

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2005 AT 1000 HRS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Jim O'Neill, Brian Reeves, Daniel Coffey, Willie Coffey, Douglas Reid, Gordon Cree, John Weir, Isabella Macrae, Harry Wilson, John Knapp, Stuart Finlayson, Eric Jackson, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Farrell, William Menzies, Eric Ross, Elaine Dinwoodie and Jimmy Carmichael.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; James Lavery, Executive Director of Development and Property Services; John Mulgrew, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; William Stafford, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services; Alex McPhee, Executive Head of Finance; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support; Robert Paton, Head of Economic Development and Property; John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communication; and Anne Marie Carr, Senior Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Stephanie Young, Willie Coffey and Provost Jane Darnbrough.

CHAIR: Councillor Drew McIntyre, Chair.

MINUTES

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

1. There were submitted and approved as a correct record and in respect of any recommendations contained therein, the undernoted Sub-Committee Minutes as contained within the Appendix to these Minutes, viz:-
 - 1.1 **MEMBERS' SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF 2 NOVEMBER 2005**

BUDGET SCRUTINY GROUP

2. There was submitted and noted the Minutes of the Budget Scrutiny Group meeting held on 1 November 2005 (circulated).

FINANCE

BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT - GENERAL FUND SERVICE

Councillor Ross joined the meeting at this point.

3. There was submitted a report dated 28 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance which advised of the projected financial position for Revenue Services and the General Fund Service Capital Programme based on information provided by Executive Directors.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the transfer of resources totalling £0.188m as detailed in paragraph 4.8 of the report to the Renewals and Repairs Fund;
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT -
POLICY AND RESOURCES (CENTRAL SERVICES)**

- 4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 26 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance which advised of the current Budgetary Control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the services within the remit of the Policy and Resources (Central Services).

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT -
POLICY AND RESOURCES (CORPORATE SUPPORT)**

- 5. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 26 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and the Executive Director of Corporate Support.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT TO 18 SEPTEMBER 2005 (PERIOD 6)

- 6. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 28 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised of the current budgetary control position of the Housing Revenue Account for the period ending 18 September 2005 (Period 6).

**STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON REVENUE COLLECTION
AS AT 16 OCTOBER 2005 (PERIOD 7)**

- 7. There was submitted and noted a report dated 26 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance which updated Members on the position of the Council with regard to billing and collection of local taxes as at 16 October 2005 (Period 7).

BUDGET REALIGNMENT - RENTAL INCOME - DISPOSALS

- 8. There was submitted a report dated 25 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which requested the Committee to consider making an adjustment to the rental income budget of Development and Property Services for those properties which had been disposed of.

It was agreed to note during discussion of the Council's budget proposals for 2006/07 the additional budget pressures on rental income on the Development and Property Services annual rent receivable budget as a result of sales of industrial premises.

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

**DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATE SUPPORT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE -
ABSENCE MANAGEMENT REPORT (QUARTER 3, 2005)**

- 9. There was submitted and noted a report dated 18 October 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised of absence rates for the Department of Corporate Support which included the Chief Executive's office for the quarterly period ended 30 September 2005.

CONSULTATION

CONNECTING TO THE SYSTEM: CONSULTATION ON PAYING FOR CONNECTION TO THE WATER AND SEWERAGE NETWORK

10. There was submitted a report dated 12 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which advised the Committee and which provided comments for approval and submission to the Scottish Executive on the contents of a consultation paper entitled "Connecting to the System: Consultation on Paying for Connection to the Water and Sewerage Network", insofar as this relates to future development requirements.

It was agreed:

- (i) to authorise the Executive Director of Development and Property Services to forward a copy of the report to the Scottish Executive, to all MSPs and List MSPs, Scottish Water and the Water Industry Commissioner as representing the views of the Council on the consultation paper; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EMERGENCY PLANNING - REVIEW OF THE BELLWIN SCHEME

11. There was submitted a report dated 17 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised on a Scottish Executive consultation paper entitled "Review of the Bellwin Scheme" and which sought authority to submit an appropriate response on behalf of the Council.

It was agreed:

- (i) to remit to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to respond to the consultation paper on behalf of the Council; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

CONSULTATION ON THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES (PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT PERFORMANCE) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2005

12. There was submitted a report dated 31 October 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided an update on the Scottish Executive's progress in finalising Regulations with respect to Section 13 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 on requirements for public performance reporting under Best Value and which sought approval of a Council response to the Executive's latest consultation paper on the draft Regulations.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the changes to the draft Regulations on Public Performance Reporting currently being proposed by the Scottish Executive;
- (ii) to approve the terms outlined in Section 4 of the report as a basis for the Council's response to the Scottish Executive consultation;
- (iii) to note the intention to return to the Policy and Resources Committee on the further development of the Council's Public Performance Reporting Strategy once the Regulations had finally been approved; and

- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

COMMUNITY PLANNING

EAST AYRSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY 2005-2008

13. There was submitted a report dated 18 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2005-2008.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Strategy for 2005-2008;
- (ii) to remit the submission of applications to the Scottish Executive as appropriate to the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services, subject to confirmation of match funding; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

PROPOSED SHOPMOBILITY SCHEME

14. There was submitted a report dated 3 November 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which presented for consideration options for establishing a Shopmobility Scheme in Kilmarnock Town Centre.

