

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2007 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Douglas Reid, Iain Linton, Jim Buchanan, Hugh Ross, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, Jim Roberts and Kathy Morrice.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Tom Cook, Items 1.1 and 1.2.

ATTENDING: 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; David Mitchell, Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services; Stephen Hill, Accountant and Robert Beaton, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors John MacKay and Jim Todd.

CHAIR: Councillor Douglas Reid, Chair.

ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION

OUTCOME AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CALLED-IN DECISION OF CABINET - 24 OCTOBER 2007: WINDFARM POLICY (Item 9, Page 187, 07/11)

- 1.1** There was submitted a report dated 26 November 2007 (circulated) by the Chair of the Governance and Scrutiny Committee which presented the recommendation of the Governance and Scrutiny Committee of 23 November 2007 in respect of the called-in decision of Cabinet relating to the Windfarm Policy.

Having heard Councillor Tom Cook, Chair, Governance and Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet agreed to consider under Item 1.2 below the recommendation of the Governance and Scrutiny Committee of 23 November 2007 that further consideration be given to the proposed contributions disbursement policy with a view to achieving a 70:30 split including options to achieve the equivalent of this split and also to ensure that any selected option would not result in detriment to the local community.

WINDFARM POLICY

- 1.2** There was submitted a report dated 29 November 2007 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which sought Cabinet approval for a Council-wide Windfarm Policy to be included within the Finalised Alteration to the East Ayrshire Local Plan and for the establishment of a Renewable Energy Fund.

Cabinet agreed, subject to ratification of Council at its meeting on 6 December 2007:-

- (i) that the revised policy relating to Windfarm Contributions as detailed in paragraph 3.8 within the report, be incorporated in the Finalised Draft of the

Alteration to the East Ayrshire Local Plan and that contributions be indexed linked;

- (ii) to note that the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support would consider whether the Retail Price Index Link or the Fuel Price Index Link was more appropriate to apply;
- (iii) to the establishment of a Renewal Energy Fund to be dispersed by Cabinet in accordance with the criteria set out in paragraph 4.3 of the report;
- (iv) to note that procedures for the operation of the Renewal Energy Fund would be presented to a future meeting of Cabinet for approval; and
- (v) to the dispersal of Whitelee Windfarm contributions beyond the initial 31 month period as detailed in the report.

Councillor Tom Cook left the meeting at this point.

NEW CUMNOCK

2. There was submitted a report dated 27 November 2007 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which (a) sought approval for the Cabinet to work with our Community Planning Partners to identify and implement a mechanism for the preparation and implementation of a Whole Town Strategy for New Cumnock. This would be a pilot for the approach which might apply to certain other small towns in East Ayrshire over time, as appropriate; and (b) in recognition of the proposal to further develop such an approach, to seek a remit to the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support to submit a report to a future meeting of the Cabinet presenting proposals for the development of an overall strategy and approach for the wider regeneration of our towns and villages.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to note the current position regarding the development of an approach to the preparation of Whole Town Strategies for small communities both nationally and within Ayrshire;
- (ii) to authorise the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support to (a) work with our Community Planning Partners to progress the development of the proposed mechanism for the preparation and implementation of a Whole Town Strategy for New Cumnock on a pilot basis; (b) develop those opportunities identified in this report that might form elements of an Early Action Programme; and (c) continue to inform and engage with the community of New Cumnock in progressing the above;
- (iii) to remit to the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support to submit to future meetings of the Cabinet, updates on progress in preparing the Early Actions identified in this report and in developing and implementing the Whole Town Strategy for New Cumnock and, as necessary, to seek approval to incur expenditure to implement associated works; and
- (iv) to remit to the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support to prepare and present to a future meeting of the Cabinet a report on the development of a strategic way forward for East Ayrshire regarding the preparation of holistic Whole Town Strategies.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

3. 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 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".

MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCES

CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT TO PERIOD 7

4. There was submitted a report as at 21 October 2007 - Period 7 in respect of the Capital Monitoring Programme 2007/2008 by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management which advised of the projected financial position for General Services and Housing Investment Capital programmes based on information provided by Executive Directors (circulated).

Cabinet agreed to approve:-

- (i) the deferral of the Rural Improvement Schemes, the Stevenson Culvert strengthening, the Kilmaurs Rail Bridge and the roads contribution for the Dunaskin Bridge widening schemes and the reallocation of the available budgets in 2007/08 to fund the anticipated shortfalls on the A70 Welltrees Bridge (£0.050M) and the Lugar Water Bridge Schemes (£0.010M) and the emergency strengthening works at Downies Burn Culvert (£0.016M) and Old Lugar Bridge (£0.006M) as detailed in paragraph 2.1.4 of the report;
- (ii) the reallocation of capital budgets for the Riccarton, Crookedholm and Galston Flood Scheme (£0.100M), and the Flood Development (£0.075M) and Flood Mitigation Schemes (£0.025M) to fund the anticipated shortfall in the Galston Flood Prevention Scheme as detailed in paragraph 2.1.5 of the report; and
- (iii) to note that work would commence to develop the proposals in respect of the Rosebank Resource Centre in advance of a final decision being made in respect of the proposed site for the Children's Home in Kilmarnock as detailed in paragraph 2.1.6 of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1038 hours.