

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26 JANUARY 1999
AT 1230 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors David Sneller, Eric Jackson, Irene Reeves, Wilma Doyle, Jim O'Neill, Kathleen Hall, Daniel Coffey, Robert McDill, Eric Ross, Jim Kelly, Jimmy Boyd and Tommy Farrell.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; William Stafford, Director of Community Services; Stephen Chorley, Director of Development Services; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; John Hillis, Director of Housing; Chris McAleavey, Senior Depute Director of Housing; Barbara Haughan, Director of Support Services; Alex McPhee, Director of Finance; Iain McLachlan, Director of Personnel Services; Roddy Wallace, Head of Administration; Douglas Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing; and Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Drew McIntyre and Douglas Reid, Provost Robert Stirling, Councillors Ann Hay, George Turnbull and John Smith.

CHAIR: Councillor David Sneller, Chair.

DRAFT ESTIMATES 1999/2000 - GENERAL SERVICES (Item 2, Page 4090)

1. There was submitted a joint report dated 17 January 1999 (circulated) by the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance which sought, as a basis for consultation only at this stage, the approval of the Committee of the draft Estimates 1999/2000 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 4 March 1999.

In response to a query from Councillor Hall requesting details of further in-year savings estimated to total £0.902m by the end of the current financial year, the Chief Executive advised that the Departmental position relative to each Service would be reported to the Policy and Resources Committee on 4 February 1999.

It was reported and noted that the Council Tax figure under the heading 'Estimates 1998/99' at Section 5 of the report should read £819 and not £815.

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved:-

- (i) that the timetable for public consultation as detailed in Section 2 of the report be approved;
- (ii) that the timetable for Committees and the Council as detailed in Section 3 of the report be noted;
- (iii) that, as a basis for consultation, the estimates together with the growth and cuts packages as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report be approved; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Coffey, seconded by Councillor McDill, moved as an amendment:

- (i) that the timetable for public consultation as detailed in Section 2 of the report be approved; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

On a division by a show of hands, the motion was carried by nine votes to three.

**DRAFT ESTIMATES 1999/2000 -
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (Item 1, Page 4119)**

2. There was submitted a joint report dated 20 January 1999 (circulated) by the Directors of Housing and of Finance which sought, as a basis for consultation only at this stage, the approval of the Committee of the draft Estimates 1999/2000 for the Housing Revenue Account which would enable the Council to embark on a public consultation exercise prior to agreeing the level at which Council house rents and other charges would be levied for the financial year 1999/2000 on 9 February 1999.

Arising from the Director of Housing reporting that attendance figures for the previously held separate public consultation meetings had been poor and in response to a request from Councillor Doyle to ensure that members of the public would still participate in the consultation process, it was agreed that when arrangements were being made to publicise the Housing Services budget consultation meetings for established tenant and residents groups that it be advertised these meetings would also be open to members of the public.

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved:-

- (i) that, as a basis for consultation, the estimates together with the growth and savings package as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Coffey, seconded by Councillor McDill, moved as an amendment:-

- (i) that the timetable for public consultation as detailed in the report be approved; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by nine votes to three.

The meeting terminated at 1302 hrs.