

Corporate Strategy Committee
6 April 1999

Irvine, 6 April 1999 - At a meeting of the Special Corporate Strategy Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

James Clements, Ian Clarkson, Stewart Dewar, John Donn, David Gallagher, Jane Gorman, Irene Oldfather, Margaret Highet, James Jennings, Peter McNamara, David Munn, Margaret Munn, Alan Munro, Robert Reilly, George Steven, Samuel Taylor and Richard Wilkinson.

In Attendance

The Chief Executive, T Orr, Corporate Director (Property Services), J Travers, Corporate Director and D Anderson, Head of Service (Educational Services), A Herbert, Assistant Chief Executive (Finance), R Samson, Principal Estates Officer (Development and Promotion), M McCormick, Media Relations and J Bannatyne, Administration Officer (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Mr Clements in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Jack Carson, Thomas Dickie, Samuel Gooding, Joseph McKinney, Thomas Morris, David O'Neill, Robert Rae, John Sillars, Father Matthew McManus and Reverend John Taylor.

1. Appointment of Treasury Management Consultants

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on the appointment of Treasury Management Consultants to the Council.

Applications for the provision of a Treasury Management Consultancy Service have been sought from Sector Treasury Services Ltd, Butlers, and Prebon Financial Consultancy. The service offered by the market leaders in this field Sector Treasury Services Ltd, is considered superior to that of the others. This company have acted as financial consultants to the Council for the past 3 years.

The Committee agreed (a) to appoint Sector Treasury Management Services Ltd as Treasury Management Consultants to the Council for a 3 year period commencing 1st April 1999 with the option to extend the contract for a further 2 years; and (b) that the fees payable for the first 3 years will be £14,000 (year 1), £15,000 (year 2), and £16,000 (year 3).

2. Three Towns Motor Project

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the Three Towns Motor Project on the history of the Project and outlining the progress made to date in attempting to achieve financial independence by the year 2000/2001.

The Regeneration Partnership provided £110,000 to fund the entire Project for 1998/99. Funding of only £50,000 has been approved by the Regeneration Partnership for the financial year 1999/2000. An application to the European Social Fund for financial assistance towards the Project has been placed on a reserve list. It will be possible, however, to maintain the Project by using existing resources and by making staff changes pending further consideration of the

recommendations of a consultant's report on the Project.

The Committee agreed (a) to continue to provide assistance to the Project; (b) to establish a Working Group comprising officers of the Council and representatives from the voluntary sector, private sector and other agencies and not-for-profit providers; and (c) that the remit of the Working Group will be (i) to assess and make recommendations on the future role of the Project; and (ii) to review the funding arrangements and investigate possible external funding sources.

3. Best Value Appraisal

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the outcome of the most recent Best Value appraisal, including details on a consultation paper in relation to the long-term arrangements for Best Value.

Following the latest Best Value appraisal round on 25 March 1999, the Scottish Minister for Local Government congratulated all Scottish Council on their progress to date, highlighted some of the key issues which arose from the appraisal and indicated his intention to extend the CCT moratorium for a further year to July 2000. A consultation paper by the Best Value Task Force entitled "Best Value in Local Government: Long-Term Arrangements" has been received which seeks comment on the long-term Best Value framework and the need for and nature of any legislation to secure its future.

The Committee agreed to authorise the Chief Executive to respond to the consultation paper on the long-term arrangements for Best Value on behalf of the Council.

4. Regional Transport Partnerships and the National Transport Forum for Scotland

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on the Council's response to a consultation paper issued by the Scottish Office on the setting up of Regional Transport Partnerships, including the geographical area they should cover and the powers and responsibilities which they should have. The consultation also deals with the future of the existing Transport Forum for Scotland, an advisory body to the Government on transport issues.

The 12 Councils in the West of Scotland have formed the West of Scotland Transport Partnership on a voluntary basis with a view to acting together on strategic transport issues. Details were given of the Council's response, which had been submitted to the Scottish Office to meet their deadline.

The Committee agreed to homologate the response.

5. Grants for Improvements in School Education: Books for School Libraries

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on additional funding received from the Scottish Office for the provision of books for school libraries.

