

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2003
AT 1000 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Daniel Coffey, Willie Coffey, John Weir, Harry Wilson, John Knapp, Finlay MacLean, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Farrell, William Menzies, Provost Jimmy Boyd, Councillors Elaine Dinwoodie and Jimmy Carmichael.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources; William Stafford, Director of Community 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 Administration and Legal Services; Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support; John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communication; Malcolm Roulston, Head of Information Technology; and Julie Armstrong, Assistant Administration Manager.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Stephanie Young, Douglas Reid, Iain Linton, Jane Darnbrough and Eric Ross.

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 as contained within Appendices I to VII of these Minutes, viz:-
 - 1.1 **RECRUITMENT SUB-COMMITTEE OF 29 NOVEMBER 2002** - Appendix I.
 - 1.2 **APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE OF 10 DECEMBER 2002** - Appendix II
 - 1.3 **RECRUITMENT SUB-COMMITTEE OF 19 DECEMBER 2002** - Appendix III.
 - 1.4 **CHAIR'S SUB-COMMITTEE OF 9 JANUARY 2003** - Appendix IV.
Councillor Weir joined the meeting at this point.
 - 1.5 **MEMBERS' SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF 29 JANUARY 2003** - Appendix V.
 - 1.6 **CHAIR'S SUB-COMMITTEE OF 5 FEBRUARY 2003** - Appendix VI
 - 1.7 **CORPORATE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 11 FEBRUARY 2003** - Appendix VII.

BUDGET SCRUTINY GROUP

2. There were submitted and noted the Minutes of the Budget Scrutiny Group as follows, viz:-
 - 2.1 **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18 DECEMBER 2002.**
 - 2.2 **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 FEBRUARY 2003.**

**BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT - GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE
ACCOUNT TO 15 DECEMBER 2002 (PERIOD 9)**

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 22 October 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Finance on the current budgetary control position of the General Services Revenue Account for the period ended 15 December 2002 (Period 9).

**BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT
TO 15 DECEMBER 2002 (PERIOD 9)**

4. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 4 February 2003 (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 15 December 2002 (Period 9).

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON REVENUE COLLECTION

5. There was submitted and noted a report dated 29 January 2003 (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 12 January 2003 (Period 10).

**COUNCIL TAX ON SECOND AND LONG-TERM EMPTY HOMES -
RESPONSE TO THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE'S CONSULTATION PAPER**

6. There was submitted a report dated 6 February 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which requested agreement to a Council response to the Scottish Executive's consultation paper on Council Tax on second and long-term empty homes.

It was agreed that the proposed response outlined in the report be returned to the Scottish Executive on 20 February 2003.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT - ANNUAL STRATEGY REPORT 2003/04

7. There was submitted a report dated 16 January 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which sought approval of the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for the financial year 2003/04 in line with the requirements of the Treasury Policy Statement.

It was agreed:

- (i) to recommend to Council that the operational limits detailed in paragraph 6.2 of the report be adopted for the current year, viz:- The Treasury Management Policy and Practices provide that the maximum ratio of fixed rate loans to variable rate loans at 60:40, whilst the limit of debt maturing in any financial year is 25% of the total portfolio; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

2003/04 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME

8. There was submitted a report dated 1 February 2003 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which proposed the Information Technology Capital Expenditure Programme for 2003/04.

It was agreed to approve the proposed 2003/04 IT Capital Expenditure Programme set out in the report.

STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2003/04 - DIRECTION 2002

9. There was submitted a report dated 4 February 2003 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which advised of the publication by the Accounts Commission of the Direction 2002, which gave details of the Statutory Performance Indicators to be collected in 2003/04.

It was agreed to note;

- (i) the publication by the Accounts Commission of the Direction 2002;
- (ii) the completion of trial runs on new and amended Performance Indicators for 2002/03 contained within the Direction 2001; and
- (iii) the planned trial run for new and amended 2003/04 Indicators in the Direction 2002.

BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES FUND

10. There was submitted a report dated 5 February 2003 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which advised on a range of financial measures relevant to the ongoing Better Neighbourhood Services Fund (BNSF) programme.

It was agreed to note;

- (i) the Scottish Executive's confirmation of the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund Year 2 funding of £1.8m;
- (ii) the Executive's approval of the transfer of the Supported Tenancy Project to the Supported People's Grant stream;
- (iii) the additional allocation from the Executive in respect of the pilot Youth Justice proposals; and
- (iv) the contents of the report.

BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES FUND (BNSF) - COMMUNITY BASED YOUTH JUSTICE PROPOSALS (Item 21, Page 2941, 99/03)

11. There was submitted a report dated 12 February 2003 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which advised on the success of the Council's community based Youth Justice Proposals linked to the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund (BNSF) Pathfinder area.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the success of East Ayrshire's community based Youth Justice outline bid proposal;
- (ii) to remit to the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources in consultation with partner agencies, the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee and the four Local Members to prepare and submit the finalised proposal to the Executive by 31 March 2003; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

COMMUNITY BUDGETING (Item 16, Page 2939, 99/03)

12. There was submitted a report dated 13 February 2003 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which presented the outline bid submission made to the Scottish Executive in respect of Community Budgeting and which sought approval for the main focus and secondary theme of the pilot exercise.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the approval in principle of the outline proposal for Community Budgeting submitted to the Scottish Executive on 4 December 2002;
- (ii) to align the main focus of the pilot with a full service review of addiction issues in the south of the Authority;
- (iii) to work in conjunction across the other two Ayrshire Community Planning partnerships on a secondary theme to the pilot and remit to Council Officers, in consultation with the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee and the Council's Community Planning partners, to identify a relevant theme for this element of the pilot;
- (iv) to note that Council Officers had provided additional information requested by the Scottish Executive which was presented to them by the due date of 14 February 2003;
- (v) to note that the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources would give urgent priority to the completion of a review of internal processes, staffing structures and arrangements as outlined in paragraph 5.2 of the report; and
- (vi) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE REPORTING FRAMEWORK

13. There was submitted a report dated 13 February 2003 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which updated on the requirements for Public Performance Reporting and the proposed approach to the production of the Council's Public Performance report for 2002.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the current developments in relation to Public Performance reporting;
- (ii) to the production and distribution of a Public Performance report for 2002;
- (iii) to the framework for performance reporting as set out in the appendix to the report;
- (iv) that the detailed content of the Public Performance Report for 2002 be agreed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Committee; and
- (v) otherwise to note the content of the report.

MODERNISING GOVERNMENT FUND (MGF2) (Item 10, Page 2403, 99/03)

14. There was submitted a report dated 29 January 2003 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which advised on the Council's bid for funding under the second round of the Scottish Executive's Modernising

Government Fund (MGF2) and which sought authority to accept a Scottish Executive offer of award.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the Council's success in securing MGF2 funding for ICT related projects and accept the offer of grant as outlined in Section 5 of the report;
- (ii) to note that a further report would be presented to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee which would advise Members of progress in respect of delivering project objectives;
- (iii) to note that the Director of Educational and Social Services had indicated the required match funding was available for the development of e-care related projects in accordance with the Council's revised bid for e-care funding as indicated in Section 5.3 of the report;
- (iv) to the Council's Head of Information Technology fulfilling the role of MGF2 Co-ordinator on behalf of the Council; and
- (v) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

**WEST OF SCOTLAND RACE EQUALITY COUNCIL (WSREC) -
APPLICATION FOR ADMINISTRATION GRANT**

- 15.** There was submitted a report dated 3 February 2003 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which advised of an annual request for a grant of £3,500 by the West of Scotland Race Equality Council (WSREC) and which recommended accordingly.

It was agreed:

- (i) to hold payment of 2003/04 core grant to the West of Scotland Race Equality Council until the conclusion of the review supported by the Commission on Racial Equality;
- (ii) that the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources report back to the Committee at the earliest opportunity; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

EAST AYRSHIRE MULTI-AGENCY FORUM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- 16.** There was submitted a report dated 29 January 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the outcome of the first Multi-Agency Forum for Young People and which sought Committee approval to submit the note of each Forum meeting to the Policy and Resources Committee.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the proposals set out in paragraph 5 to routinely submit the note of the Multi-Agency Forum for Young People to the Policy and Resources Committee; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

**RE-ALLOCATION OF LAND AT HURLFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL
TO EDUCATION PROPERTY PORTFOLIO (Item 4, Page 3037, 99/03)**

17. There was submitted a report dated 12 February 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the re-allocation of land at Riccarton Road, Hurlford Primary School to the Education property portfolio.

It was agreed to the re-allocation of land at Hurlford Primary to the Education property portfolio.

PANEL OF SAFEGUARDERS: FEE STRUCTURE

18. There was submitted a report dated 4 February 2003 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which advised of the most recent review by CoSLA of the fee structure in respect of Safeguarders and which recommended the implementation of revised fees for 2003/04.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the implementation in 2003/04 of the revised fee structure for Safeguarders detailed in Appendix II to the report;
- (ii) to note that, other than inflationary increases which would be implemented in the normal way, any future proposed amendments to the fee structure would be reported to Committee for its consideration; and
- (iii) that it be remitted to the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources to undertake the necessary arrangements for the implementation of revised rates.

**HEALTH AND ILL-HEALTH IN AYRSHIRE AND ARRAN
THE 2001 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

19. There was submitted a report dated 5 February 2003 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which provided Members with a summary of the key points outlined in the Director of Public Health's 2001 report entitled "Health and Ill-Health in Ayrshire and Arran" published in August 2002.

It was agreed to note the content of the report and that any questions on the report would be put to the Director of Public Health who would be making a presentation on the findings from the 2001 report immediately following the meeting.

The meeting terminated at 1035 hrs.