

North Ayrshire Council
6 September 1995

Irvine, 6 September 1995 - Minutes of the Meeting of the North Ayrshire Council held in Cunninghame District Council Chambers, Cunninghame House, Irvine on Wednesday, 6th September 1995 at 6 p.m.

Present

George Steven, John Donn, Thomas Barr, Patrick Browne, Ian Clarkson, James Clements, Stewart Dewar, Thomas Dickie, David Gallagher, Samuel Gooding, Irene Oldfather, Margaret Hight, James Jennings, Elizabeth McLardy, Peter McNamara, David Munn, Margaret Munn, Alan Munro, Irene Murdoch, David O'Neill, Robert Rae, Robert Reilly, Gena Seales, John Sillars and Samuel Taylor.

In Attendance

The Chief Executive, the Directors of Education, Planning, Roads and the Environment, Financial Services and Housing Services, the Legal Services Manager, the Personnel Services Manager, the Information Technology Services Manager, the Architectural Services Manager, a Senior Administration Officer of CDC (Mr. Lawson) and a Local Officer of SRC (Mr. Osborne).

Chair

Mr. Steven in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Jane Gorman and Thomas Morris.

1. STRATHCLYDE PASSENGER TRANSPORT EXECUTIVE

The Convener welcomed to the Meeting Mr. S.R. Lockley, Director General of the Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive along with his assistant, Mr. J. Robin.

Mr. Lockley gave a presentation on the operation of the SPTA and its future operation following reorganisation of Local Government on 1st April 1996. Mr. Lockley outlined the effect of this on North Ayrshire Council. The effect of the new boundary on North Ayrshire Council will be that the majority of the population of the new authority will be within the PTA area which will encompass all of the mainland of North Ayrshire. The islands of Arran and Cumbrae however have been excluded from the area. There will be a Joint Board of 34 members for the PTA two of which will be appointed by North Ayrshire.

In the event that the PTA boundary is not extended to encompass Arran and Cumbrae Mr. Lockley outlined 4 options which could be considered as follows:-

- (a) that North Ayrshire Council enter into a joint arrangement with the PTA when it is reconstituted so that for all effective purposes Arran and Cumbrae would be considered as part of the PTA area. This would require North Ayrshire to

- agree to incorporate its GAE in respect of public transport services for that joint arrangement area into the PTA package;
- (b) that a voluntary joint project for the management of passenger transport matters in the islands be entered into between North Ayrshire Council and the PTA to be financed on a basis to be agreed;
 - (c) that North Ayrshire Council undertake its own passenger transport management arrangements for the islands of Arran and Cumbrae and that the PTA be employed as agents at a cost to be agreed; and
 - (d) that North Ayrshire Council carry out its own passenger transport management functions to be financed directly by the Council.

Thereafter Mr. Lockley answered questions put to him by members of the Council on the future of the PTA arrangements for North Ayrshire. The Convener then thanked Mr. Lockley and Mr. Robin for their attendance and for their presentation.

The Council agreed that it would be desirable that Arran and Cumbrae be included within the SPTA area and that a Meeting be convened with the MP for Cunninghame North to enlist his support in this matter along with the Director General of SPTA and that North Ayrshire Council be represented by the Convener, the Leader of the Council and the members for Wards 28 and 30.

2. MINUTES CONFIRMED

The Minutes of the Meeting of the North Ayrshire Council held on 5th July 1995, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, ETC

The annexed reports of Committees, etc., being the Minutes of their Meetings as undernoted, were submitted, moved and seconded in terms of Standing Order No. 8 and approved and/or amended as aftermentioned:-

