

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2003 AT
1000 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Jim O'Neill, Stephanie Young, Brian Reeves, Willie Coffey, Douglas Reid, John Weir, Harry Wilson, John Knapp, Stuart Finlayson, Eric Jackson, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Farrell, William Menzies, Eric Ross and Elaine Dinwoodie.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources; William Stafford, Director of Community Services; Stephen Chorley, Director of Development Services; John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services; Alex McPhee, Director of Finance; James Lavery, Director of Homes and Technical Services; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services/Solicitor to the Council; John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communication; Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support; Colin Houston, Chief Auditor; and Christine Baillie, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Maureen McKay, Daniel Coffey, Provost Jane Darnbrough and Councillor Jimmy Carmichael.

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, the undernoted Sub-Committee Minutes (circulated) as contained within Appendices I and II of these Minutes, viz:-
 - 1.1 **RECRUITMENT SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE (JOINT PANELS) OF 5 NOVEMBER 2003 - APPENDIX I.**
 - 1.2 **MEMBERS' SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF 5 NOVEMBER 2003 - APPENDIX II.**

BUDGET SCRUTINY GROUP

2. There were submitted and noted the Minutes of the Budget Scrutiny Group held on 29 October 2003 (circulated).

BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT - GENERAL FUND SERVICES

3. There was submitted a report dated 22 October 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which advised of the current budgetary position of the General Services Revenue Account.

It was agreed:

- (i) to allocate capital funding as detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT TO 21 SEPTEMBER 2003 (PERIOD 6)

4. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 13 October 2003 (circulated) by the Directors of Finance and of Homes and Technical Services which advised of the current budgetary control position of the Housing Revenue Account for the period ended 21 September 2003 (Period 6).

VIREMENT OF RESOURCES - COMMUNITY SUPPORT

5. There was submitted a report dated 10 November 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the virement of Community Support budgets from Social Work Committee to the Education Committee.

It was agreed:

- (i) to authorise the virement of resources as detailed in Section 2 of the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

PROGRESS REPORT - INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2003/4 (Item 2.2, Page 125, 03/07)

6. There was submitted and noted a report dated 7 November 2003 (circulated) by the Chief Auditor which provided a mid-year progress report on performance against the Internal Audit Plan for the financial year 2003/04.

PILOTS AT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 2004

7. There was submitted a report dated 3 November 2003 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which advised of two consultation exercises which were presently underway in regard to pilot voting schemes at the European Parliamentary Elections 2004 and which submitted, for consideration, the Council's responses to these exercises.

It was agreed:

- (i) in line with CoSLA, to support in principle Scotland's involvement as a Region in a pilot all-postal ballot for the June 2004 European Elections;
- (ii) to recognise and support the practical concerns of Scotland's Returning Officers on the implementation of the electoral process within a seriously restricted legislative timescale as detailed in paragraph 4.2 of the report;
- (iii) to support CoSLA's request for Government assurances on the robustness and achievability of the associated mechanisms required to carry out an effective all-postal pilot ballot within Scotland, including the provision of adequate funding;
- (iv) to note that Scotland's Returning Officers would be making specific detailed responses in respect of the consultation exercises; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**STATUTORY GUIDANCE AND REGULATIONS ON THE PUBLICATION OF
FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION BY SCOTTISH LOCAL
AUTHORITIES (PUBLIC PERFORMANCE REPORTING)**

8. There was submitted a report dated 4 November 2003 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which advised of the content of the draft guidance and regulations from the Scottish Executive in relation to Public Performance Reporting and which sought agreement to a proposed Council response.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note receipt of the consultation from the Scottish Executive;
- (ii) to approve the comments highlighted in boxed italics within the report as the basis of a response to the Executive's consultation; and
- (iii) to receive a further report setting out a proposed East Ayrshire Council Corporate Public Performance Reporting Strategy at the appropriate time.

**APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE -
COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

9. There was submitted a report dated 6 November 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which provided background information regarding a grant application from the Council of Voluntary Organisations (CVO) and which made recommendations accordingly.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the funding of £3,000 to the Council of Voluntary Organisations;
- (ii) to remit to the Director of Educational and Social Services to investigate Councillor Reid's concerns that there may have been inappropriate use made of previous grant funding monies to the voluntary organisation; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EAST AYRSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU - FUNDING APPRAISAL REPORT

10. There was submitted a report dated 21 October 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which provided information on the work of the East Ayrshire Citizens Advice Bureau and which requested consideration of the level of grant assistance for 2004/05 and 2005/06.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note that the Partnership Agreement would expire in March 2004, as detailed in paragraph 5.2 of the report;
- (ii) to approve a funding contribution for 2004/05, 2005/06 and 2006/07 of £129,336, £131,922 and £134,561 respectively;
- (iii) to remit to the Director of Community Services to liaise with the Director of Educational and Social Services to investigate the possibility of East Ayrshire Citizens Advice Bureau utilising the services which the Council currently have regarding money advice; and

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

BUSINESS CONCORDAT

11. There was submitted a report dated 24 October 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which sought approval for the development and introduction of a Council-wide Business Concordat.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the finalised version of the Business Concordat as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) to note that Council Enforcement staff would distribute copies of the Concordat during routine and other visits to businesses;
- (iii) to remit to the Director of Community Services to confirm with CoSLA and the Scottish Executive that the Committee had adopted an Enforcement Concordat; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROGRAMME

12. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 10 November 2003 (circulated) by the Directors of Homes and Technical Services and of Educational and Social Services on the current funding commitments which had been met from Supporting People Grant and associated expenditure.

REMIT FROM IRVINE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 12 NOVEMBER 2003 - COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION - IRVINE VALLEY REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

13.1 Declaration of Interest

Councillors Wilson and Finlayson declared an indirect non-pecuniary interest in the undernoted item.

13. Consideration of Item

There was submitted a report dated 17 November 2003 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which requested that the Committee consider a Community Grant application which had been remitted from the Irvine Valley Local Committee of 12 November 2003.

It was agreed:

- (i) to award a Community Grant of £2,500 to the Irvine Valley Regeneration Partnership which had been remitted from the Irvine Valley Local Committee for consideration by the Policy and Resources Committee; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1050 hrs.