

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 1999 AT 0930 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors David Sneller, Irene Reeves, Jim O'Neill, Daniel Coffey, David Fulton, Robert McDill, Eric Ross, Jimmy Boyd and Eric Jackson.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Alex McPhee, Director of Finance, John Hillis, Director of Housing; Iain McLachlan, Director of Personnel Services; Douglas Bulloch, Director of Social Work; Barbara Haughan, Director of Support Services; Tom McHugh, Depute Director of Finance; Roddy Wallace, Head of Administration; Ian Arnott, Chief Management Accountant; and Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Drew McIntyre and Douglas Reid, Provost Robert Stirling and Councillors Kathleen Hall, Ann Hay, Jim Kelly, John Smith and Tommy Farrell.

CHAIR: Councillor David Sneller, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. The Chair commented on the recent death of Councillor Ronald Brailsford, Local Member for Ward 7. The Chair stated that Councillor Brailsford was a well respected Member of Council who always actively participated in discussions at this Committee. He stated that he was a credit to the SNP and would be sadly missed.

Councillor Coffey agreed with the Chair's remarks and intimated that he would pass on the comments to Councillor Brailsford's family.

DRAFT ESTIMATES 1999/2000 - GENERAL SERVICES

2. There was submitted a report dated 5 January 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which sought approval of the Draft Revenue Estimates 1999/2000 in respect of the General Services in the Cost of the Current Level of Service (CCLS).

The Draft Revenue Estimates 1999/2000 (CCLS) were summarised by Service in the booklet which was also circulated with the report and it was agreed:

- (i) to approve the Draft Revenue Estimates 1999/2000 (CCLS) amounting to approximately £140.015m for the purposes of the 1999/2000 budget process and in accordance with the approved budgetary timetable as follows:-

<u>Service</u>	<u>CCLS Estimate 1999/00</u>
Education	60,292,357
Social Work	23,314,737
Community Services	34,963,370
Development Services	9,253,866
Policy and Resources - Central Services	3,976,510
Chief Executive	297,823
Public Relations	385,674
Finance	2,376,552
Personnel	480,750
Democratic Process	435,711

Non Relevant Recharges	-
Miscellaneous Services	2,581,828
Support Services	5,914,813
Housing - General Services	593,399
Other Specific Budget Items	<u>(875,993)</u>
	140,014,887

- (ii) that the Director of Finance review the presentation of the information for future years; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

Councillor Boyd left the meeting during discussion of the above item.

1999/2000 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT

- 3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 6 January 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Finance on the proposals of the Secretary of State for the distribution among Local Authorities of Aggregate External Finance (AEF) and the Expenditure Guideline figure for 1999/2000.

REPORT BY THE CONTROLLER OF AUDIT TO THE ACCOUNTS COMMISSION IN TERMS OF SECTION 102(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973

- 4. There was submitted a report dated 8 January 1999 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which advised of the receipt of (i) a report by the Controller of Audit to the Accounts Commission in terms of Section 102(2) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 in relation to the Commercial Operations deficit 1997/98; and (ii) a letter dated 22 December 1998 from the Accounts Commission for Scotland giving the Council an opportunity to respond to the Controller of Audit's report.

It was agreed by way of response to the Accounts Commission of Scotland:

- (i) to advise the Commission that the Council, at its special meeting on 19 August 1998, accepted the findings of the external auditor on which the Controller of Audit had based his statutory report and had been acting on all recommendations made;
- (ii) to welcome the Controller of Audit's recognition of the subsequent efforts the Council had made in relation to strengthening its structures and processes;
- (iii) to confirm to the Commission that arrangements had been put in place to strengthen the financial stewardship of the Council and transparent accounting for each Business Unit located in host Departments would continue to be provided;
- (iv) to re-affirm that the Council would continue to give every co-operation to the Council's external auditors in monitoring the arrangements; and
- (v) to forward a copy of this report to the Secretary of the Commission for background information.

The meeting terminated at 1020 hrs.