

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 29 June 1995 at 3pm in the Council Offices, Civic Centre, Kilmarnock

- PRESENT:** Councillors R Beattie, J Boyd, R Brailsford, A Campbell, J Carmichael, G Cree, J Darnbrough, W Doyle, T Farrell, D Fulton, J Kelly, J Knapp, G McCredie, R McDill, D Macrae, A McIntyre, K Nicoll, J O'Neill, I Reeves, D Reid, G Smith, D Sneller, R Stirling, R Taylor and G Turnbull.
- ATTENDING:** D Montgomery, Chief Executive; G Clark, Director of Finance; J Dickie, Director of Social Work; J Hillis, Director of Housing; I McLachlan, Director of Personnel; C Johnston, Interim Finance Officer; D Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing; R McLeary, Head of Property; B Stafford, District Environmental Health Officer (CDVDC); A M Carr, A Fairbairn and G Fraser, Chief Executive's Department.
- CHAIR:** Councillor Stirling, Convener, in the Chair.

1. REMARKS BY CONVENER

Councillor Stirling welcomed members to the meeting of East Ayrshire Council.

The Convener advised members that the Council's best wishes had been conveyed to Councillor John Smith and Councillor Daniel Coffey, both of whom had recently been hospitalised.

2. SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES

The sederunt was taken and apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors D Coffey, K Hall, E Jackson, E Ross and J Smith.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 May 1995 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. SENIOR OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

It was reported by the Chief Executive that appointments to the following Senior Officer posts had been completed and the officers were introduced to the members of Council with the exception of Mr John Mulgrew, who was unable to attend the meeting due to a previous commitment concerning the provision of educational advice in South Africa.

New Officers

Gordon Clark, Director of Finance

James Dickie, Director of Social Work

John Hillis, Director of Housing

John Mulgrew, Director of Education

Iain McLachlan, Director of Personnel

Robert McLeary, Head of Property

Douglas Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing

The Convener then extended congratulations on behalf of the Council to the new officers.

5. MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF 27 JUNE 1995

Councillor Sneller, leader of the Council, extended his thanks to elected members and interim support staff for working under pressure during a difficult initial period and for members' co-operation regarding the alterations to the dates and times of meetings which were required to be made at relatively short notice.

By way of amendment to the report on the setting up of a support unit, approved at item 4(d) in the Policy and Resources Committee minute, Chief Executive requested that given the previously unexpected early increase in the level of work likely to be generated at the London Road Centre by the newly commissioned telephone switchboard and its expanded network, an additional two GS2 posts be established within the interim support unit structure as detailed in Annex D to the Policy and Resources minutes.

In relation to Item 4(a) of the Policy and Resources minutes - Proposed Committee Structures from August 1995 - Councillor Reid requested, there having been no seconder for his proposal to increase the membership of the Development Committee from 15 members to 20 members, that his dissent be recorded.

It was agreed that:-

- (i) an additional two GS2 posts be established within the interim support unit structure as detailed in Annex D to the Policy and Resources Committee minutes of 27 June 1995;
- (ii) Councillor Reid's dissent be recorded regarding the size of the Development Committee, and
- (iii) otherwise, the minute be approved.

6. PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE

It was reported by the Leader of the Council that the public consultation exercise across the Council's area would be completed that evening, with the response to this exercise having been very good to date. It was reaffirmed that the Council was committed to a decentralised structure and would continue to carry this process forward by way of further public consultation in due course.

An interim progress report by the Chief Executive regarding the community consultation exercise had been circulated. A further paper would be presented once all public responses had been received by the end of the consultation period, 31 August 1995. It was agreed to note the contents of the report.

