

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2005 AT 1000 HRS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Jim O'Neill, Stephanie Young, Brian Reeves, Daniel Coffey, Willie Coffey, Gordon Cree, John Knapp, Stuart Finlayson, Eric Jackson, Tommy Farrell, Elaine Dinwoodie and Jimmy Carmichael.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; Elizabeth Morton, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support; 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; Eddie Fraser, Community Care Manager, Educational and Social Services; John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communication; Alan Ierland, Principal Engineer, Roads and Transportation and Design; and Anne Marie Carr, Senior Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Douglas Reid, Harry Wilson, Provost Jane Darnbrough and Councillors Jimmy Kelly and William Menzies.

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 Appendix I to these Minutes, viz:-
 - 1.1 **MEMBERS' SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF 7 SEPTEMBER 2005 - Appendix I.**

BUDGET SCRUTINY GROUP

2. There were submitted and noted the Minutes of the Budget Scrutiny Group meeting held on 30 August 2005 (circulated).

FINANCE

BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT - GENERAL FUND SERVICES

3. There was submitted a report dated 23 August 2005 (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 of resources detailed in paragraph 5 of the report to fund the capital works identified at paragraphs 5. 2 and 5.3 of the report; and
- (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 24 August 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 Policy and Resources (Central Services).

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

- 5. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 24 August 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and the Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised Members of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the services in the remit of Policy and Resources (Corporate Support).

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT TO 24 JULY 2005 (PERIOD 4)

- 6. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 12 August 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised Members of the current budgetary control position of the Housing Revenue Account for the period ended 24 July 2005 (Period 4).

**STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON REVENUE COLLECTION
AS AT 21 AUGUST 2005 (PERIOD 5)**

- 7. There was submitted and noted a report dated 23 August 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 21 August 2005 (Period 5).

**TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2004/05 AND
REVIEW OF ACTIVITY FOR 2005/06**

- 8. There was submitted a report dated 29 August 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance which informed Members of the Committee of the out-turn performance of the Treasury Management function for the financial year ended 31 March 2005, including the actual Prudential Indicators for 2004/05 in line with the requirement of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, and review current year performance.

It was agreed:

- (i) to resolve that the authorised bank signatories be amended as detailed at paragraph 4.6 of the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EXTERNAL FUNDING UPDATE (Item 11, Page 1016, 03/07)

9. There was submitted a report dated 18 August 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance which advised of progress which had been made in securing funding to the East Ayrshire area.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the progress made in securing external funding gains to the East Ayrshire area; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE FUNDING TO SUPPORT FINANCIAL INCLUSION

10. There was submitted a report dated 26 August 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised Members with regard to new Financial Inclusion funding which would be made available to the Council from April 2006.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the identification of the Executive Head of Social Work as Lead Officer for the Council in respect of the Financial Inclusion Fund;
- (ii) to request the Executive Head of Social Work to work in conjunction with Community Planning partners (via the Eliminating Poverty Action Plan Group) to develop detailed proposals for utilisation of the allocation;
- (iii) to request the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to present a report to a future Policy and Resources Committee detailing the proposals and seeking the approval of the Committee thereof; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND ASSOCIATED ITEM

**AYRSHIRE RACE EQUALITY PARTNERSHIP -
RESEARCH PROJECT ASSESSING THE NEEDS OF THE BLACK AND
ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES ACROSS AYRSHIRE**

11. There was submitted a report dated 19 August 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised of the results of the research project carried out by the Ayrshire Race Equality Partnership into the needs of the Black and Ethnic Minority communities across Ayrshire and which sought to identify further actions arising therefrom.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the findings of the report into the needs of the Black and Ethnic Minority Communities across Ayrshire;
- (ii) to instruct the relevant Officers to take account of the findings in the review of the Council's Race Equality Scheme; and
- (iii) to note that the Council would be represented by Elected Members and Officers at the launch of the Report on 29 September 2005.

**AYRSHIRE RACE EQUALITY PARTNERSHIP -
APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (Item 8, Page 1257, 03/07)**

12. There was submitted a report dated 19 August 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised the Committee of a request for financial assistance which had been received from the Ayrshire Race Equality Partnership and which recommended accordingly.

It was agreed to approve the request for funding of £3,500 from the Ayrshire Race Equality Partnership.

