

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **MEMBERS SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 29 JANUARY 2003**

#### **KIRKIN' OF THE COUNCIL**

##### **Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To request that the Sub-Committee consider arrangements for the Kirkin' of the Council ceremony.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Prior to re-organisation, it was customary that a Council, upon its election, would attend a local church service designed to mark the Kirkin' of the Council.
- 2.2 However, to mark the inauguration of East Ayrshire Council, ceremonies were held within each of the former district council boundaries. Thereafter, as it was considered important to establish the profile of the new Council to bring together the new Council area, which had no previous identity, it was agreed to hold a Kirkin' of the Council ceremony to mark the beginning of each Council year and this practice continued until 2000.
- 2.3 At the Sub-Committee on 8 November 2000 (Item 4, page 1426, 99/03) it was agreed that, as good progress had been made, the Council revert to the customary practice of holding a Kirkin' of the Council ceremony at the start of a Council term, thereby giving the ceremony greater significance.

#### **3. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 The Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 23 January 1996 (Item 13, page 445, 96/99) agreed that the Kirkin' should take place in churches throughout East Ayrshire and that visits to the Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic and Congregational Establishments take place in sequence.
- 3.2 This year's Kirkin' is therefore scheduled to take place in a Congregational Church. There are only two Congregational Churches in East Ayrshire and as the last ceremony at a Congregational Church took place at Winton Place Church, Kilmarnock it is therefore suggested that this year's ceremony take place at the Congregational Church in Cumnock with the suggested date being 1 June 2003.
- 3.3 The service will be Ecumenical in nature.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** The usual practice was that the Council would make a donation of £200 to help meet the costs of any afternoon hospitality (tea and coffee etc) provided by the relevant church following the service. Members will recall that a broad range of local organisations are invited to attend the Kirkin' and are provided with hospitality by the church. It is intended that the practice of making such a donation would continue.

#### **5. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS - Nil**

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1** The Sub-Committee is asked:-

- (i) to agree that the Kirkin' of the Council take place on Sunday 1 June 2003 at Cumnock Congregational Church;
- (ii) that the service be ecumenical in nature and that minority faiths continue to be invited to be represented;
- (iii) that arrangements be remitted to the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources in consultation with the Chair; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Fiona Lees  
Depute Chief Executive/  
Director of Corporate Resources

CB/JW

9 January 2003

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - Nil**

Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources on telephone number (01563) 576103.

**Implementation Officer: Christine Baillie, Administrative Officer**