

Commercial Services Committee  
21 October 1998

**Irvine, 21 October 1998** - At a Meeting of the Commercial Services Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

**Present**

Peter McNamara, Patrick Browne, John Donn, Joseph McKinney, Irene Oldfather, David O'Neill, Robert Rae and Gena Seales.

**In Attendance**

T. Orr, Director of Housing and Construction Services; J. Currie, Head of Cleansing, Grounds Maintenance and Transport, K. Wilson, Head of Catering and Cleaning, (Community Services), W. Nicol, Senior Accountant (Financial Services) and M. McKeown, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).e

**Chair**

Mr McNamara in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Samuel Taylor.

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 9 September 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. Commercial Refuse Collection - Charity & Exempt Accounts**

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services on proposals to introduce commercial refuse collection charges to charity organisations, with the exception of churches, at 50% of the normal rate.

North Ayrshire Council currently follows its predecessor's policy of not charging for the uplift of commercial waste from churches and registered charities. There has however been a significant growth in the number of premises within North Ayrshire receiving this service and indications are that this will continue to rise.

The report confirmed that 71 premises currently benefiting from Charitable and Exempt Accounts, amounting to in kind assistance by North Ayrshire Council of £4,660.

Additionally, the Council pays the landfill tax for waste collected from charitable premises and in April 1999 this will rise from the present level of £7 to £10 per tonne.

The Committee agreed (a) in principle, to the introduction of a nominal

charge for commercial refuse collection from churches and registered charities; and (b) that the Director of Community Services should consult those premises affected and report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

### **3. Automatic Public Conveniences Usage Figures**

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services confirming the usage figures for automatic public conveniences from January 1997 to August 1998 and asking the Committee to review charges for the use of these facilities

There are currently 14 automatic public conveniences located throughout North Ayrshire, two of which are capable of use by disabled persons. With the exception of Holmhead, Kilbirnie, the units are generally well used with usage figures varying as a result of location, seasonal use etc. and the units can be converted to accept a new charge at no cost to the Council.

The Committee agreed (a) that the charge for use of these facilities should be increased from 10p to 20p; and (b) that a capital bid for the introduction of an additional unit capable of use by disabled persons, should be made to the next capital programme.

### **4. Garden Tidy Scheme 1998**

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services providing an end of season report on the operation of the Council's Garden Tidy Scheme.

This years Scheme which began on 5th May 1998 and ran for 20 weeks until 17th September 1998 was a success overall and was well received by residents within North Ayrshire.

The Committee agreed (a) to continue with a scheme during 1999; and (b) that an application be made through the capital programme for the replacement of requisite cutting machinery at an estimated cost of £10,000.

### **5. Healthy Eating Programme**

Submitted report by Director of Community Services confirming ongoing efforts to promote the Healthy Eating Programme out within North Ayrshire.

Since August of this year the Health Promotions Officer who is responsible for co-ordinating and promoting healthy eating within all North Ayrshire schools has already delivered healthy eating

presentations to Primary 1 pupils in 14 primary schools it intends to visit the remaining primary schools before the end of the financial year.

The Health Promotions Officer is also involved in monitoring local and national health promotion exercises such as the Ayrshire and Arran's Healthy Choices Award Scheme.

Noted.

#### **6. Catering Pilots - Stanley Primary and Largs Academy**

Submitted update report by Director of Community Services on pilot schemes being carried out in Largs Academy and Stanley Primary School to review their catering service and encourage increased take-up amongst pupils.

Noted.

#### **7. Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS) Intermediate Food Hygiene Courses**

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services on intermediate training courses for food handling which are to be carried out for catering and cleaning staff in line with the recommendations of the Pennington Report.

Noted.

#### **8. School Crossing Patrol Function**

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services confirming changes in the legislation affecting the signs used at school crossing patrol points which as from 1st January 1999 will include a symbol of a boy and girl and the word STOP thereby replacing the existing design which comprises the words STOP CHILDREN.

Noted.

#### **9. Low Sulphur Diesel Fuel**

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services on a new low sulphur diesel fuel for the Council's vehicle fleet to replace the standard diesel fuel which is currently purchased by the Local Authorities Buying Consortium (**abc**) on behalf of the Council.

The sulphur content within the existing fuel has been recognised as a polluting agent and in pursuance of the Council's Environmental Policy discussion have taken place with **abc** and suppliers on the use of the

new fuel which is available as from this month and which will be available to the Council at the same price as the standard fuel. Its suitability has been tested and it is now an approved fuel.

The Committee welcomed the environmental benefits which would be secured in switching to this new fuel and agreed (a) that it should be introduced within the Council's vehicle fleet as soon as it becomes available; and (b) that its use and performance be monitored.

#### **10. Cleaning Contract: Customer Satisfaction Reports**

Submitted Cleaning Contract Customer Satisfaction Reports for the periods 17/6/98 to 14/7/98 and 15/7/98 to 11/8/98.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 2.25 p.m.