

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 MAY 1996 AT 1000 HRS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors David Sneller, Drew McIntyre, Irene Reeves, Wilma Doyle, Ronald Brailsford, Provost Robert Stirling; Councillors Jane Darnbrough, Jim O'Neill, Kathleen Hall, Bob Beattie, Daniel Coffey, David Fulton, Kim Nicoll, Jim Kelly and Tommy Farrell.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; William Stafford, Director of Community Services; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Gordon Clark, Director of Finance; John Hillis, Director of Housing; Iain McLachlan, Director of Personnel; Barbara Haughan, Director of Support Services; Roddy Wallace, Head of Administration; Douglas Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing; George Fraser, Senior Policy Officer; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; and Anne Fairbairn, Senior Administrative Assistant.

APOLOGIES: Councillors George Turnbull, Eric Ross, Jimmy Boyd and Eric Jackson.

CHAIR: Councillor David Sneller, Chair.

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

1. There were submitted and approved the undernoted Sub-Committee Minutes (all circulated) as contained in Appendices I to IV of these Minutes.
 - 1.1 **MEMBERS' SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE OF 14 MARCH 1996** - Appendix I.
 - 1.2 **PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE OF 22 APRIL 1996** - Appendix II.
 - 1.3 **DECENTRALISATION SUB-COMMITTEE OF 23 APRIL 1996** - Appendix III.
 - 1.4 **FINANCE AND PROPERTY SUB-COMMITTEE OF 23 APRIL 1996** - Appendix IV

**CONVENTION OF SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES - CONSTITUTION AND
APPOINTMENT TO CONVENTION AND FORUMS (Item 11, Page 577)**

2. There was submitted a report dated 23 April 1996 (circulated) by the Chief Executive providing information on the new CoSLA Constitution, Standing Orders and Advice on Party Balance in the Convention, intimating that East Ayrshire Council had now been allocated four places on the Convention and that representatives were sought for each of the Standing Forums.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the new CoSLA Constitution, Standing Orders and Advice on Party Balance in the Convention as detailed in Annexes 1, 3 and 4 of the report;

- (ii) that the appointment of another Member to represent the Council on the Convention be remitted to the next meeting of the Council on 16 May 1996 and that the Member be from the Opposition; and
- (iii) to remit recommendation to Council the appointment of the following representatives to each of the Forums, viz:-
 - Strategy Forum - Councillor David Sneller;
 - Education and Cultural Services Forum - Councillor Tommy Farrell;
 - Social Affairs Forum - Councillor Jimmy Boyd;
 - Development Services Forum - Councillor George Turnbull;
 - Protective Services Forum - Councillor Bob Beattie; and
 - Rural Affairs Forum - Councillor David Fulton.

GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1996/97

3.1 INHERITED LEGAL COMMITMENTS

There was submitted and noted a report dated 17 April 1996 (circulated) by Director of Finance on information regarding inherited legal commitments from the former Authorities which had been submitted to the Scottish Office.

3.2 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1996/97

There was submitted and noted a report dated 17 April 1996 (circulated) by Director of Finance informing Members of the implications of the formal consent to meet capital expenses in 1996/97 and giving an update on the total General Services Capital Programme 1996/97.

KILMARNOCK AND LOUDOUN DISTRICT COUNCIL - ANNUAL REPORT AND ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1995 AND MANAGEMENT LETTER TO MEMBERS 1994/95

- 4. There was submitted a report dated 17 April 1996 by Director of Finance together with Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council annual report and abstract of accounts for year ended 31 March 1995 and management letter to Members for 1994/95 (all circulated).

It was agreed to approve Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council's audited Annual Report and Abstract of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1995 and to note the management letter to Members 1994/95.

PRECEDING AUTHORITIES - CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS 1995/96

- 5. There was submitted and noted a report dated 16 April 1996 (circulated) by Director of Finance advising Members of the responsibilities of East Ayrshire Council in respect of the closing of accounts 1995/96 for the preceding authorities regarding their completion and timetable.

