

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**CABINET****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 APRIL 2008 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Douglas Reid, John MacKay, Jim Buchanan, Hugh Ross, Jim Todd, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, Jim Roberts and Kathy Morrice; 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; Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support; Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services; Robin Gourlay, Head of Facilities Management; David Mitchell, Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services; John Griffiths, Head of Leisure; Martin Rose, Head of Personnel; John Bryson, Head of Roads and Transportation; Karl Doroszenko, Development, Planning and Regeneration Manager; Dot Grieve, Principal Officer, Community Learning and Development and Christine Baillie, Administrative Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING: Jean Keenan, Head Teacher, Lainshaw Primary School.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Iain Linton and Church Representatives Bill McGregor, John McHugh and Dr Ivy Barclay.

CHAIR: Councillor Douglas Reid, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. The Chair welcomed to the meeting Jean Keenan, Head Teacher, Lainshaw Primary School who had been actively involved in establishing educational links with Malawi.

LIFELONG LEARNING**EAST AYRSHIRE CONFUCIUS CLASSROOM**

- 2E. There was submitted a report dated 11 February 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for further development in the teaching of Chinese in East Ayrshire schools.

Cabinet agreed to approve the further development of Chinese language and culture in East Ayrshire schools and the future development of the Confucius Classroom.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY CROSS PARTY GROUP ON CHINA

- 3E. There was submitted a report dated 8 April 2008 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which invited Cabinet to consider the aims and objectives of the Cross-Party Group on China and to consider taking up membership of this Group.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to take up membership of the Cross Party Group on China;
- (ii) to recommend to Council that Councillor Douglas Reid be appointed to serve on the group and that Council give consideration to the appointment of an appropriate substitute member; and
- (iii) to note that Officer representation on the group would be dependent on the subject matter to be discussed.

EAST AYRSHIRE MALAWI LINK

4E. There was submitted a report dated 11 February 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the development of links between East Ayrshire schools and educational establishments in Malawi.

Having heard a very interesting and detailed report from Jean Keenan, Head Teacher, Lainshaw Primary School, who had visited Malawi, Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the development of links between East Ayrshire educational establishments and schools in Malawi; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

WORLD “JOHN LAPRAIK” SPEAKING COMPETITION

5.1E Declaration of Interest

Councillor Jim Roberts declared a non-financial interest in this item in accordance with paragraphs 5.17 and 5.18 of the Councillors’ Code of Conduct and took no part in the consideration or determination of the item.

5.2E. Consideration of Item

There was submitted a joint report dated 6 February 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services and the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which sought approval for support for the World “John Lapraik” Speaking Competition to be held in Muirkirk in June 2008.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to endorse East Ayrshire Council’s support for the World Lapraik Speaking Competition; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

POST SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (Item 3, Page 2392, 03/07)

6E. There was submitted a report dated 19 March 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of the continued allocation of funding to the local authority to support post school Psychological Services and which sought endorsement of the approach taken.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to note the allocation to East Ayrshire Council for the continuation of the work streams in relation to post school Psychological Services; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE FUNDING TO
EXTERNAL AGENCIES 2008/09**

- 7E.** There was submitted a report dated 19 February 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for allocation of funds to external organisations in respect of Early Education and Childcare funding.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the funding proposals contained within the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT DISCUSSION CHOOSING THE RIGHT INGREDIENTS
- THE FUTURE OF FOOD IN SCOTLAND**

- 8E.** There was submitted a report dated 14 April 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed Members of the discussion paper introduced by the Scottish Government, developments in East Ayrshire that were relevant and which sought approval for an opportunity for East Ayrshire to participate in a European inter-regional programme.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) that the Department of Educational and Social Services school meals service continue to develop its sustainable school food service presently provided in 30 schools;
- (ii) to participate in the bid for funding for the inter-regional programme which may require an initial contribution of £1,000 to develop the proposals;
- (iii) that if the bid for European funding is eventually successful, that East Ayrshire agree with the Scottish Government any future funding necessary to fully participate in the European programme;
- (iv) to note the ongoing discussion initiated by the Scottish Government and the current position of East Ayrshire in relation to the objectives which they sought to incorporate into a future food policy for Scotland;
- (v) to approve the submission made on behalf of the Council's Department of Educational and Social Services; and
- (vi) to note that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services would return to Cabinet in terms of any future East Ayrshire Council funding requirements.

Teacher Representative Iain Harvey and Parent Representative David Fraser left the meeting at this point.

