

ENTERPRISE AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 30 November 2005 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors Livingstone, Cowan, Doig, Ellis, Hulbert, Jack, Lumsden, Mair, McDonald, Robertson, Simpson and Telfer.

In Attendance: Jim Irons, Executive Director (Planning and Transportation); R Bean; J Valentine; C Haggart; J Robertson; P Marshall and B Clough (all Planning and Transportation); K MacDonald; P Kyle and A Seggie (all Chief Executive's); S Aldred; A Wilson and L Brown (all Corporate Services); I Martin (Tayside Police) and D Gibson (Harbour Master).

Apology for Absence: Councillor McEwen.

Councillor Livingstone, Presiding.

883. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct Councillor Ellis declared a non-financial interest in Article 895.

884. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee of 19 October 2005 (Arts. 741 to 754) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

THE CONVENER RULED THAT IN HIS OPINION THE FOLLOWING ITEM SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY IN TERMS OF SECTION 50 (B)(4)(b) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973 DUE TO THE NEED TO SUBMIT A CONSULTATION RESPONSE BY 30 NOVEMBER 2005.

885. SCOTTISH TOURISM – THE NEXT DECADE: A FRAMEWORK FOR TOURISM CHANGE

There was submitted a report by the Head of Economic Development (05/837) proposing a response from Perth and Kinross Council on the Scottish Executive's Framework for Tourism Change consultation document.

Resolved:

- (i) To welcome the consultation document, "Scottish Tourism – The Next Decade: A Framework for Tourism Change", as setting out clearly the challenges facing Scottish tourism, and outlining the Scottish Executive's ambition to grow the industry by 50% revenue growth by 2015.
- (ii) To express concern at the short time for consultation and the lack of emphasis on the effect of local partnership working which would be essential in delivering the 2015 ambition and the need for greater clarity of many of the identified actions.
- (iii) To forward to the Scottish Executive the comments contained in Paragraphs 7-15 of Report 05/837 as Perth and Kinross Council's observations on the consultation document "Scottish Tourism – The Next Decade: A Framework for Tourism Change", incorporating the concerns and comments expressed by the Committee.
- (iv) To forward Report 05/837 to CoSLA requesting that they make representations on behalf of Scottish local authorities.
- (v) To have this matter referred to the Parliamentary Forum.

886. PERTH FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS 2005 – ECONOMIC IMPACT

There was submitted a report by the Head of Economic Development (05/805) outlining the results of a study commissioned to assess the benefits generated for Perth and Kinross by the 2005 Perth Festival of the Arts.

Resolved:

- (i) The findings of the consultant report, as detailed in Report 05/805, be noted.

- (ii) The Head of Economic Development be instructed to bring forward a further report outlining the funding package proposed for the 2006 Perth Festival of the Arts.
- (iii) The Head of Economic Development be instructed to arrange a meeting between the Convener of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee and the Chairman of the Perth Festival of the Arts to discuss the findings of the study.

887. BRAND UPDATE (Art. 178)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Economic Development (05/806) providing an update on brand progress and focusing on the monitoring and measuring procedures for the brand.

Resolved:

- (i) The success of the Perthshire brand to date be noted.
- (ii) The continued support of the private sector both through the Marketing Forum and those businesses using the Perthshire brand be noted.

888. BUSINESS GATEWAY PERTH AND KINROSS – PROGRESS REPORT (Art. 439)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Economic Development (05/807) setting out the performance of the Business Gateway Perth and Kinross for the period from April to September 2005.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the progress made by the Business Gateway towards its targets for 2005/06, as detailed in Report 05/807.
- (ii) The release of the second tranche of funding of £55,000 be approved.
- (iii) The Head of Economic Development be instructed to monitor closely the current review by Scottish Enterprise of Business Gateway.

889. CIVIL SERVICE RELOCATION PROGRAMME UPDATE

There was submitted and noted a report by the Head of Economic Development (05/808) advising of the current situation with regard to the Scottish Executive Relocation Policy and the process for 'bidding' for jobs.

