

Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee
2 February 2012

STEVENSTON, 2 February 2012 - At a Meeting of the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Margie Currie, Ronnie McNicol and Alan Munro.

In Attendance

A. Bodie, Head of Infrastructure and Design (Finance and Infrastructure); J. McHarg, Assistant Manager (Community Services) and B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Education and Skills); J. McCrae, Locality Manager, Criminal Justice (Social Services & Health); J. Cumming, Project Officer (Economic Development), and M. Anderson, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

D. Devenay, Station Commander (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue); Sgt. A. Jackson and P.C. S. McGuire (Strathclyde Police); S. McLaughlan (The Ayrshire Community Trust); and J. Ledgerwood, Project Manager (Irvine Bay Regeneration Company).

Chair

Councillor Currie in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Anthony Gurney, William Gibson, John Hunter, Peter McNamara and J. Montgomerie.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations by Elected Members in terms of Standing Order 16.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 10 November 2011 were signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Presentation: The Ayrshire Community Trust

The Committee received a presentation by Stephen McLaughlan on the role of The Ayrshire Community Trust (TACT)

S. McLaughlan addressed the Area Committee in his capacity as Chief Executive of TACT, which is one of the partners in the North Ayrshire Third Sector Interface. The latter is a Scottish Government initiative established in April 2011, which sees TACT working in partnership with Arran Community and Voluntary Service (CVS) to support and develop volunteering, third sector organisations and social enterprise.

TACT, itself a social enterprise, is managing some £130,000 of funding from the Changing Care for Elderly People Fund and, and has been exploring various projects locally, such as the potential for a 'dry pub' targeted at young people.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the opportunities for volunteering and training which might be associated with the 'dry pub' initiative were it to secure the necessary funding to go ahead; and
- the value of volunteering as a diversionary activity for young people;

4. Presentation: Community Payback Orders

The Committee received a presentation by Jim McCrae, Locality Manager, Criminal Justice Social Work, on the operation of the community payback scheme.

The presentation provided background information on Community Sentencing in Scotland over the last 20 years and the introduction on 1 February 2011 of Community Payback Orders, which are enshrined in the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010. CPOs replace probation, community service and supervised attendance and their introduction includes a presumption against custodial sentences of 3 months or under. The orders have 9 requirements, namely supervision, unpaid work/other activity, programmes (of which there are 3 types available in Ayrshire), residence, mental health, drug treatment, compensation and conduct. Level 1 CPOs provide for up to 100 hours of unpaid work/activity, which must be completed in under 3 months, while completion of Level 2 orders, of up to 300 hours of unpaid work, must be within 6 months.

In order for CPOs to be meaningful to communities, work needs to be done to build links with those communities and ensure that the unpaid work carried out is valued by them. In addition, the benefits of unpaid work require to be promoted to combat the fear of crime, and the speed with which orders are initiated and completed need to be increased to improve public confidence in them. Finally, CPOs must be targeted properly in order to reduce levels of re-offending.

The Committee was provided with examples of the type of unpaid work which has been carried out in the local area, including a project involving Ardrossan Bowling Club and projects relating to the gardens of disabled and elderly service users.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the recruitment of suitably qualified staff to supervise CPOs;
- the importance of larger scale projects in raising the profile of CPOs;
- current trends in the prison population in Scotland;

- the availability of resources for Community Payback work;
- levels of supervision for those carrying out Community Payback work and the risk assessments undertaken;
- the availability of evidence to demonstrate the value of CPOs in terms of reducing re-offending and raising self-esteem; and
- the identification of projects suitable for CPOs.

5. Strathclyde Police

Sgt. Jackson and P.C. McGuire provided information on the following:-

- the court case pending, and fixed penalty notices issued, in respect of the illegal parking of commercial vehicles near the cemetery on Sorbie Road;
- additional police attention focussed on reported congestion associated with bus driver changeovers on Princes Street, Ardrossan;
- the success of the Pubwatch initiative;
- the outcome of the latest Multi-Agency Problem-Solving initiative in Saltcoats;
- 5 weekends of follow-up action focused on the Auchenhavie area;
- incidents of youth disorder in Saltcoats and Stevenson;
- the recent targeting of drug dealing;
- the latest action plans for Stevenston, Ardrossan and Saltcoats; and
- national campaigns in relation to second hand metal dealers and road traffic offences, such as the use of mobile phones when driving.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the recent arrest of a male in Saltcoats town centre in possession of a knife;
- disruption at the play area in Allan Gardens, Saltcoats; and
- the use of discretion in policing.

Noted.

6. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activity from 1 November 2011 to 18 January 2012. The report provided details of deliberate and accidental fires at a number of domestic and non-domestic locations in the Committee's area and well as incidents relating to vehicle fires, refuse fires, malicious false alarm calls, unwanted fire alarm signals, road traffic collisions and a water rescue incident, as well as a number of other special services. The continued availability of free Home Fire Safety Visits was also highlighted in the report, which indicated that 181 such visits had been completed during the reporting period. Community initiatives, such as work with Sainsbury's and the charity Unity, were also reported.

Station Commander Devenay advised Members of the availability of a community room at the refurbished Fire Station on Kilwinning Road, Stevenston, for meetings with up to around 12 participants.

Noted.

7. Public Transport Grant Funding from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the SPT projects that have been recently implemented within the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Areas and those proposed for future implementation.