Committee	Pages
Staffing Structure Committee: 26th July 1995	1 - 2
Reorganisation Committee: 27th July 1995	3 - 6
DLO/DSO Committee: 1st August 1995	7 - 8
Recruitment Committee: 2nd August 1995	9 - 10
Staffing Structure Committee: 2nd August 1995	11 - 12
Reorganisation Committee: 2nd August 1995	13 - 16
Recruitment Committee: 9th August 1995	17
Recruitment Committee: 10th August 1995	18 - 19
DLO/DSO Committee: 14th August 1995	20 - 22
Staffing Structure Committee: 15th August 1995	23 - 25
Member Structures Committee: 15th August 1995	26 - 28
Reorganisation Committee: 15th August 1995	29 - 31
Recruitment Committee: 16th August 1995	32 - 33
Joint Working Issues Committee: 17th August 1995	34 - 37
Recruitment Committee: 18th August 1995	38 - 39
Property/Accommodation Committee: 21st August 1995	40 - 43
Recruitment Committee: 22nd August 1995	44

Recruitment Committee: 24th August 1995	45 - 46
Member Structures Committee: 24th August 1995	47 - 48
Recruitment Committee: 25th August 1995	49
Recruitment Committee: 31st August 1995	50 - 51
Recruitment Committee: 4th September 1995	52
Recruitment Committee: 4th September 1995	53
Property/Accommodation Committee: 4th September 1995	54 - 57
Recruitment Committee: 5th September 1995	58

4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETC. (SCOTLAND) ACT 1994: SECTION 55: CONSENT FOR CONTRACTS: TREASURY MANAGEMENT TRANSACTIONS

Submitted report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had previously been circulated. In terms of Section 55 of the Local Government Etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 any contract which is to be let by existing Regional or District Councils where the term or duration will extend beyond 31st March 1996 and the value of such contract exceeds £250,000 must be referred to the appropriate successor authority for consent for such contract as entered into after 1st August 1995.

Cunninghame District Council have already requested that North Ayrshire Council approve routine treasury management transactions which form part of the normal financial arrangements of a local authority and it is anticipated that Strathclyde Regional Council will seek similar consent in the near future.

The Scottish Office has issued guidelines on the interpretation and implementation of Section 55 of the Act. The guidelines refer to treasury management transactions and recommend that new authorities issue a blanket consent to existing Councils to avoid the need for those Councils to seek separate consent for every loan transaction where the value exceeds £250,000.

The Council agreed to issue consent to Cunninghame District Council and Strathclyde Regional Council to undertake treasury management transactions all in terms of Section 55 of the Local Government Etc. (Scotland) Act 1994.

5. IRVINE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WIND-UP

The Council on 5th July agreed that the position regarding funds to be provided to Scottish Enterprise in connection with the wind-up of IDC be investigated.

Submitted report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had previously been circulated.

Scottish Enterprise have been allocated £3m over a three year period to ensure the availability of land and premises for inward investment enquiries. Enterprise Ayrshire have indicated that they would endeavour to seek assurances from Scottish Enterprise that an adequate proportion of this money would be allocated to Irvine New Town. Scottish Enterprise have acquired the undeveloped land and unoccupied buildings at Riverside Business Park, Irvine.

IDC have requested that the Secretary of State ensure Scottish Enterprise have

sufficient resources to continue building at Riverside Park and have also requested that North Ayrshire Council receive a sufficient capital allocation to upgrade and enhance the substantial industrial portfolio which will be inherited from the District Council within the New Town Area.

Cunninghame District Council have stated that they are satisfied with IDC's proposals and have asked that the Scottish Office recognise the need to allocate to North Ayrshire Council sufficient revenue resources to provide an effective economic development service in the New Town in partnership with Enterprise Ayrshire.

The Council agreed to make representations to the Scottish Office emphasising the need to ensure that additional revenue resources are provided in the Council's budget to meet the deficit resulting from the loss of IDC's economic development and inward investment activities locally.

6. PROGRAMME FOR PARTNERSHIP: CONSULTATION PAPER ON IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

Submitted report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had previously been circulated. North Ayrshire Council had considered the Scottish Office publication "Programme for Partnership - Consultation Paper on Implementation Arrangements" and had welcomed the general direction of the proposed changes while expressing concern over the timescale which is considered to be unrealistic. As the new system will be introduced at the same time as local government reorganisation North Ayrshire Council will require to undertake the necessary preparatory work.

