

Corporate Strategy Committee
24 February 1998

Irvine, 24 February 1998 - At a Special Meeting of the Corporate Strategy Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 4.00 p.m.

Present

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

In Attendance

The Chief Executive, the Directors of Education, Financial Services, Community and Recreational Services, Housing Services and Social Work, the Head of Corporate Business, A. Herbert, Head of Accountancy (Financial Services), M. Pepper, Principal Marketing and Publicity Officer and S. Bale, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Chair

Mr. Clements in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Thomas Dickie.

1. Budgets 1998/99

(a) Revenue Estimates

Submitted report by the Director of Financial Services on (a) the Revenue budget for 1998/99; (b) the savings package; and (c) the Capital budget resources for other services.

On 6 January 1998 a Special Meeting of the Corporate Strategy Committee noted that the Council's spending limit for 1998/99 had been set at £146.640m and that the Council would require to make savings of £7.638m to remain within the capping limit.

Savings of £2.250m were made from the central resources of the budget which do not have direct implications on services. A further £200,000 was applied against central savings for further Poll Tax and Insurance Savings. This left further savings of £5.197m to be made and these were implemented across the Council's services by imposing targets of between 2.3% and 8.5%.

Directorate estimates have now been amended to take account of the savings and are summarised as follows:-

	<u>£m</u>
Chief Executive	5.469
Other Services	4.801

Joint Boards	23.935
Commercial Services	6.189
Community and Recreational Services	10.753
Education	63.722
Financial Services	1.801
Other Financial Services	2.248
Housing (Non HRA)	266
Planning, Roads and Environment	7.166
Social Work	<u>24.403</u>
Less - Other Charges	<u>4118</u>
	<u>146.635</u>

(b) Capital Budget Resources

The total sum of capital resources available after application of proposed expenditure amounts to £1.206m. An element of the proposed committed expenditure is for a Spend to Save scheme of £0.900m to finance Redundancy and other Severance costs together with £0.450m for Wheeled Bins which is part of the savings package and will be eligible for 100% grant from the Scottish Office.

The Committee agreed to approve (a) the Draft Revenue Estimates for 1998/99 taking into account the proposed savings; and (b) the Capital Budget (Resources) for Other Services and the committed expenditure identified.

2. Water and Sewerage Charges 1998/99

Submitted report by the Director of Financial Services on the water and sewerage charges for 1998/99.

The West of Scotland Water Authority (WOSWA) is responsible for determining a scheme of charges to be levied for the provision of domestic and non-domestic sewerage services. WOSWA is required to submit the proposed scheme of charges to the Scottish Water and Sewerage Customer Council for agreement. In the event that agreement cannot be reached, the Scottish Water and Sewerage Customer Council is entitled to submit the matter to the Secretary of State for a decision. In relation to the 1998/99 proposed charges, as the Scottish Water and Sewerage and Customer Council could not agree the proposals, they were referred to the Secretary of State. On 23 February 1998, the Secretary of State approved the proposed charges as submitted by WOSWA and granted relief for the domestic sewerage charge on a flat rate basis over the various valuation bandings. The increases range from 24.47% to 37.84%. The domestic charges will be incorporated into the Council Tax bills and the non-domestic charges and metered charges will be reflected in accounts issued directly by WOSWA.

Noted.

The Meeting ended at 4.25 p.m.