

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH 1998 AT 1130 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Sneller, Drew McIntyre and Ronald Brailsford, Provost Robert Stirling and Councillors Jane Darnbrough, Jim O'Neill, Kathleen Hall, Daniel Coffey, David Fulton, Kim Nicoll, George Turnbull, Eric Ross, John Smith and Eric Jackson.

**ATTENDING:** David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; Gordon Clark, Director of Finance; Barbara Haughan, Director of Support Services; Alex McPhee, Senior Depute Director of Finance; Roddy Wallace, Head of Administration; and Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Irene Reeves, Douglas Reid, Jim Kelly, Jimmy Boyd and Tommy Farrell.

**CHAIR:** Councillor David Sneller, Chair.

**DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 1996/97 (Item 4, Page 2932)**

1. There was submitted a report dated 27 February 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which advised Members of the current position with regard to the completion of the East Ayrshire Council Accounts for the financial year 1996/97.

Having noted that the Draft Annual Accounts 1996/97 would be presented to the Council at its Special Meeting to be held on 5 March 1998, it was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the course of action proposed by the Director of Finance as shown in section 3 of the report; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

**REVISED PROJECTED OUT-TURN - GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE ACCOUNT 1997/98**

2. There was submitted and noted a report dated 27 February 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which advised Members of the changes to the projected out-turn for the General Services Account for 1997/98 financial year.

**DRAFT ESTIMATES 1998/99 - POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE BUDGETS - SAVINGS AND GROWTH PROPOSALS**

3. There was submitted a report dated 26 February 1998 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which recommended savings and growth proposals to align Service delivery plans in respect of Central 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 on 23 February 1998 taking into account the views and comments made during the Council's public consultation exercise.

C Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved to recommend to Council the revised savings and growth proposals in respect of Central Services and the Support Services, Personnel and Finance Departments and across the Council action as detailed in Appendices I to VII of the report to align the Policy and Resources Committee budget to the final allocation remitted by the Committee at its meeting held on 23 February 1998.

Councillor Coffey, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, moved as an amendment to note the report and continue consideration of the whole matter to the Special Meeting of Council to be held on Thursday 5 March 1998.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 10 votes to 4.

#### **DRAFT ESTIMATES 1998/99 - REPORT FROM SERVICE COMMITTEES**

4. There was submitted a report dated March 1998 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which advised Committee of the decisions taken by the Service Committees when considering the final allocation remitted to them by the Policy and Resources Committee and of their recommended packages for savings and growth to align their services with those allocations taking into account the views and comments made during the Council's public consultation exercise.

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved:

- (i) to note that all Service Committees had met and aligned Service delivery plans with the final allocations for 1998/99 remitted by the Committee on 23 February 1998;
- C (ii) to recommend to the Council adoption of the savings and growth packages and CCLS adjustments as detailed in Appendices I to VII of the report; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the terms 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 1998/99 remitted by the Committee on 23 February 1998; and
- (ii) continue for consideration at the Special Council meeting to be held on 5 March 1998, the savings and growth packages as detailed in Appendices I to VII of the report.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 10 votes to 4.

#### **GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE ESTIMATES 1998/99 - SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX**

5. There was submitted a report dated 25 February 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which asked that the Committee agree that overall budget proposals including the measures proposed by Service Committees complied 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 1998/99.

C Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved to recommend that the Council:

- (i) declare a level of relevant expenditure for capping purposes per Service amounting to £132.642m as detailed in paragraph 3.4 of the report;
- (ii) approve the level of other items of non-relevant expenditure which amounted to £18.424m as detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the report;
- (iii) approve the level of net expenditure amounting to £28.210m to be met from Council Tax on the basis as shown in paragraph 4.2 of the report;
- (iv) approve the Council Tax bad debt provision at 9%;
- (v) declare a Council Tax (band "D" equivalent) of £819 for 1998/99; and
- (vi) otherwise note the content of the report.

Councillor Coffey, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, moved as an amendment to note and continue consideration of the recommendations contained in the report to the Special Council Meeting to be held on 5 March 1998.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 10 votes to 4.

The meeting terminated at 1220 hours.