

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28 APRIL 2011 AT 1000 HOURS
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

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

ATTENDING: Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; Craig McArthur, Head of Finance; David Mitchell, Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services; and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING: David Richardson, Audit Manager, Audit Scotland.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Willie Coffey, Eric Ross and Drew Filson.

CHAIR: Councillor Tom Cook, Chair.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

1. There were submitted and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2011 (circulated).

The Chair confirmed, and it was noted, that, with regard to Item 2(i), the requests for further information made at the last meeting were all responded to within the Matters Arising Update Report provided at Item 2 on the Agenda; and that with regard to Item 2(ii), the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services had confirmed to Councillor Kelly proposals for the undergrounding of electricity cables to street lights within Wellwood Avenue and Middlefield Drive in Muirkirk.

MATTERS ARISING UPDATE REPORT

2. There was submitted a report dated 20 April 2011 (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, as advised by the Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services, that future recording of information relative to domestic noise complaints would be in a format which would facilitate the identification of premises which were subject to more than one complaint;
- (ii) to note that the Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services would report back to the next meeting, within the Matters Arising Update report, on the possibility of providing information on the number of premises which had been subject to multiple domestic noise complaints and were also being dealt with by the Anti-Social Behaviour Team; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the information provided in the report.

SCRUTINY

FINAL MEASUREMENTS ON WORKS CONTRACTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 NOVEMBER 2010 TO 31 MARCH 2011

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 14 April 2011 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support which provided, for information, details of final measurements for capital works contracts which had been accepted on behalf of the Council for the period from 1 November 2010 to 31 March 2011.

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS - PERIOD FROM 26 FEBRUARY TO 14 APRIL 2011

4. There was submitted a report dated 19 April 2011 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support which provided, for information, details of tenders which had been accepted on behalf of the Council for the period from 26 February to 14 April 2011.

During discussion, the Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services provided further clarification in response to questions put by Members, relative to the following, namely:-

- the contract price and specification for the consolidation of old mine workings at the site of the proposed Gargieston Primary School, Kilmarnock; and
- the range of offers submitted for the Patna/St Xavier's Primary School new build project.

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

AUDIT

AUDIT SCOTLAND REPORT - AN OVERVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SCOTLAND 2010

5. There was submitted a report dated 1 April 2011 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support which provided a summary of Audit Scotland's Overview Report on issues which had arisen from Scottish Local Authority audits in 2010, highlighted key issues for East Ayrshire Council and proposed a response to key action points for Councils and key questions for Councillors outlined within the Overview Report.

During discussion, and in response to matters raised by Members:

- the Head of Finance provided further information on the development of a small dedicated team within the Finance Section to develop medium and long term financial planning, in response to one of the key actions points for the Council identified within the report;
- the Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services confirmed that an appointment had been made to the post of Shared Services Project Manager;
- the Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services provided further information on the development of a standardised suite of performance

reports in respect of procurement issues and the use which would be made of such reports; and

- the Head of Finance confirmed the format of the representing arrangements for the annual accounts following implementation of IFRS, including a summary of financial performance.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the publication of Audit Scotland's Report providing an Overview of Local Government in Scotland 2010, and that the report was available on the Members' information portal, for reference;
- (ii) to note the key findings of the Audit Scotland Overview Report as summarised in the report submitted;
- (iii) to note the key action points for Councils as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report and the Council's current and planned response to these action points;
- (iv) to note the key questions for Councillors as outlined in Appendix 2 to the report and the Council's current and planned response to these questions;
- (v) to approve the proposed arrangements for ensuring that all Elected Members are made aware of the publication of Audit Scotland's report providing an Overview of Local Government in Scotland 2010, as outlined at Section 4.1 of the report; and
- (vi) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1035 hours.