

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2006 AT 1000 HRS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

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

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; Elizabeth Morton, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support; Jim Kane, Acting Executive Director of Development and Property Services; Alex McPhee, Executive Head of Finance; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; Kay Gilmour Head of Community Support; John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communication; Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support; and Anne Marie Carr, Senior Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Provost Jane Darnbrough and Councillor Jimmy Carmichael.

CHAIR: Councillor Drew McIntyre, Chair.

MINUTES

BUDGET SCRUTINY GROUP

1. There were submitted and noted the Minutes of the Budget Scrutiny Group meeting held on 17 October 2006 (circulated).

FINANCE

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT -
GENERAL FUND SERVICES**

2. There was submitted a report dated 23 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance which advised of the projected financial position for Revenue Services and the General Services Capital Programme based on information provided by Executive Directors.

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Reeves, moved:

- (i) to approve the budget virements identified in paragraph 3.4.3 of the report;
- (ii) to approve the utilisation of Departmental balances identified in Section 4 of the report; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Councillor McDill, seconded by Councillor Reid, moved as an amendment:

- (i) to approve the budget virements identified in paragraph 3.4.3 of the report;
- (ii) to approve the utilisation of Departmental balances identified in Section 4 of the report;

- (iii) that works on the restoration of the Burns Monument within of the Kay Park be suspended to allow for further consultation with the public as this was a subject of great concern; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 12 votes to 6.

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

- 3. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 25 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and the Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the services within the remit of Policy and Resources (Corporate Support).

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

- 4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 25 October 2006 (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 for Policy and Resources (Central Services).

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT -
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT TO 17 SEPTEMBER 2006 (PERIOD 6)**

- 5. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 23 October 2006 (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 ended 17 September 2006 (Period 6).

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON REVENUE COLLECTION

- 6. There was submitted and noted a report dated 30 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance providing Members with an update on the billing and collection performance of local taxes as at 15 October 2006 (Period 7).

**TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2005/06 AND
REVIEW OF ACTIVITY FOR 2006/07**

- 7. There was submitted and noted a report dated 20 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance which informed the Committee of the Treasury activity for the financial year ended 31 March 2006.

GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/08 - 2009/10

- 8. There was submitted a report dated 6 November 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance which provided information to allow the setting of the General Services Capital Programme for 2007/08, and an indicative programme for the financial years 2008/09 and 2009/10.

Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Weir, moved that the Committee reconsider the element of the report pertaining to the Kay Park facilities when considering the report in its entirety.

The Head of Administrative and Legal Services then advised that in view of the vote previously taken on substantially the same issue in respect of item 2 above that Standing Order 40 fell to be applied to Councillor Reid's motion.

On a division by a show of hands, there were 6 votes for the motion and 12 against the motion and, accordingly, the motion failed to receive the requisite support of two-thirds of the Members present and voting in accordance with Standing Order 40.

The Committee then considered the report in its entirety.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the Capital Investment Strategy detailed in the report;
- (ii) to approve the proposed arrangements for expenditure controls on construction and related work;
- (iii) to instruct Executive Directors to submit detailed Capital Programmes for utilisation of capital allocations for 2007/08 to their Service Committees for consideration and approval, having satisfied the requirements in relation to option appraisal and categorisation of capital expenditure;
- (iv) to approve the overall proposed capital expenditure detailed in Section 6 of the report; and
- (v) arising from Councillor Finlayson's comments regarding the number of derelict properties within Galston, that early consideration be given to the proposals contained in paragraph 4.10 of the report in respect of Council accommodation within Galston.

ST ANDREW'S DAY ANTI-RACIST EVENT 2006

9. There was submitted a report dated 23 October 2006 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which advised the Committee of a contribution of £250 which had been made in terms of the delegated authority of the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Chair, to the STUC towards the costs involved with the organisation of a St Andrew's Day and anti-racist event for St Andrew's Day 2006.

It was agreed to note the contribution to the STUC of £250 made in terms of the Chief Executive's delegated authority, following consultation with the Chair.

PROCUREMENT

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE McLELLAND REVIEW OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT IN SCOTLAND - UPDATE

10. There was submitted a report dated 23 October 2006 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which apprised the Committee of the current position in respect of the implementation of the McLelland Review of Public Procurement in Scotland on a local and national basis, the establishment of the Public Procurement Reform Board, the McLelland Programme and of the ongoing participation of East Ayrshire Council.

