

Corporate Strategy Committee
9 April 1996

Irvine, 9 April 1996 - At a Meeting of the Corporate Strategy Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

James Clements, Patrick Browne, Jack Carson, Ian Clarkson, Stewart Dewar, Thomas Dickie, John Donn, David Gallagher, Samuel Gooding, Jane Gorman, James Jennings, Joseph McKinney, Thomas Morris, Robert Rae, John Sillars, George Steven and Samuel Taylor.

In Attendance

B. Devine (Chief Executive); R. Hunter (Director of Financial Services); B. Macdonald (Head of Corporate Business); G. Lawson (Principal Officer (Policy/Administration)); and J. Bannatyne (Administration Officer).

Chair

Mr. Clements in the Chair.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27th February 1996, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Area Committees

(a) North Coast and Arran Area Committee

Submitted the annexed report (appendix CS1) of the North Coast and Arran Area Committee, being the minutes of their meeting held on 25th March 1996.

The Committee agreed to adopt the report.

(b) Garnock Valley Area Committee

Submitted the annexed report (appendix CS2) of the Garnock Valley Area Committee, being the minutes of their meeting held on 26th March 1996.

The Committee agreed to adopt the report.

(c) Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee

Submitted the annexed report (appendix CS3) of the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee, being the minutes of their meeting held on 27th March 1996.

The Committee agreed to adopt the report.

(d) Irvine Area Committee

Submitted the annexed report (appendix CS4) of the Irvine Area Committee being the minutes of their meeting held on 27th March 1996.

The Committee agreed to adopt the report.

(e) Three Towns Area Committee

Submitted the annexed report (appendix CS5) of the Three Towns Area Committee being the minutes of their meeting held on 28th March 1996.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) that the setting up of a register of community groups, who wish to be advised of agenda items for their interest, be considered at the public consultation meetings on the services of North Ayrshire Council, as recommended by the Area Committee; and (b) otherwise to adopt the report.

3. Local Authority Capital Expenditure in 1996/97

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the allocations for Local Authority Capital Expenditure for 1996/97 in respect of the single allocation and consent to meet capital expenses on housing, as notified by the Scottish Office. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The single capital expenditure allocation (excluding HRA Police and Fire allocations) is £1,831,000 and the allocation for capital expenses on housing is £2,943,000.

The Committee agreed (a) that a Special Meeting of the Corporate Strategy Committee be arranged to consider the implications of these allocations and their effect on the capital programme for North Ayrshire; and (b) that all members of the Council be invited to attend.

4. European Regional Development Fund: Administration of Business Loan Fund

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a remit from the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee to consider the provision of additional funding to top-up the Strathclyde Business Loan Fund. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

For some years Strathclyde Regional Council provided loans to small and medium-sized businesses with assistance from the European Regional Development Fund and repayments from these companies were recycled into a Strathclyde Business Loan Fund. The Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee on 13th March 1996 agreed, in principle, to retain this region-wide fund since this was a pre-requisite of continued ERDF support. It had been the practice of Strathclyde Regional Council in the past to increase the value of the loan fund and a current

application for funding to ERDF envisaged that the new authorities would do likewise.

The Committee agreed to allocate £21,500 from the 1996/97 capital budget to the Strathclyde Business Loan Fund.

5. Cumbrae Cycle Project

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a remit from the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee to consider the provision of funding towards the Cumbrae Cycle Project, an application for which is currently being processed for Millennium funding. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The outcome of the current substantial bid by the Council to the Millennium Commission for funding cannot be guaranteed but a commitment by the Council to identify funding in support of the Cycle Project would increase the credibility of this bid and enable preparations for the submission of an application for ERDF funding.

The Committee agreed, in principle, that North Ayrshire Council consider committing funding of £120,000 towards the project in the financial years 1997/98 (£60,000) 1998/99 (£30,000) and 1999/2000 (£30,000) when determining the Council's capital plan.

6. Appointments to Prison Visiting Committees

Submitted report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had previously been circulated, confirming that in consultation with the Leader of the Council he has made the following appointments to Prison Visiting Committees:-

- (a) Mr. Jack Carson to the Barlinnie Prison Visiting Committee;
- (b) Mr. Elliot Gray to the Greenock Prison Visiting Committee and the Visiting Committee for the Legalised Police Cells in Campbeltown; and
- (c) Mr. Michael O'Mahony as the non-elected member on the Barlinnie and the Greenock Prison Visiting Committees.

The Committee agreed to homologate the appointments.

7. Stevenston: 159 New Street

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on proposals for the future occupation of the former Housing Office at 159 New Street Stevenston by the Social Work Department. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The office, which is in the ownership of Stevenston Common Good, is vacant and requires remedial works before it can be occupied by staff of the Social Work Directorate.

The Committee agreed (a) to authorise expenditure of £17,400 from the Stevenston Common Good Fund for remedial works to 159 New Street Stevenston to allow the tenancy of the property to the Social Work Department to proceed; and (b) to charge

a rental of £12,000 per annum from 1st July 1996.

8. Standing Orders, Contract Standing Orders, Delegation to Officers, Financial Regulations

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on proposals for dealing with the detail of Standing Orders, Contract Standing Orders, Delegation to Officers and Financial Regulations. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The Committee agreed (a) that a Member/Officer Working Group be established to consider the Scheme of Delegation; (b) to nominate James Clements, Patrick Browne, James Jennings, Jack Carson and Thomas Morris to participate in the Working Group; and (c) that a Special Seminar be organised by the Chief Executive to discuss the proposals of the Member/Officer Working Group and that all members of the Council be invited to attend.

