

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER 1999 AT
1000 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Katie Hall, Stephanie Young, Daniel Coffey, Douglas Reid, John Weir, David Macrae, Harry Wilson, Jane Darnbrough, John Knapp, Finlay MacLean, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, Tommy Farrell, Provost Boyd and Councillors Eric Ross, Elaine Dinwoodie and Robert Taylor.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; William Stafford, Director of Community Services; Barbara Haughan, Director of Corporate Services; Alex McPhee, Director of Finance; James Lavery, Director of Homes and Technical Services; Kate McVey, Solicitor to the Council; B Docherty, Senior Depute Director of Social Work; Roddy Wallace, Head of Administration; Iain MacMillan, Head of Exchequer Services; Malcolm Roulston, Head of Information Technology; Martin O'Rourke, Principal Officer; Graham Kerr, Publicity Officer; and Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Alan Campbell and Jimmy Kelly.

CHAIR: Councillor Drew McIntyre, Chair.

**PRESENTATION BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE
AUTHORITIES BUYING CONSORTIUM**

1. The Committee received a presentation from Ronnie McLean, Director, Authorities Buying Consortium on the background, aims and objectives of the Authorities Buying Consortium.

Members then asked questions of Mr McLean.

The Chair then thanked Mr McLean for his presentation.

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

2. There were submitted and approved both as correct records and in respect of any recommendations contained therein, the undernoted Sub-Committee Minutes as contained within Appendices I to VI of these Minutes.
 - 2.1 **APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE OF 13 SEPTEMBER 1999 - Appendix I.**
 - 2.2 **CHAIR'S SUB-COMMITTEE OF 28 SEPTEMBER 1999 - Appendix II.**
 - 2.3 **BEST VALUE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 29 SEPTEMBER 1999 - Appendix III.**
 - 2.4 **PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY SUB-COMMITTEE OF 5 OCTOBER 1999 - Appendix IV.**
 - 2.5 **RECRUITMENT SUB-COMMITTEE OF 5 OCTOBER 1999 - Appendix V.**
 - 2.6 **MEMBERS SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF 6 OCTOBER 1999 - Appendix VI.**

BUDGET MONITORING GROUP

3. There were submitted and noted the Minutes of the Budget Monitoring Group held on 29 September 1999 (circulated).

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENTS TO 27 AUGUST 1999 (PERIOD 5)

4. There were submitted and noted the undernoted reports (circulated) on the current budgetary control position and projected out-turn for the period ended 27 August 1999 (Period 5), viz:-
- 4.1 **POLICY AND RESOURCES (CENTRAL SERVICES)** - Report by Director of Finance dated 5 October 1999.
- 4.2 **POLICY AND RESOURCES (CORPORATE SERVICES)** - Joint report by Directors of Finance and of Corporate Services dated 5 October 1999.

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE ACCOUNT - SUMMARY STATEMENT TO 27 AUGUST 1999 (PERIOD 5)

5. There was submitted a report dated 5 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Finance on the current budgetary control position of the General Services Revenue Account for the period ended 27 August 1999 (Period 5).

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved

- (i) that Directors continue to take all necessary management action to control expenditure within budget without cutting across existing Council policies within which services operate; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

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

- (i) that Directors continue to take all necessary management action to control expenditure within budget without cutting across existing Council policies and services subject to a more detailed report being submitted showing a nil impact on services and Departments; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 10 votes to 8.

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT TO 27 AUGUST 1999 (PERIOD 5)

6. There was submitted and noted a joint report (circulated) by the Directors of Finance and of Homes and Technical Services on the current budgetary control position for the Housing Revenue Account to 27 August 1999 (Period 5).

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON REVENUE COLLECTION

7. There was submitted and noted a report dated 5 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Finance on the position of the Council with regard to billing and collection of local taxes as at 30 September 1999.

**POLITICAL LEADERSHIP STRUCTURES/ALTERNATIVES TO THE
COMMITTEE SYSTEM**

8. There was submitted a report dated 5 October 1999 (circulated) by the Solicitor to the Council on the need to carry out a review of its leadership and decision making processes following the McIntosh Report and which invited Members to set up a Member/Officer Working Group to evaluate the existing structure and to consider the options for improvement.

It was agreed:

- (i) to constitute a Member/Officer Working Group on implementation of the requirement to carry out a review of its leadership and decision making processes to (a) examine the Scottish Executive recommendations for a review in an East Ayrshire context; (b) to review the Council's current Committee structures and decision making processes identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the present arrangements; and (c) for the Working Group to report back to this Committee with recommendations on the most appropriate model of government for East Ayrshire Council and a decision making structure best suited to the needs of the people of East Ayrshire; and
- (ii) that the Working Group consist of seven Members (four Administration, three Opposition) and that names for the Member/Officer Working Group be remitted to Council.

**PROPOSALS FOR A NEW CORPORATE PLANNING
PROCESS (Item 17, Page 1415, 96/99)**

9. There was submitted a report dated 12 October 1999 (circulated) by the Chief Executive on the proposed arrangements for a new corporate planning process taking into account current Council initiatives and the requirements of community planning.