COMMUNITY WELLBEING

**DEVELOPMENT OF EAST AYRSHIRE TALENTED ATHLETE SUPPORT
PROGRAMME**

- 9.** There was submitted a report dated 10 April 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which outlined the current situation within East Ayrshire with regard to supporting talented athletes to reach their full potential in sport and which outlined proposals for strengthening this in light of the forthcoming

2012 Olympics and Paralympics and 2014 Commonwealth Games and Winter Olympics.

Cabinet agreed to note the current position as detailed within the report and remitted to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to further develop and submit detailed proposals to Cabinet in due course.

SMARTER CHOICES, SMARTER PLACES

10. There was submitted a report dated 10 April 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which sought approval to make funding applications to the Scottish Government's "Smarter Choices, Smarter Places" project in respect of Kilmarnock and Cumnock.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the development of the East Ayrshire Council's Travel Plans as detailed in paragraph 4 of the report;
- (ii) to welcome the Scottish Government and CoSLA initiative to set up the "Smarter Choices, Smarter Places" initiative;
- (iii) that funding bids should be made to the Scottish Government's "Smarter Choices, Smarter Places" project in respect of Kilmarnock and Cumnock; and
- (iv) that East Ayrshire Council would match fund the project in the second and third years, if the bid was successful.

ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION

WOODROAD REGENERATION FORUM - PLAYPARK PROPOSALS

11. There was submitted a report dated 4 April 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which sought approval for proposals from the Woodroad Regeneration Forum to install new children's play equipment in Woodroad Park, Cumnock.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the installation of new toddler/junior play facilities, funded by the Woodroad Park Regeneration Forum, on the site of the old putting green;
- (ii) to remit to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to provide progress reports on the work of the Woodroad Park Regeneration Forum as appropriate;
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report; and
- (iv) to note that building on the success of last year's "Pick A Park" scheme, a programme of parks to be visited this year was being developed.

MAIN STREET, NEWMILNS "OUTSTANDING" CONSERVATION AREA TOWNSHEME: 47-51 MAIN STREET, NEWMILNS, OFFER OF GRANT - ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUEST

12. There was submitted a report dated 31 March 2008 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which sought approval for the Council to offer an additional building repair grant of £40,000 under the Newmilns

Townscheme to help bridge a significant funding gap that had occurred during the implementation of external works to the facades of 47-51 Main Street, Newmilns.

Cabinet agreed to approve an additional offer of grant of £40,000 towards the repair and upgrading of the property at 47-51 Main Street, Newmilns under the Newmilns Townscheme.

SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY 3: PLANNING FOR HOUSING: CONSULTATIVE DRAFT

13. There was submitted a report dated 26 March 2008 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which sought Cabinet's views on a revised Scottish Government publication entitled "Scottish Planning Policy, SPP3: Planning for Housing: Consultative Draft" which had been issued for consultation in January of this year.

Cabinet agreed to note the contents of the report and to authorise the Head of Planning and Economic Development to submit a copy of this report to the Scottish Government as representing the views of the Cabinet on the draft SPP.

SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY (SPP) 23: PLANNING AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT: CONSULTATION DRAFT

14. There was submitted a report dated 16 April 2008 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which sought Cabinet's views on a Scottish Executive publication entitled "Scottish Planning Policy SPP23: Planning and the Historic Environment: Consultative Draft".

Cabinet agreed to note the contents of the report and to authorise the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support to submit a copy of this report to the Scottish Executive as representing the views of the Cabinet on the draft SPP.

NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK FOR SCOTLAND 2: DISCUSSION PAPER

15. There was submitted a report dated 16 April 2008 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which informed of the contents and provisions of the Scottish Executive's National Planning Framework for Scotland 2: Discussion Draft and seeking the view of Cabinet on the document.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) that a Cross Party delegation from East Ayrshire Council seek a meeting with appropriate Scottish Ministers and civil servants to present the Council's views on the Discussion Draft of the National Planning Framework for Scotland 2 and that the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support liaise with the Leader of the Council Councillor Reid and Councillors Jackson and Cook to discuss arrangements;
- (ii) to authorise the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support to send in the meantime, a copy of the above report, to the Scottish Government as representing the Council's views on the Discussion Draft of the National Planning Framework for Scotland 2;
- (iii) given the issues raised in the report are common to all of Ayrshire, that a meeting be convened between appropriate Elected Members of all three Ayrshire Councils to agree a common response and a joint approach to

lobbying to ensure that a draft NPF2 better reflects the needs and aspiration of Ayrshire;

- (iv) to remit to the Chief Executive to discuss with the Chief Executive of South Lanarkshire Council the feasibility of establishing a liaison group for the development of the A70/A71 routes along similar lines as the A76 Liaison Group and report back to Cabinet in due course; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

