

ENTERPRISE AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 1 June 2005 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors Cowan, Doig, Ellis, Jack, Livingstone, Lumsden, Mair, McDonald, McEwen (Arts. 426-239), Robertson, Simpson and Telfer (from Art. 428).

In Attendance: Councillor Lloyd (Art. 428), Councillors Barnacle and Miller (Arts. 426-428); J Irons, Executive Director (Planning & Transportation), R Bean, I Sleith, J Valentine, P Marshall, C Haggart, J Walker, E Rogers-Nicoll (all Planning & Transportation), K MacDonald, A Seggie and M Wright (all Chief Executive's), A Godfrey and J Murray (both Environment Services), A Wilson and J Dickson (both Council Secretary Division, Corporate Services)

Councillor Livingstone, Presiding.

426. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Robertson and Jack declared a non financial interest in the Loch Leven Heritage Project (Art. 428) and Councillor Lumsden declared a non financial interest in the Kinross Western Edge Development Brief (Art. 431).

427. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee of 20 April 2005 (Arts 301 – 317) were submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

COUNCILLOR TELFER ENTERED THE MEETING DURING THE CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM

428. THE LOCH LEVEN HERITAGE PROJECT – FUTURE MAINTENANCE COSTS (Art. 180)

Mr Neil Kilpatrick of The Rural Access Committee of Kinross-shire (TRACKS) gave an illustrated presentation on the Loch Leven Heritage Project. The main element of the project would be the construction of a path linking the 24 heritage sites which included the loch itself, the RSPB reserve at Vane Farm, Loch Leven Castle, Kinross House and Gardens, St Mary's Knowe, St Mary's Gate, Scotlandwell, the Wash House Museum and the Michael Bruce Museum. The estimated cost of the project would be £1.65 million and the major funders would be SNH, The Heritage Lottery Fund, Perth and Kinross Council and a number of other organisations. Over a quarter of a million pounds has already been raised for the project. The benefits would include new access to the loch area, an economic growth for the area and promotion of Loch Leven as a tourist destination.

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) (05/334) summarising the proposals by TRACKS for the development of a number of heritage sites around Loch Leven from Findatie to Vane Farm. The aim would be to develop Loch Leven Heritage as an open air museum which would be an innovated, stimulating and informative attraction providing everyone the opportunity to enjoy and learn about the rich variety of cultural heritage in Kinross-shire. In order to secure the £1.6 million funding required for the project, potential sponsors had to be satisfied TRACKS had adequate arrangements to maintain the path and associated facilities.

Resolved:

- (i) It be agreed in principle to fund 50% of the maintenance cost of the proposed path linking the heritage sites around Loch Leven for a period of at least 10 years from 2008.
- (ii) The expenditure be identified as a budget pressure in the 2008-2009 Revenue Budget process.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) be instructed to write to the Scottish Executive seeking a commitment from them to make additional money available to the Council for the maintenance costs of the core path.

COUNCILLOR ROBERTSON LEFT AND RE-JOINED THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

429. PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICE PLAN 2003-2006 (YEAR 3)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) (05/335) setting out the Planning and Transportation Service Plan for Year 3 of the three year period 2003-2006.

Resolved:

- (i) The Planning and Transportation Service Plan for 2003-2006 be approved.
- (ii) It be noted that a report detailing the Services performance during 2003/2004 was approved by the Standards and Scrutiny Committee in June 2004.
- (iii) It be noted that the Service Plan beyond 2006 would be reviewed in light of available resources, and a report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.
- (iv) A report setting out the implications for the Development Control Committee of the requirement for planning applications to include a bio-diversity assessment be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

430. REVIEW OF EASTERN AREA LOCAL PLAN

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) (05/336) (1) setting out the overall strategy for the Eastern Area Local Plan; (2) highlighting water and drainage constraints; (3) highlighting the extent of the area's housing need and supply; (4) outlining the economic context of the draft review of the Plan and (5) seeking authorisation to publish and consult with the public on the proposals.

