

Three Towns Area Committee  
3 April 1997

**Stevenston, 3 April 1997** - At a Meeting of the Three Towns Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

**Present**

David Gallagher, Samuel Gooding, David Munn, Margaret Munn, Alan Munro and Samuel Taylor.

**In Attendance**

A. Herbert, Head of Accountancy Services (Financial Services), K. Thomas, Principal Officer, J. Mason, Principal Engineer (Planning, Roads and Environment), J. Ferguson, Assistant Principal Estates Officer (Legal Services), J. Hatley, Tenure Manager (Housing Services), S. Burns, Manager Area Services (Social Work), S. McLaughlin, Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services), B. Macdonald, Head of Corporate Business, A. Osborne, Corporate Policy Officer, S. Bale, Administration Officer and A. Little, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

**Also In Attendance**

Superintendent J Young and C Harper, Strathclyde Police

**Chair**

Mr Gallagher in the Chair

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 20 February 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. Community Safety: Presentation by Strathclyde Fire Brigade**

The Chair welcomed Mr Donald Harvey, Divisional Officer and Senior Fire Safety Officer, West Command Area to the Three Towns Area Committee.

Mr Harvey gave a full and informative presentation on the services provided by Strathclyde Fire Brigade, highlighting the campaign for mains operated smoke detectors and the installation of domestic sprinkler systems. Finance has been raised by the 999 Appeal to assist in the installation of domestic sprinkler systems in council houses and North Ayrshire Council have the opportunity to become involved in this initiative.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Housing Services consider if North Ayrshire Council wish to be involved in the sprinkler system initiative and thanked Mr Harvey for his informative presentation.

### **3. Monitoring Reports**

#### **(a) Industrial Estate Factories**

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager on the position regarding the letting/availability of factories on Council industrial estates.

The meeting of the five Area Committee Chairs on 15 April 1997 will determine the type of reports Area Committees require in relation to Council factory/workshop units.

Noted.

#### **(b) Dog Warden Service**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the number of stray dogs uplifted and dealt with by the Dog Warden.

The Council operates a Dog Warden service whose main responsibility is to respond to complaints from members of the public regarding stray dogs. Statistics show that 46% of dogs uplifted are returned to their owner, reclaimed or rehoused with the remaining 54% being destroyed. Within the Three Towns 92 were uplifted; 42 returned to their owner, reclaimed or rehoused and 50 destroyed.

Noted.

#### **(c) Pest Control Service**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the delivery of the Pest Control Service.

In addition to the statutory requirement to survey the area for rats and mice, the Pest Control Service carried out a total of 2,052 pest control treatments during the 9 month period of April - December 1996.

The service provided exceeds the standard required for performance indicators by a national benchmark standard set by the Accounts Commission.

Noted.

#### **(d) Food Safety and Health and Safety**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the service delivery of Food Safety and Health and Safety matters.

A total of 462 food hygiene inspections were undertaken by the Environment Section in the Three Towns area during the period April to December 1996. Other statutory responsibilities include food poisoning investigations, food complaints, accident investigations and service of formal notices.

Noted.

#### **(e) Investigation of Noise Complaints**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the investigation of noise complaints for the period April to December 1996.

The Environment Section has received 153 complaints (37 from the Three Towns) during the period April to December 1996. 148 of these complaints were established with 77% being responded

to within 2 working days. The Police also investigate complaints of noise outwith the normal 9 to 5 office hours.

The MATRON noise monitoring system can be used to record intermittent noise complaints and then provide evidence, if necessary, in court.

Noted.

#### **(f) Analysis of Grants to 31 March 1997**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the expenditure of the Community Grants budget 1996/97.

The Three Towns Area Committee was allocated a community grants budget of £16,049; a Sports, Arts, Festivals and Galas budget of £2,996; and a voluntary playschemes budget of £4,495.

The Playschemes budgets proved unevenly spread relative to the demand resulting in some Committees having balances left over and available for general grants while others had to use the main grants budget to meet some of the playschemes demand. In order to address this imbalance Playschemes budgets will be held within the central Corporate Strategy budget in 1997/98.

Noted.

