

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Buildings, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 4 February 2009 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors I Miller, G Hayton, K Baird, P Barrett, A Grant, E Grant, G Hayton, A Jack, J Kellas, M Roberts, W Robertson, A Stewart, B Vaughan, W Wilson and A Wylie.

In Attendance: B Malone, Chief Executive; J Jarvie, A Wilson and S Thornton (all Chief Executive's); G Stevenson, Executive Director (Corporate Services); K Donaldson, I Innes, H MacKenzie and J Symon (all Corporate Services); J McCrone, K McDonald, S Merone and J Valentine (all The Environment Service); D Roberts, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services).

Apologies: Provost J Hulbert and Councillor A MacLellan.

Councillor I Miller, Convener, Presiding.

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

46. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(i) Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

The Minute of the Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 3 December 2008 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

(ii) Appeals Sub-Committee

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Appeals Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held on 28 November 2008 and 10 December 2008 were submitted and noted. (**Appendices I and II**)

(iii) Executive Sub-Committee

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held on 19 November 2008 and 27 November 2008 were submitted and noted. (**Appendices III and IV**)

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(iv) Property Sub-Committee

The Minute of the Meeting of the Property Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held on 7 January 2009 was submitted and noted. (**Appendix V**)

(v) Provost's Sub-Committee

The Minute of the Meeting of the Provost's Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 3 December 2008 was submitted and noted. (**Appendix VI**)

47. REVENUE BUDGET 2008/09 – MONITORING REPORT NO 3 (Art 681/08)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (09/66), providing an update on (1) progress with the 2008/09 General Fund Revenue Budget based upon the November 2008 ledger; and (2) the projected financial position of the Housing Revenue Account.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 09/66 be noted.
- (ii) The adjustments to the 2008/09 management revenue budget, detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 09/66 and Sections 2.2 to 2.13 of Report 09/66, be approved.
- (iii) The Service virements summarised in Appendix 2 to Report 09/66, be approved.

48. COMPOSITE CAPITAL BUDGET 2008/13 - MONITORING REPORT NO 3 (Art 682/08)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (09/67), (1) providing a summary position to date of the Composite Capital Programme for 2008/09 to 2012/13; and (2) seeking approval for adjustments to the Programme.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 09/67 be noted.
- (ii) The proposed budget adjustments to the five year Capital Budget 2008/13, as set out in Section 3 and 4 of Report 09/66 and summarised in Appendices I and II thereto, be approved.

49. TREASURY ACTIVITY AND COMPLIANCE REPORT (Art 684/08)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (09/68), (1) providing a summary of the Loans Fund transactions for the quarter to 31 December 2008; and (2) reporting on compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement (TMPS), Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) and the Prudential Indicators for the same period.

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Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 09/68, submitted in accordance with the Council's approved Treasury Management Practices, be noted.
- (ii) In view of the current low bank rate, proposed amendments to the approved Treasury Policy for Local Temporary Loans to the Council, as detailed at Sections 3.12 to 3.14 of Report 09/68, be approved.

50. BIG LOTTERY FUND CONSULTATION

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (09/69), presenting Perth and Kinross Council's suggested response to *BIG thinking*, a public consultation carried out by the BIG Lottery Fund on its strategic framework for 2009-2015.

Resolved:

- (i) The Council's suggested response to the BIG Lottery Fund's consultation, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report 09/69, be agreed.
- (ii) Representations be made to the Government to highlight the negative impact a reduction of BIG Lottery funding would have on local communities in Perth and Kinross, in an already difficult context of tight public funding and economic difficulties.

51. RETIREMENT SCHEME

There was submitted a report by the Head of Human Resources (09/70), (1) setting out new retirement provisions as part of the Council's workforce planning arrangements and in support of the Council's Human Resources Strategy; (2) explaining that the revised Retirement Scheme which was based on accepted good practice and took account of pension reform in April 2009, mainly related to employees who are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, with the exception of those provisions relating to Working Beyond Planned Retirement Age which applied to all employees regardless of membership of the Council's occupational pension schemes; (3) noting that the report did not affect retirement options for Teachers; and (4) recommending improved scrutiny and governance arrangements to ensure the Council's practice achieved value for money, accountability, transparency and equality of treatment.

Resolved:

- (i) The proposed Retirement Scheme, to be effective from 1 April 2009, and attached as Appendix 1 to Report 09/07, be approved.
- * (ii) The governance arrangements for retirement including the necessary amendments to the Scheme of Administration of the Council, be implemented for retirements across all employee groups with effect from 1 April 2009.
- (iii) The Council exercise discretion to award added years for early retirement on grounds of efficiency or redundancy under the Discretionary Payments Injury Benefits (Scotland) Regulations.

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52. HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SIX MONTHLY REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Head of Human Resources (09/71), (1) providing a statistical analysis of key Human Resources and Equalities Management information for the six month period (1 April – 30 September 2008); and (2) proposing further development of Human Resources management information.

Resolved:

- (i) The summary of key Human Resources management information contained in Report 09/71 for the six month period ending 30 September 2008, be noted.
- (ii) The proposed further development of the Human Resources management information be noted.

53. VALEDICTORY

The Convener mentioned that this would be the last meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which Dave Roberts would attend in his capacity as Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) prior to his impending retirement and thanked Mr Roberts for his significant contribution to the work of the Committee over the years. Members thereafter expressed their appreciation to Mr Roberts in the customary manner.

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

54. ST PAUL'S CHURCH, PERTH (Art 57/07)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (09/72), (1) advising of interest by a possible purchaser and developer of St Paul's Church, Perth; and (2) setting out the steps which the Council required to take to facilitate matters.

Resolved:

- (i) The discharge of the inhibition, preventing disposal of St Paul's Church, Perth by the Church's current owner in advance of payment of the Council's debt, as detailed in Report 09/72, in order to allow the proposed purchase of the premises to proceed, be agreed.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Environment) be authorised to prepare and serve a Repairs Notice under Section 43 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997, defining the full extent of repairs required to the building and to enable compulsory acquisition and disposal of the building by the Council in the future, should conversion and re-use of the building not occur as a result of the change of ownership.
- (iii) To continue efforts to recover the debt from the current owner.

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