

Corporate Strategy Committee  
17 February 1998

**Irvine, 17 February 1998** - At a Special Meeting of the Corporate Strategy Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

**Present**

James Clements, Patrick Browne, Jack Carson, Ian Clarkson, Stewart Dewar, John Donn, David Gallagher, Jane Gorman, James Jennings, Joseph McKinney, Thomas Morris, Robert Rae, Robert Reilly, George Steven and Samuel Taylor.

**In Attendance**

The Chief Executive, the Directors of Financial Services and Housing Services, the Head of Corporate Business, M. Pepper, Principal Officer (Marketing and Publicity), G. Lawson, Principal Officer (Policy/Administration) and S. Bale, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

**Chair**

Mr Clements in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Thomas Dickie.

**1. Housing Revenue Account**

**a) Revenue Estimates 1998/99**

**b) Capital Expenditure 1998/99**

Submitted report by the Director of Financial Services on (i) the draft Housing Revenue Account budget for 1998/99; and (ii) the Housing (HRA) Capital Programme for 1998/99.

The Housing Revenue Account budget has been prepared on the basis of 3% inflation for payroll costs and 2.5% for other costs with the exception of the Works Repair Contract. Loans Funds interest has been estimated at 9.25%. A contribution to the General Fund (Repairs and Renewals) of £150,000 has been applied.

It is estimated that a surplus balance of £1,316,900 will be carried forward to 1999/2000.

As at 30 September 1998 it is estimated that there will be 16,370 North Ayrshire Council houses along with 1,880 former Irvine Development Corporation houses giving a total of 18,250. It is proposed that there should be no increase in rent levels for the former Irvine Development Corporation houses for 1998/99.

The Housing Capital Programme for 1998/99 totals £6.945 million and in this total £6.332 million has been allocated for new projects.

After a full discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to approve the Housing Revenue Account budget for 1998/99 at £31,288,000; (b) that the average weekly rent of North Ayrshire Council houses excluding former Irvine Development Corporation houses be increased by £0.99 giving an average rent of £30.84 per week; and (c) to approve the Housing Capital Programme (Appendix CS1) for 1998/99.

## **2. Renewing the NHS in Scotland**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on proposals for two NHS Trusts in Ayrshire.

A presentation was given to the Council on 3 February 1998 by the General Manager of Ayrshire and Arran Health Board on the Government White Paper entitled "Designed to Care: Renewing the National Health Service in Scotland" and the Council's views were sought on the proposal to establish a Primary Care Trust and an Acute Hospital Trust in Ayrshire and Arran. This would replace the existing two Hospital Trusts and the Community Health Care Trust in the area. Comments have been invited by 20 February 1998. Once all comments are received, draft proposals will be issued by AAHB in March 1998 for a three month consultation period with key partners, staff and the general public to allow firm proposals to be submitted to the Scottish Office by July 1998.

At the recent presentation by the AAHB, the Council (a) welcomed the proposals to establish two Trusts in Ayrshire and Arran and the collaborative approach being adopted by the AAHB in working together with local authorities and others; (b) endorsed the main principles of the White Paper and its vision in seeking to provide a seamless health care service which is focused on patients and aims to reduce bureaucracy; (c) in relation to the location of services, asked that every consideration be given to ensuring that these are provided at as local a level as possible so that treatment can be available where and when it is needed, particularly in relation to maternity services and accident and emergency services. Ayrshire and Arran is a large geographical area and while centralisation of specialist services may be attractive in cost terms, it would be unattractive to patients and carers in terms of accessibility to services; and (d) asked that particular consideration be given to the future delivery of community care services and the role of the local authorities in working in partnership in this provision, especially in view of the difficult financial situation being faced by local authorities at this time.

The Committee agreed to advise Ayrshire and Arran Health Board that the Council (a) welcomes the proposals to establish two NHS Trusts; (b) reiterates the comments made at the recent presentation; and (c) awaits further details of the Board's proposals.

## **3. Urgent Item**

The Chair agreed to consider the following item as a matter of urgency.

## **4. Regional Air Services: Submission by Glasgow/Prestwick International Airport to the Sub-Committee of the Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Committee**

A request has been received from Glasgow/Prestwick International Airport for the Council's support of the Airport's submission to the Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Sub-Committee. The submission which the Airport intends to put before the Sub-Committee details the benefits of increased use of Glasgow/Prestwick International Airport for the economy not only of Ayrshire but of Britain.

The Committee agreed to write to the Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Sub-Committee indicating their support of Glasgow/Prestwick International Airport.

The meeting ended at 2.20 p.m.