

Garnock Valley Area Committee  
12 May 1998

**Dalry, 12 May 1998** - At a Meeting of the Garnock Valley Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

**Present**

Robert Reilly, James Jennings, Thomas Morris and George Steven.

**In Attendance**

P. Bryers, Head of Planning and Development and Colin Hamilton, Area Services Manager (Social Work); J. Fulton, Senior Environmental Health Officer (Planning, Roads and Environment); F. Keddlty, Head of Sports & Horticultural Services, J. McKinlay, Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); J. Houston, Divisional Manager (Housing Services); P. Doak, Accountant (Financial Services); J. Barr, Area Officer Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance (Commercial Services); J. Bannatyne, Administration Officer and D. McCaw, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

**Also In Attendance**

Superintendent S. Keenan, Chief Inspector P. Collier, Inspector C. McCreath (Strathclyde Police); and T. Barr, Community Fire Officer (Strathclyde Fire Brigade).

**Chair**

Mr. Reilly in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Thomas Dickie.

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 31 March 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. North Ayrshire Community Care Plan 1998-2001 Consultation Draft**

Submitted report by the Director of Social Work on the North Ayrshire Community Care Plan 1998-2001 Consultation Draft. A presentation on the draft document was given by Officers from the Social Work Directorate.

The consultation draft outlines the strategic priorities which are as follows:-

- Continued development of community based mental health services;
- Improving service provision for older people and those suffering from dementia, together with their carers;
- Delivering comprehensive and innovative services for people with learning disabilities and their carers; and
- Achieving best value in community care.

Public consultation will be undertaken in the Garnock Valley on 20 May 1998 in the Kirkhouse, Kilbirnie. The consultation period will end on 5 June 1998 and thereafter a report will be submitted to the Scottish Office by 30 June 1998.

Noted.

### **3. Monitoring Reports**

#### **(a) Housing Services as at 31 March 1998**

Submitted report by the Director of Housing Services detailing performance information on voids, allocations and housing benefits.

The figures for allocations of 'greater than 42 days' and the overall void level of 2.1% reflect the long-term letting difficulties in the Longbar Estate, Kilbirnie which are the subject of an Options Appraisal to be completed in the near future and reported to the Committee.

The allocation figures for empty property in the Garnock Valley area are otherwise generally comparable with other areas.

Noted.

#### **(b) Planning, Roads and Environment Directorate**

Submitted reports by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the performance of the following services for the period April 1997 to March 1998.

##### **(i) Food Safety and Health and Safety**

The Council is the enforcing authority in relation to Food Safety and Health and Safety legislation in certain categories of premises, including manufacturers, producers, retailers, offices, restaurants and other caterers.

A total of 1141 food hygiene visits and 1503 general inspections were carried out in North Ayrshire as a whole during the period and individual statistics were provided for the Garnock Valley area.

Noted.

##### **(ii) Investigation of Noise Complaints and Public Health Complaints**

The Council has a statutory duty in terms of the Environmental Protection Act, 1990 to undertake inspections to detect noise nuisance.

The Environment Section has received 351 established noise complaints, 81 from within the Garnock Valley, during the period. The percentage of complaints responded to within 1 calendar day was 95% and within 3 calendar days 98%.

A total of 1083 public health complaints were received for the period, 152 from within the Garnock Valley. The percentage of complaints responded to within 5 working days was 88%.

Noted.

##### **(iii) Pest Control Service**

The Council has a statutory duty in terms of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 to survey the area and to require any infestation of rats or mice to be treated.

During the period, in addition to this statutory requirement, a total of 2,104 pest control treatments were carried out within North Ayrshire. In terms of response times, the service provided by the Council exceeds the standard required for performance indicators by a national benchmark standard and suggests a positive performance.

Noted.

**(iv) Dog Warden Service**

Within the Garnock Valley, of the 47 dogs uplifted, 2 were returned to their owners, 10 rehoused, 16 reclaimed and 19 humanely destroyed.

