MINUTES of MEETING of STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD on THURSDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2004

Present: Councillor Allan Macaskill (Chair)

Councillor Robin Banks  Councillor Robert Macintyre
Councillor George Freeman  Councillor Alistair McKinlay
Councillor Alison Hay  Councillor James McQueen
Councillor Daniel Kelly  Councillor Bruce Marshall
Councillor Duncan MacIntyre  Councillor Dick Walsh

Also Present: Councillor Robin Currie  Councillor John McAlpine
Councillor Rory Colville  Councillor Bruce Robertson
Councillor Donald Kelly  Councillor Elaine Robertson
Councillor Donald MacMillan  Councillor Al Reay
Councillor Sidney MacDougall  Councillor Len Scouller

Attending: James McLellan, Chief Executive
Nigel Stewart, Director of Corporate Services
Douglas Hendry, Director of Community Services
Angus Gilmour, Head of Planning
Dave Duthie, Head of Transportation & Infrastructure
Gordon Nash, Head of Amenity Services

Apologies: Councillor Ian Gillies

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Strategic Policy Committee of 7 October 2004 were approved as a correct record.

The Minutes of the Special Committee on Education NPDO of 16 September 2004 were noted.

The Minutes of the Special Committee on Education NPDO of 13 October 2004 were noted.

2. LEADER’S REPORT

The Leader of the Council submitted a report highlighting issues such as Spending Review, Supporting People, Campbeltown Community Project, Campaign for Removal of Erskine Bridge Tolls and Housing Stock Transfer. His report also detailed forthcoming meetings and highlighted key agenda items. Thereafter, he responded to questions arising from his report.

Decision


3. HOUSING ISSUES

The Spokesperson for Housing Issues, Councillor George Freeman, submitted a report updating the Committee on the Housing Stock Transfer and Supporting People Funding.
Decision

Noted the contents of the report.

(Ref: Report by Spokesperson for Housing Issues dated 4 November 2004, submitted)

4. VOLUNTARY SECTOR POLICY

The Strategic Policy Committee, at its meeting on 18 December 2003 identified a Contact Officer to act as chief liaison and contact for all issues relating to the Voluntary Sector. Work had been ongoing to develop a clear policy towards the Voluntary Sector on behalf of the Council which the Committee now considered.

Decision

1. That the draft Voluntary Sector Policy as submitted be approved for circulation and feedback from all consultees.

2. That the Officer Working Group continues to meet to produce a policy on volunteering and a Code of Conduct for Volunteers to be adopted by both the Council and the Voluntary Sector.

(Ref: Report by Director of Community Services dated 1 October 2004, submitted)

5. VILLAGE HALL CAPITAL GRANTS 2004/05

The Committee considered a report which advised of the outcome of applications made to the Scottish Executive for 2004/2005 and recommended revised priorities for the current year.

Decision

1. That the grant offer to Campbeltown Girl Guide Hall of £34,375, which was made subject to them obtaining Scottish Executive funding be confirmed without that condition, to allow them to proceed with a reduced project costing £68,750.

2. That a grant of £17,250 be made to Stewarton Village Hall to allow them to proceed with a project costing £19,750. This being the first stage of a larger project costing £40,000. A further application would be made to complete the project in 2005/2006.

3. That a grant of £1,000 be made to Iona Village Hall to enable them to complete essential remedial work in relation to dry rot.

(Ref: Report by Director of Community Services dated 16 September 2004, submitted).

6. VILLAGE HALL CAPITAL GRANTS 2005/06

The Committee considered a report which advised of the changed timescale for submission of capital grant applications for village halls to the Scottish Executive and which recommended the priorities for Scottish Executive funding for financial year 2005/2006

Decision

1. Agreed that the following grant awards be made in priority order for 2005/2006.
Younger £26,428*
Stewarton £5,100
Kilchrenan £65,570
Lismore £2,902**

* The grant to Younger is part of a phased award. A grant of £33,875 was made in 2004/2005 and the further £26,428 awarded in 2005/2006 is to allow the project to be completed.

** Agreed that a further award of £14,026 be made to Lismore in 2006/2007 to allow the project to be completed.

2. It is a condition of the awards that the applicants are also successful in gaining Scottish Executive funding.

(Ref: Report by Director of Community Services dated 26 October 2004, submitted)

7. JOINT DAY SERVICES - NORTH LOMOND

The Committee considered a report which detailed a proposal for the development of Joint Day Services between the Council and the Health Service for Older People and Adult Services to serve the Rosneath Peninsula/Arrochar areas which lie within the Helensburgh and Lomond Council area.

