

Commercial Services Committee  
1 October 1997

**Irvine, 1 October 1997** - 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, Robert Rae and Gena Seales.

**In Attendance**

W Cowan, Director of Commercial Services; J Currie, Head of Cleansing/Grounds Maintenance; N McCallum, Head of Commercial Support (Commercial Services); W Nicol, Senior Accountant (Financial Services); and J Bannatyne, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

**Chair**

Mr McNamara in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Thomas Dickie, Irene Oldfather, George Steven and Samuel Taylor.

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 August 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. Extension of Recycling Facilities**

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on the proposed extension of the Council's recycling facilities to include aluminium can banks at selected sites.

The Council currently operates 45 bottle bank sites throughout North Ayrshire and in addition provides paper banks at 20 of the busiest sites. Steel cans are currently withdrawn from the municipal waste stream by a process of magnetic extraction and it is now proposed to extend the recycling provision to include aluminium can banks similar in size and design to the existing modular bottle banks. Budgetary provision has been made for 20 aluminium can banks to be purchased and located at the busiest sites.

The Committee agreed to approve these proposals.

**3. Consultation Paper: Proposed Amendment to the Hazardous Waste List**

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on a Consultation Paper received from the Scottish Office Environment Group giving details of proposals to amend the European Hazardous Waste List.

The EC Directive on Hazardous Waste (91/689/EEC) defines hazardous waste by reference to specific types of waste listed on a Hazardous Waste List, details of which were provided in the report. This Directive has been implemented in the United Kingdom by the Special Waste Regulations 1996 and details were given on the circumstances under which a waste is classified as hazardous under these regulations. A number of European Member States have notified the European Commission of hitherto unlisted wastes which are in their view hazardous and consideration is therefore being given

further inclusions. The Scottish Office have invited comments on the proposed amendments to the list by 29 October 1997.

The Committee agreed to remit to the Director of Commercial Services, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair to frame a response to the Consultation Paper by the deadline of 29 October 1997.

#### **4. *European Union Landfill Directive***

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on a Consultation Paper which has been received from the Scottish Office Environment Group setting out the latest proposals for a European Council Directive on the landfilling of wastes.

The EC Directive seeks to introduce uniform standards of landfill throughout the European Union and this will have a significant impact in North Ayrshire. The proposals include a reduction in the amount of bio-degradable municipal waste going to landfill, the stimulation of waste minimisation and support for the principle of environmental standards dealing with wastes. The proposed changes will introduce provisions to reduce the landfilling of bio-degradable wastes for existing and new landfills within a set timescale, thereby ultimately allowing only pre-treated wastes to be sent to landfill. The disposal of tyres, liquid wastes from landfill, the co-disposal of wastes and the landfilling of hospital and clinical wastes will be banned.

Small islands with only one landfill site with a capacity of 10,000 tonnes or less will be exempt from some of the provisions of the Draft Directive. Additionally, the Council will require to reduce tonnage of bio-degradable waste currently being sent to landfill and this in turn will have an impact on the cost of waste disposal. This cost may however be reduced if the current practice of pulverisation of waste at the Treatment Plant at Shewalton is accepted under the Directive as an approved process. Early indications from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) have however suggested that this type of waste may not be acceptable for landfill.

The Committee agreed to remit to the Director of Commercial Services, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair to frame a response to the consultation paper by the deadline of 17 October 1997.

#### **5. *Irvine and Kilwinning: Surplus Cemetery Houses***

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on the cemetery houses at Knadgerhill, Irvine and Kilwinning which are considered to be surplus to requirements.

The properties concerned which have been lying vacant for some time are being regularly vandalised, and neither cemetery Superintendent has expressed an interest in renting the properties.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) to declare the cemetery houses at Knadgerhill, Irvine and Kilwinning surplus to requirements; (b) to refer the matter to the Support Services Committee; and (c) that the Director of Commercial Services submit a report to the next meeting on the current position regarding the operation of cemeteries throughout North Ayrshire.

#### **6. *External Contracts***

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on tenders submitted by the Operational Section of the Directorate for various contracts with outside bodies.

The report confirmed that contracts which have already been gained in respect of Grounds Maintenance, Catering and Cleaning and Building Works functions and that the Works, Roads and Transport Section propose to submit tenders for North Ayrshire Council Street Lighting Maintenance and West of Scotland Water Vehicle Maintenance. In addition contact has been made with the Ministry of Defence, British Telecom and Scottish Homes with a view to general building maintenance work. The Building Works Section have also applied to Scottish Homes for inclusion on their current

list of tenderers. No invitation to tender has as yet been received and accordingly it is intended to continue to pursue this matter.

The Director of Commercial Services gave an assurance that all new contracts will be closely monitored to ensure that no loss is incurred by the Council.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) to support the efforts of the Director of Commercial Services to extend the base for markets, particularly in relation to Scottish Homes; and (b) that in view of members' enquiries, a joint report by the Directors of Commercial Services and Community and Recreational Services be submitted to the next meeting on the standard of service currently provided by the Commercial Services Directorate in respect of grounds maintenance within the Irvine New Town area.

#### **7. *Cleaning Contract: Customer Satisfaction Report***

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on the standards of cleanliness being achieved in the Building and Cleaning Contract which is subject to Compulsory Competitive Tendering and is currently carried out by the in-house contractor.

The Customer Satisfaction Reports which have been produced for the two periods 18 June to 15 July 1997 and 16 July to 12 August 1997, indicate the level of building cleaning, achieving the acceptable standard or above, to be 88% and 91% respectively.

The Committee agreed that the results of the Customer Satisfaction Reports be used as part of the bench-marking process to help evaluate the service being delivered.

#### **8. *Exclusion of Public***

The Committee resolved, in terms of Section 50A (4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting the press and the public for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Act.

#### **9. *Irvine: Bogside: Proposed Landfill Site***

Representatives from R P S Cairns, Environmental Consultants and Halcrow Crouch, Consulting Engineers gave a presentation on the outcome of investigations made on behalf of the Council into the feasibility of a proposed landfill site at Bogside, Irvine.

Following the presentation the Committee agreed (a) to continue discussion of this item to the next meeting; and (b) that a site visit involving all members of the Committee be conducted in the interim.

The meeting ended at 3.30 p.m.