

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Council Building
2 High Street
Perth
PH1 5PH

14 December 2005

A Meeting of **PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBERS, FOURTH FLOOR, COUNCIL BUILDING, 2 HIGH STREET, PERTH** on **WEDNESDAY 21 DECEMBER 2005** at **10.30am**.

If you have any queries please contact Maureen Kay on (01738) 475119 or Gillian Taylor on (01738) 475135.

A R McARTHUR
Executive Director (Corporate Services)

Distribution:

Provost Scott
All Councillors

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
MEETING – 21 DECEMBER 2005

AGENDA

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED OF THEIR OBLIGATION TO DECLARE ANY FINANCIAL OR NON-FINANCIAL INTEREST WHICH THEY MAY HAVE IN ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCILLORS' CODE OF CONDUCT.

1. Declarations of Interest
2. Minute of Meeting of 16 November 2005 for Signature
3. Notice of Motion in Terms of Standing Order 20

Motion by Councillors Barrett and Hunter

Council Notes:

The recent government bill to introduce compulsory ID cards to the UK.

Council Believes:

That the disadvantages of the scheme far outweigh any benefits to the people of Perth and Kinross.

That the cards will not prevent terrorism, crime or fraud.

According to Government estimates the cost of such a scheme could reach £6 billion, with independent commentators predicting costs as much as £18 billion. The estimated cost per card is between £200 and £300. On the Government's own predictions residents of Perth and Kinross will require to pay an estimated £30 for a stand alone ID Card and £93 for a passport and ID combined card.

Council therefore resolved to:

- (1) *Make representations at every possible stage stating its opposition to the introduction of ID cards;*
- (2) *Take no part in any pilot scheme or feasibility work in relation to the introduction of the National Identify Card.*
- (3) *Make it a policy of the Council to ensure that National Identity Cards would not be required to access Council services or benefits unless specifically called to do so by an Act of Parliament;*
- (4) *Only co-operate with the national identity scheme where specifically required to do so by law;*
- (5) *Write to the Home Secretary expressing our views and asking him to reconsider his decision to push forward with this legislation;*
- (6) *Inform the Perth and Kinross Parliamentary Forum of its position regarding the National Identity Scheme.*

4. Notice of Motion in Terms of Standing Order 20

Motion by Councillors Robertson and Telfer

The proposed introduction of the Water Environment (Controlled Activities, Scotland) Regulations by SEPA has serious implications for the agricultural sector in Perth & Kinross.

This Council resolves to do the following:

- (1) Write to the Scottish Minister responsible voicing our concerns and asking for the huge levels of charges to be reconsidered.*
- (2) Work through the Perth and Kinross Council Parliamentary Forum and Agricultural Forum to have an affordable scheme introduced which will not damage our already fragile agricultural sector.*

SEPA propose, as from the 1 April 2005 to introduce charges to all businesses agricultural or otherwise who extract water from any source and for any purpose.

Given the importance of agriculture to the economy of Perth and Kinross this could have a serious effect on both the potato growing sector and the vegetable and soft fruit sectors of the area. The charges for extracting water can vary from £670 for 6 extractions to over £11,000 for over 100 extractions. These charges are liable to make such agricultural activities no longer viable.

5. Minutes of Committees from 25 October 2005 – 14 December 2005 (copy to follow)
6. Smoke Free Legislation – Delegation of Authority – Report by Head of Environmental and Regulatory Services (copy herewith 05/876)
7. Amendments to Scheme of Administration – Report by Council Secretary (copy to follow)
8. Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003 – Report by Head of Legal Services (copy to follow)