

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4 APRIL 1996 AT 1400 HOURS IN  
CATRINE COMMUNITY CENTRE, INSTITUTE AVENUE, CATRINE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Eric Ross, James Kelly, David Sneller, James Boyd, George Smith, James Carmichael and Eric Jackson.

**ATTENDING:** David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; Kenneth Robinson, Principal Administration Officer; and Stuart Nelson, Administration Officer.

**CHAIR:** Councillor Eric Ross, Chair.

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

1. At the outset, and prior to proceeding to the formal business of the meeting, the Chair welcomed, as observers in the public gallery, 19 members of the public, including representatives of local organisations; introduced the Members present and officials attending; and briefly explained the intended role of the Local Committee in facilitating the Council's aim of ensuring that decisions on the delivery of Council services are taken, insofar as is possible, at the local level and with the involvement of representatives of the local community.

**CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE  
QUORUM AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

2. There was submitted a report dated 20 March 1996 (circulated) by the Chief Executive advising the Local Committee of its quorum and terms of reference.

It was agreed that the quorum be fixed at two and to note the terms of reference of the Local Committee as detailed in the Appendix to these Minutes.

Councillor James Carmichael joined the meeting during consideration of the preceding item.

**LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

3. There was submitted a report dated 21 March 1996 (circulated) by the Chief Executive advising the Local Committee of arrangements for consideration of relevant planning applications by the Local Planning Committee.

The Local Committee noted:-

- (i) the requirement to form a Local Planning Committee;
- (ii) that the quorum for meetings of the Local Planning Committee be fixed at four Members of the Council;
- (iii) that the Local Planning Committee would consist of the members of the Council who were members of the relevant Local Committee, together with sufficient members drawn from the Chair of the Decentralisation Sub-Committee, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee and the Chair

and Vice-Chair of the Development Services Committee to ensure a quorum was present;

- (iv) that the Local Planning Committees would hold their meetings immediately before the meetings of the Local Committees; and
- (v) that a Seminar would be held for Members of the Local Committee before the first business meeting of the Local Planning Committee on the operation of the Scheme of Delegation.

Councillor James Boyd joined the meeting during consideration of the preceding item.

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE LOCAL COMMITTEE PROCESS**

4. There was submitted a report dated 21 March 1996 (circulated) by the Chief Executive advising the Local Committee with regard to the involvement of community representatives.

Having heard the comments of the Depute Chief Executive who amplified and explained the terms of the report and after a full discussion particularly pertaining to the nomination of community representatives, the Local Committee agreed:-

- (i) that community members to serve on the Cumnock Area Local Committee be drawn from the following community organisation sectors:-

- (a) two members from the appropriate Community Councils.

In this connection, Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor G Smith moved that in order to avoid any potential imbalance in respect of the geographical origin of the Community Council representatives on the Local Committee, Community Councils representing those communities in (a) the North (Mauchline, Catrine, Sorn and Muirkirk) and (b) the South (Cumnock, Auchinleck, New Cumnock, Lugar and Logan) of the Committee's area, be each asked to appoint jointly one community representative from their respective memberships to serve on the Local Committee.

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor Carmichael moved as an amendment that all of the appropriate Community Councils in the Local Committee's area be asked to nominate jointly two community representatives from their collective memberships to serve on the Committee.

On a division by a show of hands the amendment was carried by four votes to three.

- (b) one member from appropriate elderly interested groups;
- (c) one member from the Disability Forum (or equivalent organisations);
- (d) one member from the Youth Forum (or equivalent organisations);
- (e) one member from appropriate Sports Groups which must be affiliated to the East Ayrshire Sports Council, the member to be appointed to be resident within the Cumnock Area;
- (f) one member from Churches in the area;

- (g) one member from the business community;
  - (h) one member from appropriate tenants' groups, including those groups representing East Ayrshire Council and Scottish Homes tenants; and
  - (i) one member who is a school pupil attending a secondary school within the Cumnock Area, and who resides within the Area. On drawing lots, it was determined that the school pupil representative on the Local Committee for the first year of operation be appointed by, and be a pupil of, Auchinleck Academy,
- (ii) to instruct the relevant officers to make contact with the appropriate organisations in order that they can begin the process of nominating their representatives; and
  - (iii) to otherwise note the terms of the report.

### **ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY FORUM MEETINGS**

5. There was submitted a report dated 21 March 1996 (circulated) by the Chief Executive advising the Local Committee of the requirement to organise Community Forum Meetings.

Having noted the commitment to have four Community Forum meetings during the first year and that the first Community Forum would be held in an evening during late May, it was agreed:-

- (i) that the first Community Forum Meeting be held in Mauchline Community Centre in May 1996; and that the first business meeting of the Cumnock Area Local Committee on 8 May 1996 be held in Cumnock Town Hall;
- (ii) that the Council's Economic Strategy be an agenda item for the first Local Forum Meeting; and
- (iii) to consider at the next meeting of the Local Committee, further issues which would be included on the agenda of a Local Forum meeting.

The meeting terminated at 1450 hours.

**APPENDIX****CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- (a) to ensure that the delivery of Council services and the utilisation of its resources, at a local level, reflect the policies and priorities of the Council.
- (b) to identify local issues, priorities and opportunities and ensure the responsiveness of individual service plans and activities accordingly.
- (c) to ensure that Council services work together at a local level to adopt an effective common response to local issues wherever appropriate;
- (d) to provide a focus for community participation in the process of Council decision-making and a vehicle for liaison between the wider community and Council services;
- (e) to support the activities of voluntary organisations and community groups by:-
  - the development of systems of information and advice;
  - the distribution of grant funds; and
  - the creation and ongoing support of local forums;
- (f) to make decisions about grants relevant specifically to the Committee's area;
- (g) to bring forward for consideration centrally, proposals for change in Council policy, practice and resources allocation, in order to make these more sensitive to the needs of their local area;
- (h) at a local level, to develop joint working practices with other agencies for example the Health Board on issues of local interest;
- (i) to publicise and promote the activities of the Council at a local level; and
- (j) to carry out other functions as may be determined by the Council.