

# STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held in Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Buildings, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 10 May 2006 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors Doig, Baird, Barnacle, Barr, Ellis (substituting for Councillor Livingstone), A Grant, Hayton, Hunter, Lennie, Mulheron (substituting for Councillor Miller), Stewart, Wilson and Young

In Attendance: P Kyle and P Wallace (both Chief Executive's Service); A R McArthur, Executive Director (Corporate Services); K Donaldson, I Innes, H McKenzie, J Somerville, J Symon, G A Taylor and R Thomson (all Corporate Services); J Irons, Executive Director (Environment); K McNamara (The Environment Service)

Apologies for Absence: Provost Scott and Councillor MacLellan

Councillor Doig, Convener, Presiding.

## 316. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillors Ellis and A Grant declared a non-financial interest in Art 324.

## 317. MINUTES

- (i) The Minute of Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held on 15 March 2006 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.
- (ii) The Minutes of Executive Sub-Committee of 14 March 2006 and 29 March 2006 were submitted and noted (**Appendices I and II**)
- (iii) The Minutes of Property Sub-Committee of 8 March 2006 and 20 April 2006 were submitted and noted (**Appendices III and IV**)

## 318. AUTHORITY TO WRITE OFF BAD DEBTS (LOCAL TAXES) (Art 342/05)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (06/328) seeking approval for the Executive Director (Corporate Services) to write off identified bad debts in respect of Council Tax (including Water and Sewerage Charges), Business Rates and Community Charge.

### Resolved:

Subject to discussion with the Council's auditors, the sums shown in attached Schedules to Report 06/328 be written off.

## 319. GRANTING OF NON-DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF (Art 343/05)

There was submitted and noted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (06/329) advising the Committee of the amount of Non Domestic Rate relief granted for new applications during Financial Year 2005/2006.

## 320. TREASURY ACTIVITY AND COMPLIANCE REPORT (Art 344/05)

There was submitted and noted a report by the Head of Finance (06/330) providing a summary of the Loans Fund transactions for the quarter to 31 March 2006 and reporting on compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement (TMPS), Treasury Management Practices (TMP's) and the Prudential Indicators for the same period.

## 321. RENEWAL & REPAIR FUND 2006/07 (Art 345/05)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (06/331) identifying a programme of works to be funded from the Renewal & Repair Fund in 2006/2007.

**Resolved**

- (i) The contents of Report 06/331 be noted.
- (ii) The proposed programme of works to be funded from the Renewal & Repair Fund in 2006/07, as set out in Section 4 of Report 06/331, be approved.

**322. CORPORATE ACTIONS FROM EMPLOYEE SURVEY 2005 (Art 814/05)**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (06/332) setting out the Corporate Action Plan developed in response to the Employee Survey carried out in 2005.

**Resolved:**

The Corporate Action Plan developed in response to the Employee Survey undertaken in 2005, as contained in Appendix 1 to Report 06/332, be approved.

**323. STRATEGIC BEST VALUE IMPROVEMENT REVIEW OF PROCUREMENT – FINAL REPORT**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (06/333) providing a final report on the Strategic Best Value Improvement Review of Procurement.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The recommendations of the review, as set out in