

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 1 MAY 2009**

#### **MATTERS ARISING UPDATE REPORT**

##### **Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a consolidated response to information requests made by Members at previous meetings.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** As Members are aware, during the course of discussions at meetings of the Governance and Scrutiny Committee, Members, from time to time, seek information or clarification from Officers on particular matters which requires to be provided after the meeting. Such requests arise from, and reflect, the role of the Committee in respect of its scrutiny function.
- 2.2** The approach to date has been that information requested by Members in these circumstances, is provided to Members after the meeting by the Officer(s) concerned in the form of an email communication or by placing the information on the Members' Information Portal, and subsequently the action taken is reported to the next Governance and Scrutiny Committee meeting.
- 2.3** The Committee at its meeting held on 3 April 2009 agreed that, in future, a report be submitted to the Committee to consolidate all responses to information requests made by Members of the Committee at previous meetings or, otherwise, provide an explanation as to why the relevant information is not yet available. This approach will formalise the various matters arising into report format thereby facilitating presentation of the information to Members and recording of the origin and progress of the issues raised.

#### **3. UPDATE**

- 3.1** The outstanding matters arising from previous meetings of the Committee and the current position with regard to the provision of information relative to each item is set out in detail in Appendix I to this report.

#### **4. FINANCIAL/LEGAL/POLICY/COMMUNITY PLANNING/RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- None arising directly from this report.

## **5. RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1** The Committee is asked to note the information provided in response to the matters arising as set out in Appendix I.

Elizabeth Morton  
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

15 April 2009  
SN/SR

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - NIL**

Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services on Telephone Number (01563) 576135.

**Implementation Officer: Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.**

**APPENDIX I**

<b><u>NO</u></b>	<b><u>ORIGIN</u></b>	<b><u>ISSUE</u></b>	<b><u>UPDATE</u></b>
1.	Governance & Scrutiny Committee, 13 February 2009 (Item 8(iii), Page 609, 07/12)	<b><u>Affordable Housing Review: Update Report: Investment in Difficult to Let Housing</u></b> - Agreed that the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services provide information to Members of the Committee on the housing areas to be included within the Council's proposals for investment in difficult to let housing, and the average cost per house.	The Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services advises that this information is currently under preparation.
2.	Governance & Scrutiny Committee, 3 April 2009 (Item 1.1.1 , Page , 07/12)	<b><u>Reconfiguration of Council Headquarters: Detailed Costings</u></b> - Agreed that the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management would provide Members with a breakdown of the costs involved in the proposed works at the Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock.	This information is set out in a briefing note by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management provided at Annex 1.
3.	Governance & Scrutiny Committee, 3 April 2009 (Item 1.1.4, Page , 07/12)	<b><u>Refurbishment of Baird Institute, Cumnock</u></b> - Noted that the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services had under preparation information regarding consultation with, and permission from, Historic Scotland in relation to the carrying out of certain works at the Baird Institute, Cumnock, and that this would be circulated to Members as soon as possible.	The Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services circulated the following information to Members of the Committee by email on 7 April 2009, namely:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic Scotland has been involved in all stages of the project and has been consulted on various issues relating to building design;</li> </ul>

<u>NO</u>	<u>ORIGIN</u>	<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>UPDATE</u>
3.	Governance & Scrutiny Committee, 3 April 2009 (Item 1.1.4, Page 07/12) (Con't)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• specific issues relating to the roof design for the lift foyer extension and the finish of the foyer door were the subject of recent discussions with Historic Scotland and mutually acceptable solutions have been agreed and implemented;</li> <li>• internally there were also discussions about wall linings and skirting boards, again these issues have been addressed to Historic Scotland's satisfaction;</li> <li>• several additional areas of work have been added to the revised project to support the future sustainability of the building - these include boiler replacement (repair originally included); renewing zinc ridging to the roof; removing dry rot and dealing with vermin infestation; and</li> <li>• the project remains on target for July 2009 completion.</li> </ul>

<u>NO</u>	<u>ORIGIN</u>	<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>UPDATE</u>
4.	Governance & Scrutiny Committee, 3 April 2009 (Item 7(ii), Page , 07/12)	<b><u>Planning and Listed Building Consent Appeal Decisions - 1 May 2007 to 31 January 2009</u></b> - Agreed that the Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services provide information to Members of the Committee on the amount of expenses awarded to the Council arising from the application by AMEC Project Investment PLC for a Windfarm at Kyle Forest, near Dalmellington.	The Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services advises that the costs arising from this application are currently being assessed by an independent Law Accountant and this will form the basis of the Council's claims for expenses.
5.	Governance & Scrutiny Committee, 3 April 2009 (Item 7(iii), Page , 07/12)	<b><u>Planning and Listed Building Consent Appeal Decisions - 1 May 2007 to 31 January 2009</u></b> - Agreed that the Development Management Manager provide further information to Members of the Committee on the current position in respect of Application No 07/033/FL, bearing in mind that this retrospective application had been refused on appeal.	The Development Management Manager advises that the development which was the subject of this application was removed from the site in September 2008.

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL  
GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 1 MAY 2009  
CAPITAL WORKS AT LONDON ROAD HEADQUARTERS**

**Briefing Note by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management**

**PURPOSE**

This Briefing Note advises Members of the nature of works planned at London Road Headquarters over the next two years as part of the Council's approved 10 Year Capital Investment Strategy.

**BACKGROUND**

The main impetus for alterations to the Headquarters Building arises from an urgent need identified by the Head of IT to significantly expand the Council's Data Centre which is currently located there. The Data Centre services all computer systems used in the Council including those for schools, Social Work, email services and Financial Management. One of the requirements is that the Centre should be as secure as possible and the avoidance of having an external wall is seen as a major advantage in this. Consequently the optimum solution was to utilise the space currently used as the Main Meeting Room to create a new Data Centre and to re-locate the meetings accommodation to the vacant space previously occupied by Legal Services.

**PROJECTS**

The replacement of the Data Centre has therefore grown into two main projects, the Data Centre itself and a new Council Chamber. The structural survey of the former Legal Services accommodation has however revealed structural issues that need to be dealt with including the condition of the roof and the need for enhanced fire compartmentalisation.

In creating what will be a new public space, which it is intended will be extensively used, the opportunity was identified to create linked refreshment facilities by re-locating the present canteen to the ground floor. The extensive nature of the refurbishment of a public building also means there is a requirement to upgrade disabled access to current standards and to install sprinkler and fire protection systems.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total costs can be broken down as shown and are provided for in current Council capital budgets.

Description of Works	Estimated Cost £m
Phase 1 – External fabric, roof repairs and fire compartmentalisation	0.290
Phase 2 – Council Chambers and internal DDA works	1.230
Phase 3 – External DDA works including car parking and ramps	0.330
Phase 4 – New Data Centre, toilets and Canteen relocation	1.230
General Works including upgrade of fire alarms, re-routing of water main and secure access improvement	0.290
Electrical power upgrading, CCTV to public access areas, stonework repairs, and provisional allowance for rot repairs and roof repairs	0.480
Cladding of Annex Building	0.050
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.900</b>

The figures are estimates at this stage and will be firmed up as tenders are received. The tender for the roofing works for example was lower than anticipated.

## RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Failure to create a new Council Data Centre will lead to an inability to support existing systems in all services across the Council and restrict the development of new IT systems and infrastructure.

Alex McPhee  
16 April 2009