

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER 2003
AT 0900 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS.
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Jim O'Neill, Brian Reeves, Daniel Coffey, Gordon Cree, Harry Wilson, Stuart Finlayson, Eric Jackson, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Farrell, William Menzies, Eric Ross and Elaine Dinwoodie.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources; William Stafford, Director of Community Services; James Lavery, Director of Homes and Technical Services; Alex McPhee, Director of Finance; John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communication; Graham Haugh, Head of Personnel; Malcolm Roulston, Head of Information Technology; and Anne Marie Carr, Senior Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Willie Coffey, Douglas Reid, John Weir, Provost Jane Darnbrough and Councillors John Knapp and Jimmy Carmichael.

CHAIR: Councillor Drew McIntyre, Chair.

**PROPERTY REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS
(Item 23, Page 2941, 99/03)**

1. There was submitted a report dated 8 December 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Homes and Technical Services which advised of progress in implementing the review of the Council's contractual arrangements in relation to the Property Repairs and Maintenance Service, including elements of the Capital Programme and which made recommendations for future contractual arrangements.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the Council continue to adopt a mixed economy, for the management of its repairs contracts;
- (ii) that the Council award its Housing Repairs contracts to Building and Works, subject to a detailed and externally validated benchmarking arrangement in relation to price and quality, and that the outcomes be reported back to a future meeting of this Committee;
- (iii) that the Housing Repairs contract include the work of fitting showers and hand rails as part of the aids and adaptations process, the Council's out of hours emergency service for all of its buildings and domestic gas work;
- (iv) that the Council tender externally its repairs service for non-housing buildings and that Building and Works be permitted to tender for this;
- (v) that the non-housing repairs service include the servicing of gas boilers and associated equipment;
- (vi) that the Council continue to tender separately the specialist contracts which were previously the subject of tenders and continue to tender separately the aids and adaptations work for the installation of ramps and stairlifts; and

- (vii) that the Council should institute a range of framework of call-off supply chain contracts for kitchens, bathroom fittings, boilers and other items used on a regular basis with a view to obtaining maximum value for money.

ELECTRONIC PURCHASING SYSTEM (Item 6, Page 127, 03/07)

2. There was submitted a joint report dated 11 December 2003 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources, the Directors of Homes and Technical Services and of Finance which advised of progress made on a proposed collaborative project to implement an electronic purchasing system across all 12 Authorities Buying Consortium (ABC) Member Councils and which made appropriate recommendations in respect of future participation in the project.

Councillor Farrell left the meeting at this point.

It was agreed:

- (i) that a study be commissioned of the Council's procurement practices to identify the scope for further cost savings from the re-engineering of current processes;
- (ii) that authority be granted for officers to consult with Glasgow City Council on the potential for a collaborative arrangement in the further development of SAP in the area of electronic procurement; and
- (iii) that the Chief Executive be remitted to notify Renfrewshire Council that East Ayrshire Council had decided not to participate further in the proposed project at this time.

PROMOTING RACE EQUALITY - FUNDING APPLICATION (Item 15, page 3104, 99/03)

3. There was submitted a report dated 12 December 2003 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources (i) which advised of an annual request for a grant of £3,500 by the West of Scotland Community Relations Council; (ii) which sought the establishment of the Ayrshire Race Equality Partnership; and (iii) which recommended accordingly.

It was agreed:

- (i) that a grant of £3,500 be awarded to the Ayrshire Race Equality Partnership; and
- (ii) that the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources communicate this decision to the Ayrshire Race Equality Partnership and West of Scotland Community Relations Council.

The meeting terminated at 0917 hrs.