

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER 2010 AT 1030 HRS  
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,  
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tom Cook, Willie Coffey, John McGhee, Helen Coffey, Alan Brown, Stuart Finlayson, Jimmy Kelly, Elaine Dinwoodie and Drew Filson.

**ATTENDING:** Elizabeth Morton, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services; Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; Alex McPhee, Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support; Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services; Andrew Kennedy, Acting Head of Facilities Management; Craig McArthur, Head of Finance; Malcolm Roulston, Head of Information Technology and Asset Management; David Mitchell, Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services; John Bryson, Head of Roads and Transportation; Gerry Darroch, Housing Services Manager; Kenneth McKinlay, Principal Officer, Quality Improvement; and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors John Campbell and Eric Ross.

**CHAIR:** Councillor Tom Cook, Chair.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES**

1. There were submitted and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 September 2010 (circulated).

**1.1 MATTERS ARISING****1.1.1 Matters Arising: Review Topic - Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and Other Measures Since Their Introduction (Item 2.1.1, Page 1349, 07/12)**

On the matter having been raised, the Chair provided clarification on the contents of the Minutes pertaining to this item.

**1.1.2 Communication of Audit Matters to those Charged with Governance of the 2009/10 Audit (Item 4, Page 1350, 07/12)**

The Chair advised that following discussions, the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support would bring a report to a future meeting to allow consideration to be given to the application of appropriate protocols within the Council relative to Related Parties' Disclosures, and this was noted.

**1.1.3 Awarding of Contracts - Period from 5 June to 20 September 2010 (Item 5, Page 1351, 07/12)**

Noted that the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services would provide confirmation to Councillor John McGhee on the breakdown of the sources of funding for the Cumnock Creating Civic Space project, and that this information would also be included within the Matters Arising Update report to the next meeting.

### **MATTERS ARISING UPDATE REPORT**

2. There was submitted a report dated 5 October 2010 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support which provided the Committee with a consolidated response to information requests made by Members at the last meeting.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note that, with regard to the table featured within paragraph 3.1.1 of the report, the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services would provide to Councillor Stuart Finlayson information by "Reason for Termination" category on the number of tenants who were not in arrears at the point of termination of their tenancy, and that this information would also be included within the Matters Arising Update report to the next meeting; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

### **SCRUTINY**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES: STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT FOR 2009**

3. There was submitted a report dated 5 October 2010 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to advise of the online publication of the Standards and Quality Report for the Department of Educational and Social Services for 2009.

In the course of discussion, the Acting Head of Facilities Management and the Housing Services Manager provided further detail on the background to, reasons for and nature of, the close cleaning pilot scheme in Kilmarnock and its proposed extension to areas within the southern part of the authority.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the positive progress made by the various Services within the Department of Educational and Social Services against previous performance as set out in the report;
- (ii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services continue to report to Committee on this matter on an annual basis;
- (iii) that information be provided within the Matters Arising Update report to the next meeting on (a) the number of properties to be included in the close cleaning initiative within each area, following extension of the pilot scheme; and (b) if possible, an indication as to the increase in the level of rental income resulting from the improved level of cleanliness of closes due to the close cleaning scheme compared to the cost of operating the scheme; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

#### **WINTER SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN (Item 8, Page , 07/12)**

4. There was submitted a report dated 5 October 2010 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised of progress against the Winter Service Improvement Plan for 2010/11.

