

# HOUSING AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Housing and Health Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 17 August 2005 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors Barrett, Crabbie, Dow, Flynn, E Grant, Hayton, Hunter, Lennie, MacLellan, Miller (substituting for Councillor Culliven), Mulheron, Simpson (substituting for Councillor Robertson) D Scott, and Mrs P Fyfe and Mrs M Miller.

In Attendance: Councillor Lloyd; D Roberts, Executive Director (Housing and Community Care); D Burke, Depute Director (Community Care); F MacKay and R Somers (both Chief Executive's); D Francis, A Nairn, J Somerville and A Wilson (all Corporate Services); L Cameron, C Crawford, J Dean, G Fraser, I Gerono, K Heller, J Mayglothing, M Morrison, G Peters, N Robson, and L Ross (all Housing and Community Care).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Culliven and Robertson.

Councillor Hunter, Presiding.

## 565. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

## 566. MINUTES

The Minute of Meeting of the Housing and Health Committee of 25 May 2005 (Arts. 382-392) was submitted, approved as a correct record, and authorised for signature.

## 567. LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY UP-DATE (Art. 307/04)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (05/487) containing information of progress on the action in the Local Housing Strategy and highlighting areas which required specific actions to progress towards objectives.

The Head of Housing Strategy also gave a presentation to the Committee. The Local Housing Strategy had been introduced a year previously and significant progress had been made on most objectives including, for example, the Muirton regeneration, the Letham/Hillyland intensive housing management and support; care and repair which now covered all of Perth and Kinross; and the Perth and Kinross Housing Standard. Three problematic objectives were (1) to increase the supply of affordable housing; (2) the linked issue of achieving the Scottish Executive's aim of eliminating homelessness by 2012; and (3) in relation to Gypsy/Travellers, looking to the future and trying to improve satisfaction levels with facilities currently provided.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) The up-date of the Local Housing Strategy, as detailed in Appendix A to Report 05/487, be noted.
- (ii) Further progress on actions in the Local Housing Strategy be reported to the Committee in due course.
- (iii) The issues arising which prevented progress with some actions be noted.
- (iv) It be remitted to the Executive Director (Housing & Community Care) to:-
  - (a) Lead the development of the Action Plan detailed in Appendix B to Report 05/487 and developed to address issues in the delivery of affordable housing.
  - (b) Refer the Local Housing Strategy up-date to the Community Planning Partnership to request that Community Planning Partners review their policies on the disposal of land to assist with the delivery of affordable housing.
  - (c) Carry out actions in relation to homelessness as covered in a separate report (Art 588).
  - (d) Explore the possibility of the use of Scottish Executive Grant for upgrading the site for Gypsy/Travellers at Double Dykes following consultation with residents on the site.

- (v) The Executive Director (Corporate Services) bring forward a report introducing a policy on the disposal of Council land and property which would assist with the delivery of affordable housing, as part of an overall disposal policy.

**568. HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2003-08 – ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2004-05 AND LOCAL OUTCOME AGREEMENT (Art. 718/04)**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (05/488) presenting and seeking approval for the second Annual Progress Report on the Homelessness Strategy for the year 2004-05 and the Local Outcome Agreement 2005-06. The report also advised of the recent forecasting exercise submitted to the Executive which indicated that the Council was not on track to meet the 2012 target for phasing out priority need. Funding for the continuation of Rough Sleepers services was also confirmed for the three year period to the end of 2007-08.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The Homelessness Strategy Annual Progress Report for 2004-05 be noted and approved.
- (ii) The Local Outcome Agreement for 2005-06 be approved.
- (iii) The conclusions from the "Phasing out of Priority Need" forecasting exercise, which indicated that the Council is not on track to meet the 2012 target for the phasing out of priority of need rules, be noted and approved.
- (iv) The Executive's allocation of £411,000 per annum for rough sleepers services for the three year period up to the end of 2007-08 be noted and it be remitted to the Executive Director (Housing & Community Care) to utilise these monies (i) for the continuation of existing services provided by Churches Action for the Homeless, and (ii) for capital and set up costs connected with the redevelopment of accommodation at Tayview House, Shore Road, provisionally £75,000.
- (v) It be remitted to the Executive Director (Housing & Community Care) to prepare a response to the forthcoming consultation on the Ministerial Statement on homelessness and report to a future meeting of the Committee.
- (vi) The Convener and Vice Convener together with an opposition nominee attend a regional consultation event in September or October 2005, organised by the Scottish Executive and a note detailing agenda items be circulated to all Committee members prior to the event.
- (vii) The Convener write on behalf of the Committee to the Housing Minister to request that the Executive further assist the Council with (a) increased resources for frontline homelessness services; (2) increased investment for affordable housing, bearing in mind the increasing costs of development; and (3) further attention to the funding of non-accommodation based projects which provide furniture recycling and training/employment opportunities for homeless people.

**569. BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2005-2008**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (05/489) presenting for approval the Business Management and Improvement Plan for Community Care Services 2005 to 2008.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The Community Care Business Management and Improvement Plan 2005 to 2008, as attached to Report 05/489, be approved.
- (ii) A report detailing the performance over 2005/06 and each subsequent year of the Plan, be submitted to the Committee at the end of each year.

COUNCILLOR CRABBIE LEFT AND RETURNED TO THE MEETING DURING DISCUSSION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

**\*570. POLICY ON ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (05/490 and 05/526) outlining the range of policy measures, including legal and other remedies, available to the Council which could be used to combat neighbour nuisance and anti-social behaviour or enforce tenancy conditions.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The policy document, as appended to Report 05/490, which forms part of the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy be approved.
- (ii) A report reviewing the policy be submitted to the Committee after one year.
- (iii) It be noted that Report 05/490 would be considered by the Community Safety Committee on 24 August 2005.

**571. GYPSY TRAVELLER THEMATIC STUDY ACTION PLAN**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (05/491) informing the Committee about the action plan which resulted from the Gypsy Traveller Thematic Study undertaken at Double Dykes by Communities Scotland in May 2002 and reporting on progress to date. The report concluded that while progress had been made in many areas, early decisions required to be made regarding refurbishment of the site.

**Resolved:**

The contents of Report 05/491 and the attached action plan be noted.

**\*572. THE DRAFT TAYSIDE SEXUAL HEALTH & RELATIONSHIPS STRATEGY**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Performance Planning and Management (05/503) providing a proposed response from Perth and Kinross Council to the draft Tayside Sexual Health and Relationships Strategy.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of Report 05/503 be approved.
- (ii) The Appendix attached to Report 05/503 be submitted as the response from Perth and Kinross Council to NHS Tayside on the draft Tayside Sexual Health and Relationships Strategy.