890. PERTH HARBOUR EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2004/05 – MARINE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

There was submitted a report by the Head of Economic Development (05/699(A)) reviewing the independent audit undertaken in respect of the operation of Perth Harbour's Marine Management System during the period July 2004 to June 2005. The Committee noted that the Standards and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 26 October 2005, had approved the Marine Audit report for Perth Harbour and endorsed its recommendations and actions, and had remitted implementation of the conclusions and recommendations on future pilotage provision to the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee.

Resolved:

The implementation of the conclusions and recommendations on future pilotage provision, as detailed in Appendix A to Report 05/699(A), be approved.

***891. FINALISED HOUSING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE POLICY**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning & Transportation) (05/809) providing a summary of the comments received on the draft Housing in the Countryside Policy and proposing a final policy for approval.

Resolved:

- (i) The final Housing in the Countryside Policy be approved, subject to the following:
 - (a) The deletion of the second sentence of Section 25(b)
 - (b) The addition of subsection (b) iv to Category 5 – "b) iv Notwithstanding the above, a steading site without any buildings, or a steading which contains no significant buildings shall be regarded as a brownfield site"
- (ii) To recommend to the Development Control Committee that the policy be used in the determination of planning applications with immediate effect, and to note that this superseded the 1999 Policy.

- (iii) The finalised Housing in the Countryside Policy be incorporated into the various local plans as they are reviewed.
- (iv) The Housing in the Countryside Policy to apply over the whole local authority area of Perth and Kinross except where a more relaxed policy applies at present.

892. LAND REFORM (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003; PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH ENFORCEMENT ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH UPHOLDING THE RIGHT OF RESPONSIBLE ACCESS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning & Transportation) (05/810) recommending the procedure for dealing with enforcement issues associated with statutory rights established by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

Resolved:

The procedure for dealing with enforcement issues associated with upholding the statutory right of responsible access established by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, as detailed in Report 05/810, be endorsed.

893. CRIEFF RETAIL SITES STUDY – PROPOSED WAY FORWARD (Art. 613)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning & Transportation) (05/811) advising of the outcome of discussions with the applicants for the retail development at Duchlage Farm, Crieff and proposing a course of action to progress the project.

Resolved:

- (i) A draft development brief be prepared and consulted on for the wider area between Market Park and the site of the new Crieff Secondary School, to include the site for a new supermarket and other uses; the Head of Economic Development to submit a report to a future meeting of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee on the draft and comments received.
- (ii) To recommend to the Development Control Committee that an application for a new supermarket at the Duchlage Farm area be determined on the basis of the Development Brief for the wider area.

894. SCOTTISH WATER UPDATE (Art. 576/04)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning & Transportation) (05/823) (1) advising of the lack of progress on improving communications with Scottish Water; (2) the resultant problems in progressing planning applications and local plans; and (3) providing members with an updated position on drainage constraints within Perth and Kinross.

Resolved:

- (i) The Council Secretary be instructed to write to Scottish Ministers expressing deep concern over the continuing poor performance of Scottish Water.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Planning & Transportation) be instructed to forward a copy of Report 05/823 to Scottish Water, CoSLA and the Scottish Water Industry Commissioner.
- (iii) A copy of Report 05/823 be circulated to the members of the Perth and Kinross Parliamentary Forum for discussion at their next meeting, on 2 December 2005.

COUNCILLOR ELLIS DECLARED A NON-FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM, LEFT THE CHAMBERS AND TOOK NO PART IN THE DECISION THEREON.

895. RURAL INITIATIVES FUND 2005/2006 (Art. 582/04)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning & Transportation) (05/800) setting out recommendations on allocating funds from the Rural Initiatives Fund in 2005/06 to projects in Aberfeldy, Blairgowrie, Blair Atholl, Glenshee, Kinloch Rannoch, Kinross, Kirmichael, Meigle and Pitlochry, and detailing progress made on the implementation of projects that have received assistance in Kinross.

