

Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee
13 March 1996

Irvine, 13 March 1996 - At a Meeting of the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Samuel Gooding, David Munn, Jack Carson, James Clements, Margaret Highet, Thomas Morris, Robert Reilly, John Sillars and George Steven.

In Attendance

The Chief Executive, the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment, the Head of Planning and the Environment, the Head of Roads, a Corporate Policy Officer (Mrs. King) and an Administration Officer (Mrs. Bale).

Chair

Mr. Gooding in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Patrick Browne, John Donn and Elizabeth McLardy.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 31 January 1996, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

2. Scheme of Delegation to Committee

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Scheme of Delegation to the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee which was approved by the Corporate Strategy Committee at their Meeting on 27 February 1996. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

Given the six weekly cycle of meetings the importance of having the Committee concentrate on matters of policy and strategy and the need to emphasise the Committee's environment function the report proposed the following additional arrangements:-

- (a) the establishment of a Development Control Sub-Committee which would meet on a 3 weekly basis to deal with the more routine planning applications which form the bulk of submissions to Committee;
- (b) the remit of specific items concerning roads to the Area Committees for determination; and
- (c) the inclusion of an additional clause within the Scheme of Delegation under the heading of Environment.

In response to members' concerns about the composition of the proposed Sub-Committee confirmation was given that the general provisions of the Council's Scheme of Delegation to Committees ensured that local members would be invited to attend Sub-Committee Meetings on items affecting their wards and would have voting rights in relation to those items.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) to approve the additional arrangements in relation to the Scheme of Delegation; and (b) that the Development Control Sub-Committee comprise the Chair, Vice-Chair, Jack Carson, Ian Clarkson, Margaret Highet, Thomas Morris and Robert Reilly.

3. Applications for Planning Permission: Consultation with Community Councils

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment confirming the statutory requirement as from 1 April 1996 for authorities to consult Community Councils on planning applications within their area and presenting proposals for a consultation procedure to ensure compliance with the legislation. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The proposals involve the circulation of the weekly list of planning applications to each Community Council, having them request written consultation on any application on the list which they consider of local concern and ensures automatic consultation in writing on any application which is contrary to the Development Plan or falls within the "bad neighbour" categories. Additionally each Community Council would be assigned a Development Control Planner as their point of contact. Community Councils would have fourteen days within which to make any comments on an application and would be dealt with as a consultee, in the same way as all other statutory consultees.

Whilst a future training programme will require to be established for Community Councillors interim guidance notes have been prepared to assist them in their consideration of applications.

The Committee agreed after discussion, (a) to approve the consultation procedure proposed; (b) to advise each Community Council of this procedure immediately and invite suggestions for any modifications; and (c) to refer the report to the Community Consultation Working Party for their interest.

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

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment, copies of which had previously been circulated, on a proposal to retain a Strathclyde Wide Business Loan Fund for 1996/97 to secure European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) support

The Committee agreed (a) to support the principle that loan repayments due to North Ayrshire Council during 1996/97 from companies with Strathclyde Business Loans be

paid into a Strathclyde-wide Holding Fund; (b) that these repayments of £83,070 be used as match funding to attract ERDF assistance for a Business Loan Fund; (c) to note that the value of the Fund in North Ayrshire would be £186,140 and that applications will be determined by North Ayrshire Council; and (d) to request that the Corporate Strategy Committee consider allocating £21,500 from the 1996/97 Capital Budget to match the full amount of ERDF for which SRC has applied, thereby raising the value of the Loan Fund to £209,000.

5. European Social Fund: Support for Business Development Grants

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment on the outcome of North Ayrshire Council's bid for European Social Fund (ESF) Funding for the Management Technology and Training Scheme and the Youth Employment Training Initiative. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

Strathclyde Regional Council had submitted a composite bid for ESF support in 1996 on behalf of the new unitary authorities in the belief that contributions from participating private sector companies would be considered as eligible for match funding and the Revenue Budget for Assistance to Industry had been prepared on that basis. Such an allowance was not however made in their approval which reduces the anticipated level of funding from £138,000 to £88,600. Whilst it is not possible to alter this situation in the current year it is hoped that private company contributions will be calculated in future as eligible for match funding.

The Committee agreed (a) to amend the Revenue Budget for Assistance to Industry to reflect the level of support which has now been secured; and (b) to seek support of North Ayrshire Members of the European Parliament in pressing for all private sector contributions in future to be eligible for match funding for ESF.

6. Roads Development Guide

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment, copies of which had previously been circulated, on the Roads Development Guide recently updated by SRC which provides geometric standards and construction details for roads associated with new developments and also covers such aspects as parking standards and procedures for adoption of roads.

The Committee agreed after discussion (a) to adopt SRC's Roads Development Guide, suitably amended for North Ayrshire Council; and (b) that the cost of copies to private developers, architects, etc. be set at £50.

7. South West of Scotland All Purpose Trunk Road Bid

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment on the current position regarding the bid for the role of management agent for the All-Purpose Trunk Roads in the Southwest of Scotland. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The necessary submission had been lodged by a Local Government Consortium covering North Ayrshire Council, East Ayrshire Council, South Ayrshire Council, Renfrewshire Council, Inverclyde Council, South Lanarkshire Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council and the bid has now been successful. The Scottish Office has therefore circulated a draft Management Agency Agreement to each Council within the Consortium and its terms are acceptable to all with the exception of one clause, which allows the Secretary of State to appoint other agents or to undertake items of work contained within the scope of the contract himself. The Consortium have objected strongly to this clause, stating that this should only apply where the Management Agent is in default of the terms of the contract.