CHARGES FOR ROADS SERVICES AND PARKING

- 16.** There was submitted a report dated 10 April 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which sought approval for the introduction of charges relating to certain permits, permissions and services granted under the terms of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, to approve an increase in charges for other services already being applied and to approve an increase in the charge for parking on floors 5 to 10 of the multi storey car park in Kilmarnock from 50p per day to £1 per day.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the introduction of charges for permits as detailed in the report;
- (ii) to approve the increase to existing charges for other Roads services as detailed in the report;
- (iii) to approve an increase in the charge for parking on floors 5 to 10 of the multi storey car park from 50p per day to £1 per day;
- (iv) to note that a review of on-street parking charges would be carried out following the feasibility study of decriminalised parking and that a further report would be submitted to Cabinet in due course; and
- (v) to note that, as part of the budget proposals for this financial year, it had been agreed to carry out an in-year corporate review of the Council's existing policy on charging for services taking cognisance of Audit Scotland's report "The Challenge of Charging".

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION DIVISION CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008-2009

- 17.** There was submitted a report dated 7 April 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which sought approval for the allocation of that part of the General Services Capital Programme 2008/09 which was to be implemented by the Roads and Transportation Division of the Neighbourhood Services Department.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposed allocation for the Roads and Transportation Development Programme as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (ii) to note that individual schemes proposed under listed projects would be subject of further reports to Cabinet.

AYRSHIRE BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

18. There was submitted a report dated 11 April 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan which had been prepared to assist the Council meet its statutory obligations under the terms of the Nature Conservation Act (Scotland) 2004 which had the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural environment.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to adopt the revised Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan, subject to the completion of Strategic Environmental Assessment; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCES

CENTRAL JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

19. There were submitted and noted Minutes of meeting held on 18 March 2007 (circulated).

SHARED SERVICES - JOINT WORKING IN AYRSHIRE

20. There was submitted a report dated 11 April 2008 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which updated Members on the progress in relation to the Shared Services Agenda and the work undertaken on a Pan-Ayrshire basis in this respect.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the steps taken and proposed to date, in respect of joint working arrangements Pan-Ayrshire;
- (ii) that the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support and other relevant Officers report back to Cabinet annually on progress made; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS 2008/2009

21. There was submitted a report dated 9 April 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the outcome of the annual evaluations of grant funded projects and which sought approval for future funding arrangements for 2008/2009.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve funding to Bellsbank Women's Project of £24,437;
- (ii) to approve funding to North West Youth Project of £72,365;
- (iii) to approve funding to Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme of £9,600;
- (iv) to approve funding to Ayrshire Household Recycling Scheme of £14,173;
- (v) to approve funding to Ayrshire Household Recycling Scheme of £11,144.32 from the Strategic Waste Fund matched by additional funding of £4,356 from

the Council subject to the scheme demonstrating effective waste diversion through their activities;

- (vi) to approve funding to the Holiday Project of £16,405;
- (vii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services return to Cabinet in December with the outcome of the review; and
- (viii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EAST AYRSHIRE VOLUNTEERS CENTRE

- 22.** There was submitted a report dated 3 April 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the grant application for 2008/09 from the Volunteer Centre and which made recommendations accordingly.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve a grant of £12,000 for the East Ayrshire Volunteers Centre;
- (ii) to remit to the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to return to Cabinet later in the year with a paper setting out proposals in respect of the support the Council would wish to give to voluntary organisations at a strategic level in respect of volunteering; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

REVIEW OF CABINS AND DAY CENTRES

- 23.** There was submitted a report dated 19 March 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for a review of the Council's Cabins and Day Centres.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the establishment of a short term Member/Officer Group;
- (ii) to recommend to Council that five Elected Members (2/2/1) be appointed to serve on the Member/Officer Group and that the Members for the Administration be Councillors Jim Roberts and Alan Brown with Councillor Jim Roberts as Spokesperson for Lifelong Learning chairing the Member/Officer Group;
- (iii) to remit to the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services the appointment of Officers to the Member/Officer Group;
- (iv) to approve the terms of reference for the review of Cabins and Day Centres as detailed in paragraph 3.2 of the report; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

- 24.** 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 1 of the Schedule 7A of the Act".

EARLY RETIREMENT (Item 17, Page 321, 07/11)

25. There was submitted a report dated 4 April 2008 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which sought approval of early retirement on the grounds of redundancy for one employee within the Department of Corporate Support.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to reconsider this item in terms of Standing Order 40; and
- (ii) to approve the early retirement on the grounds of redundancy as detailed in Appendix A to the report.

The meeting terminated at 12 Noon.