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15th October 2013

Dear Councillor

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (SPECIAL)

You are requested to attend a special meeting of the South Ayrshire Council to be held in **The County Hall, County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, on Tuesday, 22nd October 2013 at 9.30 a.m.** for the purpose of considering the undernoted business.

Yours sincerely

VALERIE ANDREWS
Acting Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation

B U S I N E S S

1. Provost.
2. Declarations of Interest.
3. Sederunt.
4. Notice of Motion from Councillor Douglas Campbell, seconded by Councillor Nan McFarlane:-

“South Ayrshire Council restates its opposition to the Bedroom Tax (Single Room Supplement) that is causing widespread worry and financial hardship in our communities and the Council supports the campaigns across Scotland to abolish the Bedroom Tax.

Council notes the proposal by Shelter to alleviate the impact of the Bedroom Tax through means including:-

- (i) The UK Government should ensure that the Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) budget for Scotland is proportionately funded.
- (ii) The Scottish Government should make an additional fund of up to £20 million available to support all Councils to top up DHP in 2013/14 and a fund equivalent to the 150% top up of the DHP budget fully for 2014/15.
- (iii) Local Authorities should use the power to top up DHP to the full amount and publish a transparent policy on how the money will be spent to help as many affected tenants as possible before the end of the financial year.

Council welcomes the decision by the Scottish Government to provide the additional £20 million requested by Shelter for 2013/14 through which South Ayrshire Council will receive additional funding of between £350k and £393k to support DHP up to the maximum level permitted by the Westminster Government.

Council notes that the additional funding will require a review of current policies due to the additional funding being available but also notes that the Scottish Government funding will replace £113k Council funding made available during the budget process 2013/14.

Council agrees to maintain the financial commitment of up to £113k to vulnerable families affected by Westminster Government cuts and as part of the policy review report to the Leadership Panel, it shall include additional measures such as including extra funding for Welfare Rights activity to support clients having to attend Statutory Appeals held on Saturdays, the potential for financial assistance for individuals and families moving to smaller accommodation as a result of the Bedroom Tax and active measures to ensure that all those affected by the Bedroom Tax have been interviewed and assessed for DHP.”

5. Notice of Motion from Councillor Corri Wilson, seconded by Councillor Ian Douglas:-

“Council recognises that the provision of a nutritional breakfast for children can lead to enhanced concentration, improved pupil attendance, reduces the frequency of arriving late for school and has a positive impact on behaviour. Breakfast Clubs are supported by Scottish Government policy and the NHS. Council also notes that where provision of Breakfast Clubs in schools is structured and available for all, uptake rates can exceed 10%.

Current provision of Breakfast Clubs in South Ayrshire is ad hoc with six out of eight secondary schools providing clubs but notes that the secondary school with the highest percentage of pupils from disadvantaged communities (Ayr Academy) has no Breakfast Club.

Provision in primary schools is less frequent and where information has been provided eight out of 30 schools provide a club but again where deprivation is highest, primary schools serving those communities tend not to have Breakfast Clubs.

Council agrees that a structured system of Breakfast Clubs shall be established across South Ayrshire and requests that officers report to the Leadership Panel on proposals to establish the system.”

For more information on any of these items on the agenda, please telephone Diane Knight,
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