

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

BI-ANNUAL MEETING BETWEEN EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL AND THE FORUMS ON DISABILITY

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25 MARCH 2003 AT 1407 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors William Menzies, Drew McIntyre and Eric Jackson.

ALSO PRESENT: Representing Kilmarnock Forum on Disability: Jim Bryan, Dorothy McGowan, and Linda Thomson; representing East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability: Jean Smith, William Frew and Ann Bell; and representing Kilmarnock Access Panel: Alan Harley.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; William Stafford, Director of Community Services; David McDowall, Building Control Manager; Sandy Gillatt, Chief Engineer; Elaine Gerrard, Employee Relations Officer; Jackie Donnelly, Principal Officer (Community Care); Sandra Marshall, Project Officer; Alison Findlay, Service Unit Manager (Adults); and Melanie Anderson, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Jane Darnbrough.

CHAIR: Councillor William Menzies, Chair.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The Minutes of the previous meeting of 7 October 2002 (circulated) were approved, with no matters arising.

PROPOSED SHOPMOBILITY SCHEME

2. There was submitted and noted a report dated 17 March 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which updated the meeting on progress towards the establishment of a Shopmobility Scheme within Kilmarnock Town Centre.
Councillor McIntyre joined the meeting during consideration of this item.

EQUIPMENT AND ADAPTATIONS

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 18 March 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the provision of equipment and adaptations within East Ayrshire during 2002/2003.

SENSORY IMPAIRMENT SERVICES

4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 18 March 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on developments in sensory impairment services.

DIRECT PAYMENTS

5. There was submitted a report dated 19 March 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the development of a Direct

Payment scheme in East Ayrshire and informed of the conclusion to the PAS Scheme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that representatives of the Kilmarnock Forum on Disability meet with the Principal Officer for Community Care after the meeting to discuss the implications of legal issues surrounding the PAS Scheme; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT 1995

6. There was submitted a report dated 14 March 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on the Council's commitment to comply with its legal obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and allied legislation.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the Disability Rights Commission intended to carry out a national publicity campaign in October 2003 to raise awareness of the implications of the new legislation;
- (ii) to note that, in the meantime, the Council had drawn the requirements of the legislation to the attention of holders of liquor licences within East Ayrshire and that the Director of Community Services would initiate a similar awareness-raising exercise with other licence holders;
- (iii) to note that the Council intended to raise awareness of the matter with local retail outlets in the course of events associated with the European Year of Disability 2003; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

UPDATE REPORT ON EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL AS A DISABILITY SYMBOL EMPLOYER

7. There was submitted and noted a report dated 5 March 2003 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which advised of the review by the Employment Service of East Ayrshire Council as a Disability Symbol user.

UPDATE REPORT FROM EAST AYRSHIRE ACCESS PANEL (NORTH DISTRICT)

8. Alan Harley of Kilmarnock Access Panel reported on the following issues for action identified by the Access Panel:-

- review of building plans;
- site visits to buildings;
- the award of merit certificates to retailers and service providers for good service;
- access to information, including the provision of loop systems ;
- roads and transportation, including liaison with the Council;
- public transport

- hospital working groups;
- Shopmobility and
- disability awareness issues.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the Council's commitment to ongoing consultation with, and support for, the Access Panel;
- (ii) to note that the Principal Officer for Community Care would act as the Council's initial point of contact in terms of any matters raised by the Access Panel, including the issue of the interpreters for the hearing impaired, and that she would meet with representatives of the Access Panel and Disability Forums following the meeting; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the content of the verbal report.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

9.1 Cumnock and District Blind Club

On behalf of Cumnock and District Blind Club, Jean Smith of East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability presented a cheque to the Council in respect of monies raised through raffles, donations and other fundraising activities, to be used in support of the children and young people attending the Wednesday Club.

The Principal Officer for Community Care accepted the cheque, with thanks, on behalf of the Wednesday Club.

9.2 The Glennie Newsletter

Jean Smith of East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability intimated that copies of issue 7 of the Glennie Newspaper (February 2003) would be distributed following the meeting.

9.3 Partnership Agreement: Kilmarnock Forum on Disability and East Ayrshire Council

Jim Bryan of Kilmarnock Forum on Disability requested an update on plans by the Council to publicise its partnership with Kilmarnock Forum on Disability.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the formal partnership agreement had been signed and would be publicised within the Council's Headlines publication, with a view to raising awareness on disability issues more generally.

The meeting terminated at 1455 hours.