

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**HOUSING COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 31 October 1995 at 10.00am in the Meeting Room, London Road Centre, Kilmarnock**

**PRESENT:** Councillors J Kelly (Chair), A Campbell, J Carmichael, G Cree, J Darnbrough, W Doyle, D Fulton, J Knapp, D Macrae, G McCredie, A McIntyre, K Nicoll, D Reid, D Sneller and R Taylor.

**ATTENDING:** J Hillis, Director of Housing; C McAleavey, Senior Depute Director of Housing; J Maitland, Depute Director of Housing; A McKnight, Depute Director of Housing; D Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing and D McVicar, Chief Executive's Department.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors T Farrell, R McDill, G Smith, J Smith and R Stirling.

**1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE OF 19 SEPTEMBER 1995**

The minutes of the Housing Committee of 19 September 1995 (issued) were submitted and noted.

**2. POSTS OF THE DEPUTE DIRECTORS OF HOUSING**

There was submitted a report (issued) by the Director of Housing advising the Committee of the appointments of the three Depute Directors of Housing.

After the Chair introduced the Depute Directors, the Committee agreed to note the report.

**3. SCOTTISH HOUSE CONDITION SURVEY 1996**

There was submitted a report (issued) by the Director of Housing bringing the Committee's attention to the correspondence received from CoSLA about the decision of the Scottish Office to undertake a Scottish House Condition Survey in 1996.

After hearing the Director in explanation, the Committee agreed:

- (a) to accept CoSLA's recommendation;
- (b) to assist with the National House Condition Survey 1996; and
- (c) that the Director of Housing advising CoSLA accordingly.

**4. ALLOCATION - ISSUES FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION**

There was submitted a report (issued) by the Director of Housing reporting back on various minor policy changes required to facilitate Kilmarnock and Loudoun and Cumnock and Doon Valley District Councils' letting policy.

The Director explained that the Housing Committee of 9 August 1995 agreed to operate on the basis of two local letting policies. In essence these policies would be the existing allocation policies for Kilmarnock and Loudoun and Cumnock and Doon Valley District Councils.

After the Director explained the issues to be considered, the Committee agreed that:

- (a) applicants with rent arrears or other debts to the Council are not accepted on to either the transfer or waiting list until the debt is cleared;
- (b) applicants previously evicted from Council dwellings are not considered for re-housing for five years from the date of eviction;
- (c) where two offers of housing are refused within a period of six months, the applicant is automatically suspended for one year and that no waiting period points will accrue during this period. This would apply to all categories of applicants and there would be a right of appeal to the Appeals Sub-Committee within fourteen days;
- (d) the Social Work Department be involved in the assessment of applicants for sheltered housing;
- (e) in relation to choice of areas, the status quo be maintained. In the case of applicants applying under both policies, full elements of choice will be afforded under each policy;
- (f) penalties for deliberately worsening housing conditions be extended to include all tenures. Such application will be cancelled with the right of appeal within fourteen days to the Appeals Sub-Committee;
- (g) applicants who make false or misleading statements have their applications cancelled; and
- (h) applicants would have the right of appeal due to extenuating circumstances.

## **5. DECENTRALISATION - HOUSING SERVICES**

There was submitted a report (issued) by the Director of Housing setting out some ways in which the housing service functions can be decentralised and explaining the current position and the opportunity for further decentralisation.

After the Director explained that there would be room for flexibility within the initial proposals, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and approve the initial proposals for the decentralisation of the housing service.