

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4 JUNE 1998 AT 1000 HRS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors David Sneller, Drew McIntyre, Irene Reeves, Douglas Reid, Ronald Brailsford, Provost Robert Stirling, Councillors Kathleen Hall, Daniel Coffey, David Fulton, Kim Nicoll, Jim Kelly, John Smith, Tommy Farrell and Eric Jackson.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; William Stafford, Director of Community Services; Stephen Chorley, Director of Development Services; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; John Hillis, Director of Housing; Alex McPhee, Senior Depute Director of Finance; Iain McLachlan, Director of Personnel Services; Barbara Haughan, Director of Support Services; Alan McDougall, Depute Director of Social Work; Roddy Wallace, Head of Administration; Kate McVey, Head of Legal Services; Douglas Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing; John Spooner, Business Development Manager; Sam McVie, Principal Surveyor; Tom Merry, Projects Officer, Development Services; Brian Milligan, Revenue Manager, Finance Department; Gerry McMenemy, Solicitor; and Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Gordon McCredie, Wilma Doyle, Jim O'Neill, George Turnbull, Eric Ross and Jimmy Boyd.

CHAIR: Councillor David Sneller, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Councillor Sneller opened the meeting by making the following remarks:-

"I am sure that you will allow me to make a statement on the developments this week in relation to the financial performance of our Commercial Operations Department.

However, before I do that, I would like to remind Members, by way of background, of the position that we were all aware of up until early this week.

In November of last year the Policy and Resources Committee established a Task Force to examine the financial performance and financial management of the Commercial Operations Department. We did this because of growing concerns about the systems that were in place and the quality of the financial information being reported to this Committee.

In January of this year, the Task Force made an interim report to the Policy and Resources Committee.

Up until this point, we were assured that the Commercial Operations Department was performing to its financial target which was to make a surplus of approximately £1/2M.

However, as Members are already aware, this position changed substantially in February. As part of the Council's budget setting exercise for 1998/99, we were reviewing projected expenditure in 1997/98 to ensure that our targets for the following year were accurate.

At this stage the Council became aware, for the first time, that far from making its projected surplus of £1/2M, the Commercial Operations Department appeared to be heading for a deficit of approximately £1.4M.

The Chief Executive took swift action and ordered an internal investigation. To allow that investigation to take place, and purely as a precaution, 2 chief officers from the Commercial Operations Department were suspended. Members were advised of the formal investigation into the financial management of the Commercial Operations Department in a letter to all Councillors on 26 February 1998. In that letter, the Chief Executive indicated that "on the latest available information " a deficit of £1.4M was anticipated.

At this stage, I would like to remind Members of the difficulties that we as Elected Members were operating under. The investigation that is under way is a preliminary investigation and may lead to disciplinary action. Because Elected Members could be involved in instigating or reviewing any possible disciplinary action, there is a limit to our involvement. What's more, there is a limit on the information that can be made available to us. I would also like to advise Members that we have taken senior QC's advice on the public comment that we can make on these suspensions to ensure that nothing prejudices the Council's position.

I appreciate the extremely responsible attitude that all Councillors took in this process and the way in which they have let the internal investigation proceed unhindered and without comment by Elected Members.

I understand that this internal investigation is scheduled to be completed by the end of this week and its findings will be made available to the Chief Executive.

Throughout the process of conducting the investigation, the Chief Executive has kept Elected Members advised of its progress even though he could not comment on its detail. We all accepted that it was a complex and difficult exercise and that there were a large number of people who required to contribute to that investigation. Indeed, there have been 19 in-depth interviews with a range of Councillors, and officers from the Commercial Operations Department, Finance Department, Education Department, Housing Department, Community Services Department and Support Services Department. I hope that gives some impression of the scale of the undertaking.

I understand also that there has been substantial delays towards the end of the investigation in finalising interview dates with the chief officers who had been suspended. This is a position that we are all aware of, and I believe all accepted, up until Monday of this week.

However, as we know now, the position changed on Monday.

It should be no surprise to us that, following revelations over the weekend about a serious deficit in the accounts of North Lanarkshire Council, senior officers responded early on Monday morning with a series of additional investigations. At that stage, a number of checks were instigated. These included a check on our payroll to ascertain that there were no employees in the Commercial Operations Department earning amounts far in excess of their basic wage that had been reported elsewhere in Scotland. There was also a check on the operation of our bonus scheme and a check on the stock control and stock levels.

However, as part of this process, senior officers became aware at this point that the projected deficit for the Commercial Operations Department for 1997/98 was significantly higher than that that had been anticipated and reported to Members previously.

