

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**CABINET****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 DECEMBER 2007 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Douglas Reid, John MacKay, Hugh Ross, Jim Todd, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, Jim Roberts and Kathy Morrice; Church Representatives: Bill McGregor, John McHugh and Dr Ivy Barclay; Teacher Representative: Iain Harvey; and Parent Representative: David Fraser.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; Elizabeth Morton, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support; Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; William Stafford, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services; Alex McPhee, Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management; Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services; Robin Gourlay, Head of Facilities Management; Chris McAleavey, Head of Housing; Martin Rose, Head of Personnel; Kenneth McKinlay, Acting Head of Schools; and Christine Baillie, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Iain Linton and Jim Buchanan.

CHAIR: Councillor Douglas Reid, Chair.

LIFELONG LEARNING**STRENGTHENING THE DELIVERY OF A CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE**

- 1E.** There was submitted a report dated 9 November 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of progress made in recent delivery of A Curriculum for Excellence and which sought approval for the secondment of a member of staff to further strengthen this delivery.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the secondment of a member of staff to strengthen delivery of A Curriculum for Excellence; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008/09 TO 2012/13
(Item 28, Pages 1980, 1981, 03/07)**

- 2E.** There was submitted a report dated 10 December 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management which proposed a General Services Capital Programme Strategy for 2008/09 to 2012/13.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposed capital investment strategy outlined in the report;
- (ii) to approve the proposed arrangements for assessing and prioritising future programmes;
- (iii) to approve the overall proposed capital expenditure outlined in Section 4 of the report and detailed in Appendices 1, 2 and 3; and

- (iv) that in respect of the proposal to extend Rankinston Community Centre in partnership with NHS, the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management submit a report to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

Church Representatives Bill McGregor, John McHugh and Dr Ivy Barclay, Teacher Representative Iain Harvey and Parent Representative David Fraser all left the meeting at this point.

MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCES

DRAFT ESTIMATES 2008/09 BUDGET CONSULTATION (Item 6, Page 127, 07/11)

3. There was submitted a report dated 13 December 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management which sought approval for the proposed budget consultation process on the 2008/09 Revenue Estimates and Rent Levels.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals and outline timetable for budget consultation as detailed in the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

BEST VALUE IMPROVEMENT AGENDA (ACTION PLAN NO 10) - "CHALLENGE AND REVIEW" PROGRESS AGAINST BEST VALUE SERVICE REVIEW PROGRAMME FOR 2004/2007 AND NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2007/2010 (Item 2, Page 154, 07/11)

4. There was submitted a report dated 6 December 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management which (i) reviewed the implementation of the current 2004/2007 Best Value Service Review Programme, in terms of progress against the programme and overall outcomes achieved; (ii) considered the most appropriate configuration of service units, following the Council restructuring and following a review of the Service Review process; and (iii) set out a timetable for the new 2007/2010 Best Value Service Review Programme.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to note the update on progress in implementing the Council's Best Value Review Programme for 2004/07 as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (ii) to approve the proposed changes to the configuration of Service Units that would be subject to Best Value Service Review as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report;
- (iii) to approve the timetable for the 2007/2010 Best Value Service Review Programme as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report, which would be incorporated into the Committee's work programme; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL PUBLIC PERFORMANCE REPORTING STRATEGY (Item 12, Page 2688, 03/07)

5. There was submitted a report dated 21 November 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management which advised of the results of the Strategic Review of Public Performance Reporting that had been carried out over the last 12 months and of the resulting Public Performance Reporting Strategy that would be employed in future years.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress that had been made on the further development and improvement of East Ayrshire Council's Public Performance Reporting Strategy, which included improvements to the Council's Annual Public Performance Report;
- (ii) to endorse the high level principles that had been developed as a result of this strategic review of Public Performance Reporting;
- (iii) to note that Executive Directors had agreed to support the recommendations to further improve Public Performance Reporting throughout the Council as detailed in Appendix VIII to the report;
- (iv) that the Best Value and Performance Section circulate Guidance to Departments by May 2008, and that this would thereafter be circulated amongst services in order that it may be used as the basis of an annual review of Council-wide and Service-level Public Performance Reporting throughout the Council;
- (v) that the results of the Council-wide mapping exercise carried out in 2007 be inputted onto a database which could thereafter be updated as part of the annual review of Public Performance Reporting;
- (vi) that this annual review be taken forward through the Officer Working Group on Public Performance Reporting to ensure departmental input;
- (vii) to receive future annual update reports on the continuing improvement of the Council's Public Performance Reporting; and
- (viii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

REINSTATEMENT OF FIRE DAMAGED PROPERTY AT 62-64 LUGTON ROAD, DUNLOP

6. There was submitted a joint report dated 27 November 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management and the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised of the contractual overspend upon the above project.

