

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

BUDGET SCRUTINY GROUP

REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2002 AT 1120 HRS IN THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S CONFERENCE ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Eric Jackson, Harry Wilson, John Knapp, Finlay MacLean and Jimmy Carmichael; David Montgomery, Chief Executive; and Alex McPhee, Director of Finance.

ATTENDING: Ian Arnott, Corporate Accounting Manager; and Jennifer Morrison, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGY: Councillor Drew McIntyre.

CHAIR: Councillor Eric Jackson.

REPORT OF BUDGET SCRUTINY MEETING HELD ON 20 DECEMBER 2001

1. There was submitted and noted report of meeting held on 20 December 2001 (circulated).

BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT - GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE ACCOUNT TO 16 DECEMBER 2001 (PERIOD 9)

2. There was submitted a report dated 28 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which advised of the current budgetary control position of the General Services Revenue Account for the period ended 16 December 2001 (Period 9).

It was noted that the report was in the form of a summary overview by Department.

The Director of Finance reported:

- (i) on the projected surplus for the year of £797,000 which position was slightly more favourable than reported last month;
- (ii) that the SEEMIS system link issues had not yet been resolved fully but progress had been made and that work was ongoing;
- (iii) that assurances had been received by the Director of Educational and Social Services that expenditure for Education and Social Work would be contained within budget by management action;
- (iv) that the Director of Corporate Resources was projecting an underspend of £36,000 at year end; and
- (v) that the Director of Development Services was projecting a break even position at 31 March 2002.

It was noted that the Directors of Finance and of Community Services would further clarify for Councillor Wilson after the meeting the difference in scope between the 2001/02 and 2000/01 outdoor amenities budget.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT TO 16 DECEMBER 2001 (PERIOD 9)

3. There was submitted a joint report dated 10 January 2002 (circulated) by the Directors of Finance and of Homes and Technical Services which advised of the current budgetary control position of the Housing Revenue Account for the period ended 16 December 2001 (Period 9).

The Group noted that the Housing Revenue Account was showing a projected £18,000 underspend, which had moved from the break-even position reported last month, and otherwise noted the contents of the report.

TRADING SERVICES TO 16 DECEMBER 2001 (PERIOD 9)

4. There was submitted a report dated 10 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which advised of the current budgetary control position of the Trading Services of the Council for the period ended 16 December 2001 (Period 9).

A copy of the Trading Services Operating Statement was also made available to Members for one hour before, and also at the meeting.

4.1 BUILDING AND WORKS DLO

The Director of Finance confirmed the Building and Works budget position had moved to a projected surplus of £430,000 (from £360,000) which position appeared to be sustainable. The Group observed that new management information systems now in place had contributed to this position.

The Group noted otherwise the contents of the report.

GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME TO PERIOD 9

5. There was submitted a report dated 21 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which updated on the projected out-turn of the General Services Capital Programme for the current financial year.

The Group noted that the projected expenditure was 9.472% greater than the anticipated available funding, which remained within the Scottish Executive permissible tolerance of 10% of the available borrowing consent.

The Director of Development Services was monitoring closely the capital receipts for the year as a number of major transactions had still to be finalised before 31 March.

The Group otherwise noted the contents of the report.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME TO PERIOD 9

6. There was submitted a report dated 22 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which updated on the current projected out-turn position for the Housing Capital Programme 2001/02.

The Group noted that the Director of Homes and Technical Services had reported a number of anticipated savings, and a number of new schemes had been agreed to utilise the funds released.

The Group otherwise noted the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1137 hrs.

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