**RATIONALISATION OF SCHOOLS:
POSSIBLE REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET SAVINGS**

6. There was submitted a report (circulated) by Director of Education inviting Members to determine a strategy on the possible use of any savings which might be generated as a result of the rationalisation of schools proposals.

The following formula was suggested in the report:

(a) Capital Receipts

50% of all net capital receipts generated in the schools rationalisation programme should be returned to the Education Department with the balance of capital receipts being allocated by the Policy and Resources Committee.

(b) Revenue Savings

Any additional saving generated in the present financial year beyond the budget savings target of £100,000 from the rationalisation programme be retained by the Education Department.

That the increased revenue savings beyond £100,000 accruing from the rationalisation programme in subsequent years be ring fenced and returned to the Education Department, with these savings not being used simply to offset any further costs that may be necessary in the Education Department's budget.

(c) Key Targets for the Education Service

Savings returned to the Education Department should be used to take forward in particular the following key targets for the Council:

- the expansion of pre-school provision
- the development of social strategy/economic strategy related initiatives within Education

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor McIntyre, moved:

- (i) the return to the Education Department of capital receipts and revenue savings generated by the Education Committee's programme of schools rationalisation in accordance with the formula outlined in the report; and
- (ii) that the Director of Education ensure that the savings returned to the Education Service were utilised in pursuit of the key targets established for the Education Service.

Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Coffey, moved as an amendment to continue consideration of the matter until after the consultation exercise currently being carried out on proposals for the rationalisation of existing school provision.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 11 votes to 4.

It was noted that, with regard to the agreement for the disposal of capital receipts for the Education Department, this decision would not set a precedent for any other Departments and any future approaches to the Policy and Resources Committee for similar consideration would be treated on their own merits case by case.

SHERIFFDOMS AND SHERIFF COURT DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

7. There was submitted a report dated 23 April 1996 (circulated) by Director of Support Services in relation to a consultation document from the Scottish Courts Administration regarding changes in Sheriff Court districts and Sheriffdom boundaries as a result of Local Government reorganisation.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the consultation paper and observations raised thereon; and
- (ii) to monitor the situation to ensure an efficient Court administration was available to the constituents of East Ayrshire.

PANEL OF SAFEGUARDERS

8. There was submitted a report dated 17 April 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services regarding the responsibility of Local Authorities under the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 to maintain lists of people suitable to be appointed, where required, by a Children's Hearing or a Sheriff to safeguard a child's interest in proceedings which affect them.

It was agreed:

- (i) to maintain a Panel of Safeguarders to serve the East Ayrshire area;
- (ii) to note that a list of existing Safeguarders who had been asked to serve the East Ayrshire area was the subject of a separate report below;
- (iii) to adopt the most recent fees in respect of Safeguarders' expenses as recommended annually by CoSLA and detailed in Appendix 1 to the report and to note that a further report would be submitted when CoSLA next reviewed the fees; and
- (iv) that the Director of Support Services would submit a further report should there be any significant resource implications in respect of the administrative support to the Panel of Safeguarders.

TRAVEL SERVICE FOR EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL PERSONNEL

9. There was submitted a report dated 24 April 1996 (circulated) by Director of Support Services which introduced for consideration the establishment of a business travel service for East Ayrshire Council personnel through the appointment of a sole travel agent and to suggest a mechanism for the appointment of such a travel agent.

It was agreed:

- (i) in principle to the establishment of a business travel service for East Ayrshire Council personnel through the appointment of a sole travel agent; and
- (ii) that the selection process to identify a suitable travel agent as detailed within the report, involving Contract, Legal and Finance Officers, be approved.

PROPERTY ENQUIRY CERTIFICATES (Item No 8, Page 443)

10. There was submitted a report dated 18 April 1996 (circulated) by Director of Support Services providing an update and making recommendations for a revised service.

It was agreed, as information had now been received from the West of Scotland Water Authority on their charges and as a result of representations from solicitors, that:

- (i) the West of Scotland Water Authority be advised that no further enquiry requests will be submitted to them with immediate effect;
- (ii) that all solicitors would be advised of the above;
- (iii) that a property certificate be provided by East Ayrshire Council for £100 providing information previously provided by District Councils together with information relative to roads and footpaths;
- (iv) that a Quality of Service Charter be now prepared;
- (v) that the situation be kept under review; and
- (vi) that it be remitted to the Director of Support Services to make the necessary arrangements in respect of the above.

