

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 14 MARCH 2008 AT 1000 HOURS IN
THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Tom Cook, Helen Coffey, Willie Coffey, Maureen McKay, John Knapp, Alan Brown, Stuart Finlayson, Barney Menzies and Drew Filson.

ATTENDING: Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; William Stafford, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services; David Mitchell, Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services; Alex McPhee, Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management; Stephen Hill, Accountant; Julie McGarry, Administration Manager; and Anne Marie Carr, Senior Administrative Officer.

APOLOGY: Councillor John Campbell.

CHAIR: Councillor Tom Cook, Chair.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

1. There was submitted and approved as a correct record, Minutes of meeting held on 15 February 2008 (circulated).

SCRUTINY

TOPICS FOR REVIEW 2008/2009

2. There was submitted a report dated 12 February 2008 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which presented the topics suggested for review in 2008/09 along with the scoping papers for approval by the Committee.

Councillor Willie Coffey joined the meeting at this point.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the scoping papers for each of the projects detailed in Appendices I to III of the report, viz:-
 - Project 1 - to ascertain the availability of affordable housing throughout the settlements of East Ayrshire;
 - Project 2 - to explore the background reasons on the level of complaints on the contract upgrades to Council's housing stock within the capital project; and
 - Project 3 - Vehicle Tracker System (Masternaut Traffic Management System); and
- (ii) to approve the draft timetable for 2008/09 detailed in Appendix IV of the report.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

3. The Committee resolved that under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 8 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

SCRUTINY

GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT 2007/08 AS AT 13 JANUARY 2008 (PERIOD 10)

4. There was submitted a report dated 29 February 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management which advised Members of the projected financial position for General Services and Housing Investment Capital Programmes based on the information provided by Executive Directors.

Members raised a number of questions regarding the capital programme report and the following was agreed:-

4.1 Housing Investment Programme - Modern Facilities and Services

That the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services provide a more detailed breakdown for all Members of the Committee of the underspend of £1,046,615 in respect of the Housing Investment Programme which he had reported was due in part to the number of refusals by tenants, particularly in the areas of Kerr Road and McBeth Drive, to have refurbishment works such as kitchens, bathrooms and re-wiring carried out.

4.2 DDA/Care Commission

That the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management provide Councillor Menzies with details of the anticipated slippage in 2008/2009 capital programme works for the DDA works at the Riverside Centre, Cumnock.

Councillor Filson joined the meeting at this point.

It was thereafter agreed:-

- (i) to note the re-profiling of budget allocations in respect of the Kilmarnock and Cumnock Town Centre Regeneration Projects detailed in Paragraph 2.1.2 of the report;
- (ii) to note the proposals to fund the projected variance on the Northwest Area Centre Project detailed in Paragraph 2.1.5 of the report;
- (iii) to note the re-allocation of General Fund balances for roads related works at Greenbraes/Greenholm Road, Cumnock, to fund the Council's share of anticipated additional costs in relation to the Galston Flood Prevention Scheme detailed in Paragraph 2.1.6 of the report;
- (iv) to note the proposals to fund the projected variance on the Hillside Crescent Children's Unit Project detailed in Paragraph 2.1.7 of the report; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1020 hours.