Infrastructure and Design Services and SPT have been working in partnership to progress a range of schemes to meet the requirements of a grant award of £745,000 from SPT in 2011/12 and work on these schemes is currently either complete or ongoing. Bids for funding in 2012/13 have been made and will be considered by the Strathclyde Partnership shortly. In identifying the schemes, officers have taken into account the priorities of the Regional Transport Strategy, Local Transport Strategy and Single Outcome Agreement.

Section 3.2 of the report outlined the projects recently delivered or which are in the process of being delivered within the Area Committee's boundary during 2010/11 and 2011/12. A list of potential new schemes for future implementation was set out at Section 3.3 of the report.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- anti-social behaviour issues associated with the provision of bus shelters in housing schemes;
- the availability of real time information at bus stops on Route 11;
- work on the promenade between Saltcoats and Stevenston;
- a number of deep potholes on Canal Street, Saltcoats; and
- water running off the new development at Priesthill onto the Saltcoats/Stevenston High Road.

Members suggested the following as potential projects to be funded using SPT monies:-

- upgrading of the shelter at Ardrossan Harbour railway station; and
- a feasibility study to examine the reinstatement of bridge access over the existing level crossing at Stevenston station.

The Committee agreed (a) to note the content of the report; and (b) that the upgrading of the shelter at Ardrossan Harbour railway station and a feasibility study in respect of a footbridge at Stevenston station, be considered as potential projects for SPT funding.

8. Community Benefit Fund: Applications for Grant Aid

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on applications for grant received in respect of the Community Benefit Fund.

The Committee agreed to award £1680.00 to North Ayrshire Fiddle Workshop.

9. Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund 2011/12: Applications for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on applications for financial assistance under the Council's Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund.

The Assistant Manager (Community Services) advised of the receipt of a late Local Youth Action Fund application from 6th Year St. Matthew's HCPT Group. An officer assessment was circulated at the meeting.

Members were also advised of the withdrawal of two applications from The Ayrshire Community Trust (TACT) for the Community Development Grant and Local Youth Action Fund.

The Committee agreed to (a) make the following awards:-

Community Development Grants Scheme

Organisation	Award
Hit It	£1470.00
Ayrshire Flyers Speed Skating Club	£500.00
North Ayrshire Forum on Disability (NAFOD)	£600.00

Local Youth Action Fund

Organisation	Award
HCPT The Pilgrimage Trust Group 207	£2000.00
North Ayrshire Amateur Swimming Club	£1000.00
6th Year St. Matthew's HCPT Group	£2000.00

(b) note the withdrawal of two applications from TACT.

10. Stevenston Common Good Fund

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application for financial assistance from the Stevenston Common Good Fund.

The Committee agreed to award £500.00 to Jordan Hughes on the basis that his attendance at the Olympic Swimming Trials in London would raise the profile of the town of Stevenston and would serve to encourage the wider community to be more healthy and active.

11. North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP): Board: Minutes of Meeting held on 12 January 2012

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Minutes of the Meeting of the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) held on 12 January 2012.

Noted.

12. Dates and Venues of Next Meetings

12.1 A Special meeting of the Area Committee will be held on Thursday 8 March 2012 at 11.00 a.m. in the Arran Outdoor Education Centre, Lamlash, Isle of Arran.

12.2 The next ordinary meeting of the Area Committee will be held on Thursday 15 March 2012 at 2.00 p.m. in the Ardeer Neighbourhood Centre, Stevenston.

13. Future Agenda Items

The Committee agreed that (a) Arran Youth Foundation be invited to make a presentation to the Special Meeting of the Area Committee on 8 March 2012; and (b) that any additional items for either the Special Meeting or the next ordinary meeting of the Area Committee should be submitted to M. Anderson or D. McCaw.

14. Urgent Item

The Chair agreed that the undernoted item be considered as a matter of urgency to allow Members to be updated on the latest developments in relation to the work of the Irvine Bay Regeneration Company.

14.1 Irvine Bay Regeneration Company

The Project Manager, Irvine Bay Regeneration Company (IRC) updated Members on the company's activities in relation to Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston:-

Ardrossan

- the marina harbour wall development is progressing and, in terms of the impact on commercial shipping, the Calmac ferry and commercial cargo vessels of a similar size will be unaffected;
- a meeting will take place in February 2012 on progress in respect of the proposed medical centre;
- the IRC has been working in support of Ardrossan Bowling Club; and
- the issue of a feasibility study in connection with lighting Ardrossan Castle is now with officers of the Council for consideration.

Saltcoats

- some £300k is required to undertake works to Saltcoats Town Hall in order to keep the building wind and watertight;
- the town centre shopfront programme is continuing; and
- Saltcoats Vics have moved back down to Campbell Park.

Stevenston

- the IRC is continuing to work with businesses at Ardeer; and
- the new business centre has been completed and work on letting is ongoing.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the need for a couple of large boulders to be removed from near the slipway at Stevenston in order to maximise its usage; and
- the occupancy rate of commercial premises managed by the IRC.

The Committee agreed to note (a) the information provided; and (b) that the Project Manager, Irvine Regeneration Company, would (i) seek to work with officers of the Council on the removal of large boulders near the slipway at Stevenston; and (ii) circulate for Members' information details of the occupancy rate of commercial premises managed by the IRC.

The meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.