

Three Towns Area Committee
10 December 1998

Ardrossan, 10 December 1998 - At a Meeting of the Three Towns Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

David Munn, Margaret Munn, Alan Munro and Samuel Taylor.

In Attendance

S. Burns, Area Services Manager (Social Services); S. Good, Divisional Manager, H. Greenwood, Area Officer, Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance (Property Services); S. McLaughlin, Area Community Development Officer (Educational Services); W. Nichol, Senior Accountant, Financial Services; S. Bale, Administration Officer and A. Little, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Also In Attendance

Chief Inspector Beck, Sergeant M. Oates, Police Liaison Officer, (Strathclyde Police); and Community Fire Safety Officer T. Kane (Strathclyde Fire Brigade).

Chair

Mr Munro in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

David Gallagher.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 October 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Monitoring Reports

(a) Housing Services

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) detailing performance information of Housing Services in respect of estates management, housing allocation, rent collection and housing benefit.

A report on linking the recovery of arrears to the Housing Benefit system, will be submitted to the next meeting of the Housing Services Committee.

Noted.

(b) Analysis of Grants

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Community Development Grants paid to 3 November 1998 in respect of the Three Towns area, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

(c) Litter Awareness

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on calls to the litter

awareness hotline.

Discussion took place on fly tipping on private land and a number of areas throughout the Three Towns where this is a problem.

The Committee agreed to request the Head of Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance and Transport to examine what action can be taken.

3. Community Development Grants Scheme: Requests for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on requests for financial assistance.

(a) St. John's Youth Club

The Committee agreed to award £800.00.

(b) Auchendarvie Playgroup

The Committee agreed to defer this application to the next meeting to allow clarification to be sought on the reallocation of equipment from Ardrossan Playgroup.

(c) Wednesday Women's Group (Hayocks Hall)

The Committee agreed to award £1215.

4. Common Good: Requests for Financial Assistance

(a) Saltcoats Common Good Fund: Saltcoats Victoria Football Club

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application for funding from Saltcoats Common Good by Saltcoats Victoria Football Club for the provision of training balls, match balls and training equipment for Saltcoats Victoria Football Club.

The Committee agreed to award £200.

(b) Stevenston Common Good Fund: Hugh O'Donnell

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application for funding from Stevenston Common Good by Hugh O'Donnell towards participation in a number of forthcoming national and international judo competitions.

The Committee agreed to award £250.

5. Saltcoats Christmas Celebration Committee

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the proposed expansion of the remit of the Saltcoats Christmas Celebration Committee to cover Ardrossan and Stevenston.

The Committee agreed to invite the Saltcoats Christmas Celebration Committee to meet with the Area Committee at a future date to discuss their proposal.

6. Community Safety

(a) Community Safety Challenge Fund

Submitted report from the Chief Executive seeking homologation of the decision taken by

the Area Committee Chairs on 19 November 1998 to fund the provision of fluorescent armbands and safety stickers for North Ayrshire school children at a cost of £5,060 from the Community Safety Challenge Fund.

The Committee agreed (i) to homologate the decision of the Area Committee Chairs; and (ii) noted that efforts were being made to distribute these armbands and stickers to children prior to the Christmas holidays.

(b) Strathclyde Fire Brigade: Fire Statistics

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire Brigade detailing fire statistics for Period 1 to 31 October 1998 within the Three Towns by station area and using specific Fire Brigade codes.

The Committee was advised of a fire in a top flat in Ardrossan which required the evacuation of 18 other flats and a major salvage operation to protect the properties below. A Christmas campaign will begin shortly in an effort to avoid the most common cause of household fires which are related to cooking and dropped lights. Leaflets and posters will be distributed throughout North Ayrshire and will also be available in the Spotlight Initiative shop in the Rivergate Centre, Irvine.

Funding for any television campaigns is allocated by the Scottish Office.

The Committee agreed to request the Community Safety Forum to make representation to CoSLA for funding to enable a TV campaign to be run.

(c) Strathclyde Police: Crime Statistics

Chief Inspector Beck, Strathclyde Police reported on crime statistics within the Three Towns area.

Operation Twinstrike took place in the Three Towns area and was successful in recovering a substantial amount of controlled drugs, stolen property and a loaded firearm. This operation, which was carried out under the Spotlight banner, was targeted at housebreaking and drugs and involved an influx of officers from other areas.

Vandalism figures continue to reduce in the area and during the October school holidays School Watch operation was initiated which resulted in no acts of vandalism being reported in the area.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 11.15 a.m.