

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 23 APRIL 1998 AT 1000 HRS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Eric Jackson, Irene Reeves, Douglas Reid, Wilma Doyle, Ronald Brailsford, Provost Robert Stirling, Councillors Jim O'Neill, Kathleen Hall, David Fulton, George Turnbull, Eric Ross Jim Kelly and John Smith.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; William McKenzie, Acting Director of Commercial Operations; Gordon Clark, Director of Finance; Douglas Bulloch, Director of Social Work; Barbara Haughan, Director of Support Services; Alex McPhee, Senior Depute Director of Finance; Sue Angus, Depute Director of Education; Helen Dick, Depute Director of Finance; Graham Haugh, Depute Director of Personnel Services; Roddy Wallace, Head of Administration; Douglas Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing; David Mitchell, Principal Solicitor; Sam McVie, Principal Surveyor; Robin Baker, Senior Financial Accountant; and Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors David Sneller, Gordon McCredie, Drew McIntyre, Daniel Coffey, Kim Nicoll, Jimmy Boyd and Tommy Farrell.

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

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

1. There were submitted and approved, both as correct records and in respect of recommendations contained therein, the undernoted Sub-Committee Minutes (circulated) as contained in Appendices I to VIII of these Minutes.
 - 1.1 **CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF 11 MARCH 1998** - Appendix I.
 - 1.2 **MEMBERS' SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE OF 12 MARCH 1998** - Appendix II.
 - 1.3 **CHAIR'S SUB-COMMITTEE OF 24 MARCH 1998** - Appendix III.
 - 1.4 **PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY SUB-COMMITTEE OF 7 APRIL 1998** - Appendix IV.
 - 1.5 **BEST VALUE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 7 APRIL 1998** - Appendix V.

The Chair reported that a letter had been received from the Scottish Office which intimated approval of East Ayrshire Council's Best Value Implementation Plan and Service Review Schedule and that a one year exemption from Compulsory Competitive Tendering had been given (until 1 July 1999).
 - 1.6 **MEMBERS' SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF 8 APRIL 1998** - Appendix VI.
 - 1.7 **PUBLICITY AND PUBLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE OF 8 APRIL 1998** - Appendix VII.
 - 1.8 **APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE OF 9 APRIL 1998** - Appendix VIII.

**COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS -
TRANSFER OF ESTIMATES 1998/99 (Item 1, page 2907)**

2. There was submitted and noted a report dated 16 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Finance on the finalised budgets following the transfer of responsibility for certain services from the Commercial Operations Department.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

3. There was submitted a report dated 16 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which sought approval for a self-financing package to address the requirement for additional staffing resources within the Finance Department.

It was agreed:

- (i) to the amendments to the Finance Department structure and the funding thereof as described in Sections 3 and 4 of the report which would be subject to Trade Union consultation; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

INSURANCE ANNUAL REPORT 1996/97 (Item 2, Page 2086)

4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 16 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Finance on insurance matters during the 1996/97 financial year.

COUNCIL TAX COLLECTION RATES (Item 4, Page 3117)

5. There was submitted a report dated 16 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Finance on proposals by the Director of Finance to improve the Councils in-year Council Tax collection rate.

It was agreed to endorse the approach and proposals made in the report.

**INTERNAL AUDIT - STRATEGIC AUDIT PLAN 1998/99 - 2000/01
AND ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 1998/99**

6. There was submitted a report dated 16 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Finance on details of the Internal Audit Strategic Plan 1998/99 to 2000/01 and Annual Implementation Plan 1998/99.

It was agreed to:

- (i) approve the Internal Audit Strategic Plan 1998/99 to 2000/01 shown as Appendix I to the report;
- (ii) approve the Internal Audit Annual Implementation Plan 1998/99 shown as Appendix II to the report; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

VALUE FOR MONEY STUDY - PC DISPOSAL (Item 5, Page 2087)

7. There was submitted a joint report dated 16 April 1998 (circulated) by the Directors of Finance and of Support Services on the Value for Money Study carried out on PC disposal.

It was agreed:

- (i) that all PCs remaining following secure disposal of all obsolete equipment be transferred at no cost to the ownership of the Education Department for use in schools;
- (ii) that the assessment, handling, removal, distribution and re-installation of such PCs should be carried out by the Education Department staff; and
- (iii) that the Information Technology Section:
 - (a) ensure the completion and approval of disposal procedures for IT equipment;
 - (b) ensure all arrangements are put in place for the secure disposal and transfer of surplus equipment; and
 - (c) review the position in two years' time.

