

North Coast and Arran Area Committee  
27 March 1997

**Largs, 27 March 1997** - At a Meeting of the North Coast and Arran Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

**Present**

John Sillars, Margaret Highet, Elizabeth McLardy and Robert Rae.

**In Attendance**

C Hamilton, Area Services Manager (Social Work); R Lee, Assistant Principal Officer (Financial Services); K Thomas, Principal Officer (Environment), J Mason, Principal Engineer (Roads) (Planning, Roads and Environment); M Smyth, Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); J Ferguson, Assistant Principal Estates Officer (Legal Services); J Bannatyne, Administration Officer and C Graham, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).  
Also Attending

**Also In Attendance**

Inspector M Scally, Strathclyde Police.

**Chair**

Mr Sillars in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Richard Wilkinson.

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 17 February 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. Fairlie Community Consultation Meeting**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the responses received from the various Directorates of the Council to the issues raised at Fairlie Community Consultation Meeting held in Fairlie on 14 November 1996.

The Director of Education has recently confirmed that he is aware that the use of Fairlie Village Hall by the Nursery class impinges on the use of the hall by other community groups, and has included provision for a purpose built Nursery class in the Directorate's Capital Plan for future years.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) that the Director of Community and Recreational Services quantify the overall demand for an indoor leisure facility in Fairlie with a view to developing such a facility as part of the overall Community and Recreational Services Directorate Strategy; (b) that as there is no site available for the storage of plaques, artefacts etc. in Fairlie, the Director of Community and Recreational Services, in consultation with the two local members for Fairlie, pursue the provision of such accommodation as a stop-gap measure; (c) that periodic

reports on the progress of the issues raised at Community Consultation Meetings be submitted to the Area Committee; and (d) that a copy of the report on the Community Consultation Meeting be forwarded to the representatives from the various groups/organisations who attended the meeting for their interest.

### **3. West Kilbride Community Consultation Meeting**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the issues raised at the West Kilbride Community Consultation Meeting with local groups/organisations held on 20 March 1997.

The Committee agreed (a) that the appropriate Directorates of the Council be requested to investigate the various issues raised by the groups/organisations who attended the meeting and report; and (b) that arrangements be made for a further Community Consultation Meeting with local groups/organisations, to be held on Arran on a date to be agreed by the local member.

### **4. Roads Management and Maintenance Revenue Budget Programme**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the proposed programme of works for the management and maintenance of all public roads in North Ayrshire for 1997/98 as approved by the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee.

The report gave details of the criteria used to draw up the revenue maintenance programme previously agreed by the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee together with details of the type of work to be carried out within the programme at the various locations within the North Coast and Arran area. It was made clear that a degree of amendment could be considered for some of the schemes in the later stages of the programme and members may raise any points of concern with the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment.

The Committee agreed to approve the proposed programme of works for the year 1997/98 as submitted.

### **5. Community Grants Expenditure Analysis 1996/97**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an analysis of expenditure of the Community Grants budget for the financial year 1996/97.

The North Coast and Arran Area Committee was allocated a Community Grants budget of £10,281, a Sports, Arts, Festivals and Galas budget of £1,939 and a Voluntary Playschemes budget of £3,533. The budget for voluntary Playschemes proved unevenly spread relative to the demand across Area Committees. In order to address this imbalance the Playscheme budget for 1997/98 will be held within the central Corporate Strategy budget. The North Coast and Arran Area Committee awarded 67 grants in total and details of the categories of grant were provided. An analysis of grants paid to 21 March 1997 was also provided confirming that the

balance of grant expenditure remaining for the current financial year is £224.75.

Noted.

## **6. Request for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a request for financial assistance by Fairlie Playgroup and Toddlers.

The Committee agreed to award the group £250, payable in two instalments, viz.: (i) the £224.75 balance remaining within the current financial year; and (ii) £25.25 from the 1997/98 budget, payable from 1 April 1997.

## **7. Community Development Grants Budget for Area Committees 1997/98**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Community Development Grants budget for Area Committees for 1997/98.

Although the Corporate Strategy Grants budget for 1997/98 was reduced by 8.5%, Area Committee budgets were maintained at the 1996/97 level. The Community Development Grants budget for the North Coast and Arran Area Committee for 1997/98 is £12,220.

Noted.

## **8. Easter Playschemes 1997**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on allocations to Easter Playschemes for 1997 in accordance with the formula applicable to these grants.

An application was received from the Fairlie Playscheme (Quarriers) for travel passes and this application has been approved by the Chair.

The Committee agreed to homologate the decision taken by the Chair in this matter.

## **9. Largs Common Good: Application for Financial Assistance**

### **(a) Largs Community Council: Bunting for Largs**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application from Largs Community Council for a grant of £1800 from Largs Common Good for 1997/98 in respect of the provision of bunting for Largs.

The Committee agreed (a) to continue consideration of the request to the next meeting; (b) that the Director of Financial Services submit a report to the next meeting giving details of the available expenditure within the Largs Common Good for 1997/98; (c) to seek clarification from Largs Community Council on how the bunting is to be erected and secured and report; and (d) to seek details on all

applications from Largs Common Good Fund for the 1997/98 financial year and report.

