

Commercial Services Committee  
27 January 1999

**Irvine, 27 January 1999** - At a Meeting of the Commercial Services Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

**Present**

Peter McNamara, James Clements, John Donn, Joseph McKinney, Alan Munro, Irene Oldfather, Gena Seales and George Steven.

**In Attendance**

The Corporate Director (Property Services); J. Currie, Head of Cleansing, Grounds Maintenance and Transport, K. Wilson, Head of Catering and Cleaning, and D. McCall, Cemeteries Manager (Property Services); W. Nicol, Senior Accountant (Finance); and M. McKeown, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

**Chair**

Mr McNamara in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Thomas Dickie.

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 2nd December 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. Tenders for Vehicles 1998/99**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on tenders received and accepted in respect of the vehicle replacement programme 1998/99.

The Committee (a) acknowledged that the tender in respect of the Ford Transit 100 L W B van had been suspended; and (b) otherwise noted the report.

**3. Capital Programme 1999/2000**

Submitted report by Corporate Director (Property Services) on proposed bids to the 1999/2000 capital programme in respect of Cleansing, Grounds Maintenance & Transport, Catering and Cleaning, and Building Services.

The Committee approved the bids in the priority shown and agreed to remit the report to the Corporate Strategy Committee for consideration.

#### **4. Best Value – Benchmarking of Transport Services**

Submitted report by Corporate Director (Property Services) on an invitation from the Association of Direct Labour Organisation ADLO to participate in a benchmarking exercise involving Transport Services.

The exercise will commence in late January and will run for approximately 6 - 8 weeks. Any information gathered will be used to produce performance indicators for transport services against which the Council can then benchmark the performance of its own Transport Services.

The Committee agreed to the participation of the Transport Section in the benchmarking exercise.

#### **5. Cemetery Charges 1999/2000**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on proposed charges for burial service in 1999/2000.

The 1997 review of cemeteries within North Ayrshire Council highlighted that the charges imposed for the service were insufficient to maintain the required standard of administration and service delivery and as a result it was agreed that the charges should be increased on a phased basis over 3 years. The proposed rates for the financial year 1999/2000 were set out in the report and it was noted that the charges levied by the Council were among the lowest in Scotland.

The Committee agreed to the proposed rates for the burial service during the financial year 1999/2000.

#### **6. Shewalton Pulverisation Plant and Shewalton Landfill Site**

Submitted report by Corporate Director (Property Services) on the granting of Waste Management Licences in respect of Shewalton Pulverisation Plant and Shewalton Landfill.

An application was submitted to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) on 24th September 1996 to change the resolutions concerning Shewalton Pulverisation Plant and Shewalton Landfill site into Waste Management Licences and Licences in respect of both sites were granted on 17th December 1998 subject to conditions.

Among the conditions attached to the Shewalton landfill site are those which prohibit the deposit of bio-degradable waste in the site unless it is into an area with a lining system approved by SEPA. SEPA have been advised that the imposition of such conditions will result in the facility either being closed on the expiry of 2 years, or the facility requiring to, be engineered to allow containment of waste on the expiry of the 2 year time limit.

The latter option is regarded as an unlikely prospect due to the engineering difficulties and the probable cost regarding the provision of containment on top of previously deposited putrescible waste. SEPA have attached the conditions referred to, in order to protect the groundwater on the site. Should the groundwater at Shewalton be shown to be permanently unsuitable then the requirement to protect it by introducing containment will no longer be required.

The Committee agreed to receive a further report on the outcome of a study of the groundwater at Shewalton in due course.

## **7. Waste Management Licensing, Etc. (Fees & Charges) (Scotland) Scheme**

Submitted report by Corporate Director (Property Services) on SEPA's proposals to increase charges in respect of waste management licensing, applications, transfers, surrenders etc. by 3% in 1999/2000, and subsistence charges by 25% in the same period.

Subsistence charges, which represent the bulk of the fee income paid by North Ayrshire Council, were increased by 20% in 1998 and in the circumstances are unacceptable.

The Committee agreed to make representations to SEPA and COSLA regarding the unacceptability of the proposed increases.

## **8. Commercial Refuse Collection – Charity & Exempt Accounts**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on responses to the consultation exercise in respect of the proposed introduction of a charge for the use of the commercial refuse collection service by Churches and registered charities.

The Committee agreed to introduce a nominal charge of 50% of the normal rate for all registered charities using the commercial refuse collection service, with the exception of churches which will continue to receive the service free of charge.

## **9. Nethermains Landfill Site Phase III**

Submitted report by Corporate Director (Property Services) on SEPA's acceptance of the Council's application to change the resolutions concerning Nethermains Landfill Site into a Waste Management Licence.

Noted.

## **10. Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)**

Submitted update report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on the use of GMOs within products supplied by ABC contractors.

The Committee (a) acknowledged the feedback received from the current suppliers to the Council's Catering Service concerning the use of genetically modified foods; and (b) agreed that Catering Services should introduce an accurate menu labelling system concerning GMOs by the end of June 1999.

#### **11. North Ayrshire Council/ABC: Food Safety Incident Procedure**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on the introduction of food safety incident procedures in relation to food hazard warnings or food borne outbreaks within North Ayrshire.

The procedures will allow Catering Services the opportunity to advise all operational units within the Council of product withdrawal or problems with goods supplied and are designed to complement the existing food hazard warning system in order to prevent any potential contradictory or conflicting advice which could lead to difficulties with food authorities.

The Committee (a) approved the introduction of the safety procedures as indicated in the report; and (b) agreed that appropriate measures should be taken to ensure that elected Members are advised of any major incidents, as appropriate.

#### **12. BSI 9002 – Audit**

Submitted report by Corporate Director (Property Services) on the successful outcome of the BSI audit of the Building Cleaning function.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 2.22 p.m.