

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 MARCH 1997 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors David Sneller, Wilma Doyle, Ronald Brailsford, Provost Robert Stirling and Councillors Jim O'Neill, Bob Beattie, Daniel Coffey, Kim Nicoll, George Turnbull, Eric Ross, Jim Kelly, Jimmy Boyd, and Eric Jackson.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; William Stafford, Director of Community Services; Stephen Chorley, Director of Development Services; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Gordon Clark, Director of Finance; John Hillis, Director of Housing; Iain McLachlan, Director of Personnel Services; Douglas Bulloch, Director of Social Work; Barbara Haughan, Director of Support Services; Bill McKenzie, Senior Depute Director of Commercial Operations; Tom McHugh, Depute Director of Finance; Alan MacDougall, Depute Director of Social Work; Roddy Wallace, Head of Administration; Douglas Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing; Bill Walkinshaw, Principal Administrative Officer and Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Irene Reeves, Douglas Reid, Jane Darnbrough, Kathleen Hall, David Fulton and Tommy Farrell.

CHAIR: Councillor David Sneller, Chair.

GENERAL SERVICES - THREE YEAR CAPITAL PLAN 1997/98 TO 1999/2000

1. There was submitted a report dated 26 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Finance proposing a three year General Services Capital Plan based on the latest information on available capital resources.

Director of Finance reported that in paragraph 5.1, reference to Appendix I should read Appendix 2.

It was agreed to recommend to the Special Council meeting to be held on 6 March 1997:-

- (i) to approve the block allocations per Service as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report; and
- (ii) to remit to each Service Committee to agree the details of its final programme within the block allocations as now set for the next three years and to proceed to implement accordingly.

DRAFT ESTIMATES 1997/98 - SAVINGS AND GROWTH PROPOSALS (Item 1, Page 1828)

2. There was submitted a composite report dated 28 February 1997 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which recommended savings and growth proposals to align service delivery plans in respect of General Services and the Support Services, Personnel and Finance Departments and across the Council action, to the final allocations remitted by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting of 25 February 1997.

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor O'Neill moved to recommend to the Special Council meeting to be held on 6 March 1997 the revised savings and growth proposals in respect of General Services and the Support Services, Personnel and Finance Departments and across the Council action as detailed in Appendices I to V of the report to align the Policy and Resources Committee budget to the final allocation remitted by the Committee at its meeting held on 25 February 1997.

Councillor Coffey, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, moved as an amendment to note and continue consideration of the revised savings and growth proposals in respect of General Services and the Support Services, Personnel and Finance Departments and across the Council action as detailed in Appendices I to V of the report to align the Policy and Resources Committee budget to the final allocation remitted by the Committee at its meeting held on 25 February 1997.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 10 votes to 3.

DRAFT ESTIMATES 1997/98 - REPORT FROM SERVICE COMMITTEES

3. There was submitted a report dated 3 March 1997 (circulated) by the Chief Executive advising of the decisions taken by the Service Committees when considering the financial allocation remitted to them by the Policy and Resources Committee and of their recommended packages for savings and growth to align their services with these allocations.

It was agreed to delete the reference to "catering" shown at Option 7 in Appendix 1 and in the subsequent summary shown at page 1 in Appendix 7.

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor O'Neill moved:-

- (i) to note that all Service Committees had met and aligned Service Delivery plans with final allocations for 1997/98, remitted by the Committee on 25 February 1997; and
- (ii) to recommend to the special meeting of the Council to be held on 6 March 1997 adoption of the savings and growth packages as detailed in Appendices I to VI of the report.

Councillor Coffey, seconded by Councillor Nicoll moved as an amendment to:-

- (i) note that all Service Committees had met and aligned Service Delivery plans with the final allocations for 1997/98, remitted by the Committee on 25 February 1997.
- (ii) to note and continue consideration of the savings and growth packages as detailed in Appendices I to VI of the report.

On a division by a show of hands, the motion was carried by 10 votes to 3.

GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE ESTIMATES 1997/98 - SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX

4. There was submitted report dated 28 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Finance requesting that the Committee agree that overall budget proposals including the measures proposed by Service Committees comply with the level of expenditure which was set by the Secretary of State (ie capping level) and to recommend to the Council the Council Tax (Band "D" equivalent) for the financial year 1997/98.

Councillor Sneller reported that the recommendation shown at page 4 of the report should read "to recommend to Council".

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor O'Neill, moved to recommend that the special meeting of the Council to be held on 6 March 1997:-

- (i) declare a level of relevant expenditure for capping purposes amounting to £128.043M;
- (ii) approve an additional CFCR contribution of £1,000M for the 1997/98 financial year;
- (iii) approve the level of other items of non-relevant expenditure amounting to £16.794M as shown in paragraph 3.4 of the report;
- (iv) approve the level of net expenditure amounting to £27.503M to be met from Council Tax on the basis as shown in paragraph 3.5 of the report;
- (v) approve the Council Tax bad debt provision at 6%; and
- (vi) declare a Council Tax (Band "D" equivalent) of £779 for 1997/98.

Councillor Coffey, seconded by Councillor Nicoll moved as an amendment to note and continue consideration of the recommendations contained in the report.

On a division by a show of hands, the motion was carried by 10 votes to 3.

TENDER LIST - STREET LIGHTING MAINTENANCE CONTRACT 1997

5.1 Declaration of Interest

Councillors O'Neill and Brailsford declared a non-pecuniary interest in terms of the National Code of Local Government Conduct and left the meeting.

5.2 Consideration of Item

There was submitted a report dated 27 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services requesting approval of the proposed tender list for the Street Lighting Maintenance Contract.

It was agreed that Associated Asphalt, BEI, East Ayrshire Commercial Operations and Scottish Power be invited to tender for the Street Lighting Maintenance Contract.

The meeting terminated at 1025 hours.