It was reported and noted that the Appendix attached to the report actually related to Item 11 of the Agenda, Corporate Procurement Strategy - Update. Members had been advised of this prior to the meeting.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the recommendations of the McLelland Review detailed in the report which had resulted in the creation of the McLelland Programme for Procurement Reform, East Ayrshire's participation therein and that future reports on the progress of the Programme would be brought to the Policy and Resources Committee in due course; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**CORPORATE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY -
UPDATE (Item 15, Page 1819, 03/07)**

11. There was submitted a report dated 30 October 2006 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which apprised the Committee of further progress which had been made towards implementation of the Council's Corporate Procurement Strategy and which provided details of ongoing and anticipated procurement developments which would require to be incorporated in an updated and enhanced strategy.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the further progress that had been made in the implementation of the Corporate Procurement Strategy and that further reports in relation to the procurement function would be brought to the Committee in due course; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

PEOPLE'S SERVICES

**2005/2006 ANNUAL REVIEW OF EAST AYRSHIRE'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE'S SERVICE PLAN 2005-2008**

12. There was submitted a report dated 11 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the 2005/06 Annual Review of the East Ayrshire's Children and Young People's Service Plan 2005-2008.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve East Ayrshire's 2005/06 Annual Review of the 2005-08 Children and Young People's Service Plan; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

DIALOGUE YOUTH INITIATIVE UPDATE REPORT (Item 28, Page 1021, 03/07)

13. There was submitted a report dated 17 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which provided the Committee with a summary of the progress to date of the Dialogue Youth Initiative and the priorities for the forthcoming period to March 2007.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the progress made in respect of the Dialogue Youth Initiative;
- (ii) to endorse the Council's continued involvement with the Dialogue Youth Initiative; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EAST AYRSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY 2005-08

- 14.** There was submitted a report dated 12 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services updating the Committee on progress in relation to the East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2005-08.

It was agreed to note the progress made in implementing the East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2005-08.

DISABILITY EQUALITY SCHEME

- 15.** There was submitted a report dated 7 November 2006 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which sought the Committee's approval of the Disability Equality Scheme which the Council were required to prepare under the specific duty placed on it by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005.

It was agreed to approve the Disability Equality Scheme and the Action Plan detailed in the report.

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL PUBLIC PERFORMANCE REPORTING STRATEGY

Councillor Ross joined the meeting at this point.

- 16.** There was submitted a report dated 26 October 2006 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised the Committee on the proposed way forward for the further development of the Council's Public Performance Reporting Strategy as part of the ongoing review of Public Performance Reporting within the Council.

It was agreed:

- (i) to remit to the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support, in consultation with the Member/Officer Working Group on Public Performance Reporting to take forward the further development of the Council's Public Performance Reporting Strategy;
- (ii) to remit to Officers to provide ongoing update reports to the Corporate Management Team;
- (iii) that further reports on the continuing development of the Council's Public Performance Reporting Strategy be submitted to the Committee at a future date;
- (iv) to take cognisance of the comments made by Councillor O'Neill of the need to raise awareness of the purpose and role of residents panels within East Ayrshire as detailed in the report at paragraph 4.8; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**STRATEGIC CROSS-CUTTING REVIEW OF PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND
OTHER ASSET MANAGEMENT PROPERTY RELATED MATTERS -
PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES**

17. There was submitted a report dated 31 October 2006 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which sought approval for the negotiation of appropriate contractual terms with Solace Enterprises Ltd and their associate consultant SKG Associates Ltd for the provision of consultancy services to the Council in respect of a range of property related initiatives currently ongoing within the Council, principally the agreed plan to improve the Council's Housing Repairs Service, together with other asset management property related matters, including the Capital Programme.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the negotiation of contract terms in respect of the provision of consultancy services with SKG Associates Ltd in terms of paragraph 9(2) of the Council's Standing Orders relating to contracts;
- (ii) to remit to the Chief Executive to revert back to Members with any new proposals for consultancy support needed to take forward matters in relation to the Council's property related Best Value Improvement Agenda points on 'Asset Management'; 'Sustainability' and 'Housing Repairs'; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

STRATEGIC SELF ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE - PROGRESS REPORT

18. There was submitted a report dated 6 November 2006 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which updated the Committee on the Council's progress in addressing areas for improvement, identified during the strategic self assessment of the Council's performance.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the progress which had been made in the implementation of the improvement areas identified through the Strategic Self Assessment of Performance;
- (ii) to note that the Corporate Management Team would continue to move forward in securing the remaining improvements identified through this process until these had been fully achieved; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

SCOTTISH PROVOSTS' ASSOCIATION

19. There was submitted a report dated 23 October 2006 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised the Committee of the formation of a Scottish Provosts' Association and which requested the Committee to determine East Ayrshire Council's membership of the Association.