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR 2004/05

13. There was submitted a report dated 8 September 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which presented the outcome for the 2004/05 Statutory Performance Indicators (SPIs) in respect of those Indicators for which the Policy and Resources Committee had an interest, ie Corporate Management and Benefits Administration.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the performance of the Council in 2004/05 against the Statutory Performance Indicators in which it had an interest as detailed in the Appendix to the report;
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL PUBLIC PERFORMANCE REPORTING
ARRANGEMENTS (Item 15, Page 1017,03/07)**

14. There was submitted a report dated 8 September 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised of statutory guidance issued by the Scottish Executive relating to measures to support Public Performance Reporting and which provided an update on the continuing development of the Council's framework and arrangements for the reporting of performance and related information to the people of East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the various ways in which the Council currently fulfilled its responsibilities in reporting on its performance;
- (ii) to remit to the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support, in consultation with the Chair, to prepare and include the Public Performance Report, 2005 within the November 2005 Headlines magazine;
- (iii) to note the progress which had been made in reviewing the Council's Public Performance reporting arrangements and in developing the Public Performance reporting strategy;
- (iv) to note the intention to publish a statement specifying when and by what means the Council planned to make available to the public, information about the Council's service and financial performance in the forthcoming year;

- (v) to receive a further report on the outcome of the current review process following finalisation and issue of the anticipated regulations on public performance reporting by the Executive; and
- (vi) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATE SUPPORT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE -
ABSENCE MANAGEMENT REPORT**

15. There was submitted and noted a report dated 26 July 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 ending 30 June 2005.

IMPROVING CUSTOMER SERVICE

16. There was submitted a report dated 13 September 2005 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which advised the Committee of the recent publication and findings from an Audit Scotland report entitled "Improving Customer Service Through Better Customer Contact" and which recommended further measures to strengthen East Ayrshire Council's approach to customer service.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the actions detailed in the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

CONSULTATION

**ACCOUNTS COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND CONSULTATION ON THE
2005 STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS DIRECTION
(FOR 2006/07 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS)**

17. There was submitted a report dated 8 September 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised of the receipt of the Accounts Commission's consultation paper on the 2005 Statutory Performance Indicators (SPIs) Direction and which requested approval of the Officers' response to the consultation document.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the response on the 2005 Direction, as contained in the Appendix to the report, as the Council's response to the Accounts Commission's consultation; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

COMMUNITY PLANNING

**EAST AYRSHIRE COALFIELD AREA SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP
ANNUAL REPORT 2004/05**

18. There was submitted and noted a report dated 8 September 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which presented a

summary of the published edition of East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) Annual Report 2004/05.

RURAL SERVICE PRIORITY AREAS - UPDATE (Item 14, Page 1533, 03/07)

19. There was submitted a report dated 8 September 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which updated the Committee on the Council's bid for additional areas to be incorporated in Rural Service Priority Areas.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note that Catrine (Data Zone Ref S01001312) had been nominated as a Rural Service Priority Area and that detailed boundaries had yet to be agreed; and
- (ii) that the Policy and Resources Committee receive further reports on the Commission's research and action plan arising in due course.

REGENERATION OUTCOME AGREEMENT (Item 16, Page 1534, 03/07)

20. There was submitted a report dated 8 September 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided an update to the Committee on the Regeneration Outcome Agreement.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note that East Ayrshire's Regeneration Outcome Agreement had received Ministerial 'sign-off'; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

INFRASTRUCTURE

REVIEW OF ROAD BRIDGE ASSESSMENT/ STRENGTHENING AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

21. There was submitted a report dated 26 August 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services (i) which advised of the current status of the programme of structural assessments of the Council's road bridges and the requirements for strengthening/replacement of structures arising from the assessment process; (ii) which requested the Committee to consider as part of the 2006/07 budget setting process the allocation of the additional funding required to bring the assessment process and the strengthening/replacement programmes up-to-date; and (iii) which advised of the current backlog of bridge maintenance.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the current status of the programme of structural assessments of the Council's road bridges and the likely requirements for strengthening/replacement of structures which had arisen from the assessment process;
- (ii) to note that the allocation of additional budgets would be required as part of future budget-setting processes to complete the assessment and strengthening programme; and

- (iii) to note that the road structures stock was suffering from a significant backlog of maintenance and that a further report would be brought to a future Committee on the financial implications of this.

