

Three Towns Area Committee
2 April 1998

Ardrossan, 2 April 1998 - At a Meeting of the Three Towns Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

David Gallagher, David Munn, Margaret Munn and Alan Munro.

In Attendance

L. Scott, Supervising Engineer, Maintenance (Planning, Roads and Environment); S. McLaughlin, Area Community Development Officer, Community and Recreational Services; W. Nichol, Senior Accountant (Financial Services); A. Pettigrew, Young Peoples' Development Services Officer, (Community and Recreational Services); S. Bale, Administration Officer and N. Miller, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Also In Attendance

Chief Inspector C. Harper (Strathclyde Police); Sergeant M. Oates (Police Liaison Officer); and Community Fire Safety Officer T. Kane (Strathclyde Fire Brigade); S. Wright, Three Towns Initiative and C. Carberry, Strathclyde Passenger Transport.

Chair

Mr. Gallagher in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Samuel Gooding, Samuel Taylor.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 February 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Strathclyde Passenger Transport

The Committee received presentation by Chris Carberry, Public Transport Officer on the work of Strathclyde Passenger Transport.

Strathclyde Passenger Transport (SPT) is responsible for bus services throughout the passenger transport area which takes in 12 local authorities. The rail network area is the biggest outside London with 159 stations.

SPT administer bus services on Arran and Cumbrae on an agency basis on behalf of North Ayrshire Council and this service has been improved with new buses and connections at Brodick.

Other areas of responsibility include the Dial-a-Bus service which provides a lifeline for elderly and infirm people, the concessionary travel scheme operated through the passenger transport area and monitoring changes to local bus services in addition to construction and maintenance of bus stops and bus shelters.

After a full discussion the Chair thanked Mr. Carberry for his interesting and informative presentation.

3. Monitoring Reports

(a) Education

Submitted report by the Director of Education detailing statistical information in relation to schools in the Three Towns area.

The key information detailed in the report included (a) attendance and absence surveys; (b) budgeted school running costs; and (c) school leaver destinations.

The Committee agreed (a) to receive annual reports on attendance, running costs and leaver destinations in relation to schools serving pupils from within the Committee's area; and (b) otherwise to note the report.

(b) North Ayrshire Council Industrial Estate Factories

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager on the letting/availability of factories on Council Industrial Estates within the Three Towns area.

The Hill Street Industrial Estate, Ardrossan comprises 15 industrial units and the current occupancy rate is 66.6%.

The Moorpark Place Industrial Estate, Stevenston comprises 15 industrial units with the current occupancy rate being 86.6%.

The Portland Place Industrial Estate, Stevenston comprises 14 industrial units with the current occupancy rate being 78.5%.

Noted.

(c) Three Towns Initiative

Submitted report by the Initiative Manager on progress of the Three Towns Initiative.

Noted.

(d) CONNECT Training Programme

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services and the Personnel Services Manager on progress of the CONNECT training programme for the year ending 31 December 1997.

The CONNECT training programme is a 16 week training programme to build necessary skills to enable trainees to enter the job market, the further education or training options. Trainees also have the opportunity to obtain an SQA validated qualification in the form of the Employeeehip Module Certificate which was introduced by Enterprise Ayrshire and supported by the European Social Fund. The CONNECT training programme targets young people who have left school and are not entering further education or training.

Throughout 1997 occupancy has remained at 12 trainees per week (100%) with a small waiting list existing. During the period 1 January 1997 to 31 December 1997 a total of 60 trainees undertook the programme of which 33 completed the programme, 15 withdrew early and 12 continued into 1998.

The programme offers a valuable pre-training opportunity for young people who, for a variety of reasons, have not been able to find a training placement or employment and approximately 78% of trainees are successful in achieving a positive outcome i.e. employment, a training placement or further education at the end of the programme.

Noted.

(e) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 31 March 1998

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Community Development Grants paid to 31 March 1998 in respect of the Three Towns area, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

4. Community Development Grants Budget for Area Committees 1998/99

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Community Development Grants budget for Area Committees 1998/99.

The Community Development Grants budgets for Area Committees, totalling £73,947 for the financial year 1998/99 were approved by the Corporate Strategy Committee on 3 March 1998. The Three Towns Area Committee budget for the forthcoming year amounts to £19,045.

Playscheme grants will continue to be decided by the Area Committee but drawn from the central Playschemes Support Budget totalling £26,000.

The Challenge Budget for Community Safety for 1998/99 is set at £2,000 for each Area Committee.

Noted.

5. Community Development Grants Scheme: Requests for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on requests for financial assistance.

(a) Saltcoats Youth Action Group

The Committee agreed to award the Saltcoats Youth Action Group £1000.

(b) Caley Management Group

The Committee agreed to award the Caley Management Group £500.

(c) St. Peters Management Committee

The Committee agreed to award the St. Peters Management Committee £800.

6. Easter Playschemes

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on allocations to Easter Playschemes for 1998.

The Chair approved the undernoted applications in relation to Easter Playschemes as a matter of urgency:-

- (i) Women's Aid, Ardrossan - £181.73;
- (ii) Ardrossan After School Care Summer Playscheme - £245.45;
- (iii) Women's Centre, Saltcoats - £192.31;

- (iv) Saltcoats After School Care Summer Playscheme - £245.45;
- (v) Stevenston After School Care Summer Playscheme - £245.45; and
- (vi) Befriend A Child - £264.00.

The Committee agreed to homologate the decision.

7. Roads Management and Maintenance Revenue Budget Programme

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the Roads Management and Maintenance Revenue Budget Programme for 1998/99 as approved by the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee on 18 March 1998.

The report gave details of the type of work to be carried out within the programme at various locations within the Three Towns area.

Noted.

8. Community Safety: Fire Statistics

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on fire statistics for the Three Towns area.

The report detailed incidents within the Three Towns by station area and using specific Fire Brigade codes.

Noted.

9. Operation Spotlight: Fly-Tipping

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on progress in the Joint Initiative between Strathclyde Police and North Ayrshire Council to tackle the problem of fly tipping.

Since the launch of the initiative on 9 March 1998 warnings have been given to several companies and individuals in relation to fly-tipping with 4 more serious cases being submitted to the Procurator Fiscal whose response is still awaited. Although the formal initiative has now ended, the partnership which has been established between Strathclyde Police and North Ayrshire Council will continue, supported by appropriate advertising initiatives.

At its last meeting the Area Committee expressed concern that the Cleansing Service was unable to uplift paint tins which still contained paint due to problems of spillage when placed in compaction vehicles. The Director of Commercial Services has now advised that in future, upon request, paint tins will be uplifted on the same day as fridges etc. and picked up using the crew-cab.

The Committee (a) welcomed (i) the degree of attention being given to this issue by Strathclyde Police; and (ii) the opportunities which the partnership presents for the Council throughout the current initiative and in the longer term; and (b) requested that the Director of Commercial Services the new arrangements for the collection of paint tins from households in North Ayrshire.

10. Strathclyde Police

The Committee received a presentation by Chief Inspector Harper on the proposed new Sub-Divisional Headquarters in Saltcoats.

Work on the new Police HQ which will be situated at the junction of Raise Street and Glencairn Street, is scheduled to commence week beginning 6 April and is estimated to be finalised within 12 months. Strathclyde Police have been involved in discussions with the Architects responsible for drawing up the plans for the HQ and are confident that it will provide more spacious and practical

accommodation for both Police Officers and members of the public.

The Chair thanked Chief Inspector Harper for her informative presentation.

The meeting ended at 12 noon.