The Committee expressed concern over the continuing problem of dog fouling and were advised that the Working Group to consider this matter will meet to review the position in the near future.

Noted.

**(c) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 31 March 1998**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Community Development Grants paid to 31 March 1998 in respect of the Garnock Valley area, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

**4. Community Development Grants Expenditure Analysis 1997/98**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the expenditure of the Community Development Grants budget 1997/98.

The Committee awarded a total of 27 grants from its budget of £11,742 with the average grant being £434 compared with the average of £420 for the whole of North Ayrshire.

The playscheme budget was held centrally within Corporate Strategy to allow for a more strategic approach to the funding of playschemes across North Ayrshire.

Noted.

**5. Community Development Grants Scheme: Requests for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on requests for financial assistance.

**(a) Fudstone District Playgroup**

The Committee agreed to award the Fudstone District Playgroup £250;

**(b) Shamrock Dance Club**

The Committee agreed to award the Shamrock Dance Club £500;

**(c) Monday Toddler Group**

The Committee agreed to award the Monday Toddler Group £150;

**(d) Garnock Valley Heritage Society**

The Committee agreed to award the Garnock Valley Heritage Society £700;

**(e) Longbar Youth Club**

The Committee agreed to award the Longbar Youth Club £500;

**(f) Community Play Garden Steering Committee**

Councillor Steven declared an interest in this grant application and took no part in the discussion.

The Committee agreed to award the Community Play Garden Steering Committee £1,000; and

**(g) St. Inan's Festival**

The Committee agreed to award the St. Inan's Festival £300.

**6. Playscheme Applications: Summer and Autumn 1998 and Easter 1999**

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on playscheme applications in respect of Summer and Autumn 1998 and Easter 1999.

**(a) Garnock Valley Lunch Club**

The Committee agreed to award the Garnock Valley Lunch Club £519;

**(b) Women's Aid, Kilbirnie**

The Committee agreed to award Women's Aid, Kilbirnie £816; and

**(c) Beith Summer Playscheme**

The Committee agreed to award Beith Summer Playscheme £330.

**7. Seasonal Facilities Operation**

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the proposed method of operation of seasonal facilities in 1998.

In December 1997 the Community and Recreational Services Committee agreed to commence a process of externalisation of seasonal facilities and that facilities not successfully externalised would not operate during the current year. Details were provided on a number of facilities which have been successfully leased. Where no offers have been received the facilities will be left available for casual use and any further expressions of interest will be considered on receipt.

Noted.

**8. Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Agricultural Properties: Request to Declare Land Surplus to Requirements**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on land surplus to requirements at Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.

The Community and Recreational Services Committee on 28 April 1998 agreed (a) to approve in principle the request to declare Routdaneburn and Birkhead farms surplus to requirements subject to recommendations from the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Joint Committee; (b) to offset the loss of income of around £4,000 from savings in financial year 1999/2000; (c) to advise the Garnock Valley Area Committee of its decision; and (d) thereafter to refer the matter to the Support Services Committee.

While the Committee offered no objections to the proposals reference was made to the need

to ensure that the local angling club continue to have access to the reservoirs for fishing.

The Committee agreed to request that in the event that the Support Services Committee agree to declare the properties surplus to requirements, appropriate conditions of sale be introduced to protect the right of access by local anglers to the reservoirs.

#### **9. Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Section: Litter Awareness Reports**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the proposed format of future litter awareness monitoring reports.

The Committee agreed that a report be submitted to the next meeting in the proposed format.

#### **10. Community Safety**

##### **(a) Crime Statistics**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on crime statistics within the Garnock Valley for March 1998, provided by Strathclyde Police.

The Committee were advised that arrangements would be made for the formal publication of crime statistics after 4th June.

Noted.

##### **(b) Fire Statistics**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Fire Statistics within the Garnock Valley for the period 1 January to 31 March 1998.

The report detailed incidents within the Garnock Valley by station area and using specific Fire Brigade codes. It was noted that there were no fatalities or serious injuries during this period.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 11.50 a.m.