

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**CABINET****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2011 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Douglas Reid, Iain Linton, John MacKay, Maureen McKay, Hugh Ross, Robert McDill, Jim Roberts, Barney Menzies and Kathy Morrice; Church Representative Iain Rennie; Parent Representative David Fraser; and Teacher Representative Bryce Wilson.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; Elizabeth Morton, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support; Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; Alex McPhee, Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support; Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services; Craig McArthur, Head of Finance; Martin Rose, Head of Human Resources; David Mitchell, Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services; and Christine Baillie, Senior Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Jim Buchanan, Jim Todd; and Church Representative Maria Dorrian.

CHAIR: Councillor Douglas Reid, Leader of the Council.

STRATEGIC PLANNING, MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCES AND EQUALITIES**REVENUE BUDGET 2011/12 (Item 1E, Pages 1439, 1440, 07/12)****1. Declarations of Interest**

Having heard from the Head of Democratic Services, declarations of non-financial interests were made from the following Members:- Councillor Hugh Ross in respect of the Galleon Trust, Councillor Kathy Morrice in respect of Yipworld and Visions; Councillor Jim Roberts in respect of Yipworld and Councillor Barney Menzies in respect of Visions. All Members intimated that the nature of the non-financial interest was not significant having considered the terms of the objective test as outlined in Paragraph 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct and accordingly did not withdraw from the meeting.

2E Consideration of Item

There was submitted a report dated 3 February 2011 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support which asked Cabinet to consider the proposed General Services Revenue Budget for 2011/12, to recommend to the Council resource allocations at department level, the Council Tax and the Council House rent increase for the financial year 2011/12.

The Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support reported a correction to recommendation (vii) which should read, £0.22p over 52 weeks for lockups and £1.59 per annum for garage sites. The correct figures being reported under Paragraph 11.3 of the report. The Executive Director also referred to the amended Appendix 2 of the report which had been circulated and highlighted a number of minor amendments. He further advised that a petition with 236 signatures in respect

of Muirkirk Nursery Class and a letter with 108 signatures in respect of Community Link Workers had been received after the closing date for submissions.

Councillor Douglas Reid, seconded by Councillor Iain Linton, moved revisions to the proposals as set out in the Executive Director's report, Appendix 3, as follows:-

- (i) amend Item 16(b) to retain the post of Anti-Social Behaviour Investigator, (reducing the proposed saving by £27,000 to £70,260);
- (ii) amend Item 18(b) to extend the proposed opening times at Western Road Recycling Centre by one hour on Saturdays with the facility closing at 1 pm and not 12 noon (reducing the proposed saving by £2,180);
- (iii) amend Item 41(b) to retain Breakfast Clubs, subject to increasing the daily charge by £0.20p and setting a minimum take up of 10 pupils at each Club on the basis that Clubs which are under utilised will be reviewed as to their future viability (to have a neutral effect on the proposed saving of £36,000);
- (iv) whilst accepting officers' reassurance about safety of walking routes to school, the Chair expressed concern about the potential for extra traffic and congestion around school gates and accordingly to remove Item 42(b) and retain school transport provision at current levels at this time to ensure that the Council has Travel Plans for all of our schools (reducing the overall budget saving by £189,000);
- (v) amend Item 44(b) and reduce the proposed saving from 50% to 30% for out of school care (reducing the proposed saving by £15,750);
- (vi) amend Item 45(b) and retain wraparound care at Catrine Primary School (reducing the proposed saving by £25,000);
- (vii) amend Item 46(b) and reduce funding for Homestart by £7,780, and that a grant of £50,000 be made with a remit to officers to work with the organisation to ensure that the service provided by Homestart fully complements the work of the Council (reducing the proposed saving by £50,000);
- (viii) amend Item 51(b) to reduce funding to Allies by 50% for 2011/12, and remit to officers to work with the organisation to help develop a sustainable funding strategy that is not dependent on Council funding from 2012/13 (reducing the budget saving by £20,000);
- (ix) amend Item 56(b) to retain funding for photographer services for wedding anniversary events (reducing the proposed saving by £5,000); and
- (x) remove Item 60(b) at this time with the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to bring forward a report to a future meeting of Cabinet before the summer recess on proposals for a new model for the delivery of early years provision (reducing the proposed saving by £44,028);

and with these revisions that Cabinet recommends to the meeting of Council tomorrow, the revenue budget for 2011/12 as set out at Section 12 of the Executive Director's report as amended, namely:-

- (i) that savings proposals shown in Appendix 3 (taking cognisance of the aforementioned revisions) be approved;
- (ii) that the band D Council Tax level for 2011/12 be set at £1,188.99;

- (iii) that the increases to fees and charges outlined at Appendix 2 be approved for implementation in 2011/12;
- (iv) that the Resource Allocations shown at paragraph 9.1 of the report be approved;
- (v) that departmental service plans be updated accordingly to reflect the Resource Allocations;
- (vi) to approve a Council house rent increase for 2011/12 of £2.75 per week over a 52 week period;
- (vii) to approve for 2011/12 Lock ups and Garage Site charges increases of £0.22 over 52 weeks for Lock ups and £1.59 per annum for Garage Sites;
- (viii) to approve the Reserves and Balances Strategy set out in Appendix 1; and
- (ix) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Parent Representative David Fraser, seconded by Councillor Maureen McKay, moved that there be a 5 minute adjournment to allow members to read Councillor Reid's proposals before moving to determination.

Councillor Douglas Reid, having made arrangements for details of his proposals to be circulated at the meeting following Parent Representative David Fraser's request for a recess, seconded by Councillor Iain Linton, moved as an amendment, that there be no adjournment but advised Cabinet that in addition he would go through each proposal on an item by item basis to allow Members to raise any questions and discussion on each item.

On a division by a show of hands, the amendment was carried by 8 votes to 4.

There followed a presentation and discussion of Councillor Reid's proposals, item by item and an opportunity to raise and discuss items covered within the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support's report.

Councillor Maureen McKay, seconded by Councillor Barney Menzies moved as an amendment to note the proposals outlined in Appendix 3 and the revisions put forward by Councillor Reid.

On a division by a show of hands, the motion was carried by 9 votes to 3.

The meeting terminated at 1134 hours.