

Irvine Area Committee
15 February 2012

IRVINE, 15 February 2012 - At a Meeting of the Irvine Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Pat McPhee, Tom Barr, Matthew Brown, Ian Clarkson, John Moffat, David O'Neill (Items 1 - 5 only) and Joan Sturgeon.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; A. Bodie, Head of Infrastructure and Design, A. Grossart, Team Manager (Finance) (Finance and Infrastructure); J. McHarg, Assistant Manager (Community Services), B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Education and Skills); A. Laurenson, Team Manager (Regeneration) Economic Development and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

J. Ledgerwood, Irvine Bay Regeneration Company; A. Tremble, Irvine Inspire; Inspector G. Jones, Strathclyde Police and T. Davidson, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue.

Chair

Provost McPhee in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 16, Councillor Brown, as a member of Irvine Burns Club, declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 in relation to an application for funding from the Community Development Grant Scheme, and left the meeting for that item of business.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 23 November 2011 were signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Irvine Inspire

The Committee received a presentation from Mr Tremble, Acting Chair of Irvine Action on the work of Irvine Inspire.

Irvine Inspire held a meeting for community groups in Irvine on 26 November 2011 to look at ways the community could work together to regenerate Irvine and boost the town centre. Areas discussed at the meeting and under consideration include:-

- the creation of a charity shop (CS:I) to aid Irvine communities;
- "Be the Boss" youth enterprise initiatives;
- investigations into the creation of 'nursery' retail units;
- a proposed 'Fullarton Fair';
- work with Fullarton Parish Church and Fullarton Health House;
- work on the development of a Business Improvement Bid;
- the early creation of a Town Traders Association;
- promotion of the town as "Time Town" and the design and production of a new tourist trail; and
- an application for Business Improvement status and the creation of 'Irvine Trust' to take this forward;

The Committee welcomed the initial proposals presented and considered that the roles and responsibilities of all agencies and organisations involved in the regeneration of Irvine will require to be clearly defined in order to avoid duplication and conflict.

Noted.

4. Community Payback Order

The Committee agreed to receive a presentation on the operation of Community Payback Orders at a future meeting.

5. Post of Irvine Town Centre Manager

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the creation of an Irvine Town Centre Manager post.

The Area Committee receives regular updates on the regeneration of the Irvine Town Centre. These updates are in relation to five key projects, including the development of a new leisure centre, the refurbishment of Bridgegate House, the Trinity Church refurbishment, improvement works to the public realm and development of a Parking Strategy.

The Chief Executive, under her delegated powers, has agreed to the creation of Irvine Town Centre Manager post to work with all key partners to development and implement agreed action plans. It is anticipated that the post of Irvine Town Centre Manager will be advertised in early March 2012 with an appointment being made by mid May 2012. The key tasks and responsibilities of this new post were detailed in the report.

Noted.

6. Strathclyde Police

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police on activity in the Irvine area for December 2011 - January 2012.

Inspector Jones provided information on local crime statistics for the Central Irvine, Vineburgh, Castlepark, Redburn, Fullerton, Harbour and Girdle Toll, Bourtreehill and Broomlands areas of Irvine.

Inspector Jones gave further details on the following:-

- the priorities targeted via the Safer Street initiative; and
- work undertaken by the Multi Agency Problem Solving Group.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:-

- an overall increase in crimes of threatening and abusive behaviour and work with taxi marshals in the town centre to reduce this type of offence;
- more robust stop searches that has resulted in an increase in the reported and detected offensive weapons; and
- the recent launch of the "No Knives Better Lives" campaign.

Noted.

7. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activity in the Irvine area between 1 December 2011 and 6 February 2012.

Station Commander Davidson also reported on:-

- the availability of free Home Fire Safety visits;
- work by the Services with Sheltered Housing Units and the inclusion of the Fire Services on their resident's committees; and
- a pre-Christmas campaign highlighting the risk of candles and overloading sockets.

Members asked questions, and received further information, on the following:-

- the high incidence of equipment faults involving sheltered housing complexes.

Noted.

8. Irvine Common Good Fund

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the projected final revenue account in respect of Irvine Common Good Fund for the year to 31 March 2012, and the proposed budget for 2012/13 including the level of grant funding for 2012/13.

