

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3 MARCH 1999
AT 1400 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors David Sneller, Drew McIntyre, Jim O'Neill, Kathleen Hall, Ann Hay, Robert McDill, Jim Kelly, Jimmy Boyd, John Smith and Eric Jackson.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; William Stafford, Director of Community Services; Stephen Chorley, Director of Development Services; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Alex McPhee, Director of Finance; Iain McLachlan, Director of Personnel Services; Barbara Haughan, Director of Support Services; Alan Y McDougall, Depute Director of Social Work; Tom McHugh, Head of Accounting Services; Roddy Wallace, Head of Administration; Douglas Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing; Ian Arnott, Corporate Accounting Manager; David Mitchell, Principal Solicitor; and Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Irene Reeves, Provost Robert Stirling and Councillors Daniel Coffey, David Fulton, Kim Nicoll, George Turnbull and Tommy Farrell.

CHAIR: Councillor David Sneller, Chair.

**DRAFT ESTIMATES 1999/2000 - POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
BUDGETS - SAVINGS AND GROWTH PROPOSALS**

1. There was submitted a report dated 24 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which recommended savings and growth proposals to align service delivery plans in respect of Central Service Departments with the final financial allocations for 1999/2000 taking into account the views and comments made during the Council's public consultation exercise.

In respect of the appendices to the report there was also submitted additional information on cuts in respect of across the Council action, Support Services and Miscellaneous Services and a substitute page in respect of page 2 of the appendix which included details of Finance Department growth.

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved:

- (i) to recommend to Council the savings and growth proposals detailed in the appendix to the report including the additional information issued on 2 March 1999; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Councillor McDill, seconded by Councillor Hall, moved as an amendment to note the savings and growth proposals and continue consideration of the whole matter to the Special Meeting of Council to be held on Thursday 4 March 1999.

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

DRAFT ESTIMATES 1999/2000 - REPORTS FROM SERVICE COMMITTEES

2. There was submitted a report dated 23 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which advised Committee of the decisions taken by the Service Committees when considering the financial allocation remitted to them by the Special Policy and Resources Committee of 19 February 1999 and of their recommended savings and growth to align their Services with these allocations taking into account the views and comments made during the Councils' consultation exercise.

In respect of the appendices to the report there was also submitted a substitute page in respect of Appendix 4 which included details of Community Services Department growth and a substitute page in respect of Appendix 5 which included details of Education Department growth.

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved:

- (i) to note that all Service Committees had met and aligned service delivery plans with the final allocations for 1999/2000 remitted by Special Policy and Resources Committee held on 19 February 1999;
- (ii) to recommend to Council adoption of the savings and growth packages as detailed in Appendices I to V which accompanied the report and the substitute appendices issued on 2 March 1999;
- (iii) to recommend to Council that in respect of the substitute Appendix 5 in relation to Education Department that the growth for the Childcare Strategy be reduced from £250,000 to £242,500 and the balance of £7,500 be used to reduce the proposed increase in school meal charges resulting in a charge of £1.25; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Councillor McDill, seconded by Councillor Hay moved as an amendment:

- (i) to note that all Service Committees had met and aligned service delivery plans with the final allocations for 1999/2000 remitted by the Special Policy and Resources Committee held on 19 February 1999;
- (ii) to continue for consideration at the Special Council meeting to be held on 4 March 1999, the savings and growth packages as detailed in Appendices I to V of the report and the supplementary appendices issued on 2 March 1999; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

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

GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE ESTIMATES 1999/2000 - SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX

3. There was submitted a report dated 26 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which requested that Committee agree overall budget proposals including the measures proposed by Service Committees and to recommend to Council the level at which Council Tax Band 'D' should be set for the financial year 1999/2000.

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved:

- (i) to recommend to Council to approve the Departmental resource allocation for 1999/2000 as shown below with the £0.449m of management savings not being allocated to individual departments at this time and the position being reviewed during the financial year as savings arising from Departmental restructuring become further clarified;

Department	Departmental Resources Allocations
	£m
Education	62.305
Social Work	23.310
Community Services	35.118
Development Services	9.363
General Fund Housing	0.557
Chief Executives	0.646
Finance	2.508
Personnel	0.490
Democratic Process	0.435
Support Services	5.843
Miscellaneous Services	2.566
Housing and Council Tax Benefit	1.794
Common Police Services	0.125
Community Alarms	0.343
Other Specific Budget Items	(3.328)
Debt Charges	12.837
Urban Aid	0.063
Unallocated	0.680
Total Expenditure	155.655

- (ii) to recommend to Council to reduce the proposed allocation of £0.500m for contingencies to an allocation of £0.270m for contingencies arising in 1999/2000 and that the balance be used to limit the percentage increase in Council Tax to 3.63% and declare a Council Tax band 'D' equivalent of £848.70 for 1999/2000; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Councillor McDill, seconded by Councillor Hall moved as an amendment to note and continue consideration of the recommendations contained in the report to the Special Council Meeting to be held on 4 March 1999.

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

THE COMMISSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT - CONSULTATION PAPER NO 2

4. There was submitted a report dated 19 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which requested approval of a response based on Officers' comments to the Commission on Local Government and the Scottish Parliament's second consultation paper which allowed Members an opportunity to input their views into the proposed response.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the proposed response to the Local Government and Scottish Parliament's second consultation paper as detailed in Appendix II of the report;
- (ii) that it be remitted to the Director of Support Services to forward the Council's response to the Commission; and
- (iii) to note that political groups or individual Members who wished to make representations could forward them directly to the Commission or submit their views to the Director of Support Services who would forward them on their behalf to the Commission.

**CoSLA, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT:
A CONSULTATION PAPER**

5. There was submitted a report dated 25 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which requested agreement of a suitable approach to respond to the consultation paper on CoSLA, Local Government and the Scottish Parliament.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the Council express support for the continuing role of CoSLA as outlined in para 4.1 of the report;
- (ii) that the conclusions of the focus group as detailed in Appendix II of the report be submitted as East Ayrshire Council's response to the consultation document;
- (iii) that the Council's response to the Commission on Local Government and the Scottish Parliament's Consultation Paper No 2 be forwarded to CoSLA to allow them to consider areas of common interest with their own consultation paper;
- (iv) that both political groups be invited to submit their own responses to the Consultation Paper on CoSLA, Local Government and the Scottish Parliament if so desired; and
- (v) to note that individual Members would have an opportunity to complete a questionnaire designed to supplement CoSLA's consultation document.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

6. 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 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

REVIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL STRUCTURES (Item 4, Page 4246)

7. There was submitted a report dated 22 February 1999 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which provided Committee with a final report on the implementation of the approved restructuring of the Council's Services and Departments.

It was agreed to recommend to Council:

- C (i) to approve the proposed staffing structure amendments for the Homes and Technical Services Department as detailed in paragraphs 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 of the report; C
- C (ii) to approve the proposed staffing structure amendments for the Roads Contracts function of Development Services Department as detailed in paragraph 3.1.3 of the report; C
- C (iii) to approve the amendments to the Chief Officer structure as detailed in paragraph 3.4.3 of the report; and C
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1420 hrs.