It was agreed that consideration of this item be continued to a future meeting of the Committee.

**DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATE SUPPORT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE -
ABSENCE MANAGEMENT REPORT (QUARTER 3, 2006)**

20. There was submitted and noted a report dated 19 October 2006 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised the Committee of absence rates for the Department of Corporate Support which included the Chief Executive's office for the quarterly period ended 30 September 2006.

CONTRACTS

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

21. There was submitted and noted a report dated 25 October 2006 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided, for information, details of tenders which had been accepted, viz:-

<u>Contract</u>	<u>Successful Contractor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Corporate Plant Hire - Framework	Ashtead Plant Hire Co Ltd, Manchester; Jarvie Plant Ltd, Grangemouth; Sibcas, West Lothian; Brown Plant Hire, Kilmarnock; Trigon Tools Ltd, Irvine; Jamieson Plant Hire, Maybole; Speedy Hire (Scotland) Ltd, Kilmarnock; James & William McNae, Tarbolton; Hamilton Tarmac, Hurlford; Vanlee Transport, Glasgow; Clee Hill Plant Ltd, Rutherglen; W.H McClounie Plant Hire/Contracts, New Cumnock; Plantfinder (Scotland) Ltd, Dundonald; Loxam Access Ltd, Glasgow; GAP Plant and Tool Hire, Kilmarnock and Hewden Stuart Plc, Castleford.	Schedule of Rates
Architectural and Related Site Services - Framework	Armour Construction Consultants, Kilmarnock; Thomas C Stewart, Kilmarnock; Robert Potter & Partners, Ayr; Austin Smith Lord, Glasgow; Summers-Inman LLP, Glasgow; Jacobs UK Ltd, Glasgow; Ove Arup & Partners Scotland Ltd, Glasgow; Pick Everard Consulting Engineers, Glasgow; Currie & Brown Ltd, Glasgow; Capita Symonds Ltd, Glasgow; Gage-Tupper & Associates Ltd, Evesham;	Schedule of Rates

	Munro Architects, Kilmarnock; Hulley & Kirkwood Consulting Engineers Ltd, Glasgow; Scott Wilson Scotland Ltd, Glasgow; Davie & McCulloch Ltd, Glasgow; Brown & Wallace, Glasgow and Forbes Leslie Network, Ayr.	
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PROPERTY

TRANSFER OF FORMER ALTONHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE TO THE EDUCATION PROPERTY PORTFOLIO

22. There was submitted a report dated 31 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval to transfer the ownership of the former Altonhill Community Centre to the Education Property Portfolio.

Councillor W Coffey, seconded by Councillor Wilson, moved that consideration of this item be continued and a report brought back to a further meeting due to the concerns expressed over the lack of consultation with the local Member, the community and the Police regarding the future plans for the Centre and also given that the community of Altonhill/Longpark did not have a community facility.

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Reeves, moved as an amendment:

- (i) to transfer the ownership of the former Altonhill Community Centre to the Education Property Portfolio; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

On a division by a show of hands the amendment was carried by 13 votes to 6.

BARONY 'A' FRAME TRUST

23.1 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Menzies declared a non-financial interest in accordance with paragraphs 5.17 and 5.18 of the Code of Conduct and withdrew from the meeting.

23.2 Consideration of Item

There was submitted a report dated 13 November 2006 (circulated) by the Acting Executive Director of Development and Property Services which sought approval of the Council to provide a bridging facility of between £150,000 and £250,000 to allow the Barony 'A' Frame Trust to carry out the Barony 'A' Frame restoration project.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve an interest-free bridging facility of between £150,000 and £250,000, subject to terms and conditions to be approved by the Solicitor to the Council including repayment in full by the Trust by 31 March 2008; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**DISPOSAL OF UNITS 2-4 BONNYTON INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MUNRO PLACE,
KILMARNOCK WITH OPTION TO PURCHASE UNIT 1 BONNYTON INDUSTRIAL
ESTATE, MUNRO PLACE, KILMARNOCK**

- 24.** The Chair advised the Members of the Committee that this item had been withdrawn from the Agenda.

The meeting terminated at 1112 hrs.