Resolved:

- (i) The strategy, policies and proposals outlined in the Draft Plan, as set out in the Appendix to Report 05/336, be used as the basis for public consultation.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) be instructed to publish and consult on the draft plan.
- (iii) A report on the comments received from the consultation be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

COUNCILLOR A LUMSDEN, HAVING DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM, LEFT THE CHAMBERS AT THIS POINT.

431. KINROSS WESTERN EDGE DEVELOPMENT BRIEF (Art. 172)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) (05/337) presenting a proposed Development Brief for the integrated development of the Western Edge of Kinross aimed at providing sound and justified planning principles which would apply to the sites, and providing development guidance to prospective developers with the aim of promoting a balanced and integrated mix use to development on the Western Edge of Kinross.

Resolved:

The Development Brief for the western edge of Kinross, as set out in the Appendix to Report 05/337, be used as a basis for determination of future planning applications in the Kinross Western Edge area.

COUNCILLOR LUMSDEN REJOINED THE MEETING AT THIS STAGE.

432. TOWARDS BETTER DESIGN IN PERTH & KINROSS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) (05/338) setting out design guidance to be the subject of consultation and as interim guidance in the determination of planning applications.

The Convener proposed amended recommendations which were unanimously endorsed by the Committee.

Resolved:

- (i) The Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) be instructed to undertake a consultation exercise with:-

- (a) Schools of Architecture in Scotland, Architectural and Engineering professionals, house builders and local civic amenities societies on the design policy and guidance, set out in the Appendix to Report 05/338.
- (b) Local and main house builders at, for example, the six monthly joint meeting of the Council and house builders.
- (c) The public, and it be remitted to the Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) in consultation with the Convener to investigate ways of undertaking this consultation.
- (ii) All Councillors of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee be issued with a copy of PAN 67 (Housing Quality) and a copy of the Guidance on the Siting and Design of Houses in Rural Areas, published by Perth and Kinross Council.
- (iii) Following the consultation period, if a report is submitted to the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee on Towards Better Design in Perth and Kinross, the guidance be presented in colour and the relevant properties identified.

433. PERTH CITY CENTRE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT REVIEW – UPDATE ON PROGRESS

There was a submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) (05/339) (1) outlining the consultations which had taken place with local communities in relation to road safety, traffic management and parking in Perth; (2) the progress so far and (3) proposed next steps.

Resolved:

- (i) The initial comments and actions following the initial consultation process detailed in Appendix iii to Report 05/339, be noted.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) be instructed to proceed with the full investigation, on areas of common concern identified in the initial consultation and the development of possible solutions.
- (iii) Consideration of the comments received be reported in detail to the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee on 19 October 2005.

434. GLENFOOT – 40MPH SPEED LIMIT

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) (05/340) setting out the concerns of the residents of Glenfoot regarding the speed of traffic in that area, and recommending provision of a 40 mph speed limit.

Resolved:

A Traffic Regulation Order be promoted for the implementation of a 40mph speed limit in Glenfoot.

435. DIVERSION OF CORONATION ROAD AT NORTHLEES, KINFAUNS (ART612/03)

There was submitted a joint report by the Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) and the Head of Legal Services (05/341) on progress towards formally diverting Coronation Road at Northlees, Kinfauns and recommending confirmation of the Diversion Order, subject to no objections being received within the statutory period.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress in taking forward the diversion of the Coronation Road bridleway at Northlees, Kinfauns, be noted.
- (ii) The Head of Legal Services be instructed to confirm the Diversion Order made in April 2005, provided there were no objections received within the statutory period.

436. WEST LODGE FOOTBRIDGE, RIVER GARRY, BLAIR ATHOLL

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning & Transportation) (05/342) (1) setting out the condition of the West Lodge Footbridge, the abutments and the embankment; (2) the options for the future; and (3) recommending the removal of the bridge before it became unsafe.

Resolved:

- (i) It be agreed that the refurbishment of the West Lodge Footbridge did not represent value for money for this Council.