UNALLOCATED FOOTBRIDGES

22. There was submitted a report dated 18 September 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services (i) which advised that there were a number of footbridges in East Ayrshire which were maintained by the former Strathclyde Regional Council and District Councils but it was not known which Department was now responsible for them; (ii) which requested the Committee to note that the Roads Division was willing to formally adopt these footbridges if the appropriate funding for repair and maintenance could be allocated; and (iii) to consider as part of the 2006/07 budget-setting process, the allocation of additional funding to undertake the necessary repair/replacement programme for these footbridges.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note that there were a number of footbridges in East Ayrshire that were maintained by the former Strathclyde Regional Council and District Councils but it was not known which Department was now responsible for them; and
- (ii) to note that the Roads Division was willing to formally adopt and maintain these bridges subject to the allocation of appropriate resources through the 2006/07 budget-setting process.

CHILDREN'S PANEL

EAST AYRSHIRE CHILDREN'S PANEL - CONCURRENT MEMBERSHIP

23. There was submitted a report dated 31 August 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which sought approval, following a request by the Depute Panel Chair, for the establishment of a concurrent membership scheme with either North Ayrshire Children's Panel or South Ayrshire Children's Panel in order to populate East Ayrshire Children's Panel with male Panel members.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the establishment of a concurrent membership scheme with either North Ayrshire Children's Panel or South Ayrshire Children's Panel for a period of one year; and
- (ii) to remit authority to the Administration Manager, in his capacity as Clerk to the Children's Panel Advisory Committee, to carry out the necessary consultation arrangements to obtain approval from the requisite Authorities, Panel Chairs, Children's Panel Advisory Committee and the Scottish Ministers.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

24. 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.

PROPERTY

PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF LAND AT REAR OF 43 LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK (PARA 9)

25. There was submitted a report dated 22 August 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which sought approval to dispose of land at the rear of 43 London Road, Kilmarnock extending to 1,337 sq ms (0.33 acres) or thereby, as detailed on the plan attached to the report to the parties detailed therein.

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Reeves, moved:-

- (i) to dispose of the land extending to 1,337 sq ms (0.33 acres) or thereby at the rear of 43 London Road, Kilmarnock to the party detailed in the report; and
- (ii) to authorise the Solicitor to the Council to conclude the transaction.

Councillor D Coffey, seconded by Councillor W Coffey, moved as an amendment:

- (i) that the Council does not dispose of the land at the rear of 43 London Road, Kilmarnock; and
- (ii) that the land be returned to the Education Service's property portfolio and used for educational purposes.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 10 votes to 3.

ASSET MANAGEMENT - CUMNOCK TOWN CENTRE - PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF LAND AT GREENHOLM ROAD, CUMNOCK (PARA 9)

26. There was submitted a report dated 13 September 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which sought approval to acquire land at Greenholm Road, Cumnock extending to 3,262 sq ms (0.80 acres) or thereby in the context of a wider physical Regeneration Plan for Cumnock Town Centre.

It was agreed:

- (i) to authorise the acquisition of the land at Greenholm Road, Cumnock extending to 3,262 sq ms (0.80 acres) or thereby for the sum detailed in the report;
- (ii) to authorise the Solicitor to the Council to conclude the transaction.

CHILDREN'S PANEL

PANEL OF SAFEGUARDERS (PARA 6)

27. There was submitted a report dated 24 August 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 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 appointments and training of Safeguarders in the light of operational requirements.

The meeting terminated at 1102 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 7 SEPTEMBER 2005 AT 1145
HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Jim O'Neill, Daniel Coffey, Douglas Reid, Harry Wilson, Provost Jane Darnbrough and Councillors Tommy Farrell and Jimmy Carmichael.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; Bill Stafford, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services; Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager; John Spooner, Business Development Manager; and Christine Baillie, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGY: Councillor Brian Reeves.

CHAIR: Councillor Drew McIntyre, Chair.

CONFERENCES AND COURSES

1. It was reported, and noted, that the balance of the Conferences and Courses budget for financial year 2005/2006 was £15,395.04 as at 31 August 2005.

CONFERENCES/COURSES

2.1 APSE PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND HORTICULTURAL SEMINAR "ACTIVE ENVIRONMENTS - INCLUSIVE PLAY" - 18-19 AUGUST 2005 - GLASGOW

There was submitted and noted a report dated 22 August 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised of a decision made in terms of the delegated authority of the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Chair, agreeing to the attendance of an Elected Member at the above Conference.

2.2 SCOTTISH RURAL SERVICES CONFERENCE 2005 - 26-27 SEPTEMBER 2005 - ABERDEEN

There was submitted a report dated 1 June 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which informed the Sub-Committee of the Scottish Rural Services Conference 2005 to be held on 26 and 27 September 2005.

