

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**HOUSING COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18 APRIL 2000 AT 1115 HRS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors David Macrae, Katie Hall, Ann Hay, Stephanie Young, Douglas Reid, Drew McIntyre, Jane Darnbrough, John Knapp, Finlay MacLean, George Smith, Tommy Farrell, Julie Faulds, William Menzies and Provost Jimmy Boyd.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; James Lavery, Director of Homes and Technical Services; Chris McAleavey, Head of Homes; Ken Hathaway, Client Services Manager; David McLellan, Financial Services Manager; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; and Ian Gemmell, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Jimmy Kelly, Willie Coffey, Robert Stevenson, John Weir, Jim Raymond and Jimmy Carmichael.

CHAIR: In the absence of the Chair, Councillor David Macrae, Vice-Chair.

BUDGETARY REPORTS**1.1 HOMES AND TECHNICAL SERVICES - CENTRAL REPAIRS ACCOUNT TO 11 FEBRUARY 2000 (PERIOD 11)**

There was submitted and noted a joint report (circulated) by the Director of Finance and the Director of Homes and Technical Services on the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for Homes and Technical Services - Central Repairs Account, for the period ended 11 February 2000 (Period 11).

1.2 HOMES AND TECHNICAL SERVICES - PROPERTY TO 11 FEBRUARY 2000 (PERIOD 11)

There was submitted and noted a joint report (circulated) by the Director of Finance and the Director of Homes and Technical Services on the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for Homes and Technical Services - Property, for the period ended 11 February 2000 (Period 11).

1.3 HOMES AND TECHNICAL SERVICES - TECHNICAL SERVICES TO 11 FEBRUARY 2000 (PERIOD 11)

There was submitted and noted a joint report (circulated) by the Director of Finance and the Director of Homes and Technical Services on the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for Homes and Technical Services - Technical Services, for the period ended 11 February 2000 (Period 11).

1.4 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT TO 11 FEBRUARY 2000 (PERIOD 11)

There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 14 March 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Finance and the Director of Homes and Technical Services on the current budgetary control position of the Housing Revenue Account for the period ended 11 February 2000 (Period 11).

1.5 GENERAL FUND HOUSING TO 11 FEBRUARY 2000 (PERIOD 11)

There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 14 March 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Finance and the Director of Homes and Technical Services on the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the General Fund Housing for the period ended 11 February 2000 (Period 11).

REPAIRS REVIEW: FURTHER INTERIM REPORT (Item 2, Page 618, 99/02)

2. There was submitted and noted a report dated 6 April 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Homes and Technical Services on the current position in relation to the repairs review and which also set out for Members, as requested at Council, the current information in relation to outstanding jobs held by Building and Works.

ROUGH SLEEPERS INITIATIVE (Item 6, Page 746, 99/02)

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 6 April 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Homes and Technical Services which provided details of the funding awarded jointly to East, North and South Ayrshire Councils under the Rough Sleepers Initiative (RSI) and of developments in relation to the joint project.

ARREARS CONTROL

4. There was submitted a report dated 6 April 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Homes and Technical Services on the ongoing study which was being carried out by the Accounts Commission with regard to rent arrears, which highlighted those areas where there was scope for improvement in the Council's practices and indicated that these changes were being introduced.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the initial findings of the Accounts Commission study;
- (ii) to note that changes in practices identified by the Accounts Commission were being introduced;
- (iii) to recommend to Council to approve a change to the current policy on the pursuit of rent arrears involving the introduction of the use of small debt actions against tenants with long-term small static balances; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the report.

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Councillor Reid left the meeting at this point.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRESS REPORT

5. There was submitted and noted a report dated 29 March 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Homes and Technical Services on progress being made in the field of Health and Safety in the Department of Homes and Technical Services.

SCOTTISH HOMES STOCK TRANSFER

6. There was submitted and noted a report dated 4 April 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Homes and Technical Services on the outcome of a ballot of Scottish

Homes' tenants in Kilmarnock, Stewarton and Crosshouse on transferring ownership of their homes from Scottish Homes to East Ayrshire Housing Partnership.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

7. 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 the paragraph of Schedule 7A of the Act as shown against each item.

KILMARNOCK: PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT 15 CUTHBERT PLACE, (PARA 9)

8. It was noted that this item had been withdrawn from the Agenda.

BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT - BUILDING AND WORKS DLO TO 11 FEBRUARY 2000 (PERIOD 11) (PARA 6)

9. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 14 March 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Finance and the Director of Homes and Technical Services on the current budgetary control position of the Building and Works DLO for the period ended 11 February 2000 (Period 11).

The meeting terminated at 1145 hrs.