

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**CABINET****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 24 JANUARY 2008 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Douglas Reid, Iain Linton, John MacKay, Jim Buchanan, Hugh Ross, 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; Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; Bill Stafford, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services; Alex McPhee, Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management; Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support; John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communication; Malcolm Roulston, Head of Information Technology; David Mitchell, Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services; John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services; Dot Grieve, Principal Officer, Community Learning and Development; Julie Jamieson, Chief Accountant; Joseph McLachlan, Corporate Accounting Manager; Keith Orton, Acting Chief Engineer, Roads and Christine Baillie, Administrative Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING: Professor Arthur Midwinter.

APOLOGY: Councillor Jim Todd.

CHAIR: Councillor Douglas Reid, Chair.

LIFELONG LEARNING**PARENT COUNCILS OF CROSSROADS PRIMARY SCHOOL AND SORN PRIMARY SCHOOL: DEPUTATIONS**

Prior to consideration of this item Councillor Douglas Reid made reference to the Council's decision making structure and advised that the Cabinet would, at its meeting on Wednesday 5 March 2008, give consideration to the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services' report on the proposals in respect of the Better Schools: Better Learning Initiative.

He further advised that in terms of the Standing Orders he intended to invite to that Cabinet meeting any local Members of the Council who wished to participate in the discussion on the proposals before a decision was taken by Cabinet. Thereafter, in accordance with the agreed decision making structure, each decision of Cabinet in respect of the Better Schools: Better Learning Proposals would be subject to the call-in process in the normal way.

1E. Consideration of Item

There was submitted a report dated 18 January 2008 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which informed Cabinet of requests received on behalf of the Parent Councils for Crossroads and Sorn Primary Schools to make their own presentation to Cabinet following the conclusion of the formal consultation process in respect of the Better Schools: Better Learning: A Strategy for Developing the School Estate.

Councillor Iain Linton, seconded by Councillor Robert McDill, moved not to accede to the requests on behalf of the Parent Councils for Crossroads and Sorn Primary Schools that the Cabinet receive deputations from them in respect of the proposals.

Councillor Eric Jackson, seconded by Teacher Representative Iain Harvey, moved as an amendment to accede to the requests of the Parent Councils for Crossroads and Sorn Primary Schools that the Cabinet receive deputations from them in respect of the proposals.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 11 votes to 3.

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.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND EQUALITIES

LISTENING TO THE VIEWS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (Item 5, Pages 3-5, 07/11)

2. There was submitted a report dated January 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the arrangements which required to be put in place to establish a Children and Young People's Forum.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals as detailed in the report;
- (ii) that three Elected Members (1/1/1) be appointed to serve on the Forum/Executive and that Council be invited to nominate the Elected Members accordingly; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

COMMUNITY WELLBEING

LEISURE SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME (Item 2E, Page 219, 07/11)

3. There was submitted a report dated 17 January 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which sought approval for several projects to be implemented by Leisure Services in the 2008/09 Capital Programme.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals to be implemented by Leisure Services in the 08/09 Capital Programme as follows:-

• <u>Strategic Schemes</u>	<u>08/09</u>
Parks Development Programme	£200,000
Public Art	£50,000
• <u>General Projects</u>	
Dean Castle Country Park Upgrade	£140,000
Cemeteries Development	£150,000
Streestport/Playpark Investment Programme	£200,000

- (ii) to remit to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to submit reports regarding the priorities for future years expenditure on Parks Development, Streetsport Cages/Playparks, Cemetery Development and Public Art at the appropriate time; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION

TRAFFIC CALMING PROPOSALS FOR LAINSHAW AREA, STEWARTON, BENRIG AVENUE AREA, KILMAURS AND KIRKLAND ROAD AREA, DUNLOP - OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED ROAD HUMPS (Item 7, Page 2736, 03/07)

4. There was submitted a report dated 7 January 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised of objections that had been received to Road Humps Notices which had been promoted for traffic calming proposals for Lainshaw area, Stewarton, Benrig Avenue area, Kilmaurs and Kirkland Road area, Dunlop and which sought the approval of Cabinet for the traffic calming as proposed.

Cabinet, having considered the objections and the corresponding comments by the Acting Head of Roads and Transportation as detailed in paragraph 4.4 of the report, agreed:-

- (i) that a Local Inquiry not be held;
- (ii) to delete the planned road hump on Lamberton Road, south of Hillhouse Place; and
- (iii) to approve all other road humps proposals for the Lainshaw area, Stewarton, Benrig Avenue area, Kilmaurs and Kirkland Road area, Dunlop as advertised.

TRAFFIC CALMING PROPOSALS FOR A719, MAIN ROAD AND C66, FENWICK ROAD, WATERSIDE - OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED ROAD HUMPS (Item 7, Page 2736, 03/07)

5. There was submitted a report dated 7 January 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised of objections that had been received to Roads Humps Notices being promoted for traffic calming proposals for A719, Main Road and C66, Fenwick Road, Waterside and which sought the approval of Cabinet for the traffic calming as proposed.

Cabinet, having considered the objections and the corresponding comments by the Acting Head of Roads and Transportation as detailed in paragraph 4.4 of the report, agreed:-

- (i) that a Local Inquiry not be held; and
- (ii) to approve the road humps proposals for Main Road and Fenwick Road, Waterside as advertised.

