

Corporate Strategy Committee
24 June 1996

Irvine, 24 June 1996 - At a Special Meeting of the Corporate Strategy Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

James Clements, Patrick Browne, Thomas Dickie, John Donn, David Gallagher, James Jennings, Thomas Morris, David O'Neill, Robert Rae, Robert Reilly, John Sillars and Samuel Taylor.

In Attendance

The Chief Executive; The Directors of Financial Services and Social Work; The Head of Corporate Business; The Principal Officer Policy/Administration (G. Lawson); a Corporate Policy Officer (A. Osborne); and an Administration Officer (J. Bannatyne).

Chair

Mr Clements in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Jack Carson, Stewart Dewar, Jane Gorman and George Steven

1. Programme for Partnership: North Ayrshire Regeneration Strategy and Bid for Urban Programme Funding

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the North Ayrshire Regeneration Strategy. The Draft document gives details of proposals for a North Ayrshire Regeneration Strategy, a bid for Priority Partnership Area status for the Three Towns of Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston and a Regeneration Programme for the other targeted areas. The document has been prepared according to detailed notes of guidance issued by the Scottish Office and requires to be submitted to them by 30 June 1996. The Strategies and Programmes submitted will be assessed by the Scottish Office and thereafter discussions will take place at national level with organisations such as Scottish Homes and Scottish Enterprise. Subsequent discussions will then take place between the Scottish Office and local Partnerships on the designation of Priority Partnership Areas and the Scottish Office will announce its decision when these discussions have been satisfactorily concluded.

The Committee agreed (a) to endorse the Regeneration Strategy and bids for Priority Partnership Area status for Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston and the Regeneration Programme for the other targeted areas; and (b) to authorise the Chief Executive to submit the bids to the Scottish Office.

2. The Private Finance Initiative

Submitted report by the Head of Corporate Business on the options presented by the Private Finance Initiative in respect of Energy Management and Office Accommodation.

After full discussion, the Committee agreed (a) that North Ayrshire Council enter into further discussions in respect of Energy Management in the major energy use establishments in North Ayrshire; (b) that Energy Management Consultants be employed to evolve further the options for savings for the Council; (c) that the Council identify options and locations for accommodation outwith Cunninghame House; (d) that further Officer discussions take place with potential Concessionaires to develop the possibilities; and (e) that a Corporate Officer Working Group be established comprising

the Chief Executive and appropriate Chief Officers to take the discussions further and report.

3. Compulsory Competitive Tendering

(a) Revision of Timetable for Works and Highways Maintenance

(Previous Minute Reference: Corporate Strategy Committee 21 May 1996.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the progress of the proposals for the revision of the timetable for Compulsory Competitive Tendering as it affects Works and Highways Maintenance.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Secretary of State has indicated his willingness to discuss the revised timetable no formal withdrawal of the notice advancing the date of the end of the moratorium to 1 January 1997 has been intimated. The outcome of discussions currently taking place between officials of COSLA and the Scottish Office on the possibility of further revising the timetable are currently awaited. In the meantime all local authorities are working to meet the revised date of 1 January 1997.

The Committee agreed to note the position meantime and to await a further report on the progress of the negotiations currently being undertaken by COSLA and the Scottish Office.

(b) Compulsory Competitive Tendering: Consultation Paper on Revised Percentages and Rules for Support Services

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a consultation from COSLA on the proposed alterations to percentages and rules on the calculation of services to be exposed to Compulsory Competitive Tendering. The services affected are Financial Services, Personnel Services, Legal Services, Information and Technology Services, Construction Related Services and Housing Management.

Under the Local Government Act 1988 which introduced CCT to additional local authority services other than Works and Highways Maintenance, the government has by regulations extended CCT to cover a number of support services including Housing Management. The proposal to expose these services was overtaken by Local Government re-organisation and consequently the government set the revised timetable for the re-introduction of CCT for these services over a period between April 1998 and April 1999. Government regulations were issued during the period 1993-1995 which stipulated the percentage of these services which should be exposed. They also provided that if the percentage of the service did not reach a minimum level (known as De Minimis) the local authority was not required to expose that service to CCT. As a result of proposals by the government to alter radically the level of credits or allowances which can be set off against the calculation of the value of a service, it is unlikely that any service will be below the De Minimis level and will therefore require to be the subject of CCT. Responses to the consultation have been requested by 2 July 1996.

The Committee agreed to authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair to respond to the Consultation Paper on the Council's behalf by 2 July 1996 as requested.

4. Final Project Cost: Barrfields, Largs Pool, Vikingar

Submitted joint report by the Director of Financial Services, the Director of Community and Recreational Services and the Architectural Services Manager on the final costs of the Barrfields/Vikingar complex giving details on the finance package and sources of funding for the project.

The Committee agreed to approve the final costs of the project in the terms indicated in the report.

