

# ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of the Environment Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 1 March 2006 at 3.00pm.

Present: Councillors Barnacle, Barr, Baird, Caddell, Coburn, Cowan, Gillies, A Grant, Lyall, McDonald, Mulheron, Simpson (substituting for Cllr Barrett) and Young.

In Attendance: J Irons, Executive Director (Planning and Transportation); W Ronald, Head of Service (Outdoor and Support Services); D Stewart, Head of Service (Environmental and Regulatory Services); T Brydone and M Constable (Environment Services); S Aldridge, A Wilson and Y Oliver (all Corporate Services).

Councillor Barnacle, Presiding.

## 145. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

## 146. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- (i) The Minute of Meeting of the Environment Committee of 18 January 2006 (Arts.25-29) was submitted and approved as a correct record.
- (ii) The Minute of Meeting of the Environment Committee Executive Sub-Committee held on Monday 30 January 2006 was submitted and noted. (**Appendix I**)

## 147. DEVELOPMENT OF A PARKS AND OPEN SPACES STRATEGY – AUDIT PROGRAMME

There was submitted a report by the Head of Outdoor and Support Services (06/161) seeking Committee approval for investment in Parks and Open Space Audits to ensure fitness for purpose, effective asset management and community engagement.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The proposed method of Parks and Open Space Audits to be carried out throughout the Council Area be approved.
- (ii) Investment in a specialist asset management system be approved.
- (iii) The presentation of an application to Scottish Natural Heritage for financial assistance to part-fund this work be approved.
- (iv) The establishment of a Parks and Open Spaces Strategy Project group to oversee the development of a Parks and Open Spaces Strategy be approved.

## 148. THE LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT – DECLARATION OF AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment Services) (06/162) asking members to agree the extent of the Air Quality Management Area and to implement it by designation, to come into force on 3 April 2006.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The implementation of the statutory requirement of Section 83(1) of the Environment Act 1995 through designation, by Order, of an Air Quality Management Area for nitrogen dioxide and fine particles, to come into force on 3 April 2006 and remain in force until varied or revoked by a subsequent Order, be agreed.
- (ii) The area of Perth, as shown in red on the map attached to Report 06/162 being designated as an Air Quality Management Area, be agreed.
- (iii) The Executive Director of Environment Services be requested to make the necessary arrangements to complete and report on the Further Assessment of Air Quality and Action Plan within the statutory timescales.
- (iv) The Head of Legal Services be instructed to prepare the necessary legal documentation for the designation Order and to publicise the said Order.

#### **149. PROCUREMENT OF AIR QUALITY SERVICES**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment Services) (06/163) detailing the background to the current air quality services contract and recommending the contract be continued after negotiation with the same contractors.

**Resolved:**

The Executive Director (Environment Services) be authorised to negotiate an extension to the current contract for air quality services with Netcen.

#### **150. LOCAL AUTHORITY CARBON MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment Services) (06/164) setting out the background and details of an invitation from the Carbon Trust to participate in the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme in 2006 – 2007.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The invitation from the Carbon Trust to participate in the next round of the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme (LACM) be accepted.
- (ii) To act as Member level sponsors for the programme be agreed.
- (iii) That further reports be brought to this Committee and the Property Sub-Committee as appropriate when action plans are produced, be noted.

#### **151. VALEDICTORY**

The Convener reported that Bill Ronald, Head of Service (Outdoor and Support Services) would shortly be retiring from the Council after 27 years service to Perth and Kinross. On behalf of the Committee the Convener paid tribute to Mr Ronald's commitments and dedication to the Council and wished him well in his retirement. Mr Ronald thanked the Convener and the members of the Committee for their good wishes and expressed his thanks to all the members of staff who had supported him throughout his career.