7. NEW COMMITTEE STRUCTURES

(a) APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS

There was submitted a report setting out proposed arrangements for elected member involvement in the Council's new Committee structure.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that elected members be appointed to serve as Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees as detailed below; and
- (ii) that the membership of each Committee be as listed below, with the names of nominees from the opposition group to be submitted to the Chief Executive by 24 July 1995.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE (20 members)

David Sneller (Chair)
Andrew McIntyre (Vice Chair)
Irene Reeves
Wilma Doyle
Robert Stirling
Jane Darnbrough
James O'Neill
Robert Beattie
David Fulton
George Turnbull
Eric Ross
James Kelly
James Boyd
Thomas Farrell
Eric Jackson
Plus 5 opposition members

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE (20 members)

James Boyd (Chair)
Jane Darnbrough (Vice Chair)
Andrew McIntyre
Irene Reeves
Gordon Cree
Wilma Doyle
James O'Neill
Robert Beattie
David Macrae
Eric Ross
James Kelly
David Sneller
John Smith
Thomas Farrell
Eric Jackson
Plus 5 opposition members

HOUSING COMMITTEE(20 members)

James Kelly (Chair)
David Macrae (Vice Chair)
Andrew McIntyre
Gordon Cree
Wilma Doyle
Robert Stirling
Jane Darnbrough
John Knapp
David Fulton

David Sneller
 George Smith
 James Carmichael
 Robert Taylor
 John Smith
 Thomas Farrell
 Plus 5 opposition members

EDUCATION COMMITTEE (20 members)

Thomas Farrell (Chair)
 Robert Taylor (Vice Chair)
 Andrew McIntyre
 Irene Reeves
 Gordon Cree
 Robert Stirling
 John Knapp
 David Fulton
 David Macrae
 George Turnbull
 Eric Ross
 David Sneller
 George Smith
 James Carmichael
 Eric Jackson
 Plus 5 opposition members

COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS (13 members)

James O'Neill (Chair)
 James Carmichael (Vice Chair)
 Andrew McIntyre
 John Knapp
 Robert Stirling
 David Sneller
 Robert Taylor
 John Smith
 Thomas Farrell
 Eric Jackson
 Plus 3 opposition members

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE (15 members)

Robert Beattie (Chair)
 John Smith (Vice Chair)
 Andrew McIntyre
 Jane Darnbrough
 Gordon Cree
 David Macrae
 David Sneller
 George Smith
 James Carmichael
 Robert Taylor
 Thomas Farrell
 Plus 4 opposition members

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (15 members)

George Turnbull (Chair)
 Eric Ross (Vice Chair)
 Andrew McIntyre
 Irene Reeves
 Wilma Doyle
 John Knapp
 David Fulton
 David Sneller
 James Boyd
 George Smith
 Thomas Farrell
 Plus 4 opposition members

(b) INITIAL TIMETABLE FOR COMMITTEES

There was submitted report by the Chief Executive proposing a Committee timetable with effect from August 1995.

It was agreed that:-

- (i) the undernoted dates and times for Committee meetings covering the first three cycles be approved:-

-	Tuesday 8 August	2.00pm	Community Services
-	Wednesday 9 August	2.00pm	Housing
-	Thursday 10 August	10.00am	Education
-	Wednesday 16 August	10.00am	Social Work
-	Thursday 17 August	10.00am	Development Services
-	Thursday 22 August	10.00am	Commercial Operations
-	Thursday 24 August	10.00am	Policy and Resources
-	Wednesday 6 September	10.00am	Council
-	Thursday 14 September	2.00pm	Social Work
-	Tuesday 19 September	2.00pm	Housing
-	Thursday 21 September	10.00am	Education
-	Tuesday 26 September	2.00pm	Community Services
-	Thursday 28 September	2.00pm	Development Services
-	Tuesday 3 October	10.00am	Commercial Operations
-	Thursday 5 October	10.00am	Policy and Resources
-	Wednesday 18 October	10.00am	Council
-	Wednesday 25 October	10.00am	Social Work
-	Tuesday 31 October	10.00am	Housing
-	Thursday 2 November	10.00am	Education
-	Tuesday 7 November	2.00pm	Community Services
-	Thursday 9 November	2.00pm	Development Services
-	Tuesday 14 November	10.00am	Commercial Operations
-	Thursday 16 November	10.00am	Policy and Resources
-	Tuesday 28 November	10.00am	Council

Councillor McCredie moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that all full meetings of East Ayrshire Council be held in the evening.

On a division by a show of hands the motion defeated the amendment by 19 votes to 6.

- (ii) that members note for information that special meetings of the Policy and Resources Committee could be called during August should circumstances warrant this.

8. RECRUITMENT AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

There were submitted and approved as a correct record minutes of meeting of the Recruitment and Personnel Committee held on 27 June 1995 subject to Councillor Coffey's apologies being recorded.