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF 30 MPH SPEED LIMIT ON ROUTE A719, WATERSIDE

6. There was submitted a report dated 7 January 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which sought approval to extend the existing 30mph speed limit on A719 Waterside.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposal for 30mph speed limit on the A719 Waterside, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT 1995 - FIFTH PROGRESS REPORT 2007

7. There was submitted a joint report dated 10 January 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services and the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management which asked Cabinet to (i) note the contents of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA): Fifth Progress Report which would be submitted to Communities Scotland; and (ii) approve the Action Plan to ensure continued improvement in energy efficiency, reduction in carbon emissions and reduction in fuel poverty throughout East Ayrshire.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995: Fifth Progress Report which would be submitted to Communities Scotland; and
- (ii) to approve the Action Plan to ensure continued improvement in energy efficiency, reduction in carbon emissions and reduction in fuel poverty throughout East Ayrshire.

MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCES

STRATEGIC REVIEW OF THE REVENUE BUDGET (SRRB) - PROGRESS REPORT UPDATE (Item 10, Page 144, 07/11)

8. There was submitted a report dated 16 January 2008 (circulated) by the Chief Executive (i) which provided a second progress update on the Council's Best Value Improvement Agenda action Item No 1 - "Effective Use of Resources"; and (ii) which considered the final part of the Stage 2 SRRB work, which required consideration of and proposals for the redistribution of expenditure reduction arising from the Stage 1 and Stage 2 work. It also considered spending bids from departments, identified services that were either not currently being provided at all; or services that could be augmented in preference to those subject to savings proposals.

Having heard from the Chief Executive and Professor Midwinter, Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to endorse and approve (a) the further progress made in taking forward the Strategic Review of the Revenue Budget, all in accordance with the Council's Best Value Improvement Agenda and as set out in the report and accompanying attachments; and (b) the action taken by Officers in accordance with the remit and scope of work agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meetings on 8 February 2006 and 23 January 2007; and the actions set by Cabinet at its meeting on 24 October 2007;
- (ii) to approve the expenditure reduction and new redistribution proposals set out in the report and to instruct the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management to consolidate those when drawing up the Council's Revenue Budget Strategy for 2008/09 to 2010/11; and
- (iii) to request a further report in due course on proposals for a cost-cutting review of the Council's policies on Charging for Services.

Councillors Iain Linton and Jim Buchanan left the meeting during discussion of the above item.

BUDGET 2008/09 AND 2010/11

9. There was submitted a report dated 15 January 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management which sought approval of a draft General Services Revenue budget for 2008/09 to 2010/11 to be issued for consultation to all interested parties. The feedback received during the consultation process would be used to inform the Cabinet's final consideration of the budget on 13 February 2008.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals set out in the report as a basis for consultation;
- (ii) to approve the Reserve and Balances Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (iii) to defer the deletion of the post of Head of Corporate Development and Communication to 30 June 2008; and
- (iv) having heard the Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services, that whilst accepting that the content of the draft proposals could be subject to possible call-in, the proposal to proceed to consult with interested parties on the draft Budget proposals as applied be exempted from the established call-in procedure on the basis that to delay the consultation would be prejudicial to the Council's interests.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

10. 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".

2007/2008 GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET AS AT 16 DECEMBER 2007 - PERIOD 9 (PARA 8)

11. There was submitted a report dated 10 January 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management which advised of the projected financial position for Revenue Services based on expenditure to 16 December 2007 (Period 9) and information provided by Executive Directors.

Cabinet, having received a presentation from the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management, agreed to approve the utilisation of departmental balances as detailed in Section 5.1 of the report and otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

PROPOSED SALE OF GROUND AT SKERNIELAND ROAD, FENWICK (PARA 9)

12. There was submitted a joint report dated 8 January 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management and the Solicitor to the Council which sought approval to dispose of an area of ground extending to 2.18 hectares (5.39 acres) or thereby at Skernieland Road, Fenwick, all as shown hatched on the plan, to the party identified in the report under exception of an area extending to 0.2 hectares (0.5 acres) forming part thereof, the precise location of which was still to be agreed.

Cabinet agreed to approve the proposal to dispose of the land extending to 2.18 hectares (5.39 acres) or thereby at Skernieland Road, Fenwick to the party identified in the report, under exception of 0.2 hectares (0.5 acres) forming part thereof, for the purchase price detailed in the report, subject to the consent of the Scottish Ministers in terms of Section 12(7) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 and to the price being approved by the District Valuer and to authorise the Solicitor to the Council to conclude matters on the terms and conditions detailed in the report and on such other terms and conditions required to protect the interests of the Council.

**BEST VALUE SERVICE REVIEW - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
(PARAS 1 & 11)**

13. There was submitted a report dated 14 January 2008 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which informed of the outcome of a Best Value Service Review of the Information Technology Services function of the Department of Corporate Support.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the recommendations which had no resource implications as detailed within Sections 4.1.1 to 4.1.15 of the report; and
- (ii) to remit the recommendation outlined within Section 4.1.16 of the report to the Corporate Management Team for further consideration and subsequent submission to Cabinet when it concluded its budget process.

The meeting terminated at 1225 hours.