

Commercial Services Committee  
2 December 1998

**Irvine, 2 December 1998** - At a Meeting of the Commercial Services Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

**Present**

Peter McNamara, Patrick Browne, Joseph McKinney, Gean Seales and Samuel Taylor.

**In Attendance**

The Corporate Director (Property Services), J. Currie, Head of Cleansing, Grounds Maintenance and Transport, K. Wilson, Head of Catering and Cleaning, (all Property Services); W. Nicol, Senior Accountant (Financial Services); and M. McKeown, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

**Chair**

Mr McNamara in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Tom Dickie, John Donn, Alan Munro, Irene Oldfather and George Steven.

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 21st October 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. Tenders for Vehicles**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on progress in the replacement vehicle programme 1998/99.

Noted.

**3. Wheeled Bins: Progress**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on progress achieved to date in implementing wheeled bin collections in North Ayrshire.

Wheeled bin collections are now in operation in the Garnock Valley, Largs and the North Coast, the Three Towns Area and Kilwinning. Collections will commence in the remaining parts of North Ayrshire not presently covered by the service, namely Irvine, including Dregghorn, Springside, Bourtrees Hill and Girdle Toll, on 22 February 1999.

Noted.

#### **4. Wheeled Bins: Changes to Pull Outs**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on the outcome of the trial introduction of fortnightly 'pull outs' in the Garnock Valley Area agreed at the September meeting of the Committee.

Pull outs are granted to those households where there is no one capable of bringing the bin to the designated point of collection and the number of pull outs recorded in the Garnock Valley is 637. The introduction of fortnightly pull outs has resulted in a reduction of time taken to empty these bins, and the households involved have been supportive of the scheme.

The Committee agreed that (a) the scheme of fortnightly pull outs be extended to Largs and North Coast area, the Three Towns area and Kilwinning; and (b) fortnightly pull outs form an integral part of the introduction of wheeled bin collections in Irvine, Dreghorn, Springside, Bourtreehill and Girdle Toll.

#### **5. Vocational Qualifications for Refuse Collection**

Submitted report by Corporate Director (Property Services) on an invitation from the Waste Management Industry Training and Advisory Board (WAMITAB) for the Council to participate in a pilot scheme to introduce Vocational Qualifications for refuse collection.

The pilot study will be designed to demonstrate the most practical and cost-effective way of introducing the voluntary qualifications; define the benefits in terms of improving service quality and staff development; and provide case study material for wider dissemination in Scotland.

The Committee agreed to participate in the Pilot.

#### **6. Cleansing Store at Cochrane Road, Kilbirnie**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on a proposal to declare the cleansing store at Cochrane Road, Kilbirnie surplus to requirements.

The store was previously used to store refuse collection sacks but is no longer required by the Cleansing Section.

The Committee agreed (a) to declare the store surplus to requirements; and (b) to remit its future use to the Support Services Committee.

## **7. Genetically Modified Foods**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on current issues concerning genetically modified soya and maize products.

On 1st September 1998 an EC Regulation came into force which requires all food products containing genetically modified (GM) soya and maize to be clearly labelled. Although the implications of the Regulation for caterers is not clear it is likely that sales of food containing GM soya and maize by catering establishments will require to be labelled, including both pre-packed and non pre-packed foods.

Catering and Cleaning Services have raised the matter with the Authorised Buying Consortium and requested that future specifications should include details in relation to GM foods. There is no requirement at present to remove any foods containing GM soya or maize.

The Committee agreed that a report on the full implications of the Regulations for the Council's Catering and Cleaning Services should be submitted to a future meeting.

## **8. EC School Milk Subsidy Scheme**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on the school milk subsidy scheme within North Ayrshire primary schools.

Noted.

## **9. Frost Protection Procedures**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on the frost protection procedures within Educational establishments.

Frost Protection Procedures have been formalised in consultation with Technical Services and Educational Services to protect educational establishments from damage caused by severe winter conditions by ensuring that heating systems are maintained at sufficient temperatures to prevent damage. All educational establishments will also be visited by janitorial staff at weekends during the winter period to ensure no damage is sustained.

Noted.

## **10. Master of Business Administration**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on the success of Catherine Nelson, Operations Manager, Catering and Cleaning, in achieving the Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Glasgow Caledonian University.

The Committee agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent to Ms Nelson.

Meeting ended at 2.30 p.m.