9. REMIT FROM JOINT SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE OF 13 JUNE 1995

(a) POLICE AMALGAMATION SCHEME AND FIRE SERVICE ADMINISTRATION SCHEME

There was submitted and approved a response from East Ayrshire Council for transmission to the Secretary of State.

(b) STRUCTURE PLANNING

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive on proposals for new Structure Plan areas. The contents were approved for transmission to the Secretary of State as the Council's response to this consultation exercise.

10. REMIT FROM AGGREGATED SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE OF 9 JUNE 1995 SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY (SEPA)

There was submitted a joint report by the Depute Director of Cleansing and Environmental Health (KLDC) and District Environmental Health Officer (CDVDC) setting out a number of implications for local authorities arising from the setting up of a Scottish Environment Protection Agency by the Secretary of State.

Having heard the District Environmental Health Officer, it was agreed that it be remitted to the Chief Executive to send a copy of the report to CoSLA underlining further the Council's concern regarding the establishment of a Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

11. MEETING OF NEW COUNCIL LEADERS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVES - ISSUES ARISING

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive which set out a number of issues which had emerged from meetings attended by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive, some of which had already been discussed by Sub-Committees of the Reorganisation Committee of East Ayrshire Council.

(a) STRATHCLYDE LIAISON COMMITTEE

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the terms of reference of the Strathclyde Liaison Committee as detailed in Appendix I to these minutes; and
- (ii) that the Leader of the Council, or his substitute as necessary, be East Ayrshire Council's representative on the Committee.

(b) CATERING SERVICES

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Council support, in principle, the retention of Catering Direct in its present form, with the possibility of a merging-in of current District Council catering operations, on a joint basis with other authorities subject to there being put in place arrangements involving East Ayrshire which would ensure political control of the service;
- (ii) that, in the event of an insufficient number of other authorities supporting this proposal, the Council agree to the promotion of machinery whereby the benefits of Catering Direct's bulk purchasing unit can continue to be made available to Strathclyde's successor authorities acting co-operatively.

(c) EUROPEAN ISSUES

It was agreed that the Council express support in principle, for the establishment of a Scotland West Economic Forum which would assist the Council in its programme for promoting growth and jobs and in securing European Union funds.

(d) JOINT BOARD SERVICING

It was agreed that the Council support in principle, the establishment of a joint independent secretariat to support the Police, Fire and Passenger Transport Joint Boards.

(e) EDUCATION

It was agreed to note the current position detailed in the report in relation to the total number of surplus primary and secondary school places within Strathclyde generally and in the area of East Ayrshire.

(f) ESTABLISHMENT OF A PURCHASING CONSORTIUM

It was agreed that the Council support in principle, the establishment of a West of Scotland Purchasing Consortium acting under political control and seeking to secure staff expertise which would allow the benefits of block purchasing to be extended to cover the needs of the widest possible range of services, including all DLO/DSO services.

(g) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

It was agreed that the Council support the formation of a transition group, under joint political oversight, to facilitate the disaggregation of Regional Council distributed IT systems, if possible by 31 March 1997 at the latest.

(h) STAFF TRANSFER

It was agreed that no objection be made to the proposal to conduct a survey of certain categories of staff to identify personnel willing to leave the service by 31 March 1996 on the basis of a severance package to be funded by SRC.

12. LIAISON WITH TRADE UNIONS

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive which advised the Council of the preliminary meeting which had been held with Trade Union representatives and of a further communication from CoSLA regarding transitional arrangements.

It was also reported that efforts were being made to ensure that the staff transfer list for East Ayrshire Council identified not only numbers or grades of posts of staff transferring to East Ayrshire but also an indication of the skills mix.

It was agreed that a group of elected members be established to initiate formal liaison procedures with appropriate trade unions in respect of local government reorganisation issues and staff transfer arrangements, comprising the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commercial Operations Committee, the Chair of the Education Committee, the Leader and Depute Leader of East Ayrshire Council and one member from the minority group to be notified to the Chief Executive by 24 July 1995.

STRATHCLYDE WIDE LIAISON COMMITTEE**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Liaison Committee of representatives of the authorities within Strathclyde Region will be the main vehicle for the consideration of issues of joint interest or common application to the new Councils for which corporate agreement is required.