On Monday morning, when it became evident that the projected deficit for the Commercial Operations Department had increased, the Director of Finance was instructed to provide a final report on the Commercial Operations total deficit, and an explanation of any discrepancy between the final figure and that previously reported to Committee.

This report has been requested for next Monday.

Also on Monday, I made contact with the Secretary of State for Scotland to advise him of the position that was emerging. On Tuesday morning, there was further contact made with the Secretary of State and there was discussions between senior officers of this Council and senior officers of the Scottish Office. At that point, it was agreed that the Council would invite our External Auditors, the Accounts Commission, to assist in the process of finalising the projected Commercial Operations Department deficit. The Accounts Commission will provide additional assistance and expertise and they are meeting with officers this afternoon to discuss their involvement and the timetable for their investigations.

I was in London on Tuesday and the Secretary of State for Scotland agreed to meet with me so that he could be further advised of the position in East Ayrshire. A senior officer from the Local Government Directorate at the Scottish Office was present at that meeting and he confirmed the Secretary of State's extensive powers in relation to Direct Labour Organisations. These powers can be exercised when DLOs and DSOs do not meet their financial objective. The first stage is a notice which asks the Council for information and gives the Council an opportunity to indicate why the Secretary of State should not use his powers of direction to impose conditions on the running of the DLO or even to require the Council to wind it up entirely.

I have to say that this was an extremely difficult meeting.

I have a great deal of pride in East Ayrshire Council and the contribution that we have made to the quality of life locally since we were created on the 1st of April 1996. It was personally distressing for me to have to inform the Secretary of State of the apparent scale of the problem. During the meeting it was agreed that there should be a further meeting in Edinburgh on Wednesday morning involving officials of the Scottish Office and myself, the Deputy Leader, and senior officials of the Council.

Late on Tuesday afternoon, the Scottish Office simultaneously issued a press notice and a statutory notice on the Council requiring us to provide information to the Secretary of State on the apparent failure to comply with the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980 in relation to the 'rate of return' on construction and maintenance works. The Chief Executive must now respond to the statutory notice from the Secretary of State once the final deficit of the Commercial Operations Department is ascertained by the Director of Finance, and verified by the Accounts Commission.

During the meeting in Edinburgh on Wednesday morning, the Scottish Office outlined in more detail the information that they were seeking from East Ayrshire Council and the range of measures that the Secretary of State would consider once this information had been received.

Can I indicate that there are a number of additional legal issues arising both in relation to the notice by the Secretary of State and also in relation to any employment law issues that may arise from the ongoing investigation. The investigation may lead to disciplinary action, and as Councillors are a vital part of the Council's disciplinary procedure, they cannot be involved in the detail of the investigation or in discussions on its findings. This would, of course, bar them from taking further part in future disciplinary actions.

In addition, issues that may impinge on the Council's legal position in relation to compliance or otherwise with the terms of the notice by the Secretary of State should only be discussed after any appropriate resolution to exclude the press and public has been taken by the Committee.

Although Members there are clearly some impediments on the level of discussion that we can become involved in just now, I would like to make it clear that I believe, once all the facts are known they should be fully and publicly available. I can give you my assurance that there will be complete disclosure of the information both within this chamber but, in my view more importantly, to the people of East Ayrshire. I will be calling a special Policy and Resources Committee before the end of June to hear a public report on the investigations and their findings.

I have to say that I believe strongly, and I believe that I have indicated earlier in this statement, that the actions of myself, and Elected Members of East Ayrshire Council cannot be called into question. Just as we intend to make the findings of the investigations open and accessible, I believe that it is also important that the public are assured that our role as Councillors has been beyond reproach. For that matter I have asked senior officers of the Council to investigate the possibility of an independent inquiry specifically into the actions of Elected Members in respect of this issue. I believe that I and all Members have nothing to hide, I believe that the public should be reassured on this matter by an independent inquiry.

It is clear that very difficult times lie ahead. This will require an intense effort on behalf of the Council to respond to the formal notice and to take any additional actions that may arise from that. We as a Council must rise to that challenge to ensure that we provide the best possible services to the people of East Ayrshire and that we provide them efficiently and effectively. We instigated an investigation into the Commercial Operations Department as soon as the deficit came to light, we called in the Accounts Commission when we realised that that deficit was growing, and we have not attempted to hide anything from either the Scottish Office or the public of East Ayrshire. We must now be as thorough in our response to this challenge. I can assure you and the people of East Ayrshire that I share everyone's concern about this situation and that it will be dealt with firmly, quickly, and most of all, openly."

Councillor Coffey responded to the Chair's remarks.