9. Nuclear Free Local Authorities

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on an invitation to take up membership of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities Organisation. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The Committee agreed (a) that North Ayrshire Council take up membership of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities Organisation; (b) that the Chair (or nominee) be North Ayrshire Council's representative to the Nuclear Free Local Authorities Organisation; and (c) that the Chair (or nominee) and one officer be authorised to attend the Special General Meeting of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities Organisation to be held in Manchester on Wednesday 22nd May 1996.

10. Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive Bus Infrastructure Agreements

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on the terms of the proposed agreements between North Ayrshire Council and the Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive covering areas within and outwith the Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority area as defined by Section 40 (4) of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The Council has a statutory responsibility for Bus Infrastructures and in terms of the proposed agreements Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive will undertake to administer the infrastructure on behalf of the Council.

The Committee agreed (a) to accept the agreements between North Ayrshire Council and the Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive in accordance with the terms detailed in the report; and (b) to authorise the Chief Executive to sign the agreements on behalf of the Council.

11. Invitation to Affiliate to the Campaign for a Scottish Parliament

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on an invitation to North

Ayrshire Council to affiliate to the Campaign for a Scottish Parliament. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The Committee agreed that North Ayrshire Council affiliate to the Campaign for a Scottish Parliament at a cost of £150.

12. Equal Opportunities

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on a proposal to establish a Member/Officer Group on Equal Opportunities. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The Committee agreed (a) that an officer/Member Working Group on Equal Opportunities be established; (b) to nominate the Chair, Vice-Chair, David Gallagher, Jane Gorman, Margaret Highet, Margaret Munn and Samuel Taylor to participate in the Working Group; and (c) that the Working Group report to the meeting of the Corporate Strategy Committee on 21st May 1996 on their proposals for the handling of Equal Opportunities issues by North Ayrshire Council.

13. CCT Working Group

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on the progress to date of the Officer Working Group on CCT. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The Committee agreed (a) to establish a Member/Officer Working Group to manage the Council's approach to CCT issues; and (b) to nominate the Chair, Vice-Chair, Stewart Dewar, Thomas Dickie, Samuel Gooding, Jane Gorman, James Jennings, Thomas Morris, David O'Neill and George Steven to participate in the Member/Officer Working Group.

14. West of Scotland European Consortium

(Previous Minute Reference: Corporate Strategy Committee of 27th February 1996.)

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business giving details on the Draft Minute of Agreement of the West of Scotland European Consortium which will establish the Consortium as a Joint Committee in terms of Section 57 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The Consortium will comprise all unitary authorities in the area of the former Strathclyde Regional as well as Dumfries and Galloway Council. It will allow for a co-ordinated approach to tackling European issues of strategic importance to the West of Scotland.

The Committee agreed (a) to nominate James Clements, Leader of the Council to represent North Ayrshire Council on the West of Scotland European Consortium with Irene Oldfather substituting when required; and (b) to authorise the Chief Executive to sign the Minute of Agreement on behalf of North Ayrshire Council.

15. European Matters

(Previous Minute Reference: Corporate Strategy Committee of 27th February 1996.)

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on the proposed co-option of two additional members to the Member/Officer Group on European Matters previously established. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The Committee agreed that Ian Clarkson and Irene Oldfather be added to the membership of the Member/Officer Group on European Matters established by the Committee at its meeting of 27th February 1996.

16. Armed Forces Access to Council Land and Facilities

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on a request by the Royal Highland Fusiliers for the use of Council facilities for recruitment purposes. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to continue consideration of the matter to the meeting of the Council on 14th May 1996.

17. Glasgow Airport Consultative Committee: Nomination of Council Representative

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on a request for the nomination of a member or officer to represent North Ayrshire Council on the Glasgow Airport Consultative Committee. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The Committee agreed to nominate Samuel Gooding as the Council's representative to the Glasgow Airport Consultative Committee.

18. Rural White Paper: Local Partnerships and Rural Strategies

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a request from COSLA for the Council's support for the view that rural local authorities should take the lead in co-ordinating strategies for rural development under the proposed rural partnerships outlined in the government's White Paper on Rural Development. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The Committee agreed to support COSLA's view.

19. Requests for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on requests for financial assistance from outside organisations. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

Having considered the requests for financial assistance the Committee took the following decisions:-

| ORGANISATION | DECISION |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Rural Forum Scotland | Agreed to contribute £1,250 |
| South West Forum | Agreed to contribute £200 |
| Women's Forum Scotland | Agreed £30 Membership Fee |
| Arms Conversion Project | Agreed £500 (Affiliation Fee) |
| Scottish Advocacy | No contribution be made |
| British Southern Slav Society | No contribution be made |

20 Urgent Items

The Chairman agreed that the next item be considered as a matter of urgency.

21 Establishment of an Ayrshire Economic Forum

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on a proposal for the establishment of an Ayrshire Economic Forum to facilitate co-ordinated and collaborative development of the Ayrshire economy.

The Committee agreed (a) to participate in the Ayrshire Economic Forum; (b) to nominate James Clements and Samuel Gooding to represent North Ayrshire Council on the Economic Forum; and (c) to nominate the Chief Executive and Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment (or their nominees) to represent North Ayrshire Council on the Ayrshire Economic Forum.

The meeting ended at 2.40 p.m.