

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
STATUTORY MEETING - 17 MAY 2007
KIRKIN' OF THE COUNCIL

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1** To request that Council consider arrangements for the Kirkin' of the Council ceremony.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Prior to re-organisation, it was customary that a Council, upon its election, would attend a local church service designed to mark the Kirkin' of the Council.
- 2.2** However, to mark the inauguration of East Ayrshire Council, ceremonies were held within each of the former District Council boundaries. Thereafter, as it was considered important to establish the profile of the new Council to bring together the new Council area, which had no previous identity, it was agreed to hold a Kirkin' of the Council ceremony to mark the beginning of each Council year and this practice continued until 2000.
- 2.3** At the Members Services and Civic Ceremonial Sub-Committee on 8 November 2000 (Item 4, Page 1426, 99/03) it was agreed that, as good progress had been made, the Council revert to the customary practice of holding a Kirkin' of the Council ceremony at the start of a Council term, thereby giving the ceremony greater significance.

3. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1** The Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 23 January 1996 (Item 13, Page 445, 96/99) agreed that the Kirkin' should take place in churches throughout East Ayrshire and that visits to the Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic and Congregational Establishments take place in sequence.
- 3.2** The Kirkin' of the Council in 2003, was held on Sunday 1 June 2003 at Cumnock Congregational Church.
- 3.3** It is therefore suggested that this year's ceremony take place in a Church of Scotland in the north area with the suggested date being 24 June 2007.
- 3.4** The service will be ecumenical in nature.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** The usual practice was that the Council would make a donation of £200.00 to help meet the costs of any afternoon hospitality (tea and coffee etc) provided by the relevant church following the service. Members may recall that a broad range of local organisations are invited to attend the Kirkin' and are provided with hospitality by the church. It is intended that the practice of making such a donation would continue.

5. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS - Nil

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Council is asked:-

- (i) to agree that the Kirkin' of the Council take place on Sunday 24 June 2007 in a Church of Scotland within the north area;
- (ii) that the service be ecumenical in nature and that minority faiths continue to be invited to be represented;
- (iii) that arrangements be remitted to the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support in consultation with the Provost; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

JMcG/SR

11 May 2007

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - NIL

Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Elizabeth Morton, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support on telephone number (01563) 576001.

Implementation Officer: Julie McGarry, Assistant Administration Manager.