Following further discussion Councillor Coffey, seconded by Councillor Reid, moved that the Committee pass a vote of no confidence in the Leader of Council and the Chair of the Commercial Operations Committee, and agree that they be requested to resign immediately from their positions.

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor McIntyre, moved as an amendment that no such vote or request be considered at this meeting as such consideration was premature as a full investigation of the situation was ongoing.

On a division by a show of hands the amendment was carried by eight votes to five.

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

2. There were submitted and approved, both as correct records and in respect of any recommendations contained therein, the undernoted Sub-Committee Minutes (circulated) as contained in Appendices I to IV of these Minutes, viz:-
 - 2.1 **SPECIAL MEMBERS' SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF 20 APRIL 1998** - Appendix I.
 - 2.2 **PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY SUB-COMMITTEE OF 19 MAY 1998** - Appendix II.
 - 2.3 **MEMBERS' SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF 20 MAY 1998** - Appendix III.
 - 2.4 **PUBLICITY AND PUBLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE OF 20 MAY 1998** - Appendix IV.

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENTS TO 24 APRIL 1998 (PERIOD 1)

3. There were submitted the undernoted reports dated 29 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Finance on the current budgetary control position for the period ended 24 April 1998 (Period 1), viz:-
 - 3.1 **GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE ACCOUNT**
The timetable for submission of budgetary control reports for 1998/99 as shown in Appendix 2 of the report was approved.
 - 3.2 **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT**
The timetable for submission of budgetary control reports for 1998/99 shown at Paragraph 2.4 of the report was agreed.

CUMNOCK MUNICIPAL BANK

4.1 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Sneller declared an indirect interest in this item.

4.2 Consideration of Item

There was submitted a report dated 29 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which advised Members of the relationship between the Council and Cumnock Municipal Bank.

It was agreed:

- (i) that a further report be submitted to Committee indicating whether possible conflicts of interest situations might arise for Officers and Members of Council in respect of their participation in external bodies such as the Municipal Bank and the Cumnock and Doon Valley Minerals Trust; and
- (ii) that the report be forwarded to the Directors of the Bank for their consideration.

Councillors Nicoll and Farrell left the meeting during discussion of the above item.

**THE COMMISSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND
THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT**

5. There was submitted a report dated 1 June 1998 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which proposed a Council response to the first consultation document issued by the Commission on Local Government and the Scottish Parliament.

It was agreed:

- (i) to delete the last sentence in page 3 of the response in relation to question 4; and
- (ii) otherwise to approve the response to the consultation paper 1 detailed in the appendix to the report for submission to the Commission on Local Government and the Scottish Parliament.

LOCAL COMMITTEE COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME (Item 8.1, Page 3297)

6. There was submitted a report dated 20 May 1998 (circulated) by the Chief Executive to submit for consideration proposals for more suitable arrangements for the consideration of cross-boundary grants under the Local Committee Community Grants Scheme.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the status quo remain (ie that Local Committees continue to consider cross-boundary applications where they referred to five or fewer Local Committee areas) but that a Chair's Advisory Group on Cross-Boundary Grants which would involve the Chairs of appropriate Local Committees would be established and meet on an ad hoc basis to consider reports from Officers in respect of cross-boundary grants prior to submission to Local Committees;
- (ii) to note that this Advisory Group would not have any powers to make decisions on applications or submit reports on applications direct to Local Committees;
- (iii) that membership of such meetings of the Advisory Group would be determined by the topics to be considered (eg if cross-boundary applications related to only three Local Committee areas only the Chairs of those Local Committees need attend);
- (iv) that the Chair of the Advisory Group would be determined at each meeting;
- (v) that a Member of the Opposition Group would be appointed to the Advisory Group, the name to be remitted to the next meeting of Council; and
- (vi) that an ongoing review be undertaken by Officers.

**MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP ON
NON-DOMESTIC RATES RELIEF (Item 6, Page 2789)**

7. There was submitted a report dated 15 May 1998 (circulated) by the Member/Officer Working Group on Non-Domestic Rates Relief on the conclusion and recommendations of the Member/Officer Working Group on Non-Domestic Rates Relief.

