

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

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

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 1998 AT 1000 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Sneller (Chair), Irene Reeves, James O'Neill and Eric Jackson.

**ATTENDING:** Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; Mary Fegan, Depute Director of Social Work; Gwen Barker, Service Officer; Robert McLeary, Head of Property; John Crawford, Head of Protective Services; Jim Maitland, Depute Director of Housing; John Spooner, Development Manager, Development Services; Graham Haugh, Depute Director of Personnel Services; and Anne Fairbairn, Administrative Officer together with representatives from East Ayrshire Forums on Disability William Denim, Kilmarnock Forum on Disability; Jean Dunlop, Kilmarnock Forum on Disability; Janice Cameron, Kilmarnock Forum on Disability; Jean Smith, East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Douglas Reid and Kathleen Hall; Peter Neely, East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability; Jim Richmond, East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability; Bob Gardiner, East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability; and Nancy Mair, Kilmarnock Forum on Disability.

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

1. The Minutes of the previous meeting were submitted and noted.

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

2. The following matters arose from the Minutes.

##### **2.1 CAR PARKING CUMNOCK AREA**

It was reported that another site visit had been held and agreement reached regarding the positioning of the disabled parking bays within Cumnock Town Centre.

##### **2.2 NEW DEAL**

Anne Fairbairn advised the meeting that George Fraser, Chief Executive, The East Ayrshire Employment Initiative, who was unable to be present today, had given a commitment to speak to Forum representatives regarding any issues they may wish to raise.

##### **2.3 DOUBLE TICK SCHEME - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY**

Graham Haugh advised the meeting he had met the two Forums regarding a review of the Council's employment of Disabled Persons Policy and their assistance had been appreciated. It has also been agreed to circulate the Council's vacancy list to the Forums when issued.

## **2.4 SOCIAL WORK PREMISES - ACCESSIBILITY - ORANGE BADGES**

Concerns were expressed regarding the current procedures for obtaining replacement orange badges.

Mary Fegan reported that a new system for the issue of orange badges was now operational and taking into account concerns previously experienced by the Forum, its viability would be monitored.

## **2.5 STRUCTURAL MANAGEMENT OF ROADS AND FOOTWAYS, CROSSHOUSE**

Fiona Lees advised the meeting that issues previously identified in relation to the placing of crossings and pavement widths, these were being addressed and would be monitored for effectiveness.

## **2.6 SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES CHIEF EXECUTIVES (SOLACE)**

Councillor Sneller reported that the Council's Sensory Impairment Service had won the overall category in the SOLACE award scheme for the section, innovation and creativity in service delivery. In addition, the Service also won the category for innovative service when it was felt that the success had been attributed to the way that the Council consulted and involved the Service users.

## **2.7 AIDS AND ADAPTATIONS**

It was reported that a Member/Officer Working Group was looking at the Council system for the installation of aids and adaptations.

The Working Group's findings will be discussed with the Forums prior to implementation.

## **SOCIAL INCLUSION**

3. Mary Fegan delivered a short presentation on the Social Inclusion Programme, and invited representatives of the Forums on Disability to identify opportunities for future involvement in the Programme and any relevant issues.

Gwen Barker advised the meeting that a Conference had been arranged to take place in early December to discuss the Social Inclusion Programme and it was agreed to discuss the detail of the Conference with the Forums on Disability.

## **SHOP MOBILITY WITHIN EAST AYRSHIRE**

4. The meeting heard that Shop Mobility had made an approach to the Council asking that consideration be given to the establishment of a scheme within East Ayrshire. This followed an information meeting which had been convened in the south of the Authority with Shop Mobility hosted by a number of interested parties. Mary Fegan advised that additional information had been obtained from South Ayrshire Council about the scheme there and that work would take place corporately to consider the scheme. A meeting of interested parties will be convened within the next few weeks.

Mary Fegan will pursue.

Joe Herd joined the meeting for the next item only.

### **USE OF MINI BUSES BY VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

5. The meeting heard that use of mini buses by voluntary organisations was available to all those with a Section 19 permit and a driver who had passed the East Ayrshire Council driving test.

It was acknowledged, however, that difficulties arose in obtaining mini buses during the daytime due to Social Work and Education Departments fully utilising the buses for their own use.

Following questions regarding the cost of hiring mini buses it was agreed that the Social Work Department would clarify this position and advise the Forums on Disability accordingly.

Joe Herd advised the meeting that at present the mini buses operated by the Education Department were not accessible for wheelchairs but that adaptations for access by wheelchairs would be included in all buses as they are renewed.

It was agreed to notify the Director of Education of the concerns raised by the Forums on Disability with regards to the inaccessibility of mini buses operated by that Department.

### **UPDATE OF EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL'S IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS TO COUNCIL PREMISES IN LIGHT OF THE DISABILITY ACT 1995 PROPOSALS FOR A CODE OF PRACTICE**

6. The Forums on Disability highlighted the report entitled Access to Goods, Services and Facilities and requested information as to what response would be submitted by the Head of Property by the closing date on 14 November 1998.

Bob McLeary advised the meeting that he had only recently received the report and was, therefore, unable to respond, however, he did advise that all Council premises would be surveyed by early 1999 to ensure that the Council complies with the duty to provide a reasonable alternative method of access which comes into force from October 1999.

The meeting also heard that the Local Offices at Auchinleck and Darvel, together with the Information Point within the Property Section at John Dickie Street were having induction loop systems installed for people with hearing difficulties.

It was noted that:

- (i) Departments would be reviewing their respective Capital Programmes to consider all adaptations required; and
- (ii) a list would be produced by Departments in response to the above indicating their priorities for capital expenditure.

The Head of Contracting and Technical Services should co-ordinate the aforementioned.

John Crawford then advised the meeting that the Kilmarnock Forum on Disability had devised a programme pertaining to taxi drivers in relation to issues of disability which Community Services are currently implementing.

The meeting terminated at 1052 hrs.

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