st Tier Joint Consultative Committees - one representing Teaching Staffs and one representing APT&C, Manual and Craft Employees; and

(ii) 2nd Tier Joint Consultative Committees - one in each of Property Services, Chief Executive and Corporate Services and Social Services, representing APT&C, Manual and Craft Employees; and two in Educational Services, one representing Teaching Staffs and one representing APT&C, Manual and Craft Employees;

(b) Safety Committee Structure

(i) Council Level - the 1st Tier Joint Consultative Committees will deal with Health and Safety issues on a separate agenda at the commencement of the meetings; and

(ii) Service level - Health and Safety Committees will be established in each of the Council's four services; and

(c) Other Consultation

(i) Liaison Meetings - Liaison Meetings will continue within the larger corporate services, where the diversity of service provision and geographical organisation may require consultation on service specific issues at business unit level; and

(ii) Negotiations with Trade Unions - negotiations will normally be separate from consultative forums and will be conducted through appropriate officers, or at the level of the Council dependent on the issues involved.

23.Pre-Retirement Planning/Counselling Scheme

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Personnel) on the proposed introduction of a Pre-Retirement Planning and Counselling Scheme.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to approve the introduction of a Pre-Retirement Planning and Counselling Scheme.

24.Corporate Policy on the Management and Control of Asbestos

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Personnel) on the proposed introduction of a Corporate Policy on Asbestos.

The Committee agreed to approve the introduction of a Corporate Policy on the Management and Control of Asbestos, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

25.Educational Services: Talent Identification and Development Pilot Project

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Personnel) on the proposed establishment of a new post of Co-ordinator to manage the Talent Identification and Development Pilot Project within Educational Services.

The Committee agreed to approve the new post of Co-ordinator (Grade APIV) to manage the Talent Identification and Development Pilot Project on a fixed-term contract for a period of two years.

26.Legal and Regulatory: Staffing Amendment

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Personnel) on a proposed staffing amendment in respect of the present post of Administration Assistant within the Debt Recovery Unit, Legal and Regulatory.

The Committee agreed to approve the re-grading of the post of Administration Assistant within the Debt Recovery Unit, Legal and Regulatory Services from API to APII.

27.Internet Access, Electronic Mail and WebSite

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Information Technology) on access to the Internet and the development of a Council WebSite.

Noted.

28.Budgetary Control

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on the budgetary control position for Corporate Services at the end of August 1999 and projections for the financial year 1999/2000.

The Committee noted (a) the current financial position, year-end projections and the result of approved savings measures taken to address the anticipated shortfalls; and (b) that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair of the Corporate Services Committee is continuing to consider further measures which will reconcile expenditure with the agreed budget.

29.Best Value Service Review: Chief Executive and Corporate Services

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Personnel) on the outcome of the Best Value Service Review of Recruitment and Selection undertaken by Personnel.

The Committee agreed to approve the Improvement and Implementation Plan arising from the Recruitment and Selection Service Review.

The meeting ended at 3.20 p.m.