

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **REORGANISATION COMMITTEE - AGGREGATED SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of meeting held on Monday 22 May 1995 at 10am  
in the Cumnock and Doon Valley District Offices, Lugar**

**PRESENT:** Councillors James Kelly (Chair), Ronald Brailsford, James Carmichael, Alan Campbell, Jane Darnbrough, Wilma Doyle, Tom Farrell, Eric Jackson, John Knapp, Kathleen Hall, David Macrae, Andrew McIntyre, James O'Neill, Irene Reeves, Eric Ross, John Smith and David Sneller.

**ATTENDING:** David Montgomery, Chief Executive; and Anne Fairbairn.

#### **1. QUORUM**

The members unanimously agreed that the quorum for the meeting be four members.

#### **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

There was submitted Terms of Reference in respect of the Aggregated Services Sub-Committee which set out a remit in respect of all matters relating to services solely provided in their areas by Cumnock and Doon Valley District Council or Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council which will fall to be exercised by the East Ayrshire Council; and this was agreed.

#### **3. SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES**

The sederunt was taken and apologies submitted in respect of Councillors Daniel Coffey and Douglas Reid.

#### **4. AGGREGATED SERVICES**

##### **(a) HOUSING**

There was submitted a report (issued) by the Joint Advisory Committee outlining the statement of housing provision as submitted by Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council and Cumnock and Doon Valley District Council and which highlighted the:

- (i) summary of issues - short-term April 1995-April 1997 and medium term April 1996-April 1998;
- (ii) legislative framework;
- (iii) key principles of change;
- (iv) departmental responsibilities for delivery of the housing service;
- (v) general statistics;
- (vi) comparative service review;
- (vii) Capital Programme comparison;
- (viii) Housing Department organisational charts; and

(ix) relevant appendices.

There then followed discussion when members raised issues arising out of the housing report and when Councillor O'Neill made reference to Direct Labour Organisations and Direct Service Organisations in relation to the timescale for the awarding of contracts scheduled to take place prior to April 1997.

It was agreed to receive reports for the next meeting as follows:

- (A) a briefing paper on
  - (I) features to be covered in an annual housing policy statement; and
  - (II) the nature of bidding for capital funding to The Scottish Office.
- (B) a report on the broad options for the September 1995 East Ayrshire Housing Plan capital bid submission;
- (C) a list of short-term priority tasks together with associated questions requiring a political resolution over the next few months;
- (D) a guide to the issues which are current in the housing function, not only those arising from local government reorganisation itself;
- (E) starter papers on the
  - (I) alignment of housing allocation policies identifying common ground and points of difference;
  - (II) streamlining of housing repairs and maintenance, identifying common ground and points of difference, and initiating consideration of the scope for bringing about improvement within the terms of existing contracts.

#### **(b) ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

There was submitted a report (issued) by the Joint Advisory Committee in the form of an interim discussion paper produced to identify the issues and policies which will require consideration by the new East Ayrshire Authority and which included reference to:

- (i) a summary of the key issues;
- (ii) Environmental Health;
- (iii) Waste Management;
- (iv) Corporate Issues; and
- (v) an appendix on existing departmental structures.

Following discussion it was agreed to seek further information for the next meeting as follows:

- (A) a restatement of the services currently provided to the District Councils by the Strathclyde Chemist and Public Analyst together with the options available to the new Council to obtain these services in future;
- (B) a report on coupling policies, the current issues, the options available with some broad indication of relative costs and an indication of what early work the new Council requires to undertake;

- (C) a paper on the proposed land-fill tax, indicating any avenues open to the new Council to seek to influence the debate;
- (D) a review of the issues of licensing harmonisation within the area of civic government indicating possible ways forward for the new Council;
- (E) a brief rehearsal of the major issues within the environmental health and waste management remits giving priorities for action by the new authority against a specified timetable extending through the shadow year into the early operational phases; and
- (F) the submission of information on The Scottish Office Environment Protection Agency.

### **(c) PLANNING**

There was submitted a report (issued) by the Joint Advisory Committee including

- (i) a summary of existing strategic planning functions;
- (ii) a summary of existing District Council functions;
- (iii) reference to the broad aims of the planning functions;
- (iv) areas of principle concern; and
- (v) key issues for the shadow authority to consider.

Following discussion and in answer to members' questions it was agreed to see a report for members updating the position on national consultation on future structure planning arrangements, attaching copies of The Scottish Office consultation document and recent current authorities' responses.

### **(d) LEISURE SERVICES**

There was submitted a report (issued) by the Joint Advisory Committee and in particular representatives of the two District Council departments to advise members of the varying nature of the present service delivery and which highlighted the:

- (i) service profile summary - common areas and differences;
- (ii) origins of public leisure provision;
- (iii) service profiles;
- (iv) concurrent service provision; and
- (v) included appendices relating to:
  - (A) community provision - service points;
  - (B) leisure charges;
  - (C) department structure; and
  - (D) service comparisons.

In response to the content of the report, members then highlighted the:

- (i) concerns of voluntary groups and organisations;
- (ii) contractual implications;

- (iii) prioritisation in terms of the maintenance in respect of closure, refurbishment and funding; and
- (iv) general service capital plan in respect of the timescale for its submission.

Following discussion it was agreed

- (A) that with regard to (ii) above that issue be remitted to the DLO/DSO Sub-Committee for its consideration; and
- (B) for the next meeting a report would be sought on a paper on leisure and recreation service plans in relation to capital bidding together with an indication of the timetable to be followed by the shadow authority in respect of such bids for 1996/97.