#### **4. Community Development Grants Budget for Area Committees 1997/98**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Community Development Grants Budget for Area Committees for 1997/98.

A Community Development Grants budget of £19,045 for the Three Towns was approved by the Corporate Strategy Committee on 4 March 1997.

Noted.

#### **5. Easter Playschemes 1997**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the allocation of Easter Playscheme awards.

The undernoted awards were made with the agreement of the Area Committee Chair to allow the Easter Playschemes to proceed and to fund them from the underspend within the Playscheme Support budget for 1996/97.

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Women's Centre, Saltcoats  | £195.41 |
| Saltcoats Afterschool Care | £205.80 |
| Ardrossan Afterschool Care | £205.80 |
| Women's Aid, Ardrossan     | £195.51 |
| Ardeer Afterschool Care    | £205.80 |

The Committee agreed to homologate the awards as agreed by the Chair.

#### **6. Requests for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application from Stevenston Elderly Forum for a Community Grant towards the costs of delegates attending the NPC conference in Blackpool and support for other running costs.

Ardrossan and Saltcoats Elderly Forums have also submitted applications for financial assistance to attend the NPC conference in Blackpool. Officer reports have been requested and these applications would be ready to be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee agreed (a) to continue the application for consideration at a future meeting; and (b) to request the Director of Social Work to assist in the preparation of a joint submission on behalf of the Elderly Federation in respect of the elderly forums within the Three Towns area to attend the NPC conference in Blackpool.

## **7. Funding of Tenants/Residents Associations**

Submitted report by the Director of Housing Services on the process to provide funding for tenants/residents associations. At their previous meeting the Committee continued consideration of an application for funding by the Cunninghame Road, Miller Road, Townhead Road Tenants Association pending this report.

Discussion took place on the proliferation of tenants associations being set up and the criteria for recognising a group as a tenants association.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Housing Services, in consultation with the Legal Services Manager report to the next meeting on the issues of criteria and proliferation of associations.

## **8. Roads Reports**

### **(a) Saltcoats/Stevenston: Saltcoats Road/Canal Street**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the investigations into the road safety situation beside Auchenharvie Leisure Centre.

The investigation found that a package of measures, including a reduction of the speed limit to 30 mph, to change the character of the road and to provide improved pedestrian facilities was required at Auchenharvie Leisure Centre. Discussion took place on the requirement for environmental improvements at Auchenharvie Leisure Centre and Auchenharvie Academy.

The Committee agreed (a) approve the package of measures; (b) to propose the scheme for a future capital programme; and (c) that the Directors of and Community and Recreational Services and Education consider environmental improvements at Auchenharvie Leisure Centre and Auchenharvie Academy.

### **(b) Road Management and Maintenance Revenue Budget Programme 1997/98**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the programme of road works in the Three Towns area for 1997/98 as approved by the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee.

The Principal Engineer provided an explanation of the technical terminology within the report. Members may raise any points of concern with the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment as minor amendments to the programme can be considered at a later stage. The following areas also requiring attention were outlined:- car park at the shopping mall, Stevenston; car park at Vernon Street, Saltcoats and pot holes at the brow of Vernon Street, Saltcoats. In addition ownership of the shopping mall car park, Stevenston requires to be clarified.

The Committee agreed (a) to note the terms of the report; and (b) that the Head of Roads report to the next meeting of the Three Towns Area Committee on the conditions of (i) the car park at the shopping mall, Stevenston; (ii) the car park at Vernon Street, Saltcoats; (iii) the brow of Vernon Street, Saltcoats; and (iv) the ownership of the car park at the shopping mall, Stevenston.

#### **9. Areas Requiring Environmental Improvements**

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on the responses received in relation to the areas requiring environmental improvements identified by the Three Towns Area Committee.

The Committee expressed concern at the condition of areas at Elm Park, Ardrossan, Dockhead Street, Saltcoats, Shore Road, Stevenston and Ardeer Recreation Ground, Stevenston.

The Committee agreed that the Head of Corporate Business further investigate these areas and report to the next meeting of the Three Towns Area Committee.

#### **10. Facilities for Young People in the Three Towns Area**

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the facilities available to young people living within the Three Towns area.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 12.30 p.m.