- (ii) The Executive Director (Planning & Transportation) be authorised to enter into negotiations with the relevant parties to provide an alternative route from the southern end of the bridge to the House of Bruar.
- (iii) Any decision on demolition of the bridge be deferred until investigations have been undertaken into the possible transfer of ownership of the bridge to a charitable trust.

437. TENDERS ACCEPTED AND WORKS AWARDED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) (05/343) detailing the tenders accepted and works awarded for Roads and Forward Planning related schemes by the Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) under delegated powers during the period 1 January 2005 to 31 March 2005 and detailing tenders accepted and contracts awarded for Public and Education Transport under similar powers for the same period.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 05/343 and the contracts awarded, as detailed in the Appendices to Report 05/343 in respect of Roads and Forward Planning related schemes and Public and Education Transport, be noted.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) be authorised to publish tender information for transport contracts.

438. PERTH CITY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

There was submitted a joint report by the Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) and the Head of Economic Development (05/344) setting out the revised structure and membership of the Perth City Partnership and seeking approval of funding towards the activities of the Perth City Partnership for the period 2005/2006.

Resolved:

- (i) The revised structure and operational area for the Perth City Partnership, outlined in Report 05/344, be noted.
- (ii) The revised membership of the Steering Group, outlined in Appendix 2 to Report 05/344, be noted.
- (iii) A contribution of £20,000 be made from the Economic Development Revenue Budget 2005/2006 towards the activities of the Perth City Partnership in 2005/2006.

439. BUSINESS GATEWAY PERTH & KINROSS – SUPPORT FOR 2005/06

There was submitted a report by the Head of Economic Development (05/345) (1) on the performance of the Business Gateway, Perth towards its aims and objectives up to March 2005; (2) detailing the targets set for 2005/2006 and (3) seeking support for these activities for 2005/2006.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress made by the Business Gateway in meeting its targets for 2004/2005 be noted.
- (ii) The targets for 2005/2006, set out in Report 05/345, be approved.
- (iii) Subject to satisfactory performance against targets, funding of £60,000 be made in June 2005 and a further £55,000 after six months.

COUNCILLOR MCEWEN LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

440. PROPOSED RURAL CONFERENCE – AUTUMN 2005

There was submitted a report by the Head of Economic Development (05/346) outlining a proposal to hold a rural conference to look at issues to be resolved within the agricultural sector due to the on-going restructuring of the Common Agricultural Policy. The proposed conference should have a strong focus on the potential impact on Tayside's Agriculture Sector and on rural development in general.

Resolved:

- (i) The success of the inaugural Rural Conference held on 31 March 2005 in the Birnam Institute be noted.
- (ii) A second conference be held in Autumn 2005 in conjunction with Angus Council.

441. PROPOSED FARM FORESTRY INITIATIVE IN BREADALBANE ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA), HIGHLAND PERTSHIRE

There was submitted a report by the Head of Economic Development (05/347) outlining a proposal for the continued development of a Farm Forestry Programme in the Breadalbane ESA to address the lack of integration between farming and forestry and to provide a further opportunity to generate economic activity in the agricultural and forestry sectors.

Resolved:

- (i) The contribution made by the Breadalbane Initiative since its inception as a project, regarded as an example which could be adopted nationwide and actively influenced the restructuring of the Forestry Commission's Scottish Forestry Grant Schemes (SGFS), be noted.
- (ii) A contribution of £10,000 per annum be made towards the continued development of the Breadalbane Initiative for a period of three years, subject to sufficient resources being available.

442. PERTH HARBOUR ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2004 TO MARCH 2005

There was submitted a report by the Head of Economic Development (05/348) reviewing the twelve month trading position at Perth Harbour up to 31 March 2005 and outlining other on-going development and operational activities.

Resolved:

- (i) The Perth Harbour Annual Report for the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 be approved.
- (ii) Macduff Ship Design be appointed as design and project management consultant for the acquisition of the new Harbour tug/workboat.