

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of Council Meeting held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 16 February 2005 at 2.00am.

Present: Provost Scott, Councillors Baird, Barr, Barrett, Caddell, Coburn, Crabbie, Culliven, Doig, Dow, Ellis, Flynn, Gillies, A Grant, E Grant, Howie, Hulbert, Hunter, Jack, Livingstone, Lloyd, Lumsden, Lyall, Mair, McDonald, McEwen, MacLellan, Miller, Mulheron, Robertson, Simpson, Stewart, Telfer, Wilson and Young.

Also Attending: B Malone (Chief Executive), K MacDonald, T Yule and Paul Wallace (all Chief Executive's), A R McArthur (Executive Director-Corporate Services), A Wilson, M Kay and I Innes (all Corporate Services), G Waddell (Executive Director – Education & Children's Services), J Irons (Executive Director – Planning & Transportation), D Roberts (Executive Director – Housing & Community Care) and D Stewart and D Hutchison (Environment Services).

Provost Scott, Presiding.

At the commencement of the meeting, Provost Scott made reference to BBC 1 Scotland's programme 'The Enforcers' which had featured Perth and Kinross Council's project to tackle the selling of cigarettes to under 16's. He noted that Perth and Kinross trading standards officers would also feature in one of the later episodes dealing with a gang of counterfeiters in partnership with Fife officers, and also with livestock welfare issues.

Provost Scott advised that the following item required to be dealt with as a matter of urgency in terms of Section 50B(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 due to the requirement to respond to the recent statement made by the Minister for Finance and Public Service Reform.

124. LOCAL AUTHORITY BOUNDARIES

The Council considered a Motion submitted by Councillors Doig and Miller.

Resolved

- (i) Perth and Kinross Council is extremely concerned at recent statements by the Minister for Finance and Public Service Reform Tom McCabe that he is prepared to consider amending the boundaries of local authorities.
- (ii) The Council does not accept that parts of Perth and Kinross should be absorbed into a 'Greater Dundee' to help address financial problems caused by the failure of the Scottish Executive to effectively fund local government.
- (iii) Perth and Kinross is a distinct geographical area with a strong identity and a thriving local economy. People choose to come here because it is a fantastic place to live and work. Local residents work in cities and towns across Scotland including Stirling, Glasgow and Edinburgh, not just Dundee.
- (iv) The City of Perth is a regional centre in its own right, serving a significant rural hinterland including Strathearn and Highland Perthshire. The development of the City Centre, from both a commercial and cultural perspective, reflects the commitment of the public and private sector to the growth of the area.
- (v) Since local government re-organisation the Council has worked extremely hard to develop and deliver quality services that meet the needs of local communities across Perth and Kinross.
- (vi) The Council believes that any move to transfer parts of Perth and Kinross to Dundee would have a negative impact on the range and quality of the services delivered to local communities.
- (vii) Perth and Kinross Council will strongly oppose any proposal to alter the existing boundaries of the area.
- (viii) The Council will:
 - (1) Write urgently to the Minister for Finance and Public Service Reform, Tom McCabe MSP, asking him to clarify his position with regard to possible boundary changes and, if appropriate, seek a meeting;

- (2) Request that the Chief Executive establish an officer working group to consider this matter in detail and report on a regular basis to the Local Governance Member/Officer Working Group; and
- (3) Circulate this motion to the Perth and Kinross Forum and place it on the agenda for the next meeting.

125. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

126. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Council Meeting of 22 December 2004 (Arts. 936-945/04) were submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

127. NOTICE OF MOTION IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER 20

Fair Trade City Status

In terms of Standing Order 20, the Council considered a Motion by Councillors Barrett and Lyall. The Proposer, with the agreement of the Seconder, accepted an addition to the Motion raised by Councillor McEwen detailed at Paragraph (iv) below.

Resolved

The Council notes that

- (i). The Fairtrade Foundation exists to improve the position of poor and marginalised producers in the developing world. It also encourages UK industry and consumers to support fairer trade and to purchase Fairtrade products.
- (ii). The Foundation has introduced an initiative called 'The Fairtrade Towns'. A Fairtrade Town, City or Zone is a community which has made a commitment to supporting Fairtrade and through it to support disadvantaged farmers and workers in developing countries. Fairtrade communities have significant understanding of the concept of Fairtrade. Fairtrade products are widely available, bought and used and a commitment made to increasing sales and awareness.
- (iii). The Fairtrade Foundation has laid out five goals which must be realised in order to be awarded Fairtrade Town, City or Zone status:
 - The Local Council must pass a resolution supporting Fairtrade; and agree to serve Fairtrade coffee and tea at its meetings and in its offices and canteens.
 - A range of (at least two) Fairtrade products are readily available in the area's shops. Fairtrade products are served in local cafés/catering establishments.
 - Fairtrade products are used by a number of local work places (estate agents, hairdressers etc.) and community organisations (churches, schools etc).
 - Attract media coverage and popular support for the campaign.
 - A local Fairtrade steering group is convened to ensure continued commitment to its Fairtrade Town status.
- (iv). Perth and Kinross Council, following on from the outcomes and conclusions of the Best Value Review of Civic Hospitality which, at the request of the Council's House Committee in 2002, included the issue of the Council purchasing Fair Trade products, and the Council's decision on 25 September 2002 in relation to Fairtrade, resolves to achieve Fair Trade City status for Perth City by achieving the above goals.
- (v). Council Officers are instructed to carry out the following to commence the process:
 - (1) Set up a meeting with the secretary of the Fairtrade Town Steering Group in Aberfeldy.
 - (2) Meet with Council Officers who contributed to the award of Fairtrade status to Dundee City.
 - (3) Set up a steering group consisting of members from the community, public and private sectors in Perth.

- (4) Follow the guidelines as outlined in the Fairtrade Foundation's publication 'Fairtrade Town, Goals and Action Guide'.

128. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Minutes of Committees from 15 December 2004 to 2 February 2005.

The decisions recorded in Arts.885-917/04 and 1-96, copies of which had been circulated to all Members of the Council, were submitted and approved.

129. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

(i) Community Safety Committee

Resolved:

Councillor Colin Young replace Councillor Alexander Stewart as a member of the Community Safety Committee.

(ii) Strategic Policy & Resources Committee

Resolved:

Councillor Kathleen Baird replace Councillor Sandy Bushby as a member of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

130. ANNUAL TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS – ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – TIMING (Art. 814/04)

Resolved:

The start time of the Environment Committee be no earlier than 10.00am or 3.00pm as appropriate on the scheduled dates approved on 17 November 2004.