LOCAL COMMITTEE COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

11. There was submitted a report dated 25 April 1996 (circulated) by Chief Executive giving proposals for the establishment of a Community Grants Scheme which would be administered by the Local Committees together with a further report (also circulated) by the Chief Executive amending the allocations with regard to the distribution of finance to Local Committees for the support of the voluntary and community group sectors.

Noted that the Depute Chief Executive would check the deprivation indicator for the Kilmarnock Central area with regard to the Local Committee's precise boundaries and report back to Committee if amendments required to be made to the distribution of funds.

It was agreed:

- (i) to adopt the formula for the allocation of budgets to Local Committees as detailed within Appendix 1 of the further report and to adopt that report's proposed distribution among Local Committees as detailed in Appendix V to these Minutes;
- (ii) to adopt the proposals for the establishment of a Local Committee Community Grants Scheme detailed within Appendix 2 of the report;
- (iii) that the Policy and Resources Committee retain 10% of the budget for East Ayrshire wide applications and contingency purposes and furthermore retain meantime the budget provision for Community Councils of £13,510;
- (iv) to note that a sum of £10,500 from the Social Work budget would also be included within the disaggregated budget;
- (v) that grants to Community Councils continue meantime on the basis of the schemes for 1994/95 and that any balance remaining be used for individual Community Council projects to be considered on their merits by relevant Local Committee's; and
- (vi) that any applications for summer playscheme grants be submitted to the next round of Local Committees for determination.

LAINSHAW WOODS, STEWARTON

12. There was submitted a report dated 23 April 1996 (circulated) by Director of Community Services providing details of the expiry of the lease of Lainshaw Woods, Stewarton and recommending renewal of the lease from Martinmas 1996.

It was agreed:

- (i) to the renewal of the lease at an annual rental of £1; and
- (ii) to remit to the Head of Property and the Head of Legal Services to make the necessary arrangements;

PROPOSAL BY POWERGEN TO CONSTRUCT A GAS-FIRED POWER STATION AT GARTCOSH, NORTH LANARKSHIRE

13.1 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Sneller declared an interest in this matter and left the meeting. In his absence Councillor McIntyre, Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

13.2 Consideration of Item

There was submitted a report dated 24 April 1996 (circulated) by Director of Development Services outlining the strategic implications for East Ayrshire of a proposed gas-fired power station development at Gartcosh, North Lanarkshire and recommending that the Council notify objections by 1 May 1996 to the Secretary of State and North Lanarkshire Council.

It was agreed that there be lodged immediately representations:

- (i) to the Secretary of State outlining the damaging economic impact which the proposed gas-fired power station would have on East Ayrshire; and
- (ii) to North Lanarkshire Council requesting that they take into account the strategic implications of the proposed development before making a decision on a planning application by Powergen.

Councillor Sneller then re-joined the meeting and took the Chair.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

13. 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 item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

PANEL OF SAFEGUARDERS

14. There was submitted a report dated 17 April 1996 (circulated) by Director of Support Services providing the names of the existing Safeguarders who had been asked whether they would be willing to serve as Safeguarders for the East Ayrshire area, and the responses received.

It was agreed:

- (i) to appoint as Safeguarders until 31 March 1998 those 12 existing Safeguarders who had indicated their willingness to serve East Ayrshire Council area and that it be remitted to the Director of Support Services to make the necessary arrangements for appointments;
- (ii) that in respect of the three existing Safeguarders who had not yet responded that it be remitted to the Director of Support Services to appoint them as Safeguarders for the East Ayrshire area until 31 March 1998 should they be so willing; and
- (iii) that the Director of Support Services submit a further report to Committee on the background to the Panel of Safeguarders scheme giving details on the role of the Safeguarders, the process of recruiting Safeguarders and how East Ayrshire Council could generate interest among its local residents in becoming involved as Safeguarders for the East Ayrshire area.

The meeting terminated at 1050 hrs.