

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2007 AT
1000 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

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

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; Elizabeth Morton, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support; Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; William Stafford, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services; Jim Kane, Acting Executive Director of Development and Property Services; Alex McPhee, Executive Head of Finance; Jackie Donnelly, Executive Head of Social Work; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communication; Chris McAleavey, Head of Housing; Joe McLachlan, Corporate Accounting Manager; Karl Doroszenko, Policy and Projects Manager; and Anne Marie Carr, Senior Administrative Officer.

ALSO PRESENT: David Richardson, Audit Scotland.

APOLOGY: Provost Jane Darnbrough.

CHAIR: Councillor Drew McIntyre, Chair.

MINUTES

1. There were submitted and approved as a correct record and in respect of any recommendations contained therein, the undernoted Sub-Committee Minutes (circulated), viz:-
 - 1.1 **MEMBERS' SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF 24 JANUARY 2007 - Appendix I.**

BUDGET SCRUTINY GROUP

2. There were submitted and noted the Minutes of the Budget Scrutiny Group held on 17 January 2007 (circulated).

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

3. There was submitted a report dated 15 January 2007 (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.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the transfer from the Renewals and Repairs Fund of £0.041m as detailed in paragraph 3.8.2 of the report; and

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

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - HOUSING REVENUE
ACCOUNT TO 10 DECEMBER 2006 (PERIOD 9)**

- 4. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 17 January 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services.

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

- 5. There was submitted and noted a report dated 12 January 2007 (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 Policy and Resources (Central Services).

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

- 6. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 10 January 2007 (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).

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON REVENUE COLLECTION

- 7. There was submitted and noted a report dated 17 January 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance which provided Members with an update on the billing and collection performance of local taxes as at 7 January 2007 (Period 10).

**FUTURE FUNDING OF EAST AYRSHIRE ACCESS PANEL (NORTH DISTRICT)
AND CUMNOCK AND DOON VALLEY ACCESS PANEL AND
KILMARNOCK FORUM ON DISABILITY AND EAST AYRSHIRE
(SOUTH) FORUM ON DISABILITY**

- 8. There was submitted a report dated 18 January 2007 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which requested Members of the Committee to consider future funding arrangements for the various Access Panels and Forums on Disability operating within the East Ayrshire area.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the future funding arrangements as detailed in the report for the Access Panels and the Forums on Disability;
- (ii) to note that joint grant applications would require to be submitted by the Access Panels and the Forums on Disability; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT - PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

- 9. There was submitted a report dated 5 February 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance which sought approval of Prudential Indicators relating to capital expenditure for the forthcoming and following years.

It was agreed:

- (i) to recommend to Council that the Prudential Indicators set out in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.7 of the report be approved; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Jackson left the meeting at this point.

ADDITIONAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (Item 8, page 2545, 03/07)

10. There was submitted a report dated 5 February 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance which sought approval for additional expenditure on specific capital projects where tender prices had been in excess of the preliminary estimates.

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Reeves, moved:

- (i) to approve additional expenditure of £1.727m in respect of the projects detailed in the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Wilson, moved as an amendment not to continue with the Burns Centre and to engage the public in a consultation process over a three month period and allow the new Council to take a decision on this matter.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 13 votes to 5.

REVENUE BUDGET 2007/08 - 2009/10 - COUNCIL TAX AND RENT LEVELS

11. There was submitted a report dated 5 February 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance to consider the overall General Services Revenue budget for 2007/08, to recommend to Council the level at which Council Tax should be set for the financial year 2007/08 and to confirm the Council house rent increase from 1 April 2007.

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Reeves, having noted the overall allocations for the General Services Revenue budget for 2007/08 and indicative allocations for 2008/09 and 2009/10 shown as follows:-

Service	Total Allocation 2007/08 £m	Indicative Allocation 2008/09	Indicative Allocation 2009/10
Educational Services	101.588	104.1	106.7
Social Services	47.901	49.1	50.3
Department of Neighbourhood Services	35.862	36.7	37.7
Police, Fire, Valuation Board & SPT	33.417	34.3	35.1
Department of Corporate Support	12.040	12.3	12.6
Finance & Asset Management Services	54.066	55.5	56.8
Other Non-Departmental Items	15.849	16.2	16.7
Net Expenditure	300.723	308.2	315.9
Net Income	300.723	308.2	315.9

moved:-

- (i) to recommend to Council that the budget be approved;
- (ii) to recommend to Council that the Band D Council Tax level for 2007/08 be set at £1,188.99;
- (iii) to request Service Committees to determine Service budgets within the allocation indicated taking account of Service Plans and priorities;
- (iv) to recommend to Council a rent increase of £1.98 per week over a 52 week period (equating to £2.14 per week over the 48 week payment cycle); an increase of £0.18 per week (52 weeks) for lock-ups and £1.19 for garage site charges; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Wilson, moved as an amendment to note the recommendations detailed in the report.

