

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

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

**Minutes of meeting held on Friday 9 June 1995 at 10am  
in the Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Kilmarnock**

**PRESENT:** Councillors J Kelly (Chair), D Coffey, Mrs W Doyle, Mrs K Hall, E Jackson, J Knapp, D Macrae, A McIntyre, J O'Neill, Mrs I Reeves, E Ross and D Reid.

**ATTENDING:** David Montgomery, Chief Executive; L Guilford, Director of Planning (KLDC); A Montgomery, District Planning Officer (CDVDC); J U Riach, Depute Director of Cleansing and Environmental Health; S Fraser, Assistant Director of Cleansing and Environmental Health (KLDC); B Stafford, District Environmental Health Officer (CDVDC); J Hillis, Director of Housing (KLDC); C MacLeavy, Housing Manager (CDVDC); B Woodcock, Director of Leisure (KLDC); S Brownlee, District Librarian (CDVDC) and A M Carr, Chief Executive's Department.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors R Brailsford, A Campbell, J Carmichael, T Farrell, J Smith, D Sneller and R Stirling.

#### **1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Submitted and approved as a correct record Minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 1995 (circulated).

#### **2. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chair advised the Sub-Committee that Councillor J Smith had been admitted to hospital last evening and proposed that a card be sent by the Chief Executive wishing him a speedy recovery.

Agreed.

The Chair also expressed his thanks on behalf of the Sub-Committee to those officers involved in the preparation of reports for the meeting today.

Noted.

#### **3. PROPOSED NEW STRUCTURE PLAN AREAS**

Submitted joint report dated 1 June 1995 (circulated) by Director of Planning (KLDC) and District Planning Officer (CDVDC) which outlined the Secretary of State's proposals for the establishment of new structure plan areas which identified a single plan area for Ayrshire.

Reported by Chief Executive that the issue of structure planning would be considered by the Joint Services Sub-Committee as part of a more comprehensive report which would incorporate a draft response to the consultation paper on structure planning issued by The Scottish Office.

Noted and agreed that East Ayrshire Council endorsed the proposals for a single structure plan area for Ayrshire and that consideration of this matter be remitted to the Joint Services Sub-Committee.

#### **4. CIVIC GOVERNMENT LICENSING**

Submitted joint report dated 2 June 1995 (circulated) by Depute Director of Administration and Legal Services (KLDC) and District Environmental Health Officer (CDVDC) regarding Civic Government Licensing.

Noted the report and agreed that further consideration of the issues highlighted in the report be given as soon as possible following the appointment of Senior Officers.

#### **5. HOUSING SERVICE**

Submitted joint reports dated 2 June 1995 (copies enclosed) by Director of Housing (KLDC) and Housing Manager (CDVDC), viz:-

##### **(i) ANNUAL HOUSING POLICY STATEMENT/CAPITAL FUNDING**

Reported by Director of Housing that a circular was awaited from The Scottish Office which would give details of resource planning assumptions for capital funding and that unitary authorities would require to submit their bids for funding by September 1995. The Director of Housing highlighted the variances in the assumptions used by both Councils in the bidding process.

Reported by Chief Executive that a strategy for the submission of a corporate bid for capital resources would be considered by the Policy and Resources Committee and advised that there would be flexibility built-in to the strategy to allow for amendments by elected Members.

##### **(ii) HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Submitted and noted joint report dated 2 June 1995 (circulated) by Director of Housing (KLDC) and Housing Manager (CDVDC) outlining (a) broad options for a capital bid for 1995/96; (b) areas of commonality and differences in the current Housing Capital Programmes between both District Councils and (c) issues requiring political determination by East Ayrshire Council.

##### **(iii) ISSUES IN HOUSING**

The Housing Manager (CDVDC) reported as follows in relation to the undernoted areas, viz:-

###### **(a) Compulsory Competitive Tendering (CCT)**

The Housing Management Service will be subject to Compulsory Competitive Tendering in 1998 and work had already commenced in relation to the preparation of the tender specification.

###### **(b) Enabling Role of Councils/Right to Buy/Increasing Waiting List**

East Ayrshire Council will require to give consideration to their role as an enabling authority in terms of the development of their housing strategy using both public and private resources in addition to the feasibility of utilising joint planning and support financing arrangements in meeting the range of housing needs within the Council's area.

###### **(c) Homelessness**

Two small units had been set up recently, one within Kilmarnock and Loudoun which provided 30 place accommodation for the single homeless and a small crisis unit in Cumnock and Doon Valley which provided 24 place accommodation over a 24 hour period.

(d) Repairs and Maintenance

Reported by Director of Housing (KLDC) that in relation to repairs and maintenance, consultation with the DLO would be essential before any differences in the repair categories and timescales could be addressed/harmonised.

