

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23 JANUARY 2001
AT 1000 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Stephanie Young, Daniel Coffey, Willie Coffey, Douglas Reid, David Macrae, Harry Wilson, Jane Darnbrough, John Knapp, Finlay MacLean, Eric Jackson, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Farrell, Provost Jimmy Boyd, Councillors Eric Ross, Elaine Dinwoodie and Robert Taylor.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; 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; Barbara Haughan, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; Douglas Campbell, Head of Corporate Development and Communication; Ian A Arnott, Corporate Accounting Manager; and Julie Armstrong, Principal Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors John Weir, Iain Linton and Robert McDill.

CHAIR: Councillor Drew McIntyre, Chair.

DRAFT ESTIMATES 2001/2002 - GENERAL SERVICES

1. There was submitted a report dated 17 January 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 2001/2002 for General Services which would enable the Council to embark on a public consultation exercise prior to the declaration of the Council Tax for 2001/2002 on 15 February 2001.

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved:

- (i) to approve as a basis for consultation the Estimates contained within the report and proposed Council Tax levels;
- (ii) to note the timetable for Committees and the Council as detailed in Section 2 of the report;
- (iii) to instruct Directors to limit spending to essential items only without cutting across Council policies for front line service provision between now and 31 March 2001; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

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

- (i) to note, as a basis for consultation, the foregoing Estimates and proposed Council Tax levels as detailed in the report;
- (ii) to note the timetable for Committees and the Council as detailed in Section 2 of the report;
- (iii) that Directors continue to protect front line services; and

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

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 12 votes to 5.

DRAFT ESTIMATES 2001/2002 - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

2. There was submitted a joint report dated 19 January 2001 (circulated) by the Directors of Homes and Technical Services and of Finance which sought, as a basis for consultation only at this stage, the approval of Members of the draft Estimates 2001/2002 for the Housing Revenue Account as considered by the Special Housing Committee on 18 January 2001 and the associated possible rent levels for 2001/2002. This would enable the Council to embark on a public consultation exercise prior to agreeing the level at which Council house rents and other charges would be levied for the financial year 2001/2002 on 15 February 2001.

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved to agree the Estimates contained within the report for the purposes of the consultation exercise.

Councillor W Coffey, seconded by Councillor Reid, moved as an amendment to move against the recommendation to agree the estimates contained within the report for the purposes of the consultation exercise and asked that the Administration do more work to identify more management action to bring down the indicative rent increase.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 11 votes to 5.

GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2001/2002 - 2003/2004

3. There was submitted a report dated 18 January 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which advised of the proposed Capital Allocations to each Service Committee in relation to the financial years 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and 2003/2004.

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved:

- (i) to agree the capital allocations to Services outlined in Section 4 of the report;
- (ii) to instruct Directors to submit detailed proposed programmes for the utilisation of capital allocations to their Committees for their consideration;
- (iii) to confirm that any slippage which occurred in these programmes was not automatically available to the Department but must be remitted back to this Committee for consideration; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

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

- (i) to note the capital allocation to Services outlined in Section 4 of the report;
- (ii) to instruct Directors to submit detailed proposed programmes for the utilisation of capital allocations to their Committees for their consideration;
- (iii) to confirm that any slippage which occurred in these programmes was not automatically available to the Department but must be remitted back to this Committee for consideration; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

On a division by a show of hands, the motion was carried by 12 votes to 5.

BUDGET CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4. There was submitted a report dated 17 January 2001 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which proposed arrangements for public consultation on the Council's General Services Revenue Budget and Housing Revenue Account 2001/2002.

It was agreed:

- (i) to adopt the consultation arrangements outlined within Section 3 of the report;
- (ii) that the outcome of the consultation process on the Housing Revenue Account be reported to the Housing Committee on 31 January 2001; and
- (iii) that the outcome of the consultation process on the General Services Revenue Account including an evaluation of the effectiveness of the consultation arrangements be reported to the Special Policy and Resources Committee on 6 February 2001.

The meeting terminated at 1025 hrs.

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