POLICY AND RESOURCES GRANTS

8.1 LOCAL COMMITTEE COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

There was submitted a report dated 17 April 1998 (circulated) by the Chief Executive to review the Local Committee Community Grants Scheme expenditure for 1997/98 and to consider issues relating to the operation of the 1998/99 Scheme.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the Local Committee Community Grants Scheme expenditure for 1997/98 per Local Committee/Category as shown in Appendix I of the report;
- (ii) that in future years a report on expenditure be submitted to each Local Committee at the beginning of the financial year prior to the consideration of grant applications;
- (iii) to note the arrangements made by the Officer Working Group on Grants to improve the application and assessment processes, document support in kind and maximise public awareness of the allocation of community grants;
- (iv) to endorse the interim conditions (submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee on 21 March 1996) as the Council's Conditions of Grant;
- (v) that Officers bring forward proposals for more suitable arrangements for the consideration of cross-boundary grants following consultation with the Local Committee Chairs to the next meeting; and
- (vi) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

Councillor Turnbull left the meeting at this point.

8.2 GRANTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 1998/99

There was submitted a report dated 17 April 1998 (circulated) by the Chief Executive on applications which required to be considered in respect of voluntary sector annual grants 1998/99, to propose those voluntary sector grants the Committee should consider in respect of equal opportunities and to recommend accordingly.

It was agreed:

- (i) that a grant of £1,000 be awarded to Ayrshire South Guide Association with a sum of £500 being transferred from the Education Committee to the Policy and Resources Committee;

- (ii) that a grant of £20,600 be awarded to the Cumnock and Doon Valley Youth Information Project and that Officers prepare with the organisation a Service Level Agreement, the terms of which to be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee;
- (iii) that a grant of £2,500 be awarded to Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme and that responsibility for grant determination in future years lie with the Social Work Committee with the existing resources for this purpose being transferred to the Committee;
- (iv) that the Director of Social Work review ongoing funding requirements for the Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme and report back;
- (v) that a grant of £3,500 be awarded to the West of Scotland Community Relations Council subject to a programme of work being submitted for 1998/99;
- (vi) to accept responsibility from the Social Work Committee for grant determination in respect of the Scottish Human Rights Centre and Scottish Refugee Council and to award £1,200 and £3,800 respectively to the organisations; and
- (vii) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

**WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHIER SCOTLAND -
A CONSULTATION DOCUMENT - GOVERNMENT GREEN PAPER**

9. There was submitted a report dated 15 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the contents of the recent Green Paper "Working Together for a Healthier Scotland" and which sought Committee approval for the Council's response to the paper to the Public Health Policy Unit of the Scottish Office Department of Health which was attached as Appendix I to the report.

Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor O'Neill, moved approval of the Officer recommendations.

The Director of Social Work elaborated his report including reference to the fact that the competitively awarded PPA (Priority Partnership Area) status was not an objective indicator of relative need in terms of health inequalities among Scottish Councils and recommended that his response be approved in principle subject to final textual amendments by the Chief Executive.

Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Hall, moved as an amendment that, in addition to the above, the Scottish Office should consider issues of nuclear dumping as a health concern to the people of Scotland.

9,1 Adjournment

The Committee agreed to adjourn at 1130 hrs and reconvened at 1140 hrs with the same Members present.

9.2 Reconsideration of Item

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by seven votes to four.

AWARDING OF TENDERS

10. There was submitted and noted a report dated 6 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which provided for information details of tenders which had been awarded as follows:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Amount</u>
East Ayrshire Council Commercial Operations, Building & Works Department, Kilmarnock	Alterations to London Road Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock - Phase 7	£178,225.85
National Sign Co, Glasgow	Supply and erection of street signs 1998-2000	Based on a Schedule of Rates

CHANDNI WOMEN'S GROUP REQUEST FOR FUNDING

11. There was submitted a report dated 27 March 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on a request for funding from the Chandni Women's Group to celebrate Eid (an important cultural festival) on Sunday 26 April 1998.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve funding of £450 to support the Eid celebration;
- (ii) to commend the Eid celebration in the East Ayrshire Council area; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS - STAFFING

12. There was submitted a report dated 16 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which sought approval for the appointment of two temporary Accountants posts within the Commercial Operations Department.

It was agreed to approve the temporary appointment of two Accountants graded SO8 within the Commercial Operations Department for a temporary period of nine months and that the position be reviewed thereafter.

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 9 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

LAND AT MAXHOLM ROAD, KILMARNOCK

14. There was submitted a report dated 25 March 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which sought approval to dispose of land at Maxholm Road, Kilmarnock.

It was agreed:

- (i) to dispose of land at Maxholm Road, Kilmarnock to Halsall Ltd at a price of £271,650 subject to the conditions contained within the report; and
- (ii) that the Head of Legal Services conclude the transaction.

The meeting terminated at 1155 hrs.