

Commercial Services Committee
18 June 1996

Irvine, 18 June 1996 - At a meeting of the Commercial Services Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Thomas Dickie, Peter McNamara, James Clements, John Donn, Joseph McKinney, Alan Munro, David O'Neill, Robert Rae, Gena Seales, George Steven and Samuel Taylor.

In Attendance

The Director of Commercial Services; The Personnel Services Manager; The Head of Cleaning/Grounds Maintenance (John Currie); The Head of Catering/Cleaning (Kenneth Wilson); The Principal Officer Accounting and Budgeting (John Hare); The Principal Officer Marketing and Publicity (Moyra Peffer); a Corporate Policy Officer (Shona King); and an Administration Officer (Jim Bannatyne).

Chair

Mr Dickie in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Patrick Browne and Irene Oldfather.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 1 May 1996, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Compulsory Competitive Tendering: Revised Timetable

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on the implications for the Works, Roads and Transport Section of the revised timetable set by the Secretary of State for the introduction of Compulsory Competitive Tendering under the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980. The date for contracts being awarded and ready to commence has been advanced to 1 January 1997 instead of 1 July 1997 as was initially proposed.

The revised date is being contested by COSLA and ADLO and an appeal against the decision by South Lanarkshire Council is being supported by all local authorities. COSLA are now in consultation with the Secretary of State in an effort to resolve the matter without recourse to legal action.

In the interim the Commercial Services Directorate will nonetheless require to continue its preparations on the basis of the revised date and concentrate on resolving the problem of merging the former Strathclyde and Cunninghame Incentive Bonus Schemes in the Building Works and Internal Transport sections. Working Parties comprising Management and Trade Union representatives are being set up

for this purpose.

Emergency work, and the clearing of snow from highways will continue to be exempt from CCT at this time and the dates for services subject to CCT under the Local Government Act 1988 are not affected

The Committee agreed to approve the action being taken by the Director of Commercial Services to prepare for this revised timetable.

3. Refuse Collection and Other Cleaning: Policy Statement

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services giving details of a client policy statement for refuse collection and other cleaning which are defined activities subject to Compulsory Competitive Tendering in terms of the Local Government Act 1988.

The Committee acts as client for these services and in order to allow the preparation of specifications, tendered documents etc. it has become necessary for the client to produce a policy statement setting out the service required. The statement will form the approved service method for refuse collection and other cleaning in order to integrate and co-ordinate the complementary services which are presently let as one contract.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the policy statement for refuse collection and other cleaning in the terms indicated in the report of the approved service method in order to integrate and co-ordinate the complementary services; and (b) to refer the policy statement to the Corporate Strategy Committee for their interest.

4. The Disability Discrimination Act 1995

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 which are designed to make discrimination against disabled people unlawful.

The provisions relate to employment, access to goods, facilities, services and premises, education and public transport. The Act will be introduced in stages but contains important issues which local authorities and their Direct Service Organisations will require to address.

The Committee agreed to instruct the Director of Commercial Services to review the existing procedures and practices within the Direct Service Organisation to ensure that they comply with the statutory requirements.

5. Appointment of Officer Advisor to COSLA Housing Committee

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on a request from the Institute of Maintenance and Building Management that the Council appoint Andrew Bryson Operations Manager (Works) as an Officer Adviser to COSLA's Housing Committee.

The Committee agreed to approve this appointment.

6. Catering and Cleaning Section: Introduction of Facilities Management

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on a proposal to change the management structure within the Catering and Cleaning Sections by introducing a facilities management style for Area Managers in order to supply a clear line of communication, a more effective service to the customer base, and more flexibility when considering CCT contracts. It is proposed that from 21 October 1996 each Area Manager will have responsibility for all services within each establishment, i.e. catering, cleaning, janitation, janitorial supplies and, where appropriate, school crossing patrols. This change will involve no additional cost to the Council. Training is now underway and Managers are "shadowing" each other's duties.

The Committee agreed to approve the introduction of Facilities Management in Catering and Cleaning from 21 October 1996.

7. School Crossing Patrols

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on a request by Strathclyde Police to withdraw from their commitment to provide a back-up service for school crossing patrols.

In October 1995 the administration of the school crossing patrol service was formally transferred in two-phased stages from Strathclyde Police to Strathclyde Regional Council's Department of Roads. At that time the Police agreed to provide a back-up service to cover for vacant school crossing patrol sites and for absenteeism in circumstances where no reserve cover was available and while recruiting and training of new patrollers was being undertaken by Strathclyde Roads. The Assistant Chief Constable, Traffic and Administration Support has now indicated that it was agreed that the provision of the back-up service to the new local authorities would be undertaken by the Police over the first few months of their administration. He has further indicated that in his view it would be appropriate to terminate the provision of the back-up service by the Police and is now seeking the Council's agreement in this regard.

The Committee noted the procedures which were being established in relation to staffing the crossings and providing back up but expressed concern that the additional support provided by Strathclyde Police would no longer be available. The Director of Commercial Services confirmed however that the new arrangements which would apply in North Ayrshire in the school year commencing August 1996

would seek to overcome such difficulties.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to accept that Strathclyde Police require to withdraw their formal commitment to provide a back-up service for school crossing patrols from the end of June 1996; and (b) that the Director of Commercial Services report on the monitoring procedures to be adopted for school crossing patrols in the future to ensure coverage in the event of absence..

8. Blue Peter National Paperchain Appeal

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on a request for the payment of re-cycling credits to the registered charity "The Movement for Non-Mobile Children (Whizz Kidz)" which as part of the Blue Peter National Paperchain Appeal has funded mobility aids for approximately 200 children through the collection of "Junk" mail.

The Committee agreed to authorise the Director of Commercial Services to pay re-cycling credits to this charity.

9. Protective Clothing/Uniforms

The Head of Cleaning/Catering presented a range of uniforms for all Catering and Cleaning staff within North Ayrshire and the Committee was asked to make a final selection.

After discussion the Committee agreed to authorise the Director of Commercial Services to award the contract to Nalestar at a cost of approximately £16,000.

The meeting ended at 2.35 p.m.