

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **MEMBERS' SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 13 SEPTEMBER 2000**

#### **ERECTION OF FLAGPOLES AT COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

#### **Joint Report by the Directors of Corporate Resources and of Homes and Technical Services**

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

- 1.1 The Sub-Committee are asked to consider the erection of new flagpoles at the Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock at a position to be agreed.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Six flagpoles are located at the Civic Centre (South), John Dickie Street, five of which are wall mounted, with one being located on the roof. One smaller flagpole is located above the main entrance, Lugar offices.
- 2.2 Access to these flagpoles for the purposes of flying flags is difficult and there are Health and Safety concerns, with only the wall mounted poles at the Civic Centre currently being used. Further, the use of these wall mounted poles is not considered best value as when each flag is flown and taken down a vehicular platform is required to be hired for health and safety reasons.
- 2.3 Flagpoles are currently located on the Burns Mall, Kilmarnock. These flagpoles are owned by Land Securities. It is considered that the location is not suitable for civic use.
- 2.4 This Sub-Committee at its meeting on 18 November 1997 (Item 1, Page 2771) determined the protocol for flying flags on Council premises as detailed in the Appendix to this report.
- 2.5 This Sub-Committee, at its meeting held on 31 May 2000, agreed to continue consideration of this item for additional information.

### **3. OPTIONS**

#### **3.1 Number of Flagpoles Required**

- 3.1.1 With the exception of Europe Day, during which six flags could be flown, a maximum of two flags are required under the Council's present flag flying protocol. It is suggested that for this one off occasion the continued provision of such numbers of flagpoles could not be justified. Accordingly, the Committee may wish to consider what flags should be flown on Europe Day and one suggestion is:- the European flag, the Union flag and the Saltire. It is

considered that a maximum of three flagpoles would be sufficient to meet the Council's protocol needs.

### **3.2 Relocate Existing Flagpoles from Civic Centre (South) to Council Headquarters**

- 3.2.1** Due to age and weathering it is likely that existing bolts will have to be ground down to release the brackets from the wall, which in turn will require painting, and may require replacement in some instances. The stonework to the Listed Building will similarly require to be made good where fixings have been removed. In addition, the pulley mechanisms will require overhaul and ropes replaced.
- 3.2.2** Because of possible vandalism, it will be necessary for the posts to be kept at a reasonable height above ground level, either above or adjacent to a first floor window to allow flags to be attached without the requirement for ladder access. However, arrangements will have to be made for access through such offices to carry out this task and for safety purposes a harness arrangement would have to be employed.
- 3.2.3** The condition of the existing flagpoles can only be determined once they have been removed from their existing location and carefully examined.

### **3.3 Erect New Freestanding Flagpoles at Council Headquarters**

- 3.3.1** The London Road offices are set back from the main road and any flags on the building would only be easily seen by building users. A more visually apparent alternative would be to locate new ground, fix poles adjacent to the boundary with London Road, as shown on the attached plan.
- 3.3.2** Anti-vandal ground mounted poles are available which incorporate the pulley mechanism within the pole. This avoids the health and safety problems and costs associated with use of window or ladder access. As the pulley mechanism is concealed using an internal halyard system accessed via a lockable door, it is less likely to be subjected to the problem of weathering or vandalism. The posts come with a proprietary sleeve, which sits into a concrete base and this avoids the structural implications of fixing brackets to the existing stonework. The flagpoles are of fibreglass construction which reduces maintenance costs and they come in various lengths.

## **4. COST IMPLICATIONS**

### **4.1 TRANSFERRING EXISTING FLAGPOLES FROM THE CIVIC CENTRE TO THE COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS**

- 4.1.1** Cost per flagpole - £1,050.

Cost for three flagpoles - £3,150.

## **4.2 PROVIDING NEW GROUND MOUNTED FLAGPOLES AT COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS**

### **4.2.1 Cost per flagpole - £970**

Cost for three flagpoles - £2,910

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1** The cost of installing three new ground mounted anti-vandal posts at the Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock is £2,910 and can be met from the Civic Ceremonial Sub-Committee budget.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

**6.1** There are health and safety implications and other costs associated with re-use of the existing poles.

**6.2** New poles offer a viable alternative with low maintenance costs.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**7.1** If Members decide to proceed, it is recommended that the Council erect three new ground mounted anti-vandal poles for the Council Headquarters, London Road at a position to be agreed.

**7.2** To agree that for Europe Day the following flags be flown: European flag, the Union flag and the Saltire.

Fiona Lees  
Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

CB/FM

22 May 2000

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS - Nil**

Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager, on 01563 576135.

**APPENDIX**

<b><u>Flag(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Occasion</u></b>
Saltire	25 January	Burns Day
Union flag & Saltire	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday in March	Commonwealth Day
Saltire	6 April	Commemoration of Arbroath Declaration of Rights (1320)
European flag (flags of our international partners & Saltire)	9 May	Europe Day
Union flag & Saltire	13 June 1998 (thereafter date to be notified)	Queen's Official Birthday
Saltire	24 June	Bannockburn
Saltire	23 August	Wallace Commemorative Day
United Nations Flag	24 October	United Nations Day
Union flag & Saltire	11 November	Armistice Day
Saltire	30 November	St Andrew's Day

**AGENDA**