

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2002 AT 1000 HRS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Daniel Coffey, Willie Coffey, David Macrae, Jane Darnbrough, John Knapp, Finlay MacLean, Eric Jackson, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Farrell, Provost Jimmy Boyd and Councillors Eric Ross and Elaine Dinwoodie.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; William Stafford, Director of Community Services; Stephen Chorley, Director of Development Services; Alex McPhee, Director of Finance; James Lavery, Director of Homes and Technical Services; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; Graham Short, Head of Schools; Caroline Gordon, Public Relations Assistant; and Julie Armstrong, Principal Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Stephanie Young, Douglas Reid, John Weir, Harry Wilson, Iain Linton and Robert McDill.

CHAIR: Councillor Drew McIntyre, Chair.

REVENUE ESTIMATES 2002/03

1.1 CORPORATE RESOURCES

There was submitted a report dated 7 February 2002 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources to consider the allocation of resources to this Committee for 2002/03.

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved acceptance of the resource allocation and approval of the distribution of this as detailed in paragraph 3 of the report.

Councillor D Coffey, seconded by Councillor W Coffey, moved as an amendment to note the resource allocation.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 9 votes to 3.

1.2 CENTRAL SERVICES

There was submitted a joint report dated 7 February 2002 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources, Director of Finance and Director of Development Services to consider the allocation of resources to this Committee for 2002/03.

Councillor Macrae joined the meeting at this point.

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved acceptance of the resource allocation and approval of the distribution of this as detailed in paragraph 3 of the report.

Councillor D Coffey, seconded by Councillor W Coffey, moved as an amendment to note the resource allocation.

On a division by a show of hands, the motion was carried by 10 votes to 3.

**GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE ESTIMATES 2002-03 -
SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX**

2. There was submitted a report dated 7 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which requested that the Committee agree the overall General Services Revenue budget for 2002/03 and recommend to Council the level at which Council Tax Band 'D' should be set for the financial year 2002/03.

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Jackson, having noted the service resource allocations for 2002/03 shown as follows:

Department	Departmental Resource Allocations
	£M
Education	75.917
Social Work	29.563
Community Services	41.088
Development Services	10.942
Policy and Resources - Corporate Resources	5.571
Policy and Resources - Other	38.736
Homes and Technical Services	1.471
Insurance Fund	1.554
Trading Services	(0.742)
Debt Charges	11.867
Contingencies	0.386
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	216.353

moved:

- (i) to recommend to Council that the Band 'D' Council Tax level for 2002/03 should be set at £966.60; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

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

- (i) to continue consideration of the Band 'D' Council Tax level for 2002/03; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 10 votes to 3.

**HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT ESTIMATES AND ASSOCIATED RENT LEVELS
FOR 2002/03**

3. There was submitted a joint report (circulated) by the Directors of Homes and Technical Services and of Finance on the outcome of the consultation exercise for the Housing Revenue Account, on the Draft Estimates for 2002/03 as considered by the Special Housing Committee on 7 February 2002 and on the associated possible rent levels for 2002/03.

There was also submitted excerpt from the Special Housing Committee Minutes of 7 February 2002 (circulated) which detailed the recommendations of the Committee as follows:

- (i) recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee:
 - (a) approval of the Draft Estimates for the Housing Revenue Account 2002/2003 as submitted to the Special Housing Committee of 16 January 2002;
 - (b) approval for 2002/2003 of a flat-rate increase on all house rents of £1.47 per week over a 48 week period, in order to balance the Housing Revenue Account; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the terms of report.

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved to recommend to Council acceptance of the recommendations of the Special Housing Committee of 7 February 2002 as detailed above.

Councillor W Coffey, seconded by Councillor D Coffey, moved as an amendment to note the report.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 10 votes to 3.

HOMELESSNESS RESEARCH PROPOSAL

4. There was submitted a report dated 11 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Homes and Technical Services which sought approval for the Director of Homes and Technical Services to commission a piece of homelessness research for a sum not exceeding £15,000 in accordance with Condition 10.2 of the Council's Standing Orders relating to contracts.

Having noted that an alternative for the word "capture" in Appendix 1 would be made, agreed:

- (i) to approve the revised spending proposals contained within Appendix 1 to the report;
- (ii) that the Director of Homes and Technical Services be authorised to commission further research for a sum not exceeding £15,000 in accordance with Condition 10.2 of the Council's Standing Orders relating to Contracts as detailed in paragraph 3.2 of the report; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1008 hrs.

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