

Commercial Services Committee  
7 February 1996

**Irvine, 7 February 1996** - At a Meeting of the Commercial Services Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

**Present**

Thomas Dickie, Peter McNamara, Patrick Browne, John Donn, Joseph McKinney, Alan Munro, Irene Oldfather, Robert Rae, Gena Seales, George Steven, and Samuel Taylor

**In Attendance**

The Chief Executive, the Director of Commercial Services, the Head of Commercial Support (Neil McCallum) and a Corporate Policy Officer (Shona King).

**Chair**

Mr. Dickie in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

James Clements and David O'Neill.

**1. Revenue Budget 1996/97**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had previously been circulated, on a decision of the Corporate Strategy Committee at their Meeting on 22 January 1996 to ask all Service Committees to determine how they will achieve a savings target which will prevent capping while protecting frontline services.

The Committee agreed to remit to the Chair and Vice-Chair in consultation with the Director, to establish how these savings can be achieved and to report back to a Special Meeting in February.

**2. Proposed Programme of Site Visits**

The Chair confirmed the intention to have familiarisation visits for members to the undernoted facilities in the coming weeks:-

- a) Nobel House;
- b) the vehicle depots at Byrehill (CDC) and Goldcraigs (SRC), Kilwinning;
- c) the pulverisation plant at Shewalton;
- d) various school meals locations;
- e) CDC's Works Depot in Stevenston.

The Committee agreed to remit to the Chair and Vice-Chair in consultation with the Director, to finalise the programme of visits and advise members accordingly.

### **3. Competitive Tendering**

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, explaining the proposed timetable for Compulsory Competitive Tendering where the necessity for a 15 to 18 month lead-in time requires preparatory work to start immediately.

Noted.

### **4. Existing Supply Contracts**

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services confirming (a) the need to renew or extend existing supply contracts of the merging authorities to allow services to continue; and (b) the formation of a purchasing consortium with Renfrew as the lead authority which extends SRC's central purchasing arrangements and involves items not previously covered. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

On the basis of this information the Committee agreed that (a) the DSOs and DLOs should make full use of the purchasing consortium as appropriate; (b) the Director of Commercial Services in conjunction with the Chair and Vice-Chair arrange to extend existing contracts on present items or where necessary re-tender and accept the lowest offer for supplies; and (c) the Committee be advised on action taken.

### **5. Vehicle Maintenance**

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services highlighting arrangements which are being made to secure accommodation to meet the demands for maintenance of the Council's 400 vehicles. Copies of the report had previously been circulated.

Noted.

### **6. School Crossing Patrols**

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, concerning the provision of School Crossing Patrols with particular reference to the need for backup in the event of absence.

It is imperative within this service to provide cover for absence and SRC Roads Department currently use employees from Roads Direct with Police backup. The report demonstrates how this cover could be provided more readily within North Ayrshire by the use of catering and cleaning staff within schools. Training would be required however and it is therefore unlikely that this proposal could be implemented earlier than August 1996 leaving the Council with no backup provision for a 4 to 5 month period once Strathclyde Police had withdrawn their involvement.

Following discussion the Committee agreed (a) to seek an urgent meeting with the Police; (b) to initiate negotiations with Unions to involve cleaning and catering staff;

and (c) to thereafter arrange for training of employees.

## **7. School Meals Provision**

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services confirming a proposal to introduce a school meals "Smart Card" system on a pilot scheme basis within 1 Secondary School in North Ayrshire to determine its suitability for wider application and highlighting the benefits which this initiative would bring.

The Director of Education is keen to test the use of the "Smart Card" and funding for this scheme is available within the budget of Strathclyde Regional Council Catering Services.

The Committee agreed after discussion (a) that there must be close consultation with schools and parents on the application of the "Smart Card"; and (b) that with this proviso the pilot project should begin at the start of the 1996/97 academic year.

## **8. Commercial Services Directorate**

The Director of Commercial Services reported on progress in relation to his staff accommodation at Nobel House where entry will be secured on 19 February 1995. Additional details were also provided in relation to new appointments and ongoing recruitment within the Directorate.

Noted.

## **9. Conferences/Seminars etc.**

Submitted invitations to attend the following Conferences/Seminars etc.:-

- a) the ADLO Vehicle Maintenance Seminar and Exhibition being held in Aviemore from 8-10 May 1996; and
- b) the Institute of Wastes Management Annual Conference and Exhibition being held in Torquay from 10-14 June 1996.

The Committee agreed (i) to note (a); and (ii) to authorise the Chair, Vice-Chair and Director or their nominees to attend (b).

The Meeting ended at 2.40 p.m.