

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6 JANUARY 1998 AT  
1200 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,  
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Sneller, Eric Jackson, Drew McIntyre, Irene Reeves, Douglas Reid, Ronald Brailsford, Jane Darnbrough, Jim O'Neill, Kathleen Hall, Daniel Coffey, David Fulton, Eric Ross, Jim Kelly, Jimmy Boyd and Tommy Farrell.

**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; Gordon Clark, Director of Finance; John Hillis, Director of Housing; Iain McLachlan, Director of Personnel Services; Barbara Haughan, Director of Support Services; William McKenzie, Senior Depute Director of Commercial Operations; Alex McPhee, Senior Depute Director of Finance; Roddy Wallace, Head of Administration; Douglas Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing; David Mitchell, Acting Head of Legal Services; Ian Arnott, Chief Accountant; Alistair Wyper, Roads and Transport Manager; and Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Provost Robert Stirling and Councillors Kim Nicoll and John Smith.

**CHAIR:** Councillor David Sneller, Chair.

**DRAFT ESTIMATES 1998/99 – GENERAL SERVICES**

1. There was submitted a report dated 23 December 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which sought approval of the Draft Revenue Estimates 1998/99 in respect of the General Services in terms of the Cost of the Current Level of Service (CCLS).

The Draft Revenue Estimates 1998/99 (CCLS) were summarised by Service in the booklet which was also circulated with the report.

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved

- (i) that the Draft Revenue Estimates 1998/99 (CCLS) for General Services amounting to £134.094m be approved for the purposes of the 1998/99 budget process and in accordance with the approved budgetary timetable as follows:

<b><u>Service</u></b>	<b><u>CCLS Estimate 1998/99</u></b>
Education	57,364,928
Social Work	22,041,049
Community Services	33,676,374
Development Services	9,067,995

## Policy and Resources

Central Services	2,200,383
Support Services	6,536,295
Miscellaneous Services	2,433,544
Housing – General Services	507,753
Commercial Operations	(1,081,540)
Urban Aid Mainlining	500,000
Insurance – Miscellaneous Services	<u>847,700</u>
Total	<u>134,094,481</u> and

(ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

Councillor Coffey, seconded by Councillor Brailsford, moved as an amendment

- (i) to note the Draft Revenue Estimates 1998/99 (CCLS) for General Services and to continue consideration meantime to await further information on the Treasury Management Annual Strategy Report and the report from the Task Unit which had been set up to review the financial procedures within the Commercial Operations Department; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 11 votes to 4.

**DRAFT ESTIMATES 1998/99 – ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE BY  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

2. There was submitted a report dated 23 December 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which advised the Committee of the recent announcements by the Secretary of State in respect of provisional capping principles and levels 1998/99, Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE), Spend to Save Scheme, Non-Domestic Rates and Aggregate External Finance (AEF) levels 1998/99.

The Director of Finance reported that the total capping level for East Ayrshire for 1998/99 was £132.497m.

The Director of Finance also stated that at paragraph 3.7 of the report, the proposed amounts allocated in respect of the Aggregate External Finance (AEF) would be adjusted following confirmation of the monetary amounts from the Scottish Office.

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved

- (i) to note that a further report setting out proposals for the 1998/99 revenue budget would be submitted by the Director of Finance which would align with the capping level; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Coffey, seconded by Councillor Reid, moved as an amendment

- (i) to note that a further report setting out proposals for the 1998/99 revenue budget would be submitted by the Director of Finance which would align with

the capping level as proposed by the Secretary of State and to request an urgent meeting with the Secretary of State to discuss same; and

(ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 11 votes to 4.

### **DRAFT ESTIMATES 1998/99 – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT**

3. There was submitted a report dated 23 December 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which sought approval of the draft Revenue Estimates 1998/99 in respect of the Housing Revenue Account in terms of the cost of the Current Level of Service (CCLS).

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved that the Supervision and Management Account and Housing Revenue Account 1998/99 CCLS budget be approved for the purposes of the 1998/99 budget process and in accordance with the approved budgetary timetable as follows:

#### **Supervision and Management Account**

<b><u>Description Expenditure</u></b>	<b><u>CCLS Estimate 1998/99</u></b>
Employee Costs	2,520,556
Transport Costs	57,964
Supplies and Services	81,555
Administration Costs	<u>142,360</u>
Total	<u>2,802,435</u>

#### **Housing Revenue Account**

<b><u>Description Expenditure</u></b>	<b><u>CCLS Estimate 1998/99</u></b>
Employee Costs	618,521
Property Costs	11,541,952
Supplies and Services	221,460
Administration Costs	1,007,860
Central Services Recharge	1,715,895
Payments to Other Bodies	<u>331,950</u>
Total	<u>15,437,638</u>

Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Coffey, moved as an amendment to note the Supervision and Management Account and the Housing Revenue Account 1998/99 CCLS budget and to request that a further report be submitted in due course.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 11 votes to 4.

It was also agreed that the Director of Housing submit a report to the next Special Policy and Resources Committee to be held on 22 January 1998 summarising the current position in respect of void rents which would highlight the action in hand and would project a position for the coming financial year in terms of proposals for the level of allowance to be made for voids in the 1998/99 budget.

**COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT – TASK UNIT (Item 5, Page 2759)**

4. There was submitted a report dated 23 December 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which appraised members of the current position in respect of the setting up of the Task Unit to review the financial procedures within the Commercial Operations Department.

It was agreed to note that a further report would be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 29 January 1998.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

5. The Committee resolved in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, that the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

**WEST OF SCOTLAND WATER VEHICLE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

6. There was submitted a report dated 29 December 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Commercial Operations on the current situation regarding the West of Scotland Water Vehicle Maintenance Contract. The Chief Executive confirmed that a copy of the contract documentation and a summary of the comments made by the Head of Legal Services would be supplied as requested by Councillor Coffey.

It was agreed:

- (i) that no bid be made as the contract stood and that the documents be returned unpriced to West of Scotland Water Authority with an appropriate letter; and
- (ii) that the Director of Commercial Operations submit a report to the Policy and Resources Committee on the operational implications of this decision.

The meeting terminated at 1240 hrs.