Decision

1. Approved the allocation of £600,000 to the proposal to be funded from existing Resource Transfer funds, which are available for the development of Community Care Services.

2. Approved the proposed model of service development for duplication throughout the Council area as part of the medium to long-term planning and re-design process in partnership with the Health Service.

(Ref: Report by Director of Community Services dated 13 October 2004, submitted).

8. COMMUNITY HELD FISHING QUOTA IN THE HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS

Highland and Island Enterprise, Highland Council and Western Isles Council had formed a partnership to look into the potential for the purchasing of community fishing quota within the Highlands and Islands area for lease back to operators. Argyll and Bute Council had been asked to also consider the proposal and to become part of the partnership. The Committee considered the report which presented the finding of a report undertaken for the partnership by consultants.

Decision

Agreed to:-

1. Support further negotiations with the Scottish Executive and the European Commission on the proposed Community Quota Scheme to ensure that the scheme would not be in contravention of any UK and EU regulations and in particular would not be in contravention of State Aids rules.

2. Support the running of the proposed Community Quota workshop which would involve consultation with the industry and other stakeholders.

3. Support the preparation of a Community Quota Scheme Business Plan and the
establishment of a company structure, and;

4. A progress report on the proposed Scheme being submitted to a future Committee.

(Ref: Report by the Director of Development Services dated 26 October 2004, submitted).

9. PORT ASKAIG REDEVELOPMENT - PROJECT FUNDING

The Committee considered a report which advised that the estimated project costs for the Port Askaig Re-development had risen from £7,161,000 to £8,304,000. It was noted that discussions were in progress to identify additional ERDF and Scottish Executive funding of £1,143,000.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report and subject to confirmation of the additional funding recommended to the Council to approve the revision of the budget for Port Askaig to £8,304,000.

(Ref: Report by Director of Development Services dated 15 October 2004, submitted)

10. DUNOON PIER/WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

The Committee considered a report which sought the extension of the remit of the Dunoon Pier Group to cover the waterfront area including the Queen’s Hall and considered how development work initiated by such Groups should be funded from within the Revenue Budget.

Decision

Agreed that:-

1. The remit of the Dunoon Pier group be widened to include the waterfront area and it be reconstituted as the Dunoon Waterfront Development Group.

2. Consideration be given during the budget process to identifying revenue budget provision to meet the cost of development of projects in Area Strategies and the Corporate Plan up to the stage where a decision is taken to proceed with them as capital projects.

(Ref: Report by Director of Development Services dated 26 October 2004, submitted).

11. PROPOSED LEASE OF GROUND ADJACENT TO LINGERTON LANDFILL SITE

The Committee considered a recommendation by the Mid Argyll, Kintyre & Islay Area Committee with regard to the arrangements for a management agreement and lease with Castleton Community Woodland Group.

Decision

To authorise the Head of Legal and Protective Services to conclude a 99 year lease of the ground as detailed in the plan to Castleton Community Woodland Group at a nominal rent of £1.

(Ref: Recommendation by Mid Argyll, Kintyre & Islay Area Committee of 2 August 2004, submitted).
The Committee resolved in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the public for the following 2 items of business on the grounds that it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 6 & 9, and 6 & 9 respectively Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

12. CAMPBELTOWN NEW QUAY BUSINESS CASE

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the progress of the procurement of Campbeltown New Quay Scheme, the project business case and which sought approval for arrangements to authorise progressing the scheme once the detailed business case was available.

Decision

Agreed to delegate power to the Director of Development Services in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Depute Leader, Transportation Spokesperson, Councillors Freeman and McKinlay to approve progression of the scheme based on the revised detailed business case once tender prices are available, and subject to a satisfactory agreement with the company concerned regarding the method and level of charging.


13. REGENERATION OF SPENCE COURT

The Committee considered a report which outlined the terms of an offer that the Council had received from a developer, together with other options that may be available for regeneration of Spence Court, Dunoon.

Decision

1. Noted the terms of the offer received on the understanding that this will be subject to further consideration once Argyll Community Housing Association’s proposals have been appraised.

2. Noted that the Council still has the option to enter alternative regeneration partnerships for the area.

3. Agreed that no action be taken in respect of the offer received, pending consideration of Argyll Community Housing Association’s proposal for the regeneration of the area, and other possible re-development options.

(Ref: Report by Director of Community Services dated 4 October 2004, submitted).