The Committee then considered proposals on a policy for procedures for the granting of concessionary rental leases and for various aspects of mandatory and discretionary non-domestic rates relief, as follows:

Proposed Introduction of Procedures for the Granting of Concessionary Rental Leases

It was agreed to recommend to Council:

- (i) the introduction of a concessionary rental policy in accordance with the proposals contained in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (ii) to the proposed procedure for consideration of premises/sites and organisations who would be eligible to apply for the lease of premises/sites on a concessionary rental basis;
- (iii) to the proposed criteria for being granted a lease of premises/sites on a concessionary rental basis and to delegate authority to the Director of Support Services to determine applications and grant leases where appropriate;
- (iv) to the proposed terms which would apply to the lease of premises on a concessionary rental basis;
- (v) to the proposed introduction of discounted rental payments based on 10% or 5% of the full market rentals, depending upon the location of the premises/sites;
- (vi) that it be remitted to the Director of Support Services to review all existing concessionary rental leases with a view to incorporating them within the proposed policy during the next year, allowing for transitional arrangements as appropriate;
- (vii) to the proposed introduction of a procedure to record/publicise the Council's assistance to organisations where premises/sites are let on a concessionary basis;
- (viii) to delegate authority to the Director of Support Services to consider and determine applications for the grant of concessionary rental leases;
- (ix) that appeals be heard by the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee; and
- (x) that the Scheme of Delegation be amended to reflect the above decisions.

Mandatory and Discretionary Relief for Rural Areas

It was agreed to recommend to Council:

- (i) to adopt the proposed policy for awarding mandatory and discretionary relief for rural areas as outlined in Section 3 of Appendix 2 to the report;
- (ii) that the Director of Finance consider whether each Council owned property identified as being within the qualifying rural settlements list would qualify for relief under the criteria outlined in the proposed policy and report thereon to the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee;
- (iii) to delegate authority to the Director of Finance to consider and determine applications for mandatory and discretionary relief for rural areas;
- (iv) that appeals be heard by the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee;

- (v) that the Scottish Office be asked if they had any plans to review their designations for rurality; and
- (vi) that the Scheme of Delegation be amended to reflect the above decisions.

Discretionary Relief - Hardship

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It was agreed to recommend to Council:

- (i) approval of the proposed policy on Hardship Relief as detailed in Section 3 of Appendix 3 of the report;
- (ii) to the proposed procedures for dealing with applications for Hardship Relief as detailed in Section 4 of Appendix 3 of the report;
- (iii) that authority to consider and determine applications for hardship relief be delegated to the Director of Finance in consultation with the Director of Development Services;
- (iv) that appeals in respect of applications for hardship relief be heard by the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee; and
- (v) that the Scheme of Delegation be amended to reflect the above decisions.

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All Other Mandatory and Discretionary Reliefs (Excluding Hardship Relief and Relief for Rural Areas)

C

It was agreed to recommend to Council:

- (i) to continue use of turnover figures to determine the "non-sporting" element of the rateable value for licensed sports clubs;
- (ii) that the same method of calculation be used for licensed sports clubs (with the exception of alcohol sales) be used to determine relief for unlicensed sports clubs;
- (iii) that the percentages used in the formula to provide a "non-sporting" rateable value for licensed sports clubs and unlicensed sports clubs should be as undernoted:
 - (a) the percentages of alcohol sales will remain 100%;
 - (b) the percentages for tobacco sales will increase from 25% to 100%;
 - (c) the percentages for the sale of meals will remain 50%; and
 - (d) the percentages for gaming machine income will remain 100%;
- (iv) that licensed and unlicensed sports clubs be required to reapply for relief each financial year with their latest set of accounts available as at 31 December with the values being factored back to the last revaluation date (currently 1 April 1995);
- (v) that all other policies as listed within the report be adopted as the policies of East Ayrshire Council;
- (vi) that appeals in respect of all other mandatory and discretionary reliefs be heard by the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee; and
- (vii) that the Scheme of Delegation be amended to reflect the above decisions.

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Appeals Mechanism

C It was agreed to recommend to Council to agree, in respect of the appeals mechanism the undernoted amendments to the Scheme of Delegation: C

- (i) to amend the terms of reference for the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee with full delegated powers to allow it:
 - (a) to consider appeals against the decision of the Director of Support Services in relation to the grant of discretionary rental leases for non-domestic Council properties; and
 - (b) to consider appeals against the decision of the Director of Finance in respect of all mandatory and discretionary non-domestic rates relief; and
- (ii) that the Officer delegation be amended:
 - (a) to allow the Director of Support Services to determine applications received for the grant of concessionary rental leases for non-domestic Council properties; and
 - (b) to allow the Director of Finance to determine all applications received in respect of all forms of mandatory and discretionary non-domestic rates relief.

SCOTTISH CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

8. There was submitted a report dated 19 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services to give details of a recent request from the Scottish Constitutional Convention for financial assistance.

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved that a donation of £250 be made to the Convention subject to the funds not being used for publicity purposes as defined in the Local Government Act 1986.