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

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (SPIs) 2007/08 - DIRECTION 2006 (Item 15, Page 2420, 03/07)

- 12.** There was submitted a report dated 17 January 2007 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised of the Publication of Information (Standards of Performance) Direction 2006 by the Accounts Commission.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the publication by the Accounts Commission of the Direction 2006;
- (ii) to note developments which were taking place at national level aimed at developing a new performance management framework for Councils and the likely impact on Statutory Performance Indicators; and
- (iii) to note the completion of trial runs on new and amended performance indicators for 2006/07 contained within Direction 2005.

BEST VALUE AND COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPROVEMENT AGENDA (Item 20, Page 2422, 03/07)

- 13.** There was submitted a report dated 17 January 2007 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which sought the Committee's agreement to the detailed Improvement Plan which underpinned the Council's Improvement Agenda resulting from the recent Best Value and Community Planning Audit.

It was reported and noted that Section 4.3 of the Equal Opportunities Improvement Plan under the heading "Preparing Gender Equality Scheme and Action Plan" at the comments section, line 1 should read 1 April 2007 and not 1 April 2006.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the detailed Improvement Plans contained within the Appendix to the report;
- (ii) to forward the Improvement Plans to the Accounts Commission for information and noting and to assist the follow-up review by External Audit;

- (iii) to receive annual update reports in respect of the implementation of the Improvement Plans commencing around August 2007; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Jackson rejoined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

**2006 SCOTTISH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION
(Item 13, Page 1016, 03/07)**

14. There was submitted a report dated 24 January 2007 (circulated) by the Acting Executive Director of Development and Property Services which advised Members of the results of the 2006 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation and which highlighted results from its analysis as they related to East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the summarised results of the 2006 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation;
- (ii) that a seminar be arranged for all Elected Members; and
- (iii) having heard the Chief Executive, that arrangements be made to invite the Chief Statistician from the Scottish Executive, or a suitable representative to attend the Seminar.

**ST ANDREW'S DAY BANK HOLIDAY (SCOTLAND) BILL
(Item 21, Page 1019, 03/07)**

15. There was submitted a report dated 26 January 2007 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised the Committee of the implications for the Council as an employer of the passing by the Scottish Parliament of the St Andrew's Day Bank Holiday (Scotland) Bill.

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Reeves, moved:

- (i) that consultation be carried out with the Trade Unions and other relevant parties in relation to the moving of an existing holiday to St Andrew's Day;
- (ii) that the holiday arrangements that had been agreed previously by the Council for the Christmas-New Year holiday period should be excluded from the consultation exercise; and
- (iii) that a further report be submitted to the Committee following the conclusion of the consultation.

Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Wilson, moved as an amendment that an unrestricted consultation be carried out with the Trade Unions and other relevant parties in relation to the proposal for a St Andrew's Day Bank Holiday.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 14 votes to 5.

Councillor O'Neill left the meeting at this point.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

16. 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 Paragraph 9 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

**ASSET MANAGEMENT - CORPORATE OFFICE ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY
(Item 28, Page 1980, 03/07)**

17.1 Declaration of Interest

Councillor O'Neill rejoined the meeting and declared a non-financial interest which he did not consider significant in terms of paragraphs 5.17 and 5.18 of the Code of Conduct and indicated his intention to remain and participate in consideration of this item.

17.2 Consideration of Item

Councillor Kelly left the meeting at this point.

There was submitted a report dated 19 January 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance which submitted proposals in relation to the introduction of a Corporate Office Accommodation Strategy which would form part of the Council's Asset Management Plan and which sought Committee approval to proceed with the property transactions identified within the report.

It was reported and noted that construction works for the new Risk Management Centre at London Road Headquarters had now started.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the Corporate Office Accommodation Strategy detailed within the report;
- (ii) to authorise the Solicitor to the Council to enter into a new lease of accommodation to be provided within the former bonded warehouse at Strand Street/Croft Street, Kilmarnock for a period of 20 years at a rental not exceeding the sum detailed in the report;
- (iii) to authorise the disposal of the subjects at 6 Croft Street, Kilmarnock to the party detailed in the report for a disposal price of not less than the sum specified in the report and to authorise the Solicitor to the Council to conclude the transaction which would be conditional upon the Council entering into a formal lease of the new accommodation within the bonded warehouse at Croft Street/Strand Street;
- (iv) to authorise the Executive Head of Finance to appoint GVA Grimley to negotiate lease terms and conditions on behalf of the Council with Ediston Properties Ltd, the developer of the proposed new Kilmarnock Top of the Town development regarding the lease of part of the accommodation within the proposed new building for occupancy by Finance and Asset Management staff;
- (v) to authorise the Solicitor to the Council to enter into a temporary lease extension beyond the termination date of 26 July 2007 in respect of the office accommodation at Holmquarry House, Kilmarnock;
- (vi) to authorise the Executive Director of Corporate Support to enter into detailed negotiations with the developer of the proposed new office development in Cumnock regarding the provision of office accommodation which would form part of the proposed Cumnock Town Centre regeneration project; and

(vii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Kelly rejoined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

**PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF LAND AT REAR OF
BARBIESTON ROAD, AUCHINLECK**

18. There was submitted a joint report dated 22 January 2007 (circulated) by the Acting Executive Director of Development and Property Services and the Solicitor to the Council which sought Committee approval to dispose of a site extending to 1.3215 hectares (3.265 acres) or thereby at the rear of Barbieston Road, Auchinleck shown on the plan detailed in the report, to the party detailed in the report

It was agreed:

- (i) to dispose of a site extending to 1.3215 hectares (3.265 acres) or thereby at the rear of Barbieston Road, Auchinleck as detailed in the report to the party identified in the report;
- (ii) to authorise the Solicitor to the Council to conclude the transaction; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF LAND ADJACENT TO
CATRINE GAMES HALL, STATION YARD, CATRINE**

19. There was submitted a joint report dated 31 January 2007 (circulated) by the Acting Executive Director of Development and Property Services and the Solicitor to the Council which sought Committee approval to dispose of a site extending to 0.4324 hectares (1.07 acres) or thereby adjacent to Catrine Games Hall, Station Yard, Catrine, as detailed on the plan detailed in the report, to the party identified in the report.

It was agreed:

- (i) to dispose of the site extending to 0.4324 hectares (1.07 acres) or thereby adjacent to Catrine Games Hall, Station Yard, Catrine as detailed on the plan in the report to the party identified in the report;
- (ii) to authorise the Solicitor to the Council to conclude the transaction; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1115 hrs.

APPENDIX I

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

**MEMBERS' SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE
POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY 2007 AT 1112
HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON
ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Jim O'Neill, Brian Reeves, Douglas Reid, Harry Wilson, Provost Jane Darnbrough and Councillors Robert McDill, Tommy Farrell and Eric Ross.

ATTENDING: Elizabeth Morton, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support; William Stafford, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services; and Christine Baillie, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGY: Councillor Jimmy Carmichael.

CHAIR: Councillor Drew McIntyre, Chair.

CONFERENCES AND COURSES

1. It was reported and noted that the balance of budget for Conferences and Courses for financial year 2006/07 as at 17 January 2007 was £14,489.50.

CONFERENCES/COURSES

**2.1 TSI/LACORS YEAR AHEAD LEADERSHIP SEMINAR, 1-2 FEBRUARY 2007,
HOLIDAY INN, STRATFORD ON AVON**

There was submitted and noted a report dated 4 January 2007 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised (i) of an invitation to attend the TSI/LACORS Year Ahead Leadership Seminar from 1-2 February 2007 in Stratford on Avon; and (ii) that the Chief Executive, in terms of her delegated authority and in consultation with the Chair, agreed to authorise the attendance of Councillor O'Neill.

**2.2 APSE BUILDING SERVICES ANNUAL SEMINAR, 14-15 FEBRUARY 2007,
EDINBURGH**

There was submitted a report dated 8 December 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services on the Annual Conference of the Scottish APSE Building Services.

It was agreed to authorise attendance at the above Conference by one Member of the Administration, if available, the name to be notified to the Chief Executive as soon as possible.

2.3 CoSLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 2007, 7-9 MARCH 2007, FAIRMONT, ST ANDREWS

There was submitted a report dated 17 January 2007 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support on the CoSLA Annual Conference and Exhibition to take place from 7-9 March 2007 at Fairmont, St Andrews.

It was agreed to authorise attendance by three Members of the Administration and one of the Opposition, namely Councillors McIntyre, Knapp, Farrell and Reid as the Council's delegates to CoSLA, subject to the availability of the individual Members.

2.4 CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF HOUSING IN SCOTLAND CONFERENCE, 12-15 MARCH 2007, ABERDEEN

There was submitted a report dated 11 January 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services on the Annual Conference of the Chartered Institute of Housing in Scotland.

It was agreed to authorise attendance at the above Conference by one Member of the Administration, if available, the name to be notified to the Chief Executive as soon as possible and to remit to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services and the Acting Executive Director of Development and Property Services to consider Officer attendance with particular relevance to Planning Officers.

2.5 CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF HOUSING CONFERENCE, 19-21 JUNE 2007, HARROGATE

There was submitted a report dated 11 January 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services on the Annual Conference of the Chartered Institute of Housing.

It was agreed to authorise attendance at the above Conference by one Member of the Administration, if available, the name to be notified to the Chief Executive as soon as possible and to remit to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services and the Acting Executive Director of Development and Property Services to consider Officer attendance with particular relevance to Planning Officers.

CIVIC CEREMONIAL BUDGETARY UPDATE

3. It was reported and noted that the balance of budget for civic ceremonial events for financial year 2006/07 was £1,485.44.

CIVIC CEREMONIAL APPLICATION

4.1 ST JOHN'S CHURCH, ONTHANK - 50TH ANNIVERSARY

There was submitted and noted a report dated 22 September 2006 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised that the Chief Executive, in terms of her delegated authority and following consultation with the Chair, agreed to make an award of £150.00 to St John's Parish Church, Onthank, towards their 50th Anniversary celebrations.

The meeting terminated at 1120 hours.