

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

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

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11 MAY 2000 AT 1410 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors, David Macrae, Drew McIntyre, Harry Wilson, Jane Darnbrough, Eric Jackson and Julie Faulds.

**ATTENDING:** Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; Kate McVey, Solicitor to the Council; John Crawford, Head of Protective Services; Jim Kane, Chief Engineer, Roads Division; John Spooner, Business Development Manager; Morven Gemmill, Service Manager, Social Work Department; and Susan Taylor, Service Unit Manager (Adults), Social Work Department; Carole Devoy, Senior Employee Relations Officer; and Robert Beaton, Administrative Officer; and representing Kilmarnock Forum on Disability Nancy Mair, Margaret Lees and Alan Harley; representing East Ayrshire South Forum on Disability Jean Smith, Elizabeth Armstrong, William Frew, James Johnstone, Iain Brown and Kevin Dorman.

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

#### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

1. In response to the Chair's request, the meeting observed a minute's silence to mark the sudden death of Councillor Robert Stevenson.

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

2. The Minutes of previous meeting held on 28 October 1999 were agreed in terms of accuracy.

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

3. The following matters arose from the minutes:-
  - **Car parking at Cumnock** - Noted that repair work to the remote footpath between Townhead Street and Glaisnock Shopping Centre had been completed.
  - **Purchase of Textphones** -Noted that eighteen textphones had been purchased and details of the location and telephone numbers would be provided by the Service Manager, Social Work to the Disability Forums in due course.
  - **Expenditure relating to provision of facilities for people with a disability or sensory impairment across East Ayrshire Council** -Noted that in the period of four years since the formation of East Ayrshire Council, in April 1996, the Council had spent in excess of £710,000 on the adaptation and improvement of its premises to allow them to be accessible and usable by all members of the community. Further noted that Disability Forums and Access Panels were involved at the earliest stage in respect of new buildings being planned by the Council.

## **UPDATE ON AIDS AND ADAPTATIONS SERVICE AND REHABILITATION SERVICE FOR PEOPLE WITH A VISUAL IMPAIRMENT**

4. There was submitted (circulated) a report dated 4 May 2000 by the Director of Social Work which advised (a) of performance and activity levels in relation to the Occupational Therapy and Aids and Adaptations Service; and (b) the progress in relation to recruitment of a Specialist Rehabilitation/Mobility Officer for people with a visual impairment.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the performance and activity levels in relation to the Occupational Therapy and Aids and Adaptations Service;
- (ii) to note that the suitability of recycling Aids and Adaptations equipment held by the Service was currently being examined;
- (iii) to note that the charging policy for Aids and Adaptations was based on assessed needs and was applicable to referrals made after 1 April 2000. Disability Representatives were advised to contact the Service Manager, Aids and Adaptations for further information; ..
- (iv) to note that discussions were ongoing with the Royal National Institute for the Blind regarding the provision of an officer to be seconded as part of a programme of service development;
- (v) to note that the Rehabilitation/Mobility Officer had now been recruited by the Council to provide a service to people with a visual impairment;
- (vi) to note that a 75% satisfaction level was recorded in relation to adaptations installed; and
- (vii) otherwise, to note the report.

## **CARRIAGE OF ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIRS BY COUNCIL TRANSPORT AND BY TAXIS**

5. The Service Manager, Social Work, reported that the Council had purchased four restraints to allow the carriage of passengers with electric wheelchairs by suitably equipped Council vehicles. Representatives of the Disability Forums were asked to advise the Service Manager of the requirement to purchase more restraints.

The Head of Protective Services advised that the undernoted companies were licensed by the Council and had vehicles capable of conveying electric wheelchairs:-

- Belair Transport, 33 Rankin Court, New Farm Loch, Kilmarnock, KA3 7QY, telephone (01563) 527341 or 550885 or 550810; and
- Direct Passenger Transport, 6 Paddock View, Thorntoun, Crosshouse, KA2 OBH, telephone (01563) 530003.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Social Work meet with representatives from the Disability Forums in relation to the transportation arrangements provided to both Disability Forums; and
- (ii) that an advice list of officer contacts be circulated by the Director of Corporate Services to the Disability Forums with the aim of directing any service related

enquiry to the most appropriate service officer and thereby enabling issues to be resolved as soon as possible.

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

#### **UPDATE ON SHOPMOBILITY**

6. There was submitted a report dated 4 May 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which advised of progress by the investigative group into the feasibility of establishing a Shopmobility Scheme within East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note findings of a survey, designed in partnership with Forums which was issued to individuals who might utilise a shopmobility scheme as detailed within the report;
- (ii) to note that ongoing consultation with the Forums on Disability would include funding options, location issues, planning issues and trade/retail considerations;
- (iii) that the Chief Engineer, Roads, be asked to review, in conjunction with the Disability Forums, the layout and design of bollards at the Gateway Centre, Kilmarnock; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT 1995**

7. There was submitted a report dated 2 May 2000 (circulated) by the Solicitor to the Council which advised of the legal requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 with particular reference to the provision of goods and services, and of the approach being adopted by East Ayrshire Council to address these requirements.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the Council was currently undertaking an audit of public buildings to meet its statutory obligations in respect of public buildings and the letting and management of property by the year 2004;
- (ii) to note the intention to consult the Forums on Disability on the buildings audit which would assist the Council to prioritise urgent work and to finalise an implementation timetable;
- (iii) to welcome the pilot training programme being developed with the Kilmarnock Forum on Disability to raise awareness of front-line staff in respect of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995; and
- (iv) to note that the pilot awareness training programme would be evaluated and revised prior to its launch.

