

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL 1997 AT 1000 HOURS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Jim Kelly, Gordon McCredie, Drew McIntyre, Gordon Cree, Douglas Reid, Provost Robert Stirling, Councillors Alan Campbell, David Fulton, David Macrae, Kim Nicoll, Robert McDill, David Sneller, George Smith, Jimmy Carmichael, Robert Taylor and John Smith.

ATTENDING: John Hillis, Director of Housing; Chris McAleavey, Senior Depute Director of Housing; Jim Maitland, Depute Director of Housing; Alan McKnight, Depute Director of Housing; Joan Kendall, Principal Solicitor; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; David Morgan, Public Relations Officer; and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Wilma Doyle, Jane Darnbrough, John Knapp and Tommy Farrell.

CHAIR: Councillor Jim Kelly, Chair.

**CONVENTION OF SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES: SCOTTISH LOCAL
GOVERNMENT QUALITY AWARDS (Item 1, Page 1666)**

1. There was submitted a report dated 3 April 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Housing on the outcome of the judging of the Scottish Local Government Quality Awards, specifically in respect of the Council's Benefits Campaign.

It was agreed to note the terms of the report which explained that although the Campaign had been one of four submissions short-listed for consideration by the panel of judges, the Campaign had not been selected as the overall winner.

CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF HOUSING ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1997

2. There was submitted and noted a report dated 10 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Housing advising of attendance at the Chartered Institute of Housing Annual Conference 1997 which had been held in Dundee from Tuesday 25 to Friday 28 February 1997.

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND INTERMEDIATE LABOUR MARKET (ILM) PROJECT:
PARTNERSHIP WITH HEATWISE LTD**

3. There was submitted a report dated 13 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Housing outlining, and seeking approval to, proposals for an Energy Efficiency and Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) Project in partnership with Heatwise Ltd.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve, in respect of the Council's interest, the Project on the basis of the proposals set out in the report, including:-

- (a) the Project would be undertaken by the Council in partnership with Heatwise Ltd;
 - (b) the Project would provide a route back to work for local unemployed people by offering them vocational qualifications and valuable experience;
 - (c) the Project would involve 24 trainees during its first year of operation, increasing to 40 trainees in the second year;
 - (d) subject to the Council's priorities and depending upon the operational progress of the Project, trainees could be allocated between the following activities, namely:- energy auditing; energy advice; draught-proofing and insulation; home security; external cladding; and administration; and
 - (e) the cost to the Council for the financial year 1997/98 would be £240,000, provision for which had been made within the Housing Capital Programme (HRA) for 1997/98, the Council to review its continuing commitment to the Project on an annual basis, in respect of subsequent financial years;
- (ii) to note that a bid for match funding in respect of this Project, for the financial year 1997/98, had been submitted for European Social Funding;
 - (iii) that the Director of Housing would submit a report to the next meeting of this Committee on the salary structure for trainees involved in the Project;
 - (iv) to remit to the Directors of Housing and of Development Services to make arrangements to progress the project accordingly; and
 - (v) that the Director of Housing would make arrangements for all Members of the Council to visit the Headquarters of Heatwise Ltd in order to view first hand the company's operations.

COUNCIL HOUSE SALES: PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

4. There was submitted a report dated 17 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services advising of performance in respect of Council house sales since 1 April 1996.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the report which, among other things, indicated:-
 - (a) that the average time taken to process the sale of a Council house during the first three quarters of the financial year 1996/97 was 29.4 weeks, and for the final quarter of the year was 23.2 weeks; and
 - (b) that it was anticipated that Council house sales for the financial year 1997/98 would total approximately £7m, representing approximately 580 transactions; and
- (ii) to remit the report to the Policy and Resources Committee for information.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

5. 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 to the Act.

**BELLSBANK FESTIVAL SOCIETY:
LEASE OF HOUSE AT 1 MOSSDALE TERRACE, BELLSBANK**

6. There was submitted a report dated 24 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Housing on the lease of the above house.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to renew the lease of the house in question for a further period of one year, rent free, and subject to the other terms and conditions previously agreed; and
- (ii) that the Head of Legal Services be authorised to make the necessary arrangements to extend the lease on the basis of (i) above.

**PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF GROUND ADJACENT TO 27E GLENCRAIG
STREET, DRONGAN**

7. There was submitted a report dated 24 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Housing on the proposed sale of the above area of ground.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the area of ground in question be declared surplus to the requirements of the Council and be disposed of to the owner of the adjoining property as referred to in the report; and
- (ii) that the Head of Property be authorised to negotiate the sale of the ground in question on suitable terms.

The meeting terminated at 1025 hours.