

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES (LEISURE AND RECREATION) SUB-COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 1995 at 2.00pm
in the Committee Room, Council Offices, Lugar**

PRESENT: Councillors J Smith (Chair), R Beattie, J Carmichael, G Cree, G McCredie and R Taylor

ATTENDING: W Stafford (Director of Community Services); B Woodcock (Head of Leisure) and A Fairbairn (for the Chief Executive)

APOLOGIES: Councillor K Nicoll

**1. CONVENTION OF SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES - STANDARDS FOR
THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE IN SCOTLAND 1995**

There was submitted a report (issued) by the Director of Community Services to present the revised COSLA standards for the Public Library Service in Scotland, for committee consideration and endorsement.

In its introduction the report made reference to the statutory framework within which the Library Service in Scotland is provided and aims to ensure "provision of adequate library facilities".

In addition the report outlined:

- (a) consideration in respect of the first set of standards for the Public Library Service in Scotland (the Robertson Report) which was published in 1969. These were revised under the auspices of COSLA in 1986, and the updated standards made recommendations of the level of service, stock, staffing and premises required to deliver an effective service; and
- (b) the new standards which are the 1995 "standards" list 72 recommendations, listed in summary form at Appendix 1 of the report.

Having heard the Director in explanation and in answer to members' questions it was agreed to:

- (i) adopt in principle the 1995 standards for Public Library Services and to work towards full implementation as and when resources allow; and
- (ii) instruct the Director of Community Services to present a report to a future Leisure and Recreation Sub-Committee identifying how the East Ayrshire Library Staff matches up to the revised standards; areas of shortfall; with

proposals as to how weaknesses might be addressed and to incorporate this information in a Libraries Development Plan.

2. DRAFT NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY GUIDELINE - SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION

There was submitted a report (issued) by the Director of Community Services to present the Draft National Planning Policy Guideline for Sport and Recreation from a sport and recreation perspective.

The report made reference to the Scottish Office Environment Department which had issued the draft NPPG for consultation. The National Planning Policy Guideline (NPPG) endeavours to describe the role of the statutory planning system in assessing the opportunities and making provision for sports and physical recreation. It also defines the factors which the Secretary of State will take into account in his consideration of development plans, planning appeals and other cases, and sets out the action required of planning authorities. In addition, specific guidance is given for particular sports where warranted.

The report also identified the:

- (a) prominent role for sport and recreation in modern society;
- (b) need to develop the local sport and recreation framework in order to inform the local planning process;
- (c) roles to be played by national agencies such as the Scottish Sports Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, etc;
- (d) key issues such as sustainable development; and
- (e) particular attention paid to the policy guidelines section which stated that it is essential that local policy guidelines should be developed for:
 - (i) general principles of sport and recreation development;
 - (ii) standards for the provision of sporting and recreational facilities;
 - (iii) the development, conservation and protection of general open space;
 - (iv) development, conservation and protection of public parks and amenity open spaces;
 - (v) retention and development of playing fields and sports pitches;
 - (vi) development of intensive sports facilities;
 - (vii) protection, development and promotion of public rights of way;

- (viii) preservation, development and promotion of former railway land and tracks; and
- (ix) preserving the natural heritage whilst endeavouring to encourage and develop sport and recreational opportunities in the countryside.

Having heard the Director in explanation and in answer to members' questions it was agreed:

- (i) to note the publication of the draft NPPG for sport and physical recreation; and
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Community Services to develop policy guidelines in consultation with the Director of Development Services in the areas identified at paragraph 2.4 of the report, which would help inform the local planning process in relation to sport and physical recreation developments in East Ayrshire,

3. LEISURE MATTERS - THE ROLE OF LEISURE IN SCOTLAND'S NEW LOCAL AUTHORITIES

There was submitted a report (issued) by the Director of Community Services to present the "Leisure Matters" document, prepared by the Association of Directors of Recreation, Leisure and Tourism for members' consideration.

Reference was made to the establishment of the Association of Directors of Recreation, Leisure and Tourism in 1975 with the remit to endeavour to promote the development of recreation, leisure and tourism issues throughout Scotland.

The report then highlighted Chapter 3 of the document which it was considered would play a very useful role in the strategic development of the service, and Chapter 4 which identifies a leisure planning process with six phases of evaluating need; resource audits; the development of aims and objectives; formulation of policies; preparation of programmes; and monitoring and evaluation.

Having heard the Head of Leisure in answer to members' questions, it was agreed:

- (a) to note the publication of "Leisure Matters"; and
- (b) that the six dimensions identified at paragraph 2.2 of the Director's report including:-
 - the local authority as provider
 - the local authority as enabler
 - leisure and social development
 - leisure and community development
 - leisure, the environment and heritage
 - leisure and economic development

and the leisure planning process should be considered fully during the formulation of the East Ayrshire Leisure Development Plan.

4. CULZEAN CASTLE COUNTRY PARK

There was submitted a joint report (issued) by the Director of Community Services and the Director of Finance to consider if, in principle, the Committee wished to participate in Culzean Country Park Joint Committee.

Having heard the Director of Community Services outline the report it was agreed to continue this item to a future meeting.

5. EAST AYRSHIRE MUSEUMS FORUM

There was submitted a report (issued) by the Director of Community Services to present a recommendation from Cumnock and Doon Valley District Council's Environmental Health and Recreation Committee commending the establishment of an East Ayrshire Museums Forum.

The report indicated that a Museums Forum had recently been established in Cumnock and Doon Valley District and appended a report from that Committee covering the background and outlining the activities of the Forum.

Having heard the Director outline the proposal for an East Ayrshire Museums Forum it was agreed to:

- (a) support in principle the establishment of an East Ayrshire Museums Forum; and
- (b) instruct the Director of Community Services to prepare terms of reference for an East Ayrshire Museums Forum and to develop, in line with current operation, an outline of how the Museums Forum would operate within East Ayrshire.

6. SCOTTISH HOMES - ADOPTION OF OPEN SPACES FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE PURPOSES

There was submitted a report (issued) by the Director of Community Services to advise members of an item which had been referred from Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council concerning the adoption of open spaces currently in the ownership of Scottish Homes.

Reference was made to the Leisure Committee of Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council on 13 September 1995, when it had been agreed in principle to the adoption of all Scottish Homes open spaces within Kilmarnock and Loudoun District. The Committee were also advised that agreement with Scottish Office cannot be concluded until after 1996 and therefore the decision to proceed rests with this authority.

The Director then made reference to the issues which would require further consideration in respect of the adoption of open spaces and concluded that it was evident that a considerable amount of work required to be undertaken to determine the extent of any liability which the Council may incur as a result of adopting open spaces prior to determining a policy on the matter.

Following members' questions, it was agreed to instruct the Director of Community Services to:

- (a) investigate the aforementioned matter fully and to submit a report to a future meeting outlining a draft policy for further consideration; and
- (b) determine the extent of the land within East Ayrshire which Scottish Homes are seeking to have adopted and identify any liabilities involved.

AF/MAC
27 November 1995

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