The Committee agreed in these circumstances to seek the support of North Ayrshire's MPs in lobbying for the removal of this clause unless it relates to default.

8. Administration Expenditure Savings: Roads

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment, copies of which had previously been circulated, on a proposal to use existing supplies of various standard roads application forms and permits, over stamped with the North Ayrshire Council Logo in an attempt to secure savings on stationery.

The Committee agreed to approve this course of action.

9. Electricity Supply for Street Lighting

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment, copies of which had previously been circulated, on the offer from Scottish Power for the supply of electricity for street lighting and street furniture.

Due to the scale of power supply for street lighting and street furniture in mainland Strathclyde Scottish Power provide a discount of 7.8%. The current contract expires on 31 March 1996 but the company has prepared a supply agreement to all the new authorities in Strathclyde covering the period to 31 March 1998 which retains the existing discount and allows the authorities to terminate the agreement within year 2 i.e. between 1 April 1997 and 31 March 1998 if not satisfied with the arrangements.

The Committee agreed after discussion (a) to accept the offer from Scottish Power; and (b) to instruct officers to investigate the possibility of negotiating a discounted supply of electricity to meet the total requirements of North Ayrshire Council from competing companies.

10. Celebration of the Coast: Cumbrae Cycle Project

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment confirming an opportunity to secure Millennium Funding for the Cumbrae Cycle Way. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

The cycle route which forms part of STB's umbrella bid "Celebration of the Coast"

was one of 250 projects throughout Britain which has been lodged with the Millennium Commission. These bids will be subject to initial technical appraisal and if favourably viewed they will be re-assessed in detail in May/June of this year. Although the bid is so far speculative it would be essential for the Council and the Argyll and the Islands Local Enterprise Company to identify funding in support of the Project to provide the bid to the Millennium Commission with more credibility and to enable a bid to be prepared for ERDF support. The requisite funding package of £1m will require a North Ayrshire Council share of £120,000 over 3 financial years viz. 1997/98, 1998/99 and 1999/2000. Additionally, in order to help define and support the project it was felt appropriate to progress to a further stage in the public consultation procedure on the proposals and options presented within the Traffic Engineering Feasibility Study which was commissioned by CDC and the Argyll and the Islands Enterprise Company as part of their Environmental Programme.

The Committee agreed after discussion (a) to authorise the second round of public consultation on the cycle track in association with the Argyll and the Islands Enterprise Company; and (b) to ask the Corporate Strategy Committee to recognise this opportunity and to make a commitment to the project which would allow the Millennium and ERDF funds to be pursued when determining North Ayrshire Council's Capital Plan.

11. Draft Planning Advice (PAN): Local Planning

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment, copies of which had previously been circulated, on provisions contained within the Draft Planning Advice Note on Local Planning.

The Committee agreed (a) to recognise the importance and role of local plans in the context of the key points identified in the report; (b) to support the necessary ongoing review and alteration of the Plans which cover North Ayrshire; (c) to formally approve the comments on the PAN already submitted to the Scottish Office; and (d) to refer PAN Paragraphs 33 to 43 which provide advice on taking public interests into account (including Community Councils) to the Community Consultation Working Party.

12. Standing List of Contractors

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment, copies of which had previously been circulated, on the Standing List of Approved Contractors produced by Strathclyde Roads which covers all aspects of roads work.

The Committee agreed to adopt the existing Strathclyde Roads Standing List of Approved Contractors until a revised version has been produced for North Ayrshire Council.

13. Appointment of the Public Analysts/Agricultural Analysts and Food Examiners

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment, copies of which had previously been circulated, on the appointment of Public Analysts and Agricultural Analysts, as required by the Local Government Etc. (Scotland) Act 1994.

The Committee approved the following appointments with effect from 1 April 1996:-

- (a) Dr. P. Smith, Public Analyst, Agricultural Analyst;
- (b) Dr. C. McDonald, Public Analyst, Food Examiner, Deputy Agricultural Analyst;
- (c) Mr. L. McIntosh, Public Analyst, Food Examiner, Deputy Agricultural Analyst;
- (d) Mr. P. Holroyd, Public Analyst, Deputy Agricultural Analyst;
- (e) Mr. S. Joyce, Public Analyst, Deputy Agricultural Analyst;
- (f) Mr. J. Waddell, Food Examiner; and
- (g) Mrs. K. Stanton, Food Examiner.

14. Membership of Outside Bodies

The Committee was asked to consider membership of the following outside bodies:-

- (a) The National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection;
- (b) The Scottish National Housing and Town Planning Council; and
- (c) The National Housing and Town Planning Council.

The Committee agreed (a) to take up membership in each case; (b) to nominate the Vice-Chair and the Principal Officer, K. Thomas to represent North Ayrshire Council on the Executive Committee of the Scottish Division of the National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection; and (c) to nominate the Principal Officer, K. Thomas to represent NAC on the National Council and on the Noise Committee of the Society.

The Meeting ended at 3.10 p.m.