Also reported that East Ayrshire Council would require to identify objectives for the repairs and maintenance contract which will be due for renewal in June 1997 (for Kilmarnock and Loudoun) and March 1997 (for Cumnock and Doon Valley).

Noted and agreed (i) that consideration be given at the earliest opportunity to review the contract specification for repairs and maintenance and (ii) that officers seek to extend the contract for Cumnock and Doon Valley until June 1997.

(e) Housing Allocation Policies

Housing Manager (CDVDC) reported that there were two main options for consideration by East Ayrshire Council. Option one would require a longer lead-in time, however, option two was considered to be the most viable option. Also reported that harmonisation of both allocations policies within Kilmarnock and Loudoun and Cumnock and Doon Valley would have to be carried out on a phased basis and officers would require to bring forward options for consideration by the Council in due course.

Reported by Chief Executive that there would be areas where some parallel working would be required, for example payroll systems.

Noted.

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

(f) Short-Term Priority Tasks

Submitted and noted joint report regarding the main short-term issues which required to be addressed by East Ayrshire Council.

Councillor McIntyre joined the meeting during discussion of the above item.

## 6. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Submitted joint reports dated 1 June 1995 (copies circulated) by Director of Cleansing and Environmental Health (KLDC) and District Environmental Health Officer (CDVDC).

(i) **WASTE DISPOSAL**

Reported by District Environmental Health Officer (CDVDC) that waste disposal would be a pressing issue for the new authority in addition to consideration of issues regarding recycling initiatives.

Also reported that tenders had been invited from the private sector for waste disposal services for East Ayrshire and were due to be returned on 31 July 1995.

Noted the report and agreed that a further report be submitted to East Ayrshire Council following the evaluation of tenders.

**(ii) LAND-FILL TAX CONSULTATION PAPER**

Reported by Assistant Director of Cleansing and Environmental Health (KLDC) on the proposals for the introduction of a tax on the disposal of all waste being disposed of by land-fill.

Also reported that H.M. Customs and Excise had issued a consultation paper and that comments had been requested by 5 June 1995. However, no consultation exercise had been carried out with the unitary authorities.

Noted and agreed that notwithstanding the closing dates set for responses, that East Ayrshire Council make appropriate representations to:-

- (a) H.M. Customs and Excise;
- (b) both local Members of Parliament; and
- (c) the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA).

**(iii) ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Reported by Depute Director of Cleansing and Environmental Health (KLDC) that with regard to environmental health and waste management issues, there were no specific legislative changes envisaged. Further, the Depute Director of Cleansing and Environmental Health stressed the need for elected members to address those matters requiring early decisions such as a proposed scheme for delegation of powers to appropriate officers, in addition to consideration of the harmonisation of procedures and policies, particularly where there would be budgetary implications.

Noted and agreed (in principle)

- (a) that the proposed priority issues and timetable detailed in the report be approved; and
- (b) that senior officers, when appointed, be instructed to submit detailed reports to the appropriate Committee outlining the need for action on a phased basis.

Councillor Mrs Hall left the meeting at this point.

**(iv) PROVISION OF ANALYTICAL SERVICES**

Reported by District Environmental Health Officer (CDVDC) that it was each Council's statutory duty to appoint a Public Analyst under the terms of Section 27 of the Food Safety Act 1990.

Also reported that option 3 detailed in the report was the favoured option by the District Council Environmental Health Services as this would ensure the Council's involvement in the strategic planning process.

Noted and agreed that East Ayrshire Council favoured the expressing support for the retention of the existing service and that some form of joint arrangements for working be examined.

**(v) SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY (SEPA)**

Agreed to continue consideration of this matter to allow both officers from Kilmarnock and Loudoun and Cumnock and Doon Valley District Council's Environmental Health Departments to submit a report to East Ayrshire Council outlining the full implications of the establishment of a Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

## **7. LEISURE SERVICE**

Submitted report dated 2 June 1995 (circulated) by Director of Leisure (KLDC) outlining an indicative timetable for East Ayrshire Council in respect of the capital bidding process for 1996/97.

Reported by Director of Leisure that contained in the report were details relating to "carry-over" projects for 1995/96 which required a commitment by East Ayrshire Council for future use.

Also reported that both Districts' libraries currently had an automated service and consideration would, therefore, require to be given to the harmonisation of the information technology systems in place.

Reported by Chief Executive that the matter of harmonisation of information technology systems was an issue which had been identified by the Common Services Sub-Committee for consideration as a matter of priority and that a presentation would be made by appropriate officers to their next meeting on 22 June 1995.

Noted.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

The Chief Executive undertook to arrange for the key issues identified to be drawn to the attention of relevant committees in the Council's new structure which would be put in place from August 1995 in order that options might be further developed and recommendations brought forward for decision by the Council in due course.

## **9. DURATION OF MEETING**

The meeting terminated at 1230 hrs.