

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2001 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Drew McIntyre, Daniel Coffey, Willie Coffey, Douglas Reid, John Weir, David Macrae, Iain Linton, Jane Darnbrough, John Knapp, Finlay MacLean, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Farrell, Provost Jimmy Boyd, Councillors Eric Ross and Robert Taylor.

**ATTENDING:** David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources; William Stafford, Director of Community Services; Alex McPhee, Director of Finance; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support; Robert Paton, Head of Economic Development; Chris McAleavey, Head of Homes; Martin O'Rourke, Principal Officer, Performance and Best Value and Julie Armstrong, Principal Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Stephanie Young, Harry Wilson and Elaine Dinwoodie.

**CHAIR:** Councillor Drew McIntyre, Chair.

**SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES**

1. There were submitted and approved as correct records and in respect of any recommendations contained therein with the exception of Item 1.5, the undernoted Sub-Committee Minutes as contained within Appendices I to V of these Minutes, viz:-

**1.1 APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE OF 29 OCTOBER 2001 - APPENDIX I**

**1.2 APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE OF 30 OCTOBER 2001 - APPENDIX II**

**1.3 APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE OF 5 NOVEMBER 2001 - APPENDIX III**

**1.4 MEMBERS' SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF 6 NOVEMBER 2001 - APPENDIX IV**

**1.5 CORPORATE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 20 NOVEMBER 2001 - APPENDIX V** - It was noted that in respect of Item 4, Joint Staffing Watch return, that the correct figures contained within the report would be submitted to full Council for information.

It was also agreed that in relation to Item 12, paragraph 2 the words "had been" in line 2 would be substituted by the words "were being".

Councillor Knapp joined the meeting at this point.

**BUDGET SCRUTINY GROUP**

2. There was submitted and noted (circulated) the Minutes of the Budget Scrutiny Group held on 6 November 2001.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - GENERAL SERVICES  
REVENUE ACCOUNT TO 23 SEPTEMBER 2001 (PERIOD 6)**

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 7 November 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Finance on the current budgetary control position of the General Services Revenue Account to 23 September 2001 (Period 6).

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - HOUSING REVENUE  
ACCOUNT TO 23 SEPTEMBER 2001 (PERIOD 6)**

4. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 16 October 2001 (circulated) by the Directors of Finance and of Homes and Technical Services on the current budgetary control position of the Housing Revenue Account for the period ended 23 September 2001 (Period 6).

**STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON REVENUE COLLECTION**

5. There was submitted and noted a report dated 12 November 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which updated Members on the position of the Council with regard to billing and collection of local taxes as at 21 October 2001 (Period 7).

**DRAFT ESTIMATES 2002/2003 - GENERAL SERVICES**

6. There was submitted a report dated 20 November 2001 (circulated ) by the Director of Finance which sought, as a basis for consultation only at this stage, the approval of Members of the Draft Estimates 2002/2003 for General Services which would enable the Council to consult on the budget strategy prior to the declaration of the Council Tax for 2002/2003 on 14 February 2002.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve, as a basis for consultation, the estimates shown in the report, the proposed draft allocations being as undernoted;

<b>Service</b>	<b>Allocation 2001/02 £m</b>	<b>Proposed Draft Allocation 2002/03 £m</b>	<b>Percentage Increase %</b>
Education	69,898	72,806	4.16
Social Work	26,023	27,405	5.31
Community Services	37,969	39,607	4.31
Development Services	9,220	9,938	7.79
Central and Corporate Services	45,228	46,636	3.11
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>188,338</b>	<b>196,396</b>	<b>4.28</b>

- (ii) to note the outline timetable for Committees and the Council as detailed in Section 2 of the report; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**SUNDRY DEBTORS WRITE-OFF**

7. There was submitted a report dated 20 November 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which sought authority for the write-off of a number of sundry debts for

which bills were raised prior to 31 March 2001 and are now considered to be irrecoverable.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to authorise the write-off in the 2001/2002 financial year, the sum of £24,021.40 relating to 33 accounts; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Ross joined the meeting during discussion of the above item.