5. (a) Wind Up of IDC Secondary Asset Package/Maritime Museum

Submitted report by the Director of Financial Services on the proposed Secondary Asset package transferred to North Ayrshire Council from Irvine Development Corporation to maintain a contribution of £25,000 per annum to the Scottish Maritime Museum.

The Committee agreed (i) to approve the funding package provided by Irvine Development Corporation in the terms indicated in the report and to earmark the income from the net investments to the Maritime Museum; and (ii) that subject to resources being available the contribution granted by the former Cunninghame District Council amounting to £25,000 be included in the 1997/98 budget in addition to the £25,000 included in the North Ayrshire Council budget in 1996/97.

(b) Scottish Maritime Museum: Council of Trustees

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on North Ayrshire Council's representation on the Council of Trustees of the Scottish Maritime Museum. Cunninghame District Council had three representatives, Strathclyde Regional Council two representatives and Irvine Development Corporation have three representatives on the Council of Trustees.

In view of the local government re-organisation, the substantial financial contribution made by North Ayrshire Council to the Museum, the Committee considered that the two Strathclyde Region places should now be allocated to North Ayrshire Council and when the wind up of Irvine Development Corporation is complete, that the Corporation places should also fall to the Council.

The Committee therefore agreed (i) that North Ayrshire Council seek to nominate five representatives to serve on the Council of Trustees of the Scottish maritime Museum until June 1997; and (ii) to thereafter seek to nominate eight representatives on the Council of Trustees.

6. Possible Relocation of Scottish office or Scottish Parliament Functions to north Ayrshire

Submitted report by the head of Corporate Business on the possibility of Scottish Office functions or Scottish Parliament functions being located in North Ayrshire.

The Committee agreed to establish an Officer/Member Working Group to consider the issue of relocation of Scottish Office functions to North Ayrshire in the terms indicated in the report.

7. Geilsland Residential School: Local Consultative Committee

Submitted report by the Chief Executive seeking two appointments to the Local Consultative Committee for Geilsland Residential School, Beith.

The Committee agreed to appoint the Chair of the Education Committee and the Chair of the Social Work Committee as North Ayrshire Council's representatives on the Local Consultative Committee for Geilsland Residential School, Beith.

8. Housing Action Area Programme

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a proposed North Ayrshire Council Housing Action Area Programme for 1996/97.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the proposed Housing Action Area Programme for 1996/97 in the terms indicated in the report; (b) to recommend to the Council that Draft Resolutions be made in respect of the properties in each of the proposed Housing Action areas; and (c) to authorise the service of Repairs Notices on the properties within the proposed Housing Action areas identified in the report.

9. Strathclyde Passenger Transport Capital Programme 1996/97: Bus Shelters and Stops

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a request from Strathclyde Passenger Transport for an allocation of funding from the Council to permit them to meet demands in relation to the provision and renewal of bus shelters and bus stops within North Ayrshire.

In 1996/97 Strathclyde Passenger Transport received a Direct Capital Allocation of £1.5m the bulk of which has already been earmarked for a programme of works. A total allocation of £100,000 is being sought jointly from the twelve unitary authorities in Strathclyde to undertake works relating to the provision of new or the relocation of existing bus shelters and stops. North Ayrshire Council is being requested to provide £6,000 for this purpose. The various shelter and stop sections are already in store following their purchase during 1995/96 but no work has been undertaken on bus shelter and stop provision pending agreement from the twelve authorities to meet their share of the overall costs.

After discussion the Committee agreed, subject to guarantees being obtained from Strathclyde Passenger Transport on the numbers of bus shelters/stops to be erected and that appropriate consultations will be undertaken with the Council prior to the erection of shelters/stops, that provision of £6,000 be made in the Capital Plan for 1996/97 in respect of North Ayrshire Council's share of the overall costs.

10. S.L.A.N.T. Forum

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an invitation from the S.L.A.N.T. Forum for North Ayrshire Council to be represented along with the four other authorities in Scotland with New Towns within their area.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that North Ayrshire Council continue to be represented on the S.L.A.N.T. Forum until March 1997 and thereafter review the Council's position.

11. Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland: Third Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Third Statutory Review Of Electoral Arrangements which is currently being carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland. The Commission propose that North Ayrshire will continue to have thirty members.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) that the Chief Executive have further discussions with the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland on the number of members for North Ayrshire Council and report; (b) that a scheme on the revised boundaries be submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland by 27 September 1996 as requested; and (c) that four Working Parties comprising (i) the Irvine New Town members (Wards 1-13), (ii) the Three Towns Area (Wards 14, 15 and 21-25), (iii) Garnock Valley Members (Wards 16-20), and (iv) North Coast and Arran members (Wards 26-30), consider and approve the ward boundaries within their area.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

12. Exclusion of Public

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 ground that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Act.

13. Community Alarms

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on proposals for the future operation of the Community Alarm Service.

The Committee agreed to authorise the Director of Social Work to negotiate a Service Agreement with South Ayrshire Council for the future operation of the Community Alarm Service with effect from 1 April 1997.

The meeting ended at 2.55 p.m.