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Reeves, moved:-

- (i) to approve the establishment of a Shopmobility Scheme within Kilmarnock Town Centre, located at the bus station;
- (ii) to approve the financial package detailed between Sections 3.2 and 3.4 of the report;
- (iii) to endorse the proposal to identify an appropriate community group/voluntary organisation to lead on this initiative;
- (iv) that the Department of Development and Property Services assume lead responsibility for the initiative; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Ross left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor D Coffey, moved as an amendment all of the above, subject to deletion of the words "located at the bus station" from (i) above.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 13 votes to 4.

Councillor Ross rejoined the meeting at this point.

CORPORATE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY - UPDATE

15. There was submitted a report dated 1 November 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support to appraise the Committee of the progress made towards the implementation of the Council's Corporate Procurement Strategy and forthcoming anticipated national developments in procurement potentially affecting the future development of the Strategy.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note that further reports on the outcome and recommendations of the McClelland Review and the ongoing development of the Authorities Buying Consortium would be brought to the Policy and Resources Committee in due course; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

CHILDREN'S PANEL

EAST AYRSHIRE CHILDREN'S PANEL: PROPOSED CREATION OF SECOND DEPUTE PANEL CHAIR POST

- 16.** There was submitted a report dated 4 November 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which sought support and approval to meet any additional costs associated with the creation of a second Depute Panel Chair position for East Ayrshire Children's Panel.

It was agreed:

- (i) to support the establishment of a second Depute Panel Chair position for the East Ayrshire Children's Panel and note any associated additional expenses would be met from existing resources;
- (ii) to note the Children's Panel Advisory Committee would be responsible for carrying out the required recruitment procedure to fill the second Depute Chair position; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

- 17.** 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 items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Schedule 7A of the Act as shown against each item.

CHILDREN'S PANEL

PANEL OF SAFEGUARDERS (PARA 6)

- 18.** There was submitted a report dated 27 October 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which requested the Committee to consider the appointment of two further Safeguarders to the Council's Panel of Safeguarders in the light of an examination of the operation of the Panel.

It was agreed:

- (i) to appoint each of the applicants detailed within Appendix I to the report as a Safeguarder until 31 December 2007;
- (ii) that it be remitted to the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support to make the necessary arrangements for appointment, including carrying out the necessary Disclosure Scotland criminal record check; and

- (iii) to note that the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support would continue to review the need for any further appointment and training of Safeguarders in the light of operational requirements.

PROPERTY

PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF 30/32 DUNDONALD ROAD, KILMARNOCK (PARA 9)

- 19.** There was submitted a report dated 18 October 2005 (circulated) by the Solicitor to the Council which advised of the outcome of the marketing of 30/32 Dundonald Road, Kilmarnock as shown on the plan attached to the report and which sought authority to dispose of the subjects to the party detailed in the report.

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Reeves, moved to authorise the Solicitor to the Council to accept the offer from the party detailed in the report subject to any additional terms and conditions required to protect the Council's interests.

Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor D Coffey, moved as an amendment that the property be re-marketed at offers over £400,000.

On a division by a show of hands, the motion was carried by 14 votes to 4.

ASSET MANAGEMENT AND REGENERATION OPPORTUNITIES - CUMNOCK TOWN CENTRE (PARA 9) (Item 5, Page 1598, 03/97)

- 20.** There was submitted a report dated 1 November 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which provided an interim report to the Policy and Resources Committee on various developments in relation to Cumnock Town Centre regeneration proposals and which sought approval for an initial investigation of potential developer interest.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the contents of the consultants' report on the assessment of retail development interest in the Town Centre and the recommendations for the marketing of the development opportunity;
- (ii) to note the progress in the acquisition of further land as part of the wider development;
- (iii) to note the range of options that were being assessed in relation to asset management and regeneration objectives with particular reference to office accommodation, land ownership and Glaisnock Shopping Centre; and
- (iv) to approve the promotion through the Official Journal of the European Union and by the consultants detailed in the report of the regeneration and development opportunities in the Cumnock Town Centre as detailed in the report.

The meeting terminated at 1100 hrs.