Resolved:

- (i) Funds be allocated from the Rural Initiative Fund in 2005/06, subject to funding being made available from Scottish Enterprise Tayside to meet the funding required for individual projects as follows:
 - (a) Assistance towards development of infrastructure in Blairgowrie - £18,000

- (b) Provision of tourist signage in Glenshee - £1,000
 - (c) Development of town square and garden in Meigle - £6,000
 - (d) Feasibility study into development of south east Kinross and environmental improvements at Gace Park in Kinross - £25,000
- (ii) The Kinloch Rannoch car park be added to the Council's off street car park orders.

896. COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT PLANS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning & Transportation) (05/812) advising of proposals set out in the management plans for Council-owned countryside sites at the Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park and the Birks of Aberfeldy, and seeking approval for improvements to public access, interpretation and woodland management.

Resolved:

The Management Plans for Perth and Kinross Council's land at the Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park and the Birks of Aberfeldy, as detailed in Report 05/812, be approved.

COUNCILLOR ELLIS RETURNED TO THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

897. REMOVAL OF WEST LODGE FOOTBRIDGE, RIVER GARRY, BLAIR ATHOLL (Art. 436)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning & Transportation) (05/813) advising of the outcome of discussions with the local community on the option of transferring the West Lodge Footbridge to a charitable trust and subsequent discussions with other interested parties.

Resolved:

- (i) The Executive Director (Planning & Transportation) be authorised to continue discussions with interested parties on the possible re-use of the bridge on an alternative site across the River Dee in Aberdeenshire.
- (ii) To note that a contract was being prepared for the removal of the West Lodge Suspension Bridge.
- (iii) An alternative route from the House of Bruar to the southern end of the bridge be not progressed at this time.

898. BIENNIAL REPORT ON FLOOD PREVENTION RESPONSIBILITIES

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning & Transportation) (05/814) (1) detailing the requirement on the Council under the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961, as amended, to publish a biennial report specifying the actions which had been taken and were intended to be taken, with regard to flood prevention within the Council area; and (2) presenting the biennial report for approval.

Resolved:

- (i) The biennial report, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 05/814, be published as required by the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961, as amended.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Planning & Transportation) be instructed to prepare a leaflet clarifying roles and responsibilities in flood prevention.

899. SESTRAN GRANT 2005/06

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning & Transportation) (05/815) advising of the grant allocation received from the Scottish Executive, through SESTRAN, for the design and implementation of sustainable transport projects and outlining projects to be taken forward in 2005/06.

Resolved:

The progression of the projects, as detailed in Report 05/815, be approved.

900. TAXIS IN BUS LANES (Art. 865/04)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning & Transportation) (05/816) summarising the results of the consultation carried out on a proposal to allow taxis to use bus lanes in Perth and recommending that the proposal be abandoned.

Resolved:

The proposal to alter the Traffic Regulation Orders relating to bus lanes in Perth, to allow taxis to use them, be abandoned.

901. WAITING RESTRICTIONS – KINROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning & Transportation) (05/817) (1) detailing the results of the consultation and advertising of the Draft Traffic Regulation Order for waiting restrictions and a one-way order in the vicinity of Kinross Primary School; and (2) recommending that the objections be set aside and the Order be made as originally proposed.

Resolved:

The objections received to the proposed introduction of a one-way traffic flow on Bowton Road and the school time waiting restrictions at the junction of Bowton Road and Ross Street, Kinross, be set aside and the Traffic Regulation Order be made as originally proposed.

902. 40MPH SPEED LIMIT, GLENFOOT

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning & Transportation) (05/818) (1) summarising comments and objections received on a proposed 40mph speed limit through Glenfoot; and (2) recommending that the objections be set aside and the Order be made as originally proposed.

Resolved:

The objections to the 40mph speed limit for Glenfoot be set aside and the Traffic Regulation Order be made as originally proposed.

903. TENDERS ACCEPTED AND WORKS AWARDED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning & Transportation) (05/819) detailing the tenders accepted and works awarded by the Executive Director (Planning & Transportation) under delegated powers during the period 1 July 2005 to 30 September 2005.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the contents of Report 05/819 and the contracts awarded in respect of Roads and Forward Planning related schemes and Public, Education and Community Care Transport.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Planning & Transportation) be authorised to publish tender information for transport contracts.