

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 22 OCTOBER 2010

MATTERS ARISING UPDATE REPORT

Report by Executive Director of Finance and 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 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 ON MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1 The outstanding matters arising from the last meeting of the Committee and the information relevant to these matters is set out below, namely:-

3.1.1 **Matters Arising Update Report (GSC 24 September 2010, Item 3.2, Page 07/12)**

Information Requested: The number of tenants referred to within paragraph 3.1 of the report as having absconded (left without giving notice), evicted and evicted-short secure tenancy conversion, who had been rehoused by the Council within a period of six months from termination of their previous tenancy.

Response by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services:-

A total of 685 tenants gave up their tenancies in arrears during 2009/10. Of this number there were 180 tenants who gave up their tenancies through

absconding (left without notice), eviction or eviction (Short Secure Tenancy Conversion)*.

The number of these tenants re-housed within six months of their original tenancy being terminated within the three categories above was 23 (12.7%), a detailed breakdown is set out in the table below.

Reason for termination	Number	%	Number Re-housed within 6 months	%
Ordinary Termination (left giving notice)	391	57.1%		
Absconded (left without giving notice)	104	15.2%	3	2.8%
Death	80	11.7%		
Evicted	64	9.3%	8	12.5%
Moved to a Nursing Home / Hospital	25	3.6%		
Evicted (Short Secure Tenancy Conversion)*	12	1.8%	12	100%
Transferred to a Housing Association Property	9	1.3%		
Total	685	100%		
Total (Absconded / Evicted / Evicted SSST)	180		23	12.7%

* The Evicted (short secure tenancy conversion) category is a homelessness prevention measure. This measure replaces a standard tenancy and is used in cases where the current tenant is assessed as requiring support to maintain their tenancy. Tenants in this category have been technically evicted but are allowed to remain in their home; in addition they receive housing support and have an arrangement in place to pay off their arrears.

3.1.2 Awarding of Contracts - Period from 5 June to 10 September 2010 (GSC, 24 September 2010, Item 5.2(a), Page , 07/12)

Information Requested: With regard to the Galston Achieving Sustainable Regeneration Project, whether contingencies had been included within the estimated cost.

Response by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services:-

- (a) The tenders received from contractors for the Galston: Achieving Sustainable Regeneration Project did not include an amount for

contingencies. However, a sum of £40,000 to cover contingencies was added to the tender price and the contract let for the increased amount.

3.1.3 Awarding of Contracts - Period from 5 June to 10 September 2010 (GSC, 24 September 2010, Item 5.2(b), Page , 07/12)

Information Requested: With regard to the Cumnock Creating Civic Space project, the financial arrangements around the use by the contractor of sandstone which had been provided by East Ayrshire Council and how the arrangements applied in this case compared with similar circumstances in the past.

Response by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services:-

- (a) There are two instances where reclaimed sandstone has been used on the Cumnock : Creating Civic Space TCRF Project:-
- (i) A small quantity of sandstone was retained from the demolition of the former Bingo Hall and recycled by the contractor; there was no charge for this stone.
 - (ii) The remainder of the stone required to complete the Town Hall boundary wall was reclaimed from the Tierney Building on Townhead Street which was scheduled for demolition by EAC. The contractor was paid to demolish the garden wall prior to the take down of the Tierney Building and transport the stone to the Town Hall. There were no other costs. A small quantity of stone from the Tierney building was also used on site. Any remaining stone at the end of the contract will either be retained by the CARS Project Officer or sold to the contractor. These arrangements were put in place by the Cumnock CARS Project Officer; there are no previous circumstances with which to do a comparison.

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 matter arising as set out in this report.

Alex McPhee
Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support

5 October 2010
SN/FM

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.