

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPECIAL AD HOC COMMERCIAL STRATEGY  
REVIEW COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 7 JULY 1998 AT 1400 HRS  
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,  
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Sneller, Drew McIntyre, Gordon Cree and Jane Darnbrough.

**ATTENDING:** David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; William Taylor, Acting Director of Commercial Operations; Alex McPhee, Acting Director of Finance; John Hillis, Director of Housing; Barbara Haughan, Director of Support Services; Graham Haugh, Depute Director of Personnel Services; Kate McVey, Head of Legal Services; Martin O'Rourke, Senior Planning Officer; and Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors David Macrae, Tommy Farrell and Eric Jackson.

**CHAIR:** Councillor David Sneller, Chair.

**MONITORING AND REVIEW OF PROGRESS: TIMETABLE**

1. There was submitted a report dated 3 July 1998 (circulated) by the Chief Executive on the anticipated timetable for the submission of reports to future meetings of this Committee on the range of issues which had been identified to date in relation to the current situation within the Commercial Operations Department.

It was agreed:

- (i) to the timetable for the submission of further reports on the issues and actions set out in Appendix 1 of the report for consideration at future meetings of this Committee;
- (ii) to note that this would form the basis of a programme of action which would assist in ensuring that the commitments made in resolving the current situation in the Commercial Operations Department were closely controlled, monitored and reviewed;
- (iii) to note further that this timetable of action would be subject to ongoing review and that it would be updated and reported to Committee on an ongoing basis; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

2. 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 items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Schedule 7A of the Act as shown against each item.

**NOTE OF MEETING WITH TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING  
SPECIAL AD HOC COMMERCIAL STRATEGY REVIEW COMMITTEE (PARA 11)**

3. There were submitted and noted Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 1 July 1998 at 1300 hrs (circulated).

**REVIEW OF DSOs - GROUNDS MAINTENANCE (PARA 6)**

4. There was submitted a report dated 3 July 1998 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which provided the Committee with the current status position with regard to the progress being made in defining the issues needing to be addressed in the Grounds Maintenance DSO.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the current position with regard to the progress being made in defining the issues needing to be addressed on the Grounds Maintenance DSO;
- (ii) to note that further detailed work on these issues was being undertaken and that a comprehensive report including bonus arrangements, would be brought to the Committee meeting on 13 July 1998; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

**CoSLA CONSULTANCY AND STAFF SUPPORT (PARA 6)**

5. There was submitted a report dated 3 July 1998 (circulated) by the Chief Executive to submit the preliminary assessment of the External Consultant of the key issues and measures required to address the systems and management problems associated with the DLO/DSO deficits.

The Chief Executive outlined the arrangements the Scottish Office had made with regard to consultancy services.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the preliminary assessment provided by the CoSLA Consultancy and the steps taken to fill approved new permanent or long-term temporary posts;
- (ii) to endorse the securing of further short-term temporary accounting assistance as indicated in paragraph 4.1 of the report;
- (iii) that the services of the CoSLA Consultancy be retained (1) to provide support to the existing Finance Directorate team in the short term; (2) to bring forward proposals in respect of those issues identified in Sections 3 and 4 of the report; and (3) to act as a source of independent advice to the Council;
- (iv) to authorise the Chief Executive to negotiate an appropriate rate of payment and to engage as necessary further services from the CoSLA Consultancy on the basis of three days a week of consulting time in the first instance;
- (v) that reports from the Consultants on progress made and action taken would be submitted to Committee by the end of July; and
- (vi) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1440 hrs.