

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 15 JANUARY 2010 AT 1000 HRS
IN THE ROBERT BURNS SUITE, BURNS MONUMENT CENTRE,
KAY PARK, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Willie Coffey, John McGhee, Helen Coffey, John Campbell, Alan Brown, Stuart Finlayson, Elaine Dinwoodie and Drew Filson.

ATTENDING: Elizabeth Morton, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support; William Stafford, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services; Kay Gilmour, Head of Service: Community Support; Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services; Robin Baker, Financial Controller; and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Tom Cook, Jimmy Kelly and Eric Ross.

CHAIR: Councillor Willie Coffey, Vice-Chair.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

1. There were submitted and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2009 (circulated).

1.1 Matters Arising**1.1.1 Winter Maintenance Arrangements (Item 11, Page 989, 07/12)**

Noted, as advised by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support and the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services, that Officers would be reviewing delivery of the winter maintenance service during the recent period of severe cold weather; and agreed that members of this Committee have the opportunity at the Governance and Scrutiny Workshop 2010, due to be held later this month, to consider arrangements for a debriefing on this matter, focusing on the Council's response across a range of relevant services, and for further scrutiny, if appropriate.

MATTERS ARISING UPDATE REPORT

2. There was submitted a report dated 8 January 2010 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided a consolidated response to information requests made by Members at previous meetings.

Arising from discussion, the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services confirmed that the operating costs associated with each of the formerly proposed community recycling centres at Galston, Stewarton, Dalmellington and Cumnock was one quarter of the total cost shown within Annex 2 of Appendix I to the report, subject to an uplift on the total cost of approximately 20%, in respect of inflation, to reflect current prices; and agreed that the Executive Director provide to Members, within the next Matters Arising report, a breakdown, in approximate terms, of the cost of the various elements of this former proposal, ie staffing, collection/removal etc.

It was, otherwise, agreed to note the terms of the report.

SCRUTINY

OUTWITH PLACEMENTS

3. There was submitted a report dated December 2009 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which provided a summary of the Department of Educational and Social Services' use of outwith placements to the end of November 2009.

During discussion, the Head of Service: Community Support responded to questions put, and matters raised, by Members relative to the following matters, namely:-

- the reasons for the significant range in the cost of a single Outwith Placement;
- income paid to East Ayrshire Council from other Authorities making placements within East Ayrshire; and
- the assessment framework applied in management of the Outwith Placements provision.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services continue to provide reports on this aspect of provision at six monthly intervals;
- (ii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services continue to take whatever action is necessary to ensure that available resources are matched to established needs in this provision; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

BEST VALUE

PROGRESS AGAINST BEST VALUE SERVICE REVIEW PROGRAMME FOR 2007-2010

4. There was submitted a report dated 23 December 2009 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management to review the implementation of the current 2007-2010 Best Value Service Review Programme, in terms of progress against the programme and overall outcomes achieved.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the update on progress in implementing the Council's Best Value Service Review Programme for 2007-2010 as set out within Appendix I to the report;
- (ii) to note the headline outcome arising from the completed Best Value Service Reviews; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

PERFORMANCE

REVIEW OF EFQM PATHWAY

5. There was submitted a report dated 21 December 2009 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management which advised of the progress made

against the Council's annual programme and timetable of EFQM Assessments, using Quality Scotland's EFQM Pathway software.

During discussion, the Officers concerned provided clarification in response to questions asked by Members relative to the following, namely:-

- the nature of the SWIA Performance Improvement Model which would be used from 2010 to undertake the annual self-assessment of the Social Work Service, as compared to the EFQM model used in all other service areas within the Council; and
- the reasons for slippage on the scheduled date for completion of the 2008/09 EFQM assessment for Democratic Services.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the good progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 2008 Review of Pathway and that the upgraded software was now available for use;
- (ii) to note the good progress made in relation to the 2008/09 programme of EFQM Service Self Assessments as outlined in Appendix I to the report;
- (iii) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1025 hrs.