#### **WEST OF SCOTLAND WATER IMPROVEMENT WORKS -KILMARNOCK**

8. The Chief Engineer advised that West of Scotland Water would be undertaking a programme of works with associated traffic management to renovate more than ten kilometres of water mains throughout Kilmarnock Town Centre commencing on 22 May 2000 was expected to last for fifteen weeks. Due to the extent of the works, a

major traffic management plan would be implemented in conjunction with Strathclyde Police and East Ayrshire Council Roads Division.

It was agreed to note the report and that appropriate traffic plans be made available to Disability Forum representatives.

### **PARKING AND ACCESS ISSUES IN KILMARNOCK TOWN CENTRE**

9. There was submitted a report dated 20 April 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised of a number of Parking and Access issues in Kilmarnock Town Centre.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the report and the efforts being made to cater for parking requirements of all motorists within Kilmarnock Town Centre;
- (ii) to note that the Disability Forums would be consulted on the introduction of on-street parking charges within Kilmarnock; and
- (iii) to request that the Chief Engineer consult the Disability Forums on the possibility of converting ground floor parking bays into disabled parking bays within Multi-Storey Car Parks in Kilmarnock Town Centre. Councillor McIntyre left the meeting at this point.

### **PULL-OUT SERVICE FOR DOMESTIC REFUSE COLLECTION**

10. The Head of Protective Services advised that the pull-out service was available where there was no able bodied person in the household and further advised that if representatives of the Disability Forum experienced problems with the pull-out service, they should contact the Waste Management Service on 01563554033 who would rectify the matter .

It was agreed to note that the Council was undertaking a review of the pull-out service to ensure the service was targeted to those who met the eligibility criteria.

### **DIAL-A-BUS SERVICE**

11. The Chief Engineer advised of the recently agreed contract details for the provision of dial-a-bus services within East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to request that the Chief Engineer establish with the Strathclyde Passenger Transport Agency, the level of disability awareness training provided to bus drivers involved in the Dial-a-Bus Scheme;
- (ii) to request the Chief Engineer arrange for appropriate publicity for the Dial-a-Bus Scheme be circulated to local offices and to the Disability Forums.

### **CONCESSIONARY RATE LEISURE SERVICES CARD**

12. There was submitted a report dated 4 May 2000 (circulated) by the Head of Leisure which responded to requests to consider the provision of a concessionary rate Leisure Services Card for use throughout Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that it would not be feasible to produce either standardised pricing or a Leisure Card Scheme to cover leisure facilities in Ayrshire for two main reasons:-
  - each individual organisation involved in facility provision was independent and had authority to set its own prices and pricing strategy to meet financial and service priorities. It would not be possible to develop a one pricing strategy to cover all the facilities in Ayrshire;
  - the cost of implementing, administering and marketing a new card scheme would be prohibitive. There were currently no funds available for this type of initiative. In the difficult financial conditions facing leisure facility operators, it was unlikely that such schemes could be funded in the foreseeable future; and
- (ii) to request the Head of Leisure Services to advise the Disability Forums of the current concessionary rate Leisure Schemes operating within East Ayrshire; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the position with regard to a concessionary rate leisure services card for people with disabilities.

Councillor Darnbrough left the meeting at this point.

### **THE WAY AHEAD FOR THE FORUMS**

13. The Depute Chief Executive requested the Disability Forums to consider the type of support the Council could provide to further develop their advocacy role.

It was agreed to note that both Disability Forums would consider the matter further and provide feedback to the next meeting.

### **GARDEN MAINTENANCE SCHEME**

14. Representatives of the Disability Forum requested clarification of the withdrawal of the Garden Maintenance Scheme provided by the Council.

It was agreed to note that following approval of the Council's Budget for 2000/2001, those Council tenants who qualify for the Garden Maintenance Scheme would receive it free provided they were in receipt of benefits, i.e. Housing, Council Tax or Income Support. It was confirmed that those Council tenants who do not receive benefits would require to pay a charge which remains at £30.00.

### **DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT 1995 AND MONITORING OF LICENSED PREMISES**

15. Representatives of the Disability Forum requested if the Council had a role to monitor compliance of licensed premises in relation to the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

The Solicitor to Council advised that new licences required to be concurrent with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and that in respect of new licences, the Licensing Board would require to investigate any reasonable complaint raised in relation to compliance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

It was agreed to note the position.

The meeting terminated at 1610 hours.

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