

Corporate Strategy Committee
20 August 1996

Irvine, 20 August 1996 - 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, John Donn, David Gallagher, Samuel Gooding, Jane Gorman, Elliot Gray, Irene Oldfather, Margaret Hight, James Jennings, Joseph McKinney, Elizabeth McLardy, Thomas Morris, David Munn, Margaret Munn, Alan Munro, Robert Reilly, Gena Seales, Samuel Taylor and Richard Wilkinson.

In Attendance

The Chief Executive, The Directors of Financial Services, Education, Housing Services, Community and Recreational Services and Planning, Roads and the Environment, the Architectural Services Manager, the Principal Officer (Marketing and Publicity) and the Principal Officer (Policy/Administration).

Chair

Mr Clements in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Thomas Dickie, John Sillars and George Steven.

1. Review of Capital Programme 1996/97 (All Services Except HRA)

(a) Background to Capital Expenditure

Submitted report by the Director of Financial Services on the format of Capital Expenditure. There is now a single allocation to cover programmes for Transport, Education, Social Work, Non-HRA, General Services and Flood Coast Protection. These services were previously granted individual consents.

There is a current committed programme of £7.922m which, with an extra allocation of £1.851m granted to the Council earlier in the year, brings the total consent to £9.873m.

The basis of future capital allocation is to be changed with the new allocation being based on a single figure which in turn is based on a formula to be agreed by the Scottish Office, and COSLA. If the formula were approved this would provide the Council with an allocation of around £9.158m in 1997/98 although an element of the total Scottish allocation is being held back to create a Challenge Fund. The Challenge Fund will comprise possible 10% of the total capital allocation in 1997/98 for all Scottish Local Authorities creating a fund of £36m. Each Council will be invited to make one bid for the Challenge Fund and it is expected that successful applications will involve a package involving private sector resources and/or the use of PFI together with other funding agencies.

An Appendix to the report by the Director of Financial Services showed that, taking into account the total estimated expenditure already approved by the Council, £947,000 is available for further projects.

The Appendix also gave details of a further phase of expenditure (Phase 4) which showed various projects with either a commitment or which have been previously considered by

the Council. These projects total £557,000 and, if approved, would then leave a balance of £390,000 for other projects.

Noted.

(b) Options for Further Projects

Submitted report by the Chief Executive giving fuller details of the further Phase 4 expenditure referred to by the Director of Financial Services in his report and which amounts in total to £557,000.

Annexed to the report by the Chief Executive were bids submitted by the Directors of Service Departments for projects in respect of the balance after the Phase 4 expenditure items were considered. The Council were also advised that discussions have been held with Enterprise Ayrshire on the marketing of Ayrshire in association with the three Ayrshire Councils. It is important that North Ayrshire Council can complement this joint working with the promotion of North Ayrshire Council itself and respond to significant investment challenges within the Council area. This may take the form of funding which would assist in facilitating major inward investment proposals deemed priority by North Ayrshire Council. It is therefore proposed that a Corporate Fund be established and that an initial contribution of £50,000 be allocated to this.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) to approve further expenditure on a Phase 4 programme totalling £557,000 along with further projects detailed in the annex hereto (Appendix SCS1) including the formation of a fund "Invest in North Ayrshire" to which £50,000 will be allocated as a first step; and (c) that any available balance be allocated to the Repairs and Renewals Fund.

2. Housing Area Action Programme

Submitted report by the Chief Executive. On 24 June the Meeting of the Special Corporate Strategy Committee approved a Housing Action Area programme in respect of the following areas:-

1. 172-182 New Street ,Stevenston and 2-10 Moorpark Road East, Stevenston;
2. 150-152 New Street, Stevenston;
3. 10-12 Seton Street, Ardrossan;
4. 13-15 Eglinton Road, Ardrossan;
5. 70-82 Shore Road, Skelmorlie; and
6. 2-10 Castle Road, Skelmorlie.

The Committee agreed that Draft Resolutions be now made in respect of the properties as detailed herein (Appendix SCS2).

3. Irvine: Trinity Church

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on development proposals for Trinity Church, Irvine.

The Committee referred to the decision taken at item 1 where in Phase 4 expenditure of the Capital Programme for 1996/97 it was agreed that £40,000 be approved towards the refurbishment and renovation of Trinity Church. On this basis Historic Scotland are now likely to contribution the sum of £400,000 towards the refurbishment and renovation costs.

The report provided details of proposals to assist in the renovation of the Church with its

conversion to a Town Museum, which after completion would be operated and managed by the Council. The report further referred to the possibility of a new library being built in Irvine.

The Committee agreed (a) to continue to the next review of the Capital Programme, consideration of the proposals to convert Trinity Church to a Town Museum; and (b) to defer consideration of the inclusion of a new library for Irvine on the site of the Trinity Church in order that further detailed investigation can be reported to the Community and Recreational Services Committee in the early part of 1997.

4. Millennium/Lottery Funding

The Committee agreed that a report proposing various projects which could be considered for Millennium/Lottery funding be submitted to the Corporate Strategy Committee taking into account the decision of the Council on 25 June that priority for projects such as these be given to the Three Towns area.

5. Post of Director of Community and Recreational Services

The Chair announced that Mr. M. Gallagher, the Director of Community and Recreational Services had resigned his post in order to take up the post of Director of Arts and Leisure at Leicester City Council.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee offered his congratulations to Mr. Gallagher on his success in obtaining this new post.

The Committee further agreed that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee negotiate with Leicester City Council in terms of release for Mr. Gallagher.

The meeting ended at 2.25 p.m.