

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20 JANUARY 2000 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE LESSER HALL, NEW CUMNOCK COMMUNITY CENTRE, THE CASTLE, NEW CUMNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors William Menzies, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Jimmy Kelly, Julie Faulds, Provost Jimmy Boyd and Councillors Eric Ross and Jimmy Carmichael; and Community Representatives: Mr William Crawford, Mrs Jean Smith, Mr Alex Currie, Mr William Lees, Mr Ronnie Hamilton, Mrs Caroline McBride and Miss Isla Menzies.

ATTENDING: David Hewet, Executive Officer, Social Inclusion Partnership; Bill Hunter, Area Community Education Officer; Neil McBride, Team Leader - Children and Families (Social Work); Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; Kerr Chalmers, Technical Officer - Roads and Transportation; Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer; and Christine Baillie, Trainee Administrative Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING: Chief Inspector James Thomson and Superintendent Alistair McKie, Strathclyde Police.

APOLOGIES: Community Representatives Reverend Jason Boyd and Mr David Elliot.

CHAIR: Councillor William Menzies, Chair.

**APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: LOCAL CHURCHES
(Item 4, Page 360, 99/02)**

1. It was reported (a) that Reverend Bill Buchan who had been appointed to the Local Committee as a Community Representative by the Local Churches had intimated his resignation from the Committee; and (b) that the Churches had nominated Reverend Jason Boyd, Minister at the Congregational Church, Cumnock, as their new Community Representative.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to accept the nomination of Reverend Jason Boyd as a Community Representative; and
- (ii) that it be remitted to the Director of Corporate Services in consultation with the Chair, to write to Reverend Buchan on behalf of the Committee acknowledging his contribution.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

2. It was agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1401 hours in order to allow for a 15 minute maximum public question and answer session.

RECONVENTION OF MEETING

3. The meeting reconvened at 1413 hours with the same Councillors, Community Representatives and Officers present and in attendance.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3. There were submitted and noted, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cumnock Area Local Committee held on 11 November 1999 (circulated).

LOCAL ITEMS

4. On the matter being raised by Community Representative Mrs Jean Smith, it was agreed that the Director of Social Work would prepare and submit to an early meeting an update report on the services offered by the Council for persons with sensory impairment.

DECENTRALISATION ISSUES

RECRUITMENT OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES 2000/2001

5. There was submitted a report dated 11 January 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Corporate Services which invited the Committee to consider and determine certain matters in order to facilitate arrangements for the recruitment of Community Representatives to serve on the Local Committee for the period 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2001.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the present community representation on this Committee as detailed in the Appendix to the report;
- (ii) that the present community organisation representation on this Committee as set out in the Appendix to the report would continue for the period 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2001;
- (iii) to remit to the Director of Corporate Services to initiate the process for the submission of new nominations for Community Representatives and named Substitutes by the relevant organisations to serve during the period 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2001, and to make such arrangements as might be necessary to facilitate this process; and
- (iv) that report(s) on progress relative to (iii) above be submitted to future meetings of this Committee.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

6.1 FINANCIAL YEAR 1999/2000

It was reported that funds had become available to the Committee for disbursement during the current financial year under the Community Grants budget due to grants which had previously been approved by the Committee not having been fully taken up by the Groups concerned, namely:- Muirkirk Cabin - £78; Ochiltree Old Folk's Welfare Association - £68; Lugar and Logan Age Concern - £108; and Mauchline Drop-In Café (1996/97) - £135.37; total - £389.37.

It was agreed that the monies now available be used to deal with the undernoted applications which had been held in abeyance and had been selected in chronological order by date of submission of a completed application, namely:-

- (a) Voluntary Organisation Support
 - (i) Muirkirk Community Association - that a grant of £300 be made;

(b) Young People

- (i) 1st Ochiltree Girls Brigade - that a grant of £89.37 be made.