Cabinet having noted that the figure shown in Paragraph 5.1 of the report against Additional Cost should read £6,281.05 agreed:-

- (i) to approve the additional expenditure of £6,281.05; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EXTERNAL ENVELOPE ENHANCEMENT - PROPOSED EXTENSION TO INCLUDE 7 AND 9 KERR ROAD, KILMARNOCK

7. There was submitted a joint report dated 27 November 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management and the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which sought approval for Technical Services to negotiate and extend the contract with A. C. Whyte Ltd for the fabric upgrade at 1-3 McBeth Drive, Kilmarnock, to include the additional works to re-roof two blocks of flats at 7 and 9 Kerr Road, Kilmarnock.

Cabinet agreed to approve the extension of the contract with A. C. Whyte Ltd for the fabric upgrade at 1-3 McBeth Drive, Kilmarnock to include the specialist re-roofing works at 7 and 9 Kerr Road, Kilmarnock under the terms of Paragraph 9(3) of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts (Contract Extension).

DISABILITY EQUALITY SCHEME - PROGRESS REPORT

8. There was submitted a report dated 6 December 2007 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided a progress report on the Disability Equality Scheme.

Cabinet agreed to approve the revised Disability Equality Scheme and related Disability Action Plan.

EQUALITY ACTION PLAN

9. There was submitted a report dated 6 December 2007 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which recommended for approval Departmental Equality Action Plans.

Cabinet agreed to approve the Equality Action Plans attached to the report.

COMMUNITY WELLBEING

THE HOMELESSNESS ETC (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003: ABOLITION OF PRIORITY NEED

10. There was submitted a report dated 13 December 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which recommended amendments to the Council's existing policies in respect of homelessness and house allocation to ensure the Council was able to comply with the Scottish Government's objectives in relation to the abolition of priority need.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals set out in paragraph 4.4, 4.7 and 4.9 of the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

CUMNOCK TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION PROJECT - PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS TO THE JOINT VENTURE COMPANIES

11. There was submitted a report dated 13 December 2007 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which sought approval for the appointment of Council officers as Directors of the joint venture companies in relation to the Cumnock Town Centre Regeneration Project.

Having heard from the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support that there was equal opportunity for Elected Members to be appointed together with an Officer of the Council, Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to the appointment of Elizabeth Morton (Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support) and subject to referring the matter to Council for ratification, the appointment of Councillor Douglas Reid as the Council's nominated directors of the joint venture company for the retail element of the project;
- (ii) to the appointment of Elizabeth Morton (Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support) and subject to referring the matter to Council for ratification, the appointment of Councillor Douglas Reid as the Council's nominated directors of the joint venture company for the office element of the project; and

- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

12. Cabinet 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 items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Schedule 7A of the Act as shown against each item".

ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION

LEASE OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION WITHIN THE PROPOSED NEW "TOP OF THE TOWN" OFFICE DEVELOPMENT, KILMARNOCK (PARA 9) (Item 17.2, Pages 2690, 2691, 03/07)

13. There was submitted a report dated 5 December 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management which sought approval to enter into a formal Lease Agreement with the party identified in the report, in connection with the occupancy of accommodation within the proposed new "Top of the Town" Office Development to be constructed by the party identified in the report, at Green Street, Kilmarnock.

Cabinet agreed that the Solicitor to the Council be authorised to enter into a new lease with the party identified in the report, in respect of office accommodation extending in total to 3802 sq m (40,925 sq ft) or thereby, to be provided within the proposed new "Top of the Town" Office Development to be constructed at Green Street, Kilmarnock with the lease term being for a period of 25 years at an initial rental not exceeding the amount shown in the report.

MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCES

BEST VALUE SERVICE REVIEW OF EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL'S ASSET MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS (PARAS 1 & 11)

14. There was submitted a report dated 4 November 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management informing of the results of the Best Value Service Review of the Council's Asset Management arrangements including Technical Services and Property and Asset Management and which sought approval of the outcome of the Review, the recommendations included restructuring and realignment of services and the resultant Action Plan.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the conclusions and recommendations of the Service Review as summarised in the Review Document included as Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (ii) to approve the proposed actions from the Best Value Service Review Action Plan as detailed in Appendix 5 of the Review document.

The meeting terminated at 1053 hours.