

**MINUTE**  
**of**  
**CABINET**

**Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 13 November 2014.**

**Present:**

Councillor Jim Fletcher (Leader)	Councillor Ian McAlpine
Councillor Tony Buchanan (Deputy Leader)	Councillor Mary Montague
Councillor Danny Devlin	Councillor Vincent Waters
Councillor Elaine Green	

Councillor Fletcher, Leader, in the Chair

**Attending:**

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education; Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Jim Sneddon, Head of Democratic and Partnership Services; Iain MacLean, Head of Environment (Planning, Property and Regeneration); Suzanne Conlin, Senior Housing Officer; and Paul O'Neil, Committee Services Officer.

**Apology:**

Councillor Alan Lafferty.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1277.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**Variation in Order of Business**

In accordance with the terms of Standing Order 19, the Leader altered the order of business to facilitate the conduct of the meeting.

**ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2013/14**

**1278.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive, regarding the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014.

The report explained that the Council had received an unqualified audit report from the External Auditors which demonstrated the continuing excellent financial performance of the Council, with an overall surplus for the financial year of £1.385 million being recorded in the accounts. Transfers totalling £5.3 million were made from the General Fund balance to

specific reserves. These included £4million to the Capital Reserve, £1million to the Modernisation Fund and £300,000 to the Insurance Fund.

Whilst noting that capital expenditure of £21.54 million had been invested in the Council's General Services and Housing Capital Programmes, the report also highlighted that an operating deficit of £415,000 on the Housing Revenue Account had been incurred, this reducing the accumulated surplus balance to carry forward to £507,000.

The Cabinet agreed to **recommend to the Council** that the Annual Accounts for 2013/14 be approved.

### **INTERIM TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR 2014/15**

**1279.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive, providing details of the Treasury Management activities for the first 6 months of 2014/15 and seeking approval of the current list of organisations for the investment of surplus funds, a copy of which was appended to the report.

Whilst noting that the treasury management policy statement required the Chief Financial Officer to report every 6 months on the activities of the Treasury Management operation, the report explained that in line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2011, the Cabinet was responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of treasury management activities and the submission of the Treasury Management report to the Cabinet was in accordance with this requirement.

The Cabinet agreed to:-

- (a) note the interim Treasury Management report for 2014/15; and
- (b) **recommend to the Council** that the organisations listed in the report for investment of surplus funds be approved.

### **GIFT OF GYM EQUIPMENT TO TUVALU**

**1280.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Education, seeking approval for the gift of gym equipment from the Action Zone gym in the Eastwood Leisure Centre to the Commonwealth country of Tuvalu.

The report explained that the proposal to gift gym equipment to the small nation of Tuvalu presented the opportunity to continue the values of the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and build on the legacy of those Games. In addition, it presented the opportunity to support the development of a very small Commonwealth nation and had the potential to develop links further, including with East Renfrewshire schools. It was noted that the Australian High Commission had agreed to meet the associated shipping costs.

The Cabinet approved that the gym equipment scheduled to be replaced in Eastwood Leisure Centre Action Zone be gifted to the Commonwealth country of Tuvalu to enable the creation of a gym on the largest island of Funafuti.

## **COUNCIL HOUSE RENT POLICY AND HARMONISATION**

**1281.** Under reference to the Minute of the Meeting of 5 December 2013 (Page 802, Item 845 refers), when it was agreed amongst other things to approve a delay in the introduction in rent harmonisation for a period of one year until April 2015 to allow further work to be undertaken, the Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, seeking approval of changes to the previously agreed proposals and timescales for the introduction of rent harmonisation.

The report provided background information on the proposal, explained the reasons why there were wide variations in the rents paid by tenants occupying similar house types in East Renfrewshire and the factors taken into account in delaying the introduction of rent harmonisation. These included amongst other things the fact that should harmonisation proceed it would be implemented at the same time as the government's welfare reform changes were being introduced.

Given the issues highlighted in the report, it was noted that a re-assessment had been undertaken as to whether harmonisation remained appropriate at this time. Furthermore, details of the practical problems that would be created should rents be harmonised at this time were also outlined in the report.

The report indicated that in order to mitigate the risks outlined it was proposed that any proposals to harmonise rents be deferred until the welfare benefit implications of devolution were known and until agreement could be obtained as to what would be seen as being a fair policy of harmonisation.

The Cabinet approved a delay in the introduction of rent harmonisation pending a re-assessment of whether harmonisation was deemed to be appropriate.

## **EAST RENFREWSHIRE GOOD CAUSES CHARITY**

**1282.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive, requesting that consideration be given to a request by East Renfrewshire Good Causes Charity for annual financial support of £10,000 to support its administrative requirements.

Whilst noting the valuable contribution the charity had made to deserving individuals and groups most in need in East Renfrewshire, the report indicated that over the past two years the Council had contributed a combined total of £35,000 to support the administrative needs of the charity as well as enabling its consideration of longer term sustainability.

The report outlined two options for the Cabinet to give consideration to in terms of responding to the charity's request. The first was Option (a) which proposed that subject to a breakdown of administrative costs by the charity, to approve a 3% (£1450.00) contribution based on 2013 expenditure by the charity for one year only. The second was Option (b) which involved the Council declining to make any further financial contribution to support the administrative needs of the charity.

The Cabinet agreed not to make any further financial contribution to support the administrative needs of the charity.

1218

**Resolution to Exclude Press and Public**

At this point in the meeting, on the motion of the Leader, the Cabinet unanimously resolved that in accordance with the provisions of 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 Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

**PROPOSED SALE OF GROUND AT WISNER COURT, THORNIEBANK**

**1283.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, seeking approval for the proposed sale of an area of ground at Wisner Court, Thornliebank. A location plan showing the proposed area to be sold was appended to the report.

The Cabinet approved the recommendations as detailed in the report.

CHAIR