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL PLAN (1999/2002) -  
UPDATE ON PROGRESS (Item 10, Page 570, 99/02)**

8. There was submitted a report dated 20 November 2001 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which provided an update on progress in the achievement of the challenging actions set out within the East Ayrshire Council Plan (1999-2002) and which sought the Committee's approval to publicise this information in line with the Council's Public Performance Reporting Framework.

It was noted that a further report would be made to the Development Services Committee expanding upon the figures quoted in relation to Working with Existing Businesses and giving an update on the overall position in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress to date against the actions contained within the East Ayrshire Council Plan (1999-2002) as set out within the Appendix to the report;
- (ii) to the publication of the East Ayrshire Council Plan (1999-2002) mid-term report, with the detailed content and format to be agreed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF SCRUTINY AND BEST VALUE REVIEW GROUPS**

9. There was submitted a report dated 14 November 2001 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which sought approval to the establishment of two Scrutiny and Best Value Review Groups to consider respectively the outcome of the Best Value Review of the Council's Information Technology Service and the Best Value Review of the Council's Roads Procurement function.

it was agreed:-

- (i) to the establishment of two Scrutiny and Best Value Review Groups to consider respectively the outcome of the Information Technology and Roads Procurement and Best Value Service Reviews;
- (ii) that the composition of these Groups be nine Members (five Labour Members, three SNP Members and one Conservative Member), nominations to be submitted to the next Council meeting; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **AYRSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESSWOMEN**

10. There was submitted a report dated 21 November 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which recommended that the Council affiliate to the Ayrshire Association of Businesswomen.

It was agreed to affiliate to the Ayrshire Association of Businesswomen at an annual fee of £30.

### **EAST AYRSHIRE ZERO TOLERANCE GROUP REPORT**

11. There was submitted a report dated 13 November 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which provided information in relation to the progress of the Zero Tolerance Group within East Ayrshire and requested approval for additional funds to allow progress to continue.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to award East Ayrshire Tolerance Group £2,000 for 2002/2003; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **EAST AYRSHIRE CHILDREN'S CHAMPION**

12. There was submitted a report dated 25 September 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval to (i) the establishment of an Elected Member as a Children and Young Person's Champion to promote children's rights and responsibilities; and (ii) in principle, the establishment of a multi-agency Children and Young Person's Forum.

It was agreed:-

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- (i) to recommend to Council that the Chair of the Education Committee be identified as the East Ayrshire Children's Champion;
  - (ii) to approve the establishment of a multi-agency Children and Young Person's Forum;
  - (ii) to remit the involvement of other Agencies through the Community Planning process;
  - (iv) that a progress report be submitted to this Committee in due course; and
  - (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

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### **THE FUTURE OF MATERNITY SERVICES IN AYRSHIRE AND ARRAN**

13. There was submitted a report dated 23 November 2001 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which sought Committee endorsement of Officer response to the consultation by NHS Ayrshire and Arran on the future of Maternity Services in Ayrshire and Arran.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the Officer response shown attached to the report as the Council response to the NHS Ayrshire and Arran consultation on changes to in-patient maternity services in Ayrshire and Arran;
- (ii) that the Chief Executive inform NHS Ayrshire and Arran of the Council's position; and

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

### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

14. 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

### **CHILDREN'S PANEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CPAC) MEMBERSHIP**

15. There was submitted a report dated 24 October 2001 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which advised the Committee of (i) the procedure in relation to a Council-appointed member of the Committee whose term of appointment concludes in February 2002; and (ii) a Council appointee vacancy on East Ayrshire Children's Panel Advisory Committee arising from a resignation.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that Susan Paton's current term of appointment would terminate in February 2002 and that the established process for seeking nominations would be implemented at the appropriate time;
- (ii) to recommend to Council that the appointment of Mrs Elizabeth Gilmour be accepted as per the recommendation of the Children's Panel Advisory Committee;
- (iii) that it be remitted to the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources to advise the CPAC and the Scottish Executive of the Council's appointment to the CPAC; and
- (iv) that the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources would convey the Committee's views to the retiring member of CPAC, Dorothy Houston, of their thanks for her service over the years and investigate the possibility of arranging some form of civic recognition.

The meeting terminated at 1047 hours.

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