

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held in Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Buildings, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 1 February 2006 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors Doig, Baird, Barr, Crabbie, A Grant, Hayton, Hunter, Livingstone, MacLellan, Miller, Stewart, Wilson and Young.

In Attendance: B Malone, Chief Executive; K MacDonald and P Wallace (both Chief Executive's); A R McArthur, Executive Director (Corporate Services); J Low, H McKenzie, S J Morris, A Nairn, J Somerville, S Sprason, J Symon, G A Taylor, G M Taylor and K Woolard (all Corporate Services); J Walker (Planning and Transportation); A Taylor (Education and Children's Services); and C Crawford (Housing and Community Care)

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Barnacle and Lennie

Councillor Doig, Presiding.

82. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

83. MINUTES

The Minute of Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held on 14 December 2005 (Articles 932-945) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

84. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPOINTMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Minutes of Meetings of the Executive Director's Appointment Sub-Committee of 19 December 2005 and 21 December 2005 were submitted and noted. (**Appendix I and II**)

85. EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Minute of Meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 21 December 2005 was submitted and noted. (**Appendix III**)

86. REVENUE BUDGET 2005/2006 – MONITORING REPORT NO 4 (Art. 938/05)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (06/68) providing an update on progress with the 2005/06 General Fund Revenue Budget based upon the November 2005 ledger. The report also provided an update on the projected financial position of the Housing Revenue Account and the Council's Trading Operations. A revised copy of Appendix II to Report (06/68) was submitted.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 06/68 be noted.
- (ii) Adjustments to the 2005/06 management revenue budget, detailed in Sections 2.2 to 2.7 of Report 06/68, be approved.
- (iii) The individual Service virements, summarised at Appendix 1 to Report 06/68, be approved.

87. COMPOSITE CAPITAL BUDGET 2005/08 – MONITORING REPORT NO 4 (Art. 939/05)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (06/67) updating the Committee on progress with the Composite Capital Programme for 2005/06, as well as the position for 2006/07 and 2007/08, and seeking approval for adjustments to the Programme.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 06/67 be noted.

- (ii) The proposed budget and monitoring adjustments to the three year Capital Budget 2005/08, set out in Sections 3 and 4 of Report 06/67 and summarised in Appendices I and II to Report 06/67, be approved.
- (iii) The proposed adjustments to the 2005/06 Renewal and Repair Fund, set out in Section 5 and summarised at Appendix III to Report 06/67, be noted.
- (iv) That any unutilised Renewal and Repair resources at the end of the financial year be carried forward.

88. TREASURY ACTIVITY AND COMPLIANCE REPORT (Art. 807/05)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (06/69) providing a summary of the Loans Fund transactions for the quarter to 31 December 2005 and reporting on compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement (TMPs), Treasury Management Practices (TMP) and the Prudential Indicators for the same period.

Resolved:

The content of Report 06/69, which was submitted to the Committee in accordance with the Council's approved Treasury Management Practices, be noted.

***89. STRATEGIC REVIEW OF PROPERTY RELATED SERVICES – ESTABLISHMENT OF PROPERTY SUB-COMMITTEE OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE (Art. 942/05)**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (06/75) proposing amendments to the Council's Scheme of Administration to give effect to the decision in principle by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 14 December 2005 (Article 942/05 refers) to revise the role of the Asset Management Board and to remit the Local Governance Member/Officer Working Group to develop detailed proposals for submission to this meeting of the Committee.

Resolved:

- (i) It be recommended to the Council on 15 February 2006 that the Scheme of Administration be amended as set out in Paragraph 3.4 of Report 06/75 to give effect to the decision by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 14 December 2005 to revise the role of the Asset Management Board by establishing a Property Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
- (ii) Councillors A Grant, MacLellan, Miller, Stewart and Wilson be appointed to the Property Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
- (iii) The date of the first meeting of the Sub-Committee, which could take place after the Council meeting on 15 February 2006, be agreed, following amendment to the Council's Scheme of Administration.

90. POLICY ON FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (06/71) setting out a revised and expanded policy on fraud and corruption which aimed to strengthen the Council's anti-fraud and anti-corruption arrangements by setting out clearly the principles under which the Council operates. It was noted that the principles covered the prevention of fraud and corruption and the response to complaints or other suspicions where these arise.

Resolved:

- (i) The Policy on Fraud and Corruption, submitted as an Appendix to Report 06/71, be adopted.
- (ii) That the Policy on Fraud and Corruption supersede the existing guidance 'Fraud and Irregularity', presented as Section 2.3.1 of the Workfile.
- (iii) It be delegated to the Executive Director (Corporate Services), in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Chief Internal Auditor, to make arrangements for annual reporting on the effectiveness of anti-fraud and anti-corruption arrangements.

91. PERTH POST OFFICE, SOUTH STREET – PROPOSED TRANSFER TO C J LANG & SONS LIMITED (Art. 932/05)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Economic Development (06/72) on the recent announcement by Post Office Limited to transfer the operation of South Street Post Office in Perth to C J Lang and Sons Limited.

Resolved:

- (i) The Council make the strongest representations to Post Office Limited's National Consultation Team on the transfer of the Perth South Street Post Office to C J Lang and Sons Limited which the Committee believed, will lead to a substantial reduction in customer service.
- (ii) That copies of the letter to the National Constitution Team also be sent to Postwatch Scotland, MPs and MSPs and the Perthshire Chamber of Commerce.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS BE EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION WHICH WAS EXEMPT IN TERMS OF SCHEDULE 7A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1973

92. RESERVES STRATEGY

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (06/70) recommending a strategy for managing the Council's reserves (with the exception of the Housing Revenue Account balances) in the context of setting the Council's Revenue Budget for 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Resolved:

- (i) The proposals with regard to General Fund balances, as set out in Section 3 of Report 06/70, be approved.
- (ii) The proposed approach to managing uncommitted General Fund balances, as set out in Section 4 of Report 06/70, be approved.
- (iii) The proposed approach to managing the Usable Capital Receipts Reserve; Renewal and Repair Fund; Insurance Fund and Capital Fund, as set out in Sections 5 to 8 of Report 06/70, be approved.
- (iv) The Committee's thanks be conveyed to all those involved in the preparation of Report 06/70.

93. THE FAIR MAID'S HOUSE/15-19 NORTH PORT, PERTH (Art. 936/05)

There was submitted a report by Executive Director (Corporate Services) (06/77) seeking authority to enter into an agreement to sell 15-19 North Port, Perth to the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. The Convener noted that a related report had been approved earlier today by the Perth Common Good Fund Committee (Article 81 refers).

Resolved:

- (i) The Council enter into an agreement with the Royal Scottish Geographical Society to sell property 15-19 North Port, Perth to the Society, as part of a package involving the lease to the Society of the Fair Maid's House on the basis of the provisional heads of terms contained within Report 06/77 and otherwise on terms and conditions to the satisfaction of the Head of Legal Services in consultation with other relevant officers.
- (ii) That the Royal Scottish Geographical Society's progress with the project be reported to the Committee in due course.
- (iii) The Committee's thanks be conveyed to all those involved in the negotiations.