It was agreed:

- (i) to the proposed arrangements contained within the report for a new corporate planning process;
- (ii) that the Chief Executive make arrangements for a seminar for Elected Members to focus on the principal priorities to be contained within the Council Plan;
- (iii) that the Council Plan be submitted to the December meeting of the Council; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

**STATUTORY REPORT 99/6: 1998/99 OVERVIEW OF DLOs AND DSOs
IN SCOTLAND (Item 4, Page 3904, 96/99)**

10. There was submitted a report dated 6 October 1999 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which (i) advised the Committee of the receipt of the final report by the Controller of Audit in respect of the Accounts Commission's 1998/99 Overview of DLOs and DSOs in Scotland; (ii) informed the Committee of the main issues highlighted within the report; and (iii) advised of action taken by the Council in addressing these areas.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the receipt of the final report by the Controller of Audit on the overview of DLOs and DSOs in Scotland;
- (ii) to note that in the course of the review of all the Council's commercial services the issues raised by the Controller of Audit in his earlier review of the financial and management arrangements within DLOs and DSOs had been and continued to be tackled in a systematic and rigorous fashion;
- (iii) to note the progress made by the Council in progressing the issues raised by the Controller of Audit since his earlier review of the financial and management arrangements for DLO and DSOs;
- (iv) to provide the Controller of Audit with a copy of this report in order to highlight the continuing priority given to these issues by this Council;
- (v) to note that once available the Accounts Commission's publication on Performance Management Information for Council's Contracted Units would be used to ensure that its findings were incorporated into the operation of all the Council's DLOs/DSOs wherever best practice was not already being followed; and
- (vi) otherwise to note the terms of this report.

**STATUS REPORT ON PROGRESS WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RELATED YEAR 2000 ISSUES (Item 11, Page 110, 99/02)**

11. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 7 October 1999 (circulated) by the Directors of Corporate Services, of Homes and Technical Services and of Community Services which provided Members with an updated progress report on work being undertaken to address the potential effect the change of Millennium may have on the Council's IT systems, non-IT equipment and external liaison issues.

AWARDING OF TENDERS

12. There was submitted and noted a report dated 30 September 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Corporate Services which provided, for information, details of tenders which had been awarded.

**INCREASED REPRESENTATION BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON THE
IRVINE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE (item 4, Page 370, 99/02)**

13. There was submitted a report dated 11 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Corporate Services reporting that the Irvine Valley Local Committee had requested relaxation of the maximum numbers of 10 Community Representatives permitted to serve on the Local Committee to allow separate representation from Crookedholm Community Association.

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved:

- (i) that status quo remain meantime; and
- (ii) consideration of Local Committee structures and operations be referred to the Member/Officer Group established under item 8, which would also be able to take into account any outcomes from the forthcoming Annual Seminar for Community Representatives.

Councillor Macrae, seconded by Councillor Wilson, moved as an amendment to grant the request to increase the representation on the Irvine Valley Local Committee to allow separate representation from Crookedholm Community Association.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 10 votes to 8.

LOCAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

14. There was submitted a report dated 12 October 1999 (circulated) by the Chief Executive on the outcome of the agreed Local Performance Indicators for Central Service Departments.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the outcome of the Local Performance Indicators as detailed in the Appendices to the report;
- (ii) to note that further reports would be presented to future meetings of this Committee according to the previously agreed reporting timescales; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Item 13, page 301, 99/02)

15. There was submitted and noted a report dated 7 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Finance on the Finance Department's performance in relation to Statutory Performance Indicators for the period 1 April 1998 to 31 March 1999.

ZERO TOLERANCE GROUP (Item 5, Page 2065, 96/99)

16. There was submitted a report dated 11 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work (i) on information on the progress of the Zero Tolerance Campaign within East Ayrshire; (ii) which sought approval for continued affiliation to the Zero Tolerance Charitable Trust; and (iii) which sought additional resources for the year 1999/2000.

It was agreed:

- (i) to continue to support both the Zero Tolerance Charitable Trust and East Ayrshire's Zero Tolerance Group;
- (ii) to pay the affiliation costs for 1999/2000 affiliation to the Zero Tolerance Trust of £4,160;
- (iii) to make available £1,000 to East Ayrshire Zero Tolerance Group for 1999/2000 to support campaign activity;
- (iv) to request the Zero Tolerance Group to bring information to a future Committee meeting on the breakdown of the Respect Campaign figures relating to the views of the young people in East Ayrshire; and
- (v) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM BILL

17. There was submitted a report dated 5 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the implications of the Immigration and Asylum Bill for Local Authorities in Scotland and which sought Committee approval for an East Ayrshire Council position in relation to the planned changes.

It was agreed:

- (i) to support CoSLA's move to facilitate arrangements which might lead to a consortium bid to accommodate asylum seekers in Scotland;
- (ii) that East Ayrshire Council does not meantime become a partner in the proposed Scottish Consortium to accommodate asylum seekers with developments continuing to be monitored; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1110 hrs.