

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**CABINET****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2010 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE BARRHILL CENTRE, BANK AVENUE, CUMNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Douglas Reid, Iain Linton, John MacKay, Maureen McKay, Jim Buchanan, Hugh Ross, Jim Todd, Robert McDill, Jim Roberts, Barney Menzies and Kathy Morrice; Parent Representative David Fraser; and Teacher Representative Bryce Wilson.

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; Chris McAleavey, Head of Housing; David Mitchell, Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services; John Griffiths, Head of Leisure; John Bryson, Head of Roads and Transportation; Susan Taylor, Head of Service: Children & Families & Criminal Justice; Eddie Fraser, Head of Service: Community Care; Kay Gilmour, Head of Service: Community Support; Euan Couperwhite, Head of Service: Resources; Andrew Sutherland, Head of Service: Schools; Derek Spence, Acting Head of Service: Building and Works; Andrew Kennedy, Acting Head of Service: Facilities Management; Robin Baker, Financial Controller; Julie Jamieson, Chief Accountant; Elaine Scott, PR Officer; and Christine Baillie, Senior Administrative Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING: Mark Simms, Senior Accountant, Audit Scotland.

APOLOGY: Church Representative Maria Dorrian.

CHAIR: Councillor Douglas Reid, Leader of the Council.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. The Chair welcomed to the meeting Jamie Douglas who was on a Skills Development Work Experience within Democratic Services (Administration).

MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCES**REVENUE BUDGET 2010/11 - 2012/13**

- 2E. There was submitted a report dated 4 February 2010 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management which asked Cabinet to consider the proposed General Services Revenue Budget for 2010/11 and indicative budgets for 2011/12 and 2012/13 and which recommended to the Council resource allocations at Departmental level, the Council Tax and the Council house rent increase for the financial year 2010/11.

Councillor Reid thanked all Officers, Elected Members, Community and Voluntary Sector Representatives, Trade Unions and Departmental employee groups for their participation in the budget consultation exercise.

Having noted (i) that as of last night, 327 messages had been received through the budget mailbox; and (ii) that in relation to Paragraph 5.2 of the report "Meals at

Home”, the date should read Monday 28 June 2010, Cabinet agreed to recommend to Council:-

- (i) that the Band D Council Tax level for 2010/11 be set at £1,188.99;
- (ii) that the option to pay Council Tax by direct debit over 12 months be offered;
- (iii) that the Resource Allocations be approved as follows:-

Service	Allocation 2009/10 £m	Allocation 2010/11 £m	Change over Previous Year
Educational and Social Services	175.423	177.611	2.188
Neighbourhood Services	33.980	33.693	(0.287)
Police, Fire, Valuation Board & SPT	33.563	28.272	(5.291)
Corporate Support	15.969	15.788	(0.181)
Finance & Asset Management Service	52.515	57.074	4.559
Other Non-Departmental Items	23.365	26.400	3.035
Unallocated	-	0.549	0.549
Net Expenditure	334.815	339.387	4.572
Net Income	334.815	339.387	4.572

- (iv) that the changes to the budget and savings package consulted upon be amended as proposed in Paragraph 5 of the report;
- (v) that the rent increase policy be amended as set out in Paragraph 11.1 of the report;
- (vi) that a council house rent increase for 2010/11 of £1.53 per week over a 52 week period be approved;
- (vii) that for 2010/11 there be no increase for lock-ups and garage site charges;
- (viii) to approve the Reserves and Balances Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (ix) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The Cabinet noted that East Ayrshire Council's Labour Group had concerns regarding the budget proposals.

FINANCE AND SERVICE STRATEGY REPORT TO PERIOD 9 (13 DECEMBER 2009)

- 3E.** There was submitted a report dated 1 February 2010 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management which advised Members of the projected financial position for the year based on expenditure to 13 December 2009 (Period 9) and information provided by Executive Directors.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the suspension of Building and Works as a Significant Trading Operation as noted at Paragraph 2.6 of the report;

- (ii) to approve the utilisation of savings within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for additional Capital Funded from Current Revenue/Planned Maintenance works within HRA as at Paragraph 4.1 of the report;
- (iii) to note the contract figure exceeding the accepted tender value by more than 10% in respect of the Dunlop Primary Extension as noted at Paragraph 5.2 of the report;
- (iv) to note the intention to appoint engineering staff to improve the delivery of the long term capital programme as noted at Paragraph 5.3 of the report;
- (v) to approve the allocation of £0.035m from the contingency fund for the works at the Dick Institute as noted at Paragraph 5.4 of the report; and
- (vi) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1120 hours.