#### **10. Largs: Bus Parking in Main Street**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on current problems in relation to bus parking in Main Street, Largs.

During 1996 complaints were received by Strathclyde Passenger Transport regarding buses waiting at the bus stop fronting Messrs Welsh and Roe, Main Street, Largs. This caused congestion by buses double parking and on other occasions by buses leaving their engines running, thus creating additional pollution in the area. Despite meetings with representatives of the bus companies involved, the matter has not yet been fully resolved. A further meeting is to be arranged by Strathclyde Passenger Transport with representatives from the bus companies involved in an effort to resolve the problems.

The Committee agreed that a report on progress be submitted to the next meeting.

#### **11. Largs Promenade: Cycling and Skateboarding Zone: Proposed Scheme**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive giving details, including costs, on a proposed scheme for the creation of a cycling and skateboarding zone along Largs promenade.

The Director of Planning, Roads and Environment has prepared and costed the proposed scheme which will cost approximately £1,000 to implement. It is anticipated that the Planning, Roads and Environment Directorate will be in a position to fund the scheme through the 1997/98 budget.

The Chair indicated that Mr Wilkinson, who was not present at the meeting, had advised that, in his view, the plans provided with the report require clarification and had expressed his concern over the proposed scheme. He had also recommended that a site visit be undertaken by the Area Committee prior to any final decision being taken on the proposals.

The Committee agreed (a) in principle, to approve the implementation of the scheme; and (b) that prior to the implementation of the scheme, the Head of Roads consult with the Largs members with a view to arranging a site visit to discuss the final proposals for the scheme.

#### **12. Monitoring Reports**

##### **(a) North Ayrshire Council: Industrial Estate Factories**

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager on the letting/availability of factories on Council Industrial Estates within North Ayrshire. The report provided details on a

number of factory/workshop units within the North Coast and Arran area.

The next meeting of the Area Committee Chairs will be invited to provide suggestions as to appropriate types of property reports which could be submitted to the Area Committees in the future.

Noted.

**(b) Planning, Roads and Environment Directorate: Investigation of Noise Complaints April-December 1996**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the methods employed by the Environment Section to investigate noise complaints in relation to performance indicators.

In terms of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Council has a statutory duty to inspect its area with a view to detecting noise nuisances and to take action to have the nuisance removed if appropriate. The Accounts Commission for Scotland has specified performance indicators for noise and the local authority is required to publish the relevant information in this regard. A provisional analysis indicated that of the 153 complaints received between April and December 1996, 148 were established and 77% received a response within 2 working days.

Noted.

**(c) Planning, Roads and Environment Directorate: Dog Warden Service for the Months April-December 1996**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the numbers of stray dogs uplifted and dealt with by the Dog Warden between April and December 1996.

The report indicated that over the nine month period from April to December 1996 out of a total of 254 dogs which were uplifted by the Dog Warden, 23 were returned to their owners, 23 were rehoused, 70 were reclaimed from the kennels (£25 statutory fee) and 138 dogs required to be humanely destroyed.

Noted.

**(d) Planning, Roads and Environment Directorate: Pest Control Service April-December 1996**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the operation of the Pest Control Service within the Environment Section between April and December 1996.

The Council has a statutory duty in terms of the Control of Damage by Pests Act 1949 to survey its area and to have any infestations of rats or mice treated. The service currently provided by the Council has expanded beyond the basic statutory requirements and now includes a service to deal with insects such as wasps, bees,

ants and fleas. The Accounts Commission has suggested that a national benchmark response time for dealing with requests be set at two days for high priority treatments and five days for low priority treatments. Standards adopted by the Council require high priority treatments within twenty-four hours and low priority treatments within seventy-two hours. During the nine month period from April to December 1996 a total of 2,052 pest control treatments were carried out and a detailed breakdown of the response times was provided in the report.

Noted.

**(e) Planning, Roads and Environment Directorate: Food Safety and Health and Safety April-December 1996**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the service delivery by the Environment Section with regard to Food Safety and Health and Safety.

The Council is the responsible authority as regards the enforcement of Food Safety and Health and Safety legislation in certain categories of premises, mainly manufacturers, retailers, offices, restaurants and other caterers. Inspection target quotas are set and the results are subject to performance indicator monitoring by the Audit Commission. During the period April to December 1996 a total of 718 food hygiene inspections were carried out within the Committee's area.

Noted.

**13. Community Safety**

**(a) Policing on Arran**

The Chair expressed concern over the current policing on Arran. He indicated that despite the fact that approximately 250,000 visitors make their way to Arran annually, police staffing is very limited in comparison to other areas with similar population numbers.

The Committee agreed that Strathclyde Police be requested to report on this matter to the next meeting.

**14. Urgent Items**

The Chair agreed that the following item be considered as a matter of urgency.

## **15. West Kilbride: New Library**

Councillor McLardy advised the Committee that an approach had previously been made to the Community and Recreational Services Directorate for the provision of a hand-rail at the stepped path between Ritchie Street and Halfway Street, West Kilbride, as well as the provision of a salt bin. Mrs McLardy further stated that an elderly person has recently fallen on the steps and that the request for the provision of a hand-rail now requires to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Community and Recreational Services be requested to investigate this matter and report to the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 11.30 a.m.