

Garnock Valley Area Committee
27 August 1996

Dalry, 27 August 1996 - 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

C Hamilton, Area Services Manager, Social Work; G Clark, Operations Manager, Grounds Maintenance, Commercial Services; J Hair, Principal Officer, Accounting and Budgeting; D Potter, Area Community Development Officer, Community and Recreational Services; J Bannatyne, Administration Officer; and C Graham, Assistant Administration Officer.

Also In Attendance

Inspector R Pollock, Strathclyde Police

Chair

Mr Reilly in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Thomas Dickie

1. Minutes Confirmed

The minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 18 June 1996, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Publicity for Area Committees

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the approved Publicity Strategy for Area Committees.

The Committee agreed to the immediate implementation of the Publicity Strategy as the best framework within which to publicise the activities of the Area Committee to the residents of the Garnock Valley area.

3 Community Safety

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the key issues affecting Community Safety and the proposed ways in which these might be addressed by the Area Committee.

The Committee received a presentation by Inspector R Pollock, Strathclyde Police on the structure of the Police service including the role of the Police within the Garnock Valley area. A pack, containing relevant information, was also provided.

The Chair thanked Inspector Pollock for his excellent presentation which the Committee found to be most informative.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) that a Member/Officer Working Group be established to (i) identify the ways in which the services are addressing this issue locally; and (ii) meet with relevant local community and voluntary groups to discuss local concerns and report back within two cycles of Area Committee Meetings; (b) to nominate the five Members of the Area

Committee along with appropriate Officers, to serve on the Member/Officer Working Group; (c) that local community organisations be invited to submit proposals for local Community Safety Initiatives; (d) that priority be given to Community Grant applications which address Community Safety Initiatives; (e) that Community Safety issues be highlighted when meeting with local groups/organisations as part of the Community Consultation process being undertaken by the Committee; and (f) to note the presentation by Strathclyde Police.

4. Strathclyde Police: Community Safety Seminar/Attendance at Meetings

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on (a) an invitation from Strathclyde Police to attend a Community Safety Seminar in Glasgow and (b) representation from Strathclyde Police at Meetings of Area Committees.

A formal request has also been received from Strathclyde Police that they be represented by an Officer at the level of Inspector at Meetings of the five Area Committees. This request has been welcomed by the Chairs of the five Area Committees and it was confirmed that a representative from Strathclyde Police will attend all meetings of the Garnock Valley Area Committee.

The one-day Community Safety Seminar will be hosted by Strathclyde Police on 17 September 1996 in the Mitchell Theatre, Glasgow.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Chair be authorised to attend the Community Safety Seminar in Glasgow on 17 September 1996; (b) and to note that a representative from Strathclyde Police will attend Area Committee Meetings on a regular basis.

5. Environmental Improvements

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the progress in relation to addressing environmental improvement issues in accordance with the remit of the Corporate Strategy Committee on 21 May 1996.

The Corporate Strategy Committee on 30 July 1996 considered a report by the Chief Executive on the 1992 UN Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, known as Local Agenda 21, with proposals on how the Council might seek to progress its application in relation to environmental activities. They agreed to authorise a team of Officers to draft an environmental policy, prepare a programme of action with costs and report.

The Committee agreed (a) to support, in the meantime, prior to the environmental policy etc. being drawn up, local proposals for environmental improvements by identifying assistance available both financial and in kind and to initially refer this matter to the Area Committee's Officer/Member Working Group for discussion; and (b) to encourage the submission of grant applications from community groups to promote environmental improvements and that such applications be viewed favourably.

The Committee further agreed to note (i) the introduction by Scottish Natural Heritage and Scottish Enterprise in partnership with others, of an Environmental Community Chest containing a range of attractive books, useful information packs, videos and a sound tape on environmental themes; and (ii) that the Community and Recreational Services Directorate will arrange appropriate publicity in an effort to make the Environmental Community Chest more widely available.

6. Garnock Valley Area: Provision of Public Benches

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the progress of investigations into complaints by members of the public about the lack of public benches available to elderly persons in the Bigholm area between the bypass and the golf course at Beith and on the steps being taken to provide public benches throughout the Garnock Valley area.

The Committee agreed (a) that when further information becomes available on these matters, the Members of the Area Committee be advised immediately; and (b) otherwise to note the position meantime.

7. Community Consultation

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Community Consultation process as it relates to the Garnock Valley area.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) in principle to proceed with arrangements for further Community Consultations with a wider range of local groups and organisations; and (b) that this matter be referred to the Member/Officer Group on Community Safety for further consideration.

8. Development of Leisure Facilities in the Garnock Valley

Mr Steven expressed concern over the need for the provision of multi-purpose sporting facilities in the Garnock Valley and suggested that clarification be sought on future proposals for Kilbirnie Loch and Lochshore and Clyde Muirshiel Country Park. He further expressed the view that there was a need for adequate provision to be made in terms of sporting/leisure facilities with a view to encouraging visitors to visit the Garnock Valley area.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Community and Recreational Services be invited to attend the next meeting of the Area Committee to be held on 8 October 1996, to give a presentation to the Committee on proposals in relation to the future provision of sporting and leisure facilities in the Garnock Valley.

9. Monitoring Reports

(a) Future Format

Submitted report by the Chief Executive giving details of the proposed format for the future submission of Monitoring Reports to the Committee.

The Committee agreed to approve the format in the terms indicated in the report.

(b) Garden Tidy Scheme

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on the service delivery in relation to the Garden Tidy Summer Scheme.

The Operations Manager, Commercial Services provided details including statistical information on the operation of the scheme for this year and the performance achieved to date.

Noted.

(c) Social Work

Submitted report by the Director of Social Work on the Social Work service delivery within the North Coast and Arran and Garnock Valley areas which are serviced jointly.

The report gave details of the staffing structures within the North Coast and Arran and Garnock Valley areas and of a number of services provided by teams of staff who provide services across the whole North Ayrshire area. Details were also given in relation to Performance Indicators in respect of absenteeism, reception into care of children and young people, children's hearings and residential and nursing home admissions.

The Area Social Work Manager confirmed that final agreement has still to be reached on the type of information which will require to be provided for future Monitoring Reports. He confirmed that areas of deficiency were required to be clearly identified for development and indicated that Urban Programme money may become available which will assist in alleviating funding problems. The support of the Area Committee will be sought to address the problems which relate specifically to its area.

The Chair indicated that the Area Committee will provide support where possible to address the problems in relation to Social Work matters affecting the North Coast and Arran area and requested that the Area Social Work Manager keep the Committee advised.

Noted.

(d) Analysis of Grants Paid to 9 August 1996

Submitted report by the Chief Executive detailing various categories of grants paid to 9 August 1996.

Noted.

10. Requests for Financial Assistance

(a) Community Grants

Submitted reports by the Chief Executive on requests received for financial assistance in respect of the Garnock Valley Area Committee.

(i) Three Towns Unemployed Workers Centre

The Three Towns Unemployed Workers Centre have applied for funding to provide information and advice to individuals in the Garnock Valley area and to help identify their service requirements.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) to defer the application pending further information; and (b) to request that an appropriate Officer from the Social Work Directorate attend the next Area Committee Meeting in this regard.

(ii) 1st Beith Boys' Brigade

The Committee agreed to grant £1500 to 1st Beith Boys Brigade towards the cost of renovation of premises.

The meeting ended at 12.05 p.m.