Councillor Coffey, seconded by Councillor Hall, moved as an amendment that no donation be made to the Convention.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by nine votes to four.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF CITIZENS ADVICE SCOTLAND (Item 2, Page 3017)

9. There was submitted a report dated 21 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services on the outcome of the meeting of the Development Committee of Citizens Advice Scotland held on 5 March 1998 regarding the proposed funding package agreed by the Special Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 23 February 1998 and which made recommendations with regard to the composition of the Management Committee/Board of the East Ayrshire Citizens Advice Bureau.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the positive response by Citizens Advice Scotland to the Partnership Agreement and the requirement to remit to the East Ayrshire Citizens Advice Bureau the sum of £65,000 as per the Partnership Agreement adopted at the Special Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 23 February 1998;

- (ii) to note that a part year payment of £32,500 had already been made to East Ayrshire Citizens Advice Bureau;
- (iii) to the recommendations regarding the structure of the East Ayrshire Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee/Board contained within paragraph 3 of the report;
- (iv) that nominations for the three Elected Member representatives be made by the Council at an appropriate meeting; and
- (v) that the Director of Support Services inform East Ayrshire Citizens Advice Bureau of East Ayrshire Council's recommendations regarding the structure of the Management/Board.

COUNCIL HOUSE SALES - PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 1997/98

10. There was submitted a report dated 6 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services on the performance in Council house sales for the financial year 1997/98.

It was agreed:

- (i) that a report be submitted to a future Housing Committee on the feasibility of what further information could be made available to Councillors in respect of Council house sales; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

PROPOSED TRANSFER OF COUNCIL LAND TO PROPOSED NEW HOUSING PARTNERSHIP (Item 3.2, Page 3349)

11. There was submitted a report dated 26 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Housing which sought approval to transfer Council owned land held in the General Services Account to the new Housing Partnership at no cost.

The Director of Housing reported that the Housing Committee had agreed the recommendations of the report shown attached to the report subject to the words "as required" being added to item 5.1(i).

It was agreed to apply to the Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Housing Committee's application, for consent to gift those sites listed in the Appendix of the Housing Committee paper, shown as being held in the General Services Account, to the new Housing Partnership for the purpose of housing development, as required.

STORAGE, DISPOSAL AND REPROCESSING OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL (Item 2.27(i), Page 3326)

12. There was submitted a report dated 21 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the current position on the storage, disposal and reprocessing of radioactive material.

It was agreed:

- (i) to renew the Council membership to the Nuclear Free Local Authorities Organisation at a cost of £1,200 per annum;
- (ii) to remit the nomination of a representative on Nuclear Free Local Authorities to the Council;

- (iii) to write to the Scottish Office to ensure that the findings of the current investigation into Dounreay be made available to the public; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the report.

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON TRUST
RECONFIGURATION: PROPOSALS FOR RESHAPING NHS TRUSTS IN
AYRSHIRE AND ARRAN (Item 17, Page 3123)**

13. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which sought approval for the response to the proposals for reshaping the NHS Trusts in Ayrshire and Arran.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the response to Ayrshire and Arran Health Board's proposals for reshaping the NHS Trusts in Ayrshire and Arran as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

**NEWMILNS TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE - PROPOSAL BY
ST VINCENT CRESCENT BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST**

14. There was submitted a joint report (circulated) by the Directors of Development Services and of Housing to discuss an approach by the St Vincent Crescent Building Preservation Trust regarding the new Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) and to make recommendations on a response.

It was agreed that the proposal by the St Vincent Crescent Building Preservation Trust be supported in principle and that further reports be brought to appropriate Committees to approve detailed proposals as they were developed.

**VIREMENT FROM 1997/98 TO 1998/99 SOCIAL WORK
REVENUE BUDGET (Item 5, page 3432)**

15. There was submitted a report dated 2 June 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which sought Committee approval for the virement of resources from the 1997/98 revenue budget allocation levels.

It was agreed:

- (i) to the virement adjustments detailed in Appendix 1 of the report as per Section 5.3 of the Council's Financial Regulations; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

16. The Committee resolved that under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 9 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

FORMER GLAISNOCK OUTDOOR CENTRE, BY CUMNOCK

17. There was submitted a report dated 26 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services on the outcome of the recent marketing of the former Glaisnock Outdoor Centre, by Cumnock.

It was agreed to reject offers 3, 4 and 5 as shown in paragraph 4.1 of the report on the grounds that they were unsatisfactory and, with regard to offers 1 and 2, to remit the matter to the Director of Support Services in consultation with the Director of Development Services to seek further clarification in connection with the proposed projects/offers and, to submit a further report to a future Committee.

The meeting terminated at 1210 hrs.