

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2011  
AT 1000 HRS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,  
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Provost Stephanie Young and Councillors Rose-Ann Cuninghame, John MacKay, John McGhee, Helen Coffey, Willie Coffey, Maureen McKay, Tom Cook, Robert Keohone, Iain Linton, Douglas Reid, Depute Provost John Campbell, Councillors Gordon Cree, Drew McIntyre, John Knapp, Hugh Ross, Jim Todd, Alan Brown, Stuart Finlayson, Robert McDill, Jimmy Kelly, Neil McGhee, Jim Roberts, David Shaw, William Crawford, Barney Menzies, Kathy Morrice, Eric Ross, Elaine Dinwoodie, Drew Filson and Moira Pirie.

**ATTENDING:** Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; Elizabeth Morton, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services; 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; Chris McAleavey, Head of Housing; Martin Rose, Head of Human Resources; David Mitchell, Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services; John Griffiths, Head of Leisure; Alan Neish, Head of Planning and Economic Development; Susan Taylor, Head of Service: Children & Families and Criminal Justice; Kay Gilmour, Head of Service: Community Support; Andrew Sutherland, Head of Service: Schools; Eddie Fraser, Head of Service: Social Work; Andrew Kennedy, Acting Head of Services: Facilities Management; John Bryson, Head of Roads and Transportation; Julie Jamieson, Chief Accountant; Joe McLachlan, Corporate Accounting Manager; Colin Hastings, Principal Accountant; Amanda McInnes, Principal Officer Resources; and Julie McGarry, Administration Manager.

**APOLOGY:** Councillor Jim Buchanan.

**CHAIR:** Provost Stephanie Young, Chair.

**ORDER OF DEBATE AND TIME LIMIT FOR SPEECHES**

1. It was noted that, in accordance with Standing Orders, a mover of a motion or amendment should speak for no more than 10 minutes with succeeding speakers entitled to speak for no more than 5 minutes, with the original mover then having the right to speak for no more than 5 minutes in reply.

**REVENUE BUDGET 2011/12 (Item 1E, Page 1511, 07/12)****2.1 Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of non-financial interests were made from the following Members:-

Councillors Hugh Ross, Alan Brown, Robert Keohone and Gordon Cree in respect of the Galleon Trust;

Councillors Kathy Morrice and Billy Crawford in respect of Yipworld and Visions;

Councillors Jim Roberts and Neil McGhee in respect of Yipworld;

Councillor Barney Menzies in respect of Visions; and

Councillors Tom Cook and John McGhee in respect of Community Support - Additional Support Needs - Classroom Assistants.

All Members intimated that the nature of the non-financial interest was not significant having considered the terms of their objective test as outlined in paragraph 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct and accordingly did not withdraw from the meeting.

## **2.2 Consideration of Item**

There was submitted an excerpt from the Cabinet meeting of 9 February 2011 (excerpt circulated) together with the report for background information (circulated under separate cover as Agenda Item 1E of the Cabinet meeting held on 9 February 2011).

Councillor Reid then gave details of additional proposals to be introduced, namely:-

- (i) that any resources released in the coming financial year following negotiations taking place with teachers at national level on Terms and Conditions, which could be up to £1m, be used to establish a Business Enterprise Fund to be accessible to every learning community and used by schools to complement what the schools already do to prepare our young people for the world beyond school and, if need be, to top up the balance from the Capital Fund. If this proposal was accepted, a meeting would be held with Head Teachers that afternoon to ensure they are able to contribute at the earliest possible opportunity. It was noted that the Business Enterprise Fund would be supported by some of the most successful in the business community in Scotland and four local business people that had already committed to this venture where named, namely: Craig Stevenson of Braehead Foods, Keith Murray of Lochaven, Marie Macklin of the Klin Group and Norman Drummond of Columba 1400;
- (ii) to allocate an additional £1m from the Repairs and Renewals Fund to be used to restore roads and pavements to the highest possible standard and safety following the recent severe weather;
- (iii) that in respect of the unallocated sum of £70,000 following the revision of the budget package from the Cabinet meeting of 9 February 2011, this sum be used as follows:-
  - (a) amend Item 3(b) and reduce the proposed reduction in the grant from 25% to 15% and that officers bring forward a report on the detail of this proposal to an early meeting of Cabinet to work with organisations concerned to explore opportunities for attracting external funding (reducing the proposed saving by £5,500); and
  - (b) amend Item 20(b) and reduce the proposed reduction in grants to the Galleon, Visions and Dunlop Park and Dunlop Village Hall from 5% to 2.8% which would replicate the reduction in overall grant received by the Council and that officers bring forward a report to a early meeting of Cabinet on the detail of these proposals with a continued commitment to work with organisations concerned to explore opportunities for attracting external funding (reducing the overall saving to the Council by £8,000).

Councillor Cook acknowledged that the Leader had made revisions to the funding package at Cabinet on 9 February in respect of Early Year provision; school transport; retention of wrap-around care at Catrine Primary School; and limiting the grant reduction to PEACE and other out of school organisations and retention of core funding for Homestart but sought additional proposals in the following areas:-

- (i) amend Item 5(b) and no cut be made to the match fund budget for Planning and Economic Development saving £1,280;
- (ii) in terms of value for money, to initiate a review of Adult Education provided by the Community Learning and Development Section; and
- (iii) that as part of the review of the Arts and Museums Service consideration be given to providing collection facilities in the Dick Institute and Dean Castle for public donations and that in the coming year no further exhibitions be bought in by the Arts and Museums Service but rather the Service concentrate on displaying many of the paintings and artefacts the Council had in store.

Councillor Reid moved the Cabinet recommendations detailed below, approval of the additional measures which he had proposed today and gave his assurance that the proposals outlined by Councillor Cook would be taken on board. Councillor Cook having accepted that assurance, seconded the motion.

The Cabinet recommendations were:-

- (i) that savings proposals shown in Appendix 3 (taking cognisance of the revisions made at the Cabinet meeting on 9 February 2011) 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.

Councillor Maureen McKay, while welcoming some of the final changes proposed to the budget, made reference to the Labour Group's alternative fully costed budget proposals, which had been presented to Council last year and had not been accepted and maintained that this alternative budget was still achievable and able to be adopted but moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Menzies the following:-

- (i) not to support the establishment of a Business Enterprise Fund, funded from Council funds;

- (ii) not to support the allocation of an additional £1m from the Repairs and Renewals Fund for the restoration of roads and pavements but that representation be made to the Scottish Government to increase their commitment to fund restoration to roads and pavements in the light of two severe winters;
- (iii) that £500,000 be allocated to fund planned maintenance in respect of the Housing Repairs and Renewals Fund;
- (iv) not to support the proposal to terminate the commissioning of external exhibitions by the Arts and Museums Service, as such events promoted and increased tourism and economic development;
- (v) in respect of 5(b) not to reduce the match fund budget for the Planning and Economic Development Service;
- (vi) in respect of Item 6(b) (Charges for Bulky Uplifts) not to introduce this proposed charge;
- (vii) in respect of 17(b) no reduction in the Community Warden Service;
- (viii) in respect of 20(b) no reduction to grants to external bodies (Galleon, Visions, Dunlop Park, Dunlop Village Hall);
- (ix) no increased parking charges or introduction of off-street parking charges in Kilmarnock; and
- (x) in respect of 52(b) no reduction in the proposed number of Classroom Assistants by 10 full-time equivalents in academic session 2011/12.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 16 votes to 15.

The meeting terminated at 1123 hrs.