

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EXTERNAL AGENCIES COMMITTEE

**Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 7 June 1995 at 10am
in the Council Chambers, Lugar Offices, Cumnock**

PRESENT: Councillors Eric Ross (Chair), James Kelly, Drew McIntyre, John Smith, Robert Stirling and Gordon McCredie.

ATTENDING: D Montgomery, Chief Executive; D McVicar and A Fairbairn, Chief Executive's Department.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Dave Sneller and Daniel Coffey.

1. QUORUM

The members unanimously agreed that the quorum for the meeting be four members.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference were intimated and agreed; to consider links with external agencies, preparing a composite list detailing all external agencies with whom there are currently links involving the East Ayrshire area Councils.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) AYRSHIRE TOURIST BOARD

A letter was received from the above referring to a previous letter to East Ayrshire Council from The Scottish Office regarding representation on the new Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board. The Board requested that a meeting should take place before the existing Tourist Board meeting of 9 June between representatives of the Tourist Board and East Ayrshire to discuss issues, including nominations requested by The Scottish Office. Mr Montgomery reported that a meeting had taken place and after further explanation and discussion it was agreed to:

- (i) nominate Councillors John Smith and George Turnbull as representatives to the new Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board; and
- (ii) agree that places for two trade delegates should be sought for the East Ayrshire Council area.

(b) CHILDREN'S PANEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A letter was received from the Assistant Chief Executive, Strathclyde Regional Council, seeking co-operation with the formation of a Children's Panel Advisory Committee for the East Ayrshire area. In explanation, Mr Montgomery indicated that two elected member representatives were being requested. After hearing members' comments that the final Committee structures have still to be formulated, hence affecting the grouping of members from which an appropriate specific representative might best be drawn, it was agreed to invite a representative of the current Regional Council CPAC to the next meeting, to give a presentation on the operation of the CPAC, with a view to informing members of the issues involved in progressing this work.

(c) BARNARDOS SCOTLAND

A letter was received from the above organisation inviting representatives from East Ayrshire Council to an informal reception on Tuesday 27 June 1995 to discuss Barnardos' current work in Strathclyde, with a view to forming a future working partnership with East Ayrshire Council. After hearing Mr Montgomery in explanation it was agreed to send Councillors David Sneller and Robert Stirling, or their substitutes, to the reception.

4(i) SUPPORT TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS/ PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS WITH OUTSIDE BODIES

There was submitted a report (tabled) by the Chief Executive detailing a first draft of existing local authority support to voluntary organisations (content summary list appended). Mr Montgomery explained that due to the wide range of grants and support given to voluntary organisations the list was not necessarily exhaustive. Letters had been sent to the two relevant District Councils' and Regional Council's Chief Executives enclosing the aforementioned report and requesting for the next meeting details of any types of grant and support given by the Councils, under various legal powers, that were not listed already, together with the names of any organisations in receipt of grant aid but not specifically named. In any event, existing authorities would be required to produce for new authorities, very detailed information on grant aided organisations, for handover by 30 September 1995 and updated thereafter.

In further explanation of the report, Mr Montgomery indicated that in addition to giving support in cash and kind to organisations there were other aspects of the Committee's remit to consider including, organisations that;

- (a) give financial support to local authority services; and
- (b) work in partnership towards common objectives without financial resources changing hands.

After further discussion and noting that legal requirements will have to be considered and criterion for eligibility and the assessment of applicants drawn up when allocating grants it was agreed to arrange presentations for the next meeting, on the following:

- (a) grants pertaining to Regional Council Education and Social Work Departments;
- (b) Community Grants Scheme;
- (c) District Council grants; and
- (d) Scottish Pre-school Playgroup Association (as an example of a group delivering services in partnership with the local authorities).

4(ii) GUIDANCE TO NEW AUTHORITIES ON THE FUNDING OF AND RELATIONS WITH VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS

There was submitted a draft circular in conjunction with draft guidance (tabled) from The Scottish Office outlining suggested procedures for supporting voluntary organisations.

After hearing Mr Montgomery in explanation and noting concerns regarding the need to obtain an accurate idea of actual expenditure for the previous year in order that future budgets are not underestimated, members broadly agreed with the guidance

paper, supporting the following as proposed amendments/additions to the draft guidance:

- (a) the allocation of core funding for three years should only be considered for a limited number of organisations whose functions require this;
- (b) there was a need for Councils to retain the flexibility within annual budgets to be able to pump prime new initiatives meeting the authorities' priorities;
- (c) more emphasis should be put on the use of challenge budgets; and
- (d) The Scottish Office's interest in having authorities continue to support voluntary organisations should be paralleled by its promise of sufficient resources to local authorities year by year.

It was further agreed to seek a presentation on urban aid funding procedures affecting voluntary organisations at the next meeting of the Committee.