The introduction of this system will result in North Ayrshire Council requiring (a) to co-ordinate Council area-wide partnerships and where partnerships are not formed, formulate regeneration programme bids; (b) to fund new/extended projects as from April 1996; and (c) to agree a process this year for the consideration of bids with arrangements for joint work with the existing authorities being required in this regard.

Council area-wide partnerships will be co-ordinated by North Ayrshire Council and will involve various bodies. Local authorities are expected to take the lead in ensuring the involvement of voluntary and community sectors and the partnership will be required to prepare a strategy covering a 5 year period. The strategy is in itself the bid for an urban programme block allocation.

Priority Partnership Areas must be backed by a Council area-wide partnership and the Partnership Areas are expected to have populations in the range of 5,000 to 30,000. Within the North Ayrshire boundary there is already established the Three Towns Initiative which is a partnership of CDC, SRC, Scottish Homes, Enterprise Ayrshire and the Employment Service. The Initiative is presently planning a range of programmes to address local economic and social needs. The Council could submit priority partnership area strategies on a Council area-wide basis but it is not considered that there is the infrastructure of formal partnerships already in place to substantiate this.

The Council agreed (a) to form a Council area-wide Partnership and Strategy; (b) to submit an application for a Priority Partnership Area on behalf of the Three Towns Initiative Area; (c) to submit prioritised project proposals in respect of eligible areas outwith the Three Towns within the area-wide strategy of the Council; (d) that the Chief Executive liaise with Cunninghame District Council and Strathclyde Regional Council in order to expedite this matter; and (e) that a report containing a draft submission be submitted to a future Meeting of the Council.

7. GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Submitted report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had previously been circulated. The report detailed the arrangements which require to be made for voluntary and community organisations currently in receipt of grant aid.

Database information will be available for transmission to the new Councils by 30th September 1995 with further information being transmitted as it becomes available. New Councils will be responsible for agreeing the urban programme submissions for 1996/97. The Scottish Education Department has advised of changes to education category "B" grants (local capital grant scheme) and North Ayrshire Council will require to advise SOED by 1st October 1995 as to whether the Council wishes to participate in the scheme for 1996/97 and if so how much in terms of financial assistance the Council is prepared to contribute towards projects.

In the case of Social Work Section 10 applications, such applications should be submitted to Strathclyde Regional Council by 30th November 1995.

The Council agreed (a) to confirm that North Ayrshire Council will require the earliest possible notification of (i) region-wide urban programme projects which are current and where North Ayrshire Council may be asked to make a financial contribution; (ii) new and extended urban programme applications; (iii) Social Work Section 10 applications; and (iv) applications for all education grants; (b) to authorise the appropriate Officers of North Ayrshire Council to liaise with the appropriate officers in Strathclyde Regional Council to ensure the effective transmission of all relevant information; and (c) to agree a timetable for the consideration of grant applications following the Council agreeing its budget process.

8. STUC: RESOLUTIONS

Submitted resolutions adopted by the STUC at their Annual Scottish Trade Union Congress held in Perth in April 1995 and on which STUC are seeking the comments of North Ayrshire Council. The resolutions, copies of which had previously been circulated, were on the following topics:-

- (a) "The Peace Dividend";
- (b) "Scottish Local Government Reorganisation"
- (c) "Care in the Community"
- (d) "Scottish Education"; and
- (e) "Teacher Employment".

The Council agreed to support the foregoing resolutions.

9. CONFERENCE/SEMINARS

Submitted list of Conferences/Seminars proposed by COSLA as part of their Reorganisation Information Programme for the period to 29th March 1996. Copies of the list had previously been circulated.

The Committee agreed to remit to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman to authorise attendance at such conferences/seminars where appropriate.

10. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive reminded the Council that following his appointment he had indicated that it was not proposed to fix a substantive post of Depute Chief Executive. He advised however that the Director of Education, as Senior Director, would act as his Depute in his absence.

Approved.

The Meeting ended at 6.45 p.m.