

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY 1999
AT 1000 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Depute Provost Jimmy Boyd and Councillors Drew McIntyre, Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Douglas Reid, Jim O'Neill, Kathleen Hall, Ann Hay, John Knapp, Daniel Coffey, David Macrae, Robert McDill, Eric Ross, Jim Kelly, David Sneller, George Smith, Jimmy Carmichael and John Smith.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; Alex McPhee, Director of Finance; John Hillis, Director of Housing; Barbara Haughan, Director of Support Services; Kate McVey, Solicitor to Council; Roddy Wallace, Head of Administration; Douglas Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing; and Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Provost Robert Stirling and Councillors Gordon McCredie, Jane Darnbrough, Alan Campbell, David Fulton, Kim Nicoll, George Turnbull, Tommy Farrell and Eric Jackson.

CHAIR: In the absence of the Chair, Depute Provost Boyd.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 1999/2000 - DRAFT ESTIMATES

1. There was submitted an excerpt from the Minutes of the Special Policy and Resources Committee held on 9 February 1999 (circulated).

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor Kelly, moved acceptance of the recommendations contained in the excerpt as follows:

- (a) recommend to the Special Council, viz:-
- (i) approval of the Draft Estimates for the Housing Revenue Account 1999/2000 as outlined in Section 4 of the joint report dated 4 February 1999 by the Directors of Housing and of Finance; and
 - (ii) approval of a flat rate increase in all house rents of £1.00, together with an additional increase of £0.87 for houses in the north of East Ayrshire in terms of the agreement pertaining to the harmonisation of rent levels; and
- (b) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Coffey, moved as an amendment, viz:-

- (i) to reduce the CFCR by £950,000
- increase lease cost of gas central heating by £50,000
 - adjust the Capital expenditure programme by (a) lease of further £500,000 of costs (gas central heating) - lease cost referred to above; (b) reduce reroofing programme by £250,000; (c) reduce the Year 1 of the Sheltered Housing facilities by £150,000;

These measures would produce savings of £900,000 on the Housing Revenue Account for the year 1999/2000 and therefore there would be no need for a rent rise to fund a deficit; and

- (ii) spend to save/reduce number of empty houses
 - additional resources to deal with rent arrears and void houses - employee costs/£75,000 (four additional posts).

This is to be funded by reducing voids by £50,000 and reducing bad debt for £25,000.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 13 votes to 5.

Councillor Ross joined the meeting during discussion of the above item.

The meeting terminated at 1025 hrs.