

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2006
AT 1300 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Depute Provost Farrell and Councillors Jim O'Neill, John McGhee, Stephanie Young, Brian Reeves, Helen Coffey, Douglas Reid, Gordon Cree, John Weir, Drew McIntyre, Harry Wilson, Iain Linton, John Campbell, Ray Murray, John Knapp, Stuart Finlayson, Robert McDill, George Smith, William Menzies, Neil McGhee, Eric Ross, Elaine Dinwoodie and Elaine Stewart.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; Elizabeth Morton, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support; James Lavery, Executive Director of Development and Property Services; Graham Short, 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; John Walker, Head of Building and Works; John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communication; Robert Paton, Head of Economic Development and Property; Chris McAleavey, Head of Housing; John Griffith, Head of Leisure; Robin Gourlay, Head of Onsite Services; Martin Rose, Head of Personnel; Alan Neish, Head of Planning, Development and Building Standards; Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support; Jim Kane, Head of Roads and Transportation; John McCarney, Head of Schools; Martin O'Rourke, Best Value and Performance Manager; Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager; and Julie McGarry, Assistant Administration Manager.

APOLOGIES: Provost Jane Darnbrough and Councillors Maureen McKay, Willie Coffey, Isabella Macrae, Jim Raymond, Eric Jackson, Jimmy Kelly and Jimmy Carmichael.

CHAIR: Depute Provost Farrell, Chair.

AUDIT OF BEST VALUE AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

1. There was submitted a report dated 12 September 2006 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which sought consideration of the Accounts Commission's findings in respect of the Council's Best Value and Community Planning Audit and which sought agreement for the terms of the Council's response by means of an Improvement Plan.

The Chief Executive spoke to the report and, on behalf of the Corporate Management Team, thanked all Elected Members for their support during the Audit process.

It was agreed:

- (i) to welcome the Accounts Commission's report on the findings of the East Ayrshire Best Value and Community Planning Audit;
- (ii) to approve, in whole, the findings arising from the Audit, including the Improvement Agenda;

- (iii) to approve the content of the report and the outline of the Council's proposed approach to the Improvement Agenda as the basis of the Council's response to the Accounts Commission;
- (iv) to note that a further report on the Council's detailed response to the action plans underpinning the Improvement Agenda would be brought to a future meeting of the Council prior to submission to the Accounts Commission; and
- (v) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1317 hrs.