

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 4 APRIL 2008 AT 1000 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Tom Cook, Helen Coffey, Willie Coffey, Maureen McKay, John Campbell, Alan Brown, Stuart Finlayson and Barney Menzies.

ATTENDING: Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services; Colin Houston, Chief Auditor; Joseph McLachlan, Corporate Accounting Manager; Robin Baker, Financial Controller; Julie McGarry, Administration Manager; and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors John Knapp and Eric Ross.

CHAIR: Councillor Tom Cook, Chair.

ADJOURNMENT/RECONVENTION

1. The meeting adjourned at 1005 hrs and reconvened at 1330 hrs with the same Members and Officers present and in attendance with the exception of Councillors Helen Coffey and Barney Menzies, from whom apologies had been received, and Administrative Officer, Stuart Nelson.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

2. There were submitted and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 March 2008 (circulated).

2.2 MATTER ARISING

Housing Investment Programme - Modern Facilities and Services (Item 4.1, Page , 07/11)

Having noted the information circulated to Members on this matter, it was agreed that the Financial Controller would provide a full financial breakdown, as far as possible, over the relevant categories, on the £1,046,615 underspend, particularly with regard to the value attributed to refusals.

AUDIT

INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2008/09

2. There was submitted a report dated 20 March 2008 (circulated) by the Chief Auditor which advised of the Internal Audit Plan for 2008/08.

It was agreed to approve the Internal Audit Plan for 2008/09 as set out in the report.

SCRUTINY

FINAL MEASUREMENTS ON WORKS CONTRACTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 NOVEMBER 2007 - 31 MARCH 2008

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 18 March 2008 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/ Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided, for information, details of final measurements for works contracts.

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY - MARCH 2008

4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 18 March 2008 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided, for information, details of tenders which had been accepted.

It was further noted that the Head of Democratic Services would report back to Members, information on (i) procedural arrangements when there was a requirement for a negotiated reduction of tender; (ii) the options open to officers when, for whatever reason, only one offer had been received; and (iii) the reason why the lowest offer received for the contract for the sprinkler installation at St Andrew's Homeless Hostel being subsequently withdrawn.

SCHOOL LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS 2006/07

5. There was submitted a report dated 27 March 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the destination of leavers from East Ayrshire schools in 2006/07 as published by the Scottish Government.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services continue to provide an annual report on school leavers' destinations to this Committee;
- (ii) to note the success of the "More Choices, More Chances" strategy as set out in the report; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

EXCLUSION

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

6. The Committee resolved that under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 8 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

SCRUTINY

GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET 2007/08 AS AT 10 FEBRUARY 2008 (PERIOD 11)

7. There was submitted and noted a report dated 18 March 2008 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management which advised of the projected

financial position for Revenue Services based on expenditure to 10 February 2008 (Period 11) and information provided by Executive Directors.

The meeting terminated at 1410 hrs.