

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 23 JANUARY 1997  
AT 1000 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,  
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Sneller, Drew McIntyre, Irene Reeves, Wilma Doyle, Ronald Brailsford, Provost Robert Stirling, Councillors Jane Darnbrough, Bob Beattie, Daniel Coffey, David Fulton, Kim Nicoll, George Turnbull, Eric Ross, Jimmy Boyd, Tommy Farrell and Eric Jackson.

**ATTENDING:** David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; Des Tierney, Director of Commercial Operations; William Stafford, Director of Community Services; Stephen Chorley, Director of Development Services; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Gordon Clark, Director of Finance; John Hillis, Director of Housing; Douglas Bulloch, Director of Social Work; Barbara Haughan, Director of Support Services; Tom McHugh, Depute Director of Finance; Graham Haugh, Depute Director of Personnel Services; Allan McDougall, Depute Director of Social Work (Finance and Resources); Roddy Wallace, Head of Administration; Bill Walkinshaw, Principal Administrative Officer; Graham Kerr, Public Relations Officer; and Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Douglas Reid, Jim O'Neill and Jim Kelly.

**CHAIR:** Councillor Sneller, Chair.

**DRAFT ESTIMATES 1997/98****1.1 GENERAL SERVICES (Item 3, Page 1567)**

There was submitted a report dated 15 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which sought, as a basis for consultation only at this stage, the approval of the Draft Estimates 1997/98 for General Services which complied with the Secretary of State's anticipated capping level and which would enable the Council to embark on a public consultation exercise prior to the declaration of the Council Tax (Band D equivalent) on 6 March 1997.

The Director of Finance reported that the Secretary of State had announced the capping levels for each Authority and for East Ayrshire this amounted to £132.842m.

The revised expenditure level as contained in the report amounted to £138.882m against the capping level of £132.842m resulting in a requirement for cuts totalling £6.040m. Details of cuts in growth packages submitted by each Department were shown in Appendix 2 to the report.

The following amendments were made to the report;

Appendix 1 - New Burdens

Development Services - Flood Prevention - The figure for retrospective recognition should be £103,000 therefore making additional expenditure £43,000.

## Appendix 2 - Cuts Package `A' List

### Education

Delete Item 6 - Commercial Operations - Cleaning service savings option of £40,000.

Add in new savings option of Commercial Operations - Catering Service - reduce expenditure on catering equipment in kitchens and cafeterias - £5,000.

Item 3 - Commercial Operations vehicle maintenance savings option - Further reduce vehicle maintenance and review complement of vehicles in Education Department - Additional £8,000 (total now £13,000).

Items 11, 20 and 25 - Schools - Absence Cover - Teacher Appraisal - Include further reduction in Absence Cover - Teacher Appraisal - Additional £7,000 (total now £57,000, shown at option 25).

Item 13 - Commercial Operations Client Management savings option - Include further reduction in Client Management Services - Reduce level of charges to the Education Department - Additional £20,000 (total now £60,000).

### Community Services

Item 2 - All Sections - The details to be inserted are Reduction in Staff Travel - Mid Year Savings Package 1996/97.

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor McIntyre, moved that the Committee approve, as a basis for consultation, the estimates as contained within the report together with growth and cuts packages as detailed in Appendix 2 as amended.

Councillor Coffey, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, moved as an amendment to note, circulate and distribute to appropriate groups/organisations as part of the consultation exercise, the estimates as shown in the report together with the growth and cuts package as detailed in Appendix 2 as amended.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 13 votes to 3.

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

It was further agreed (i) to approve the timetable for public consultation as detailed in paragraph 2 of the report; and (ii) to note the timetable for Committees and the Council as detailed in Section 3 of the report.

Councillor Coffey, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, moved that the Council extend a similar invitation to Mr George Robertson MP, Shadow Secretary of State, as to that which had been extended to Mr Michael Forsyth MP, Secretary of State for Scotland with regard to meeting Council representatives to discuss the effects on East Ayrshire of the recent Local Government Finance settlement for 1997/98.

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor McIntyre, moved as an amendment that no similar invitation be extended to Mr George Robertson MP.

On a division by a show of hands the amendment was carried by 13 votes to 3.

Councillor Farrell left the meeting at this point.

## 1.2 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

There was submitted a joint report dated 14 January 1997 (circulated) by Directors of Housing and of Finance which sought, as a basis for consultation only at this stage, the approval of the Draft Estimates 1997/98 for the Housing Revenue Account which would enable the Council to embark on a public consultation exercise prior to agreeing on 13 February 1997 the level at which Council house rents and other charges would be levied for the financial year 1997/98.

The Director of Housing also introduced for inclusion within the joint report a new Appendix II which provided details of the cumulative effect on weekly rent increases/decreases.

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor McIntyre, moved that the Committee approve as a basis for consultation the estimates as contained in the report, the growth and savings packages detailed in Appendix I, and that the details of the implications for weekly rent charges be issued as Appendix II to the report.

Councillor Coffey, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, moved to note, circulate and distribute to appropriate groups/organisations as part of the consultation exercise, the estimates as contained in the report, the growth and savings packages as detailed in Appendix 1, and that the details of the implications for weekly rent charges be issued as Appendix II to the report.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 12 votes to 3.

The meeting terminated at 1100 hrs.