

Corporate Strategy Committee  
16 December 1997

**Irvine, 16 December 1997** - At a Special Meeting of the Corporate Strategy Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 3.30 p.m.

**Present**

James Clements, Patrick Browne, Jack Carson, Ian Clarkson, Stewart Dewar, Thomas Dickie, John Donn, David Gallagher, Samuel Gooding, James Jennings, David O'Neill, Robert Rae, Robert Reilly, George Steven and Samuel Taylor.

**In Attendance**

The Chief Executive; The Directors of Financial Services and Community and Recreational Services; The Head of Corporate Business; The Personnel Services Manager; G. Lawson, Principal Officer Policy/Administration, M. McCormick, Media Relations Officer and S. Bale, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

**Chair**

Mr. Clements in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Thomas Morris and John Sillars.

**1. Working Party on Revenue Budgets**

Submitted the annexed reports (Appendices CS1 and CS2) of the Working Party on Revenue Budgets, being the Minutes of its meetings held on 1 December and 5 December 1997.

In relation to the proposed transfer of £300,000 from an anticipated surplus in the Housing Revenue Account to offset last year's deficit met from the General Fund, the transfer will not take place until it is confirmed that such a surplus is available at the end of the financial year. If the situation alters, the Committee will be further advised.

In relation to Revision of Opening Hours within the Community and Recreational Services Directorate savings proposals, it was proposed that the closure of libraries on alternate Saturdays be not proceeded with.

The Committee agreed (a) not to proceed with the proposed closure of libraries on alternate Saturdays; and (b) to otherwise approve the reports, including the position on the transfer of £300,000 from the Housing Revenue Account.

**2. Revenue Expenditure 1997/98: Savings Proposals**

Submitted note listing the Revenue Expenditure savings proposals for 1997/98 considered by the Working Party on Revenue Budgets.

After a full discussion, the Committee agreed to approve the savings proposals subject to (a) the Director of Community and Recreational Services consulting further with the nursery group using the Pladda Units, Bourtreehill, prior to the closure of this facility; and (b) the Chair and Director of Social Work examining further the proposed saving in relation to the alteration to the meals service as a pilot project at Montgomery Court Linked Residential Unit, Kilbirnie.

### **3. *Revenue Budget Exercise 1997/98 and 1998/99: Conditions of Service Measures***

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Conditions of Service Measures to be required of the workforce to assist the Council to achieve their spending targets.

The proposals had been discussed by the Working Party on Revenue Budgets. They had also been discussed at a Joint Consultative Committee of the APT & C, Manual Worker and Teaching Staffs Trade Unions held on 12 December 1997. Since that meeting, a letter had been submitted by Unison, along with a petition signed by staff outlining Unison's concerns.

Members acknowledged that the monitoring of the budget in future required to be looked at to ensure that action is taken sooner, but emphasised the need to take immediate action to bring the budget back into line and sought the Trade Unions co-operation to this effect. A number of the proposed Conditions of Service Measures will be subject to further consultation with the Trade Unions.

After a full discussion, the Committee agreed to approve the Conditions of Service Measures as detailed in the report.

The meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.