

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2009
AT 1000 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Provost Stephanie Young and Councillors Rose-Ann Cuninghame, John MacKay, John McGhee, Helen Coffey, Willie Coffey, Tom Cook, Robert Keohone, Iain Linton, Douglas Reid, Jim Buchanan, 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 James Sutherland.

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; Eddie Fraser, Head of Service: Community Care; Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services; Chris McAleavey, Head of Housing; Martin Rose, Head of Human Resources; David Mitchell, Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services; Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support; Andrew Sutherland, Head of Service: Schools; Julie Jamieson, Chief Accountant; Lynn Buchanan, Communication and Customer First Manager; Joe McLachlan, Corporate Accounting Manager; Danny Stuart, Police Liaison Officer; David Forbes, Senior Accountant; and Julie McGarry, Administration Manager.

APOLOGY: Councillor Maureen McKay.

CHAIR: Provost Stephanie Young, Chair.

PROVOST'S REMARKS

1. The Provost began the Council meeting by welcoming Councillor David Shaw to his first meeting of Council. The Provost advised that Councillor Shaw had been successful in the recent By-Election in December and looked forward to his contribution as a Member of East Ayrshire Council. The Provost further advised that a report on the By-Election would be submitted to the next ordinary meeting of Council as was normal practice.

ORDER OF DEBATE AND TIME LIMIT FOR SPEECHES

2. It was noted that, in accordance with Standing Orders, a mover of a motion or amendment should speak for no longer 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.

**PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT -
PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS (Item 1, Page 600, 07/12)**

3. There was submitted an excerpt from the Special Meeting of Cabinet of 11 February 2009 (excerpt circulated) together with the relevant report for background information (circulated under separate cover as Agenda Item No 1 of the Special Cabinet meeting held on 11 February 2009).

It was agreed to approve the recommendations, namely:-

- (i) that the prudential indicators as set out in paragraph 3 of the report be approved; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**REVENUE BUDGET 2009/10 - 2011/12 -
COUNCIL TAX AND RENT LEVELS (Item 3, Page 601, 07/12)**

4. There was submitted an excerpt from the Minutes of the Special Cabinet meeting of 11 February 2009 (excerpt circulated) together with relevant report for background information (circulated under separate cover as Agenda Item No 3 of the Special Cabinet meeting held on 11 February 2009).

Councillor Reid gave details of a series of additional measures to be introduced, namely:-

- (i) a series of reviews to be undertaken to look at the way resources are utilised in Educational and Social Services and how children, families and teachers are supported to make the most of these resources;
- (ii) the appointment of Town Centre Managers for both Kilmarnock and Cumnock to work with and support the businesses, large and small, within towns to ensure that their plans and those of the Council are co-ordinated;
- (iii) the creation of an officer Employment Taskforce, chaired by the Depute Chief Executive to meet weekly to oversee arrangements for working with businesses to safeguard jobs and ensure the Council is as proactive as possible in stemming the impact of the economic decline at a local level and recognising that the other Ayrshire Councils wish to join with East Ayrshire in this work;
- (iv) the extension of opening hours of the two civic amenity sites for Saturday afternoons and one evening per week during the summer months;
- (v) the beginning of a phased programme of environmental improvements to Taiglum Burn, Drongan, to be developed in partnership with the local community;
- (vi) the promotion of a Kilmarnock Edition Music Festival at Dean Castle in the summer with three concerts planned to complement the wider ambitions for the development of tourism in the area;
- (vii) the opening hours for the Dean Castle to be extended in the coming year to include public holidays and a seven day opening throughout the summer months;
- (viii) a number of business reviews to be initiated, designed with the aim of improving efficiency and performance across the Council.

Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Linton, thereafter moved approval of the above initiatives and the following recommendations, namely:-

- (i) that the Band D Council Tax level for 2009/10 be set at £1,188.99;
- (ii) to the Resource Allocations as follows:-

Service	Allocation 2008/09 £m	Allocation 2009/10 £m	Change over Previous Year	Indicative Allocation 2010/11	Indicative Allocation 2011/12
Educational and Social Services	162.132	170.244	8.112	173.826	176.094
Neighbourhood Services	38.166	39.663	1.497	40.133	40.776
Police, Fire, Valuation Board & SPT	32.774	33.561	0.787	34.335	34.966
Corporate Support	13.001	15.160	2.159	15.350	15.437
Finance & Asset Management Service	50.531	52.438	1.907	54.109	55.850
Other Non-Departmental Items	20.416	23.749	3.333	26.427	30.162
Net Expenditure	317.020	334.815	17.795	344.180	353.285
Net Income	317.020	334.815	17.795	344.180	353.285

- (iii) to the Expenditure Reduction actions as shown in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (iv) to a council house rent increase of £2.24 per week over a 52 week period from 2009/10;
- (v) that for 2009/10, to an increase of 0.24p per week for lock-ups over a 52 week period and £1.71 per year for garage site charges;
- (vi) that the rent free weeks in 2009/10 be set in December 2009 and March 2010;
- (vii) to utilise £0.360m of uncommitted revenue balances in 2009/10, on a non-recurring basis, to bridge the gap between the proposed additional allocation of £1.300m and the net unfunded service pressures in Social Work totalling £1.660m; and
- (viii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Knapp moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Menzies, that the Labour Opposition Group, having examined the Administration's budget proposals, which the Labour Opposition Group felt would lead to job losses and cuts in services, opposed the budget.

Councillor Reid, in response, gave assurances:

- (i) to Councillor Cook to look at the feasibility of extending the opening hours at the Dick Institute and in conjunction with the Chief Executive confirmed the ability to deliver the Capital Programme; and
- (ii) to the Council meeting that there would be no compulsory redundancies under the proposed budget.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 18 votes to 13.

The meeting terminated at 1037 hrs.