Following the receipt of an earlier grant of £67,233 for the purchase of books in school libraries, an additional grant amounting to £149,364 has now been received for the same purpose. The allocation of grant to schools has been calculated on the basis of £6 for each pupil in the authority, with a minimum of £600 for every school which has less than 100 pupils. Details of the proposed disbursement of the grant to individual schools were given in the report. To maximise the purchasing power of the grant it is proposed to enter into a contractual agreement with one supplier to provide books at a discount of 20% thus enabling additional books to be purchased through the grant.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the letting of a contract, to the value of £149,364 to an appropriate supplier to provide books to primary, secondary and special schools and pre-five establishments; (b) that the award of the contract be exempt from the provisions of the Council's

Standing Orders relating to Contracts by virtue of Paragraph 3(d); and (c) that the Corporate Director (Educational Services) be authorised to negotiate with an appropriate supplier.

6. Community Development Grants Scheme: Grant Awards 1999/2000

Submitted report by Corporate Director (Educational Services) on applications for financial assistance from the Community Development Grants Scheme for 1999/2000 from a wide range of groups in North Ayrshire.

The Committee agreed to approve the awards as detailed at Appendix CS1.

7. Saltcoats: Burns Avenue/Simpson Drive: Junction Priorities

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on traffic management proposals incorporating amendments to Burns Avenue/Simpson Drive junction, Saltcoats which are required as a result of the new local distributor road now being open to through traffic. A site meeting involving members and officers of the Council and Strathclyde Police took place on Monday 29 March 1999 to discuss the traffic management proposals.

The Committee agreed (a) to change the junction priorities back to the original arrangement whereby traffic joining Burns Avenue from Simpson Drive will require to give way to traffic on Burns Avenue; (b) to realign the kerbing at Simpson Drive/Fleming Crescent junctions to create a traffic calming feature on Burns Avenue at this location, for both east bound and west bound traffic; (c) that additional signing and carriageway markings be provided to emphasise the amended junction lay-out to motorists; and (d) that the costs of implementing the works be met from the 1999/2000 Roads Revenue budget.

8. Irvine: Land at Townhead: Disposal

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the disposal of land at Townhead, Irvine. The Chair, as a matter of urgency had previously authorised the Principal Estates Officer to enter into detailed negotiations for disposal of the land with agents for Laciok Investments.

The Committee agreed to homologate the previous decision of the Chair to dispose of the land on the terms and conditions detailed in the report.

9. Irvine: Lawthorn: Land at Cardow Crescent: Disposal

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the disposal of land at Cardow Crescent, Lawthorn, Irvine.

The Committee agreed to authorise disposal of the land on the basis of the provisionally agreed terms and to conclude the transaction.

10. Kilwinning: Shop Unit at 145 Main Street: Lease Renewal

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the proposed renewal of the lease of a shop unit at 145 Main Street, Kilwinning currently held on the Property Services Account.

The Committee agreed to authorise renewal of the lease to Mr and Mrs MacDonald on the terms and conditions outlined in the report.

11. Kilwinning: Shop Property at 15/19 Baird Avenue: Disposal

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the disposal of a shop property at 15/19 Baird Avenue, Kilwinning to Mr Kuldit A Singh who previously leased the property from the Council for use as a licensed grocer and butchers shop.

The Committee agreed to authorise the disposal of the property to Mr Singh on the terms and conditions outlined in the report.

12. Kilbirnie: Ground at Station Road/Stoneyholm Road: Disposal

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the disposal of ground at Station Road/Stoneyholm Road, Kilbirnie to Mr D Clarkson and Mr J Teele, owners of the adjacent plot.

The Committee agreed to authorise the disposal on the terms and conditions outlined in the report.

13. Isle of Arran: Ground at Lamlash Green: Lease

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on a proposal to formalise a lease agreement with Arran Estates whereby the Council will lease an area of ground at Lamlash Green, Isle of Arran currently utilised and maintained by Educational Services at a rent currently set at £55 per annum.

The Committee agreed to lease the area of ground from Arran Estates on the terms and conditions outlined in the report.

14. Urgent Items

The Chair agreed that the following item be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

15. Kosovo Refugees: Provision of Assistance

The Committee agreed to remit to the Chief Executive to report to the next meeting on the ways in which the Council could provide assistance to help the refugee situation in Kosovo.

The meeting ended at 2.15 p.m.