6.2 FINANCIAL YEAR 2000/2001

There was submitted a report dated 12 January 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Corporate Services to enable the Committee to consider arrangements for the submission of applications for Community Grants to be dealt with during the 2000/2001 financial year.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that local organisations be required to submit applications for Community Grant for the 2000/2001 year, irrespective of when during the year the Group's proposed activity/event etc is due to take place, no later than Friday 31 March 2000, and that all applications received by the due date be considered by this Committee at a future meeting to be held as soon as possible following commencement of the next financial year, on a date to be determined;
- (ii) that, in order to facilitate the submission of applications by local groups, the Director of Corporate Services would arrange (a) for those organisations who had previously applied for Community Grant funding to be advised of the arrangements for applying for the coming year and to be issued with a copy of the grant application form; (b) for posters to be displayed at Council premises advising of the arrangements; and (c) for an advertisement to be placed in the local press; and
- (iii) that the Director of Corporate Services would submit a report to the first meeting of this Committee to be held following commencement of the financial year 2000/2001 on those applications for grant received for that year, in order to enable the Committee to consider (a) the date on which the applications can be dealt with, taking account of operational and other matters; and (b) whether a portion of the financial allocation to be made available to this Committee for Community Grants for 2000/2001 should be set aside to enable other applications for Community Grant, which might be received during the year to be considered.

COMMUNITY SERVICES**STRATHCLYDE POLICE SPOTLIGHT REPORT**

7. There was submitted a report dated 6 January 2000 (circulated) by Chief Inspector Thomson, Strathclyde Police, which advised of "Spotlight" activity and other crime trends over the recent period. The Chief Inspector also introduced to the meeting, Superintendent Alistair McKie.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that representations be made on behalf of the Local Committee to the Lord Advocate regarding concerns which the Committee have about the seemingly high number of incidences where the Procurator Fiscal Service does not prosecute in respect of alleged drug related crimes; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

CORPORATE SERVICES

URBAN PROGRAMME TERMINATING PROJECTS: FINANCIAL YEAR 2000/2001: EVALUATION - REFUGE FOR WOMEN/CHILDREN PROJECT (Item 10, Page 542, 99/02)

8. There was submitted a report dated 14 January 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Corporate Services on the initial findings of the Evaluation panel meeting which evaluated the Refuge for Women/Children Project for which urban programme funding was due to terminate on 31 March 2000.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the initial findings of the Evaluation Panel set out in Paragraph 4 of the report;
- (ii) to fully support the work and future funding of the Project; and to recommend that the Children's Worker Post attached to this Project be amended from a part-time to a full-time post, in view of the value and benefits of the work of the current post holder, as already demonstrated;
- (iii) to remit to the Chief Executive to submit the views of this Committee to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration in conjunction with the recommendations of the Evaluation Panel; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

INTERIM LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY: CONSULTATION (Item 12, Page 187, 99/00)

9. There was submitted a report dated 25 November 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which (a) advised that the Council had prepared an Interim Local Transport Strategy: Consultation Draft; and (b) invited Members to comment on the Interim Strategy prior to preparation of the full Strategy later in the year. There was also submitted at the meeting a summary leaflet on the Interim Strategy which included a short questionnaire and invited general comments on transport issues.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the Council had prepared an Interim Local Transport Strategy; and
- (ii) that if, they so wished, Members of the Committee would, on an individual basis, participate in the consultation process by completing the questionnaire submitted and otherwise commenting on the Strategy.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

10.1 PRESENTATION

The Committee received a presentation from David Hewet, Executive Officer, Coalfield Area SIP on the East Ayrshire Social Inclusion Partnership Programme.

The Chair thanked the Executive Officer for the presentation which had been both interesting and informative.

10.2 SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GROUP

David Hewet, Executive Officer, reported on the East Ayrshire Social Inclusion Strategic Partnership Group meeting held on 21 December 1999, the main points of interest relating to:-

- participation of the NCH Action for Children on the Strategic Partnership Group;
- East Ayrshire Council's Working Families - Tax Credit Campaign and Helpline;
- implementation of the range of projects approved by the Scottish Executive via the Coalfield Area Partnership submission;
- the establishment of the Coalfield Communities Federation of Community Groups which held their first AGM on 16 December 1999;
- opportunities to establish a national network of Local Volunteer Development Agencies and the potential benefits for East Ayrshire;
- projects recommended by the Strategic Partnership Group for submission to the Council's Policy and Resources Committee, viz:- Zero Tolerance - £4,200, Social Support and Youth Initiative - £4,700, Irvine Valley Youth Diversion Project - £6,000 and Social Inclusion Public Information - £2,000; and
- projects being submitted by the Council to the Coalfield Regeneration Trust.

There was also submitted, for information, a quarterly progress report on projects, as submitted to the Partnership Group (circulated).

It was agreed to note:-

- (i) the information provided by the Executive Officer; and
- (ii) the terms of the progress report.

The meeting terminated at 1545 hours.