In 2011/12, the revenue account is projected to incur a deficit for the year of £8,763. This is primarily as a result of grants awarded totalling £75,580, detailed in the appendix to the report, against a budget set of £54,000. Savings have been made in property costs of £11,586 against a budget of £41,400. This includes an electricity refund of £2,154 for the control pillars at the Savory Moor and the Bank of Scotland.

The accumulated revenue account balance at 1 April 2011 was £233,918 together with the projected deficit for the year leaves the estimated final balance at £225,155. The capital balance remains unchanged at £622,383 giving an overall fund balance of £847,539 at 31 March 2012. A number of revenue and capital costs require to be met from the Irvine Common Good Fund, resulting in a recommended budget level of £54,000 available for disbursement. Grant disbursements greater than the proposed amount will result in the fund balances reducing over time.

The Committee was provided with further information in respect of a reduction in rental income from the Townhouse that will result in a reduced budget level of £40,525 available for disbursement.

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to:-

- the provision of hospitality at Marymass;
- rental income from Bartonhill and Quarry Road and backdated rent for previous years; and
- property costs set aside for the Townhouse and Haysholm Nursery.

The Committee agreed that the report be continued to a future meeting in order that further information can be provided on (a) the rental value of Bartonhill and Quarry Road sites as assessed by the District Valuer and backdated rent for these sites for previous years; (b) the budget for the provision of hospitality at Marymass; (c) a breakdown of the property costs for Haysholm Nursery; (d) the projected property costs for the Townhouse in 2011/12; and (e) the implications for the fund if expenditure exceeds the recommended budget level.

9. Public Transport Grant Funding from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the SPT projects that have been implemented recently within the Irvine Area and those proposed for future implementation.

Infrastructure and Design Services and SPT have been working in partnership to progress a range of schemes to meet the requirements of a grant award of £745,000 from SPT in 2011/12 and work on these schemes is currently either complete or ongoing. Bids for funding in 2012/13 have been made and will be considered by the Strathclyde Partnership shortly. In identifying the schemes, officers have taken into account the priorities of the Regional Transport Strategy, Local Transport Strategy and Single Outcome Agreement.

Section 3.2 of the report outlined the projects recently delivered or which are in the process of being delivered within the Area Committee's boundary during 2010/11 and 2011/12. A list of potential new schemes for future implementation was set out at Section 3.3 of the report.

Members discussed projects for future funding that could include:-

- the upgrade of crossings at Ayr Road, Irvine;
- the provision of bus stops and shelters on routes 22 and 29 that take in Girdle Toll, Lawthorn and Montgomerie Park, Irvine

The Committee agreed (a) to note the content of the report; (b) that the potential new schemes detailed in the report be considered as potential projects for SPT funding; and (c) to include the upgrading of crossings at Ayr Road, Irvine and the provision of bus stops and shelters on routes 22 and 29 (Girdle Toll, Lawthorn and Montgomerie Park, Irvine) as potential new schemes for SPT funding.

10. Irvine Town Centre Development

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on progress in relation to Irvine Town Centre Development.

Irvine town centre is about to undergo a major regeneration programme. Works will focus on four projects over the next four years:

- Major public realm works and improvements in the Bridgegate area;
- The refurbishment and redevelopment of the A-listed Trinity Church as a commercial opportunity;
- The refurbishment of Bridgegate House;
- The development of a new sports and leisure centre for the town centre.

The programme is being taken forward by North Ayrshire Council and Irvine Bay Regeneration Company. Other partners in the initiative include Rivergate Shopping Centre (ING), Historic Scotland, Trinity Trust and SportScotland.

The report provided an update on each of the four projects. Each is progressing well and meeting its programme targets. Consultation has taken place with the North Ayrshire Access Panel, local businesses and the British Legion. An e-mail bulletin has been issued to those who registered at the pop-up-shop event and staff briefing notes are being issued regularly to staff affected by the Bridgegate House refurbishment.

Noted.

11. Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund 2011/12: Applications for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on applications received in respect of the Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund 2011/12.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

Community Development Grants

The Girdle Girls	£700
Irvine Burns Club	£5,000
Fullarton Tenants Association	£500

Local Youth Action Fund

Irvine Magnum Badminton Club	£2,000
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12. North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board: Minutes of Meeting held on

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Meeting of the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board held on 12 January 2012.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 3.25 p.m.