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 ASSOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL WORK (ADSW) CRIMINAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 2005 - 27-28 OCTOBER 2005 - CRIEFF HYDRO

There was submitted a report dated 19 August 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on the ADSW - Criminal Justice Bi-Annual Conference 2005 to be held at the Crieff Hydro Hotel, Perthshire, from 27-28 October 2005.

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.

2.4 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE - 28-30 OCTOBER 2005 - CROWN HOTEL, SCARBOROUGH

There was submitted a report dated 23 August 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support on an invitation to attend the National Association of Councillors Annual General Meeting and Conference to be held from 28-30 October 2005 in Scarborough.

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.

2.5 SOCIETY OF DIRECTORS OF PERSONNEL IN SCOTLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 2-4 NOVEMBER 2005 - OLD COURSE HOTEL, ST ANDREWS

There was submitted a report dated 28 June 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised of the forthcoming Society of Directors in Scotland Conference to be held at the Old Course Hotel, St Andrews, from 2-4 November 2005.

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.

2.6 APSE SEMINAR "HEALTHY COMMUNITIES EQUALS HEALTHY SCOTLAND 2005" - 10-11 NOVEMBER 2005 - PEEBLES HYDRO HOTEL

There was submitted a report dated 10 August 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support on an invitation for the Council to be represented at the APSE Seminar "Healthy Communities Equals Healthy Scotland 2005" to be held at Peebles Hydro Hotel, Peebles, on 10-11 November 2005.

It was agreed that there be no Elected Member representation at the above Conference.

2.7 COALFIELD COMMUNITIES CAMPAIGN - NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

There was submitted a report dated 31 August 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which sought approval for East Ayrshire Council to host a National Executive Committee Meeting of the Coalfield Communities Campaign on 28 April 2006.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that East Ayrshire Council hosts the CCC National Executive Committee Meeting to be held on 28 April 2006 and approved a budget of a maximum of £775.00 based on current prices; and
- (ii) to remit to the Executive Director of Development and Property Services to finalise arrangements with the CCC National Secretariat.

CIVIC CEREMONIAL BUDGETARY UPDATE

- 3. It was reported and noted that the Civic Ceremonial budget for financial year 2005/2006 was £2,374.39 as at 31 August 2005.

CIVIC CEREMONIAL APPLICATIONS

4.1 BELLSBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL

There was submitted and noted a report dated 10 June 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised of a contribution of £150.00, together with a suitably engraved trophy, up to a value of £100.00 made in terms of the delegated authority of the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Chair, to Bellsbank Primary School towards the costs involved with their 50th anniversary celebrations held on 24 June 2005.

4.2 EAST AYRSHIRE BATTALION BOYS BRIGADE

There was submitted and noted a report dated 10 June 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised of a contribution of £400.00 made in terms of the delegated authority of the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Chair, to East Ayrshire Battalion Boys Brigade towards the costs involved with their presentation evening for the new Queen's Men, their parents and Officers of the respective Companies.

4.3 TOWN TWINNING UPDATE

There was submitted a report dated 3 August 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which (i) updated the Sub-Committee on the status of the Council's various twinning links; (ii) considered a request from the twin town of Santa Coloma to receive a delegation in order to celebrate 11 years of the twinning links; and (iii) noted that a Twin Town Committee had been reformed for Herstal and which gave consideration to strengthening this newly structured link.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to remit to the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support to contact Herstal to discuss ways to further strengthen the twinning link and to report back to a future Sub-Committee meeting;
- (ii) to remit to the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support to contact Santa Coloma de Gramenet to further discuss the possibility of receiving a delegation sometime in the future;
- (iii) to note that arrangements for the reciprocal officer exchange to Joué was pending; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

4.4 INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM AWARDS CEREMONY, SASKATOON, CANADA - 24 SEPTEMBER 2005

There was submitted a report dated 26 August 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services on a request from Sorn Community Council for financial assistance to allow a member of the community to attend the awards ceremony for International Communities in Bloom 2005 in Saskatoon, Canada, on 24 September 2005 and to consider the attendance of an Elected Member at the above event.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to authorise attendance at the above event by one Elected Member;
- (ii) to remit to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to make and fund arrangements to allow, in addition to one Elected Member, one member of the Sorn in Bloom Group to attend the event; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 12 noon.