

Corporate Strategy Committee
21 January 1999

Irvine, 21 January 1999 - At a Special Meeting of the Corporate Strategy Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

James Clements, Jack Carson, Ian Clarkson, David Gallagher, James Jennings, Joseph McKinney, Thomas Morris, Robert Reilly, George Steven and Samuel Taylor.

In Attendance

The Chief Executive; The Assistant Chief Executives (Personnel, Legal and Regulatory, Finance; and Development and Promotion); and S. Bale, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Chair

Mr Clements in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Stewart Dewar, Thomas Dickie, John Donn, Samuel Gooding, Jane Gorman, Robert Rae and John Sillars.

1. Proposed Transfer of North Ayrshire Council Services to the New Local Delivery Organisation (North Ayrshire Initiative)

(a) Member/Officer Working Group on the Review of Local Delivery Organisations

Submitted report of the Member/Officer Working Group on the Review of Local Delivery Organisations, being the Minutes of its Meeting held on 18 January 1999.

Noted.

(b) Proposed Transfer of North Ayrshire Council Services

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the options in relation to the outsourcing of services and transfer of staff to the New Local Delivery Organisation (North Ayrshire Initiative).

On 29 September 1998, the Committee agreed (a) to consider transferring the Council's Business Development services and the Youth and Adult Training Unit located at Moorpark Training and Development Centre in Kilbirnie to the proposed Local Delivery Organisation (LDO), now provisionally named the North Ayrshire Initiative, which was to be formed from the merger of the services of BEFNA, the Three Towns Initiative and ASSIST; and (b) that a Member/Officer Working Group be appointed to consider the potential transfer in the first instance and report.

The Member/Officer Working Group, which met on 18 January 1999, agreed to recommend to the Committee that it should (i) agree in principle to the transfer of the Youth and Adult Training Service to the New LDO with the exception of that element covering the Administration Skillseeker programme which should be retained by the Council; (ii) approve the establishment of an Officers' Working Group to (A) examine the relevant cash flow issues; (B) draft a Service Level Agreement with the LDO; (C) identify the level of funding support to be given; (D) examine the potential transfer costs including any accommodation costs; and (E) submit a further report on these issues; and (iii) that in the event that a transfer to the LDO is to proceed, then the LDO should be advised to make immediate application either to the Strathclyde Pension Fund for membership or

an alternative pension source.

With regard to the transfer of Business Development services, the Member/Officer Working Group instructed the Chief Executive to report further on an equitable split between the Economic Development and Business Development services currently provided by the Council with the former being retained by the Council and the latter transferring to the New LDO.

In the examination of the potential split between Economic and Business Development functions, the two overriding principles have been the avoidance of duplication of effort and the retention by the Council of a strategic economic role. A proposed appropriate split of the services currently provided by the Council was detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report. Those services and activities which it is proposed to offer to the LDO would be subject to a contractual arrangement similar to a Service Level Agreement. With regard to the services which it is proposed should remain with the Council, the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) will require to determine how best to provide these and may wish to contract out certain of these services to the LDO.

In terms of the split of services proposed, the staff have also been identified who would require to transfer to the LDO. More detailed work is required before the amount of financial resources which will transfer can be precisely identified.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to offer to transfer to the new LDO (North Ayrshire Initiative) (i) the services and activities of the Council's Business Development service as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report and the consequent staff transfer; and (ii) the Youth and Adult Training Unit based at Moorpark House, Kilbirnie, with the exception of the Administration and Clerical Skillseeker Programme; and that the Shadow Board of the new LDO be invited to respond in principle; (b) that an Officers' Working Group be established to (A) examine (i) the detailed staff transfer issues; (ii) the relevant cash flow issues; (iii) the level of funding support to be given; (iv) the Service Level Agreements and contract arrangements; (v) the central support services, if any, to continue to be given to the LDO by the Council and the consequent impact on such Council services and apportionment of charges; and (B) report back to the Committee as a matter of urgency.

2. New Local Delivery Organisation: Nomination of Council Representatives

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a request received to nominate two members to serve on the Board of the New Local Delivery Organisation.

The Committee agreed to appoint Councillors J Carson and I Oldfather.

3. "Growth, Prosperity and Employment": A Strategy for Ayrshire

Submit report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on a report "A Vision for Ayrshire Growth Prosperity and Employment" drafted by EDAW Consultants, on behalf of Enterprise Ayrshire and the Ayrshire Economic Forum.

On his appointment as Minister for Industry, Lord McDonald attended a meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Forum at which he asked for an Action Plan for jobs for Ayrshire. The document referred to above has now been prepared on behalf of Enterprise Ayrshire and the Ayrshire Economic Forum which Enterprise Ayrshire intend to submit to the Minister at a meeting on 25 January 1999 supported by the three Ayrshire Councils.

The Committee agreed to approve the document for submission to the Minister.

4. Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board: Nomination of Council Representative

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a request to nominate a member to serve on the Board of the Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board, following its recent restructuring.

The Committee agreed to appoint Councillor David Munn.

5. Urgent Items

The Chair agreed to hear the following items as a matter of urgency.

6. Irvine: Incident at Magnum Leisure Centre

The Chair referred to a recent fatality at the Magnum Leisure Centre, Irvine and requested that in future, Members be informed immediately as a matter of course of any such incidents. The Chief Executive confirmed that this would be done.

Noted.

7. Saltcoats North Area: Bus Services

Councillor Taylor raised the matter of alterations to bus routes and withdrawal of certain services in the Saltcoats North area which had resulted in a large number of streets being left completely without a service to the town centre.

It was noted that the Council's Three Towns Area Committee had been in correspondence with Stagecoach Buses Limited previously regarding the bus routes in this area.

The Committee agreed to authorise the Chair of the Three Towns Area Committee and Councillor Taylor, as local member to meet with Stagecoach.

The meeting ended at 2.30 p.m.