

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5 MARCH 1996 AT
1100 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, LONDON ROAD CENTRE, KILMARNOCK**

- PRESENT:** Councillors Robert Stirling, Gordon McCredie, Drew McIntyre, Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Wilma Doyle, Ronald Brailsford, Jane Darnbrough, Jim O'Neill, Kathleen Hall, Bob Beattie, John Knapp, Daniel Coffey, David Fulton, Kim Nicoll, George Turnbull, Robert McDill, Eric Ross, Jimmy Kelly, David Sneller, George Smith, Jimmy Carmichael, Robert Taylor, John Smith, Tommy Farrell and Eric Jackson.
- ATTENDING:** David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Des Tierney, Director of Commercial Operations; Stephen Chorley, Director of Development Services; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Gordon Clark, Director of Finance; John Hillis, Director of Housing; Iain McLachlan, Director of Personnel Services; Jim Dickie, Director of Social Work; Barbara Haughan, Director of Support Services; Roddy Wallace, Head of Administration; Douglas Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing; Tom McHugh, Depute Director of Finance; Lilian Belshaw, KLDC and Anne Marie Carr, Support Unit.
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors Douglas Reid, Alan Campbell, David Macrae and Jimmy Boyd.
- CHAIR:** Councillor Robert Stirling, Chair.

1. COUNCIL TAX - RESTRICTIONS ON VOTING

The Council requested and noted a statement by the Director of Support Services regarding the provisions of Section 112 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 on eligibility to participate in budget-making decisions if in arrears of Community Charge or Council Tax payments.

**2. GENERAL SERVICE REVENUE ESTIMATES AND
COUNCIL TAX 1996/97**

There was submitted Minute excerpt of the Special Policy and Resources Committee of 4 March 1996 together with appendices comprising (a) report dated 28 February 1996 by the Director of Finance and (b) service and growth packages agreed by Service Committees and approved by Policy and Resources Committee (all circulated) which recommended the General Services budget and Council Tax for 1996/97.

Councillor Sneller commented on the difficulties faced by the Council in setting this first budget of East Ayrshire Council in an extremely short timescale and thanked the Director of Finance and the Chief Executive for their valuable input throughout the whole process; he also thanked the Director of Support Services and administration staff for producing, under a great deal of pressure, the documents and Minutes which assisted the Administration in making their decisions.

He referred to the extensive public consultation exercise pioneered by East Ayrshire Council which had been undertaken, comments from which had led to budget

proposals being adjusted to reflect views expressed at the consultation meetings and stated that the Council would continue to consult the public on issues affecting them.

He stated that this was a budget of a Council committed to work with the community and all the people of East Ayrshire and made reference to issues contained therein.

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor McIntyre, moved the recommendations contained in the remit from the Policy and Resources Committee of 4 March 1996 as updated as a result of Scottish Office Finance Circular No 11/96 dated 5 March 1996 as follows, viz:-

- (i) Approval of the draft General Services Revenue Estimates 1996/97 as set out in the Director of Finance's report dated 28 February 1996 taking into account
 - (a) savings and growth packages of £510,299 and £30,000 respectively in respect of the Chief Executive's, Support Services, Personnel and Finance Departments; and
 - (b) the savings and growth packages totalling £4,736,970 and £427,000 respectively in respect of the Service Departments;
- (ii) that a level of relevant expenditure raised to the revised capping level of £131.790m (to reflect the transfer of CFCR monies within the capping limit) be declared;
- (iii) that the additional £1.732m originally categorised as CFCR be spent as follows, viz:- £1m for building maintenance, £700,000 reserved to support the General Services Capital Programme and the balance of £32,000 be added to the budget identified for community care developments, that the Community Care Development budget be then reduced by £73,000 to reflect the £73,000 downward adjustment in the announcement by The Scottish Office to give a revised saving of £98,000 against Community Care developments in the Social Work savings/growth package;
- (iv) that the level of other items of non-relevant expenditure amounting to £16.366m, as detailed in paragraph 3.5 of the report by the Director of Finance, be approved;
- (v) that the Director of Finance be instructed to submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee regarding the implementation of the setting up of an insurance fund for which financial provision had been made;
- (vi) that the level of net expenditure to be met from the Council Tax of £25.019m as shown in paragraph 3.6 of the Director's report be approved;
- (vii) that Council Tax bad debt provision at 6% be approved and that a Council Tax (Band D equivalent) of £714 for 1996/97 be declared.

Councillor Coffey thanked Gordon Clark, Tom McHugh and the Chief Executive, all Directors and members of the public and community groups for their assistance in preparing the SNP Group's proposals and moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Hall;

- (i) that a level of relevant expenditure for capping purposes amounting to £130.790m be declared;
- (ii) that a CFCR contribution of £1m for the 1996/97 financial year be approved;
- (iii) that the level of other items of non-relevant expenditure amounting to £16.261m be approved;

- (iv) that the Director of Finance be requested to submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee regarding the implementation of the setting-up of an insurance fund for which financial provision had been made;
- (v) that a level of net expenditure to be met from Council Tax of £24.841m be approved;
- (vi) that the Council Tax bad debt provision be approved at 6%;
- (vii) that a Council Tax (Band D equivalent) of £709 for 1996/97 be declared;
- (viii) that the Directors reprioritise total relevant expenditure with final decisions being agreed by 8 March 1996;
- (ix) that there be a 5% reduction in Members' allowances;
- (x) that Chief Officers forego a salary increase in 1996/97; and
- (xi) that the return of cash aid for Glasgow of £1.6m be pursued vigorously.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 20 votes to 6.

The Council further agreed that the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance be instructed to ensure that the spending levels were met and that requests for additional expenditure were unlikely to be sanctioned.

3. BUDGET SETTING PROCESS

Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor McCredie, moved that the Council ask Councillor Sneller to resign as Leader of the Council.

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Doyle, moved as an amendment that the Council not ask Councillor Sneller to resign.

On a division by a show of hands the amendment was carried by 19 votes to 6.

4. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 1145 hrs.