

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

REORGANISATION COMMITTEE - DLO/DSO SUB-COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1 June 1995 at 10am
in the Cumnock and Doon Valley District Council Offices, Lugar**

PRESENT: Councillors Jim O'Neill (Chair), Kathleen Hall and David Sneller.
ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; and Anne Fairbairn.

1. QUORUM

The meeting unanimously agreed that the quorum be set at three members.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference were intimated and approved setting out a remit in respect of all matters relating to the provision of services by the Direct Labour and Direct Service Departments of the three constituent authorities.

3 SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES

The sederunt was taken and apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors James Boyd, Tom Farrell and Andrew McIntyre.

4. DLO/DSO ISSUES

There was submitted a report (tabled) containing information which had been compiled where possible from the East Ayrshire DLO/DSO Joint Working Group report compiled by representatives of Strathclyde Regional Council, Cumnock and Doon Valley District Council and Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council which summarised the activities of the DLO/DSOs and presented the critical dates for letting and commencement of contracts.

The report highlighted the:

- (a) Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980 which indicated the significant legislative dates for letting and commencement of contracts to include:
 - (i) new construction work;
 - (ii) measured term contracts for building maintenance and minor works;
and
 - (iii) highways and roads.
- (b) Local Government Act 1988 which provided the statutory framework with regards to the significant legislative dates for contract letting including:
 - (i) cleaning of buildings;
 - (ii) other cleaning (street cleaning);
 - (iii) collection of refuse;
 - (iv) vehicle maintenance;
 - (v) vehicle management;

- (vi) managing sport and leisure;
- (vii) catering;
- (viii) other catering; and
- (ix) grounds maintenance.

There then followed discussion regarding that document in conjunction with the DLO Joint Working Group report when Councillor O'Neill indicated that the East Ayrshire Council would seek to demonstrate best practice in three areas:

- (i) efficiency;
- (ii) employer as a Council; and
- (iii) service to clients.

Reference was then made to what were considered to be quite unrealistic timescales set by the Scottish Office in the re-implementation of the legislation as contained within the 1980 and 1988 Acts post-reorganisation.

In this regard it was agreed that a letter be forwarded to these bodies emphasising the difficulties as seen by East Ayrshire Council and suggesting an extension to the timescale.

Further discussion then ensued regarding:

- (A) possible structures
- (B) the issue of contractor/client split with particular reference to the complexities of the three authorities each operating in a different way.
- (C) the matter of the size of contract packages within the authority;
- (D) the timescale, which it was felt would require work on future contracting to start from day one of the new Council.

It was agreed:

- (I) to seek a presentation on the multi-service DSO/DLO option from a representative of the Scottish Association of Direct Labour Organisations (ADLO); and
- (II) to receive copies of Scottish Office documentation on anti-competitive behaviour and legal views thereon from the current authorities.