

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **BETTER GOVERNMENT FOR OLDER PEOPLE GROUP**

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 OCTOBER 2005 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillor William Menzies; Cathy Brown, MBE (Irvine Valley Elderly Forum); Winnie Campbell and Mary Fraser (Kilmarnock South Elderly Forum); Jim Murray (Cumnock Area Elderly Forum); Maurice Ashbridge, Sarah Roy and Jean Aird (North West Kilmarnock Elderly Forum); William Cooke and Alex Currie (Muirkirk Elderly Forum); Douglas Gardiner, Recycling Officer (Neighbourhood Services); and Marlene Harkis, Service Manager - Older People (Educational and Social Services).

**ATTENDING:** Quintin Eccles, Community Worker; and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGY:** Jessie Graham (Irvine Valley Elderly Forum).

**CHAIR:** Councillor William Menzies, Chair.

#### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. The Chair advised, and it was noted, that Item 3 on the Agenda would be dealt with under Item 6.

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: APPROVAL AS A CORRECT RECORD**

2. There were submitted (circulated) and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting of the Better Government for Older People Group held on 1 June 2005.

#### **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL POLICY FOR THE UPLIFT OF HOUSEHOLD WHITE GOODS**

3. The Group received a verbal report by Douglas Gardiner, Recycling Officer, East Ayrshire Council's Cleansing Services, on the Council's soon to be introduced arrangements for charging for the uplift of household white goods.

During his presentation and in response to questions asked by Members of the Group, Douglas confirmed:-

- that with effect from 10 October 2005 a charge of £15.00 would be made in respect of the uplift of each white good item, i.e. cooker, washing machine, tumble dryer, fridge, freezer, dishwasher;
- that households where residents are all aged 65 years or over will continue to receive the uplift service free of charge;
- the detailed arrangements for placing a request for an uplift; and
- that householders can continue to take household white goods to the Council's civic amenity sites at either the Western Road, Kilmarnock, or Garlaff, near Cumnock, where they can be deposited free of charge.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the report and further information provided; and
- (ii) to note that Douglas would further investigate a suggestion by Mr Alex Currie that households comprising only women aged over 60 should be eligible for the free uplift service, and would report back to Mr Currie on the outcome.

The Chair thanked Douglas Gardiner for the presentation and the further information provided. Douglas then left the meeting.

### **INTERIM EVENT PRIOR TO THE NEXT ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

4. Following a full discussion, it was agreed:-

- (i) that arrangements be made for the Interim Event on the following basis, namely:-
  - the event will take place during the week beginning 21 November 2005, and will be an all day event;
  - the venue will be Lochside House Hotel, near New Cumnock;
  - the programme, insofar as is possible, to be informal in nature and to feature:-
    - an open discussion on the future structure, organisation and operation of older people's representation within East Ayrshire, focusing on the East Ayrshire Elderly Forum, local Elderly Forums and Better Government for Older People, and having regard to the range of external factors impacting upon older people;
    - if possible, input from Fiona Lees, Chief Executive, on (i) the Community Planning process insofar as this impacts upon delivery of services to older people and the opportunities for older people to influence that process; and (ii) the outcome of a residents survey currently being undertaken by the Council, with particular reference to those aspects which impact on older people; and
- (ii) that Marlene Harkis, Service Manager - Older People, would notify delegates of the finalised arrangements in due course.

### **BEST VALUE REVIEW OF SHELTERED HOUSING SERVICES**

5. The Group received a verbal update by Marlene Harkis, Service Manager - Older People, on progress with the Best Value Review of Sheltered Housing Services.

Marlene advised that (i) consultation had now taken place with existing users of sheltered housing services; (ii) Sheltered Housing Wardens were in the process of being consulted; and (iii) it was anticipated that potential users, including the local Elderly Forums would be consulted and have the opportunity to comment over the next few weeks. The consultation process was expected to be completed by December this year and a report would be submitted to the next meeting of this Group, on the results, insofar as they would be available, at that time.

It was agreed to note the report provided by Marlene Harkis.

### **PROPOSAL FOR JOINT AYRSHIRE CONFERENCE**

6. The Group received a verbal report by Maurice Ashbridge and Marlene Harkis, Service Manager - Older People, on a proposal, originating from an initiative promoted by SOPAG, to hold a joint Ayrshire Conference for Older People, similar to events which had taken place in other areas of Scotland.

Following discussion, it was agreed not to progress this proposal, the Group concluding that there is no particular need for such an event for older people within East Ayrshire, in view of the infrastructure and mechanisms already established locally to promote and facilitate liaison between older people's representative organisations and service providers, which may not currently exist in other areas; and bearing in mind the anticipated forthcoming discussion, at the Interim Event in November, on the future arrangements for older people's representation within East Ayrshire, as referred to in Item 4, above.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

7. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Group take place towards the end of January/February 2006, the detailed arrangements to be made by the Officers concerned in consultation with the Chair.

The meeting terminated at 1518 hours.