In the course of discussion, the Officers concerned responded to issues raised by Members relative to the following matters, namely:-

- gritting arrangements at doctor's surgeries/health centres, including operational, legal and insurance aspects;
- arrangements for gritting of the areas around, and the frequency of refilling of, the new larger community grit bins which were to be provided at 35 locations throughout East Ayrshire, and the corresponding relocation of the smaller existing grit bins;
- arrangements for the continuation of service delivery from the Risk Management Centre arising from the switch over to the new Data Control Centre during the Christmas and New Year holiday period, having regard to the management of calls that might be received during that period arising from severe winter weather conditions; and
- budgetary provision for winter maintenance this year, including a contingency of £500,000.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the progress against the Winter Service Improvement Plan as set out in the report;
- (ii) that Councillor Stuart Finlayson would provide to the Depute Chief Executive/ Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services further information on an arrangement between a health authority and a roads authority in England whereby the former had made a financial contribution to the latter in recognition of cost benefits to them resulting from the application of winter maintenance services in the form of reduced injuries to members of the public, in order that this might inform discussions with Ayrshire and Arran Health Board;
- (iii) that information be provided within the Matters Arising Update report to the next meeting on the numbers of Community Councillors and Elected Members who had attended the four local presentations made by the Roads Division on the Winter Service Improvement Plan; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

Councillor John McGhee left the meeting during consideration, but prior to determination, of the preceding item.

**REVIEW TOPIC - ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ORDERS AND OTHER  
MEASURES SINCE THEIR INTRODUCTION: FOCUS GROUP -  
31 AUGUST 2010 (Item 2.1.1, Page , 07/12)**

5. There was submitted a note of the Focus Group meeting held on 31 August 2010 (circulated) for the purpose of ingathering views and comments from a range of Community Representatives to inform the ongoing review on Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and Other Measures Since Their Introduction.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the Minute of the Focus Group meeting as submitted; and
- (ii) on the matter having been raised by the Chair, that, in conducting this review, Members take on board the terms of the CoSLA Community Wellbeing Champions Initiative, which is an approach to champion the role of local Elected Members in overseeing the engagement and empowerment of

communities affected by high levels of anti-social behaviour or other community safety issues and to develop effective local solutions to local problems.

**REVIEW TOPIC - INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS PROVIDED  
BY CONTRACTORS CARRYING OUT WORK ON BEHALF OF  
EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (Item 10, Page 1128, 07/12)**

6. There was submitted, for approval (a) a revised project plan relative to the review to be undertaken by the Committee during 2010/11 on "Insurance arrangements provided by contractors carrying out work on behalf of East Ayrshire Council"; and (b) the timetable for this review (both circulated).

It was agreed to approve the revised project plan and timetable as submitted, whilst recognising that the timetable may be subject to alteration as the review progresses due to operational requirements.

**FINANCE AND SERVICE STRATEGY REPORT BASED ON  
PERIOD 6 (19 SEPTEMBER 2010)**

7. There was submitted a report dated 20 October 2010 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support which advised of the projected financial position for the year based on expenditure to Period 6, and information provided by Executive Directors.

During discussion, the relevant Officers responded to questions from Members relative to the undernoted matters, namely:-

- potential implications for the Council's Pay and Grading Structure which might result from the introduction by the authority of a higher minimum wage for employees;
- the impact on staffing levels of the restructure of the Joint Ayrshire Technicians Service within Education;
- work currently ongoing within the Department of Neighbourhood Services with a view to progressing arrangements to deal with outstanding logged housing repairs;
- discontinuation of publication of the Five Year Housing Investment Programme on the Council's website;
- on target progress towards meeting the Scottish Housing Quality Standard by 2015 and the associated management arrangements and performance reporting;
- action taken to reduce payments to the SQA, and the nature of reporting of further savings which may be achieved under this heading;
- budgetary arrangements associated with transport and decant costs for Gargieston Primary school pupils; and
- payment by the Council in respect of schools provided under PPP arrangements.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the recommendations to Cabinet on 20 October 2010 as set out in paragraph 6 of the report;
- (ii) to note that the Head of Information Technology and Asset Management would provide further information to Councillor Drew Filson outwith the

meeting relative to progress on the Patna/St Xavier's Primary Schools Co-location Project; and

- (iii) otherwise, to note the terms of the report and the further information provided by the Officers concerned.

The meeting terminated at 1209 hrs.