

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 1996 AT 0900 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, LONDON ROAD CENTRE, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors David Sneller, Drew McIntyre, Irene Reeves, Ronald Brailsford, Robert Stirling, Jane Darnbrough, Jim O'Neill, Robert Beattie, David Fulton, Kim Nicoll, George Turnbull, Eric Ross, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Farrell and Eric Jackson.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; Desmond Tierney, Director of Commercial Operations; William Stafford, Director of Community Services; Gordon Clark, Director of Finance; Barbara Haughan, Director of Support Services; Iain McLachlan, Director of Personnel Services; Margaret McManus and Anne Marie Carr (Support Unit).

APOLOGY: Councillor Jimmy Boyd.

CHAIR: Councillor David Sneller, Chair.

DRAFT ESTIMATES 1996/97 - GENERAL SERVICES

1.1 There was submitted a report dated 26 February 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Finance advising of the latest position now that finalised figures had been obtained in terms of the 1996/97 budget and recommending that the Committee determine final allocations for each of the service committees and that those committees be requested to finalise savings and growth packages to align service delivery plans with the final financial allocations for 1996/97 taking into account the views and comments made during the Council's public consultation exercise.

The Chair and Director of Finance highlighted the main points of the report following which it was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Finance would report to the Special Policy & Resources Committee on 4 March 1996 detailing the implications for each of the council tax bandings following the budget review exercise; and
- (ii) that the report by the Chief Executive on the Council's public consultation exercise on the budget be noted.

1.2 Thereafter, Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor McIntyre, moved:

- (i) that the Committee determine the block allocation of financial resources to each department (in the light of overall resources now available) with the funds identified for reallocation being assigned to the respective services as detailed below and remit to the service committees finalisation of proposed savings and growth packages to align their service delivery plans with these final financial allocations for 1996/97 taking into account with views and comments made during the Council's public consultation exercise.

| Committee | Final Allocation for 1996/97 £000's | Funds for reallocation included |
|------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Education | 54507 | 20000 |
| Social Work | 19294 | 75000 |
| Community Services | 30872 | 50000 |
| Development Services | 14354 | 50000 |
| Policy & Resources | 8286 | - |
| Housing (General Fund) | 343 | - |
| Total | 127656 | 375 |

- (ii) that the final decisions made by each of the respective service committees in relation to the foregoing be submitted for consideration to the special meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 4 March 1996.

Councillor Nicoll intimated that in considering the budget her group would be adopting the following principles:

- (i) not considering compulsory redundancies as an option for cuts unless as a last resort;
- (ii) the provision of opportunities for expansion in economic development is to be treated as a priority;
- (iii) the protection of the vulnerable and needy is of uppermost importance;
- (iv) the continued modernisation and redevelopment of housing programmes; and
- (v) the protection of the education service, with school closures not being considered as part of the budgetary process.

and seconded by Councillor Brailsford, she moved as an amendment:

that consideration of the budget be continued to the Special Council meeting on 5 March 1996.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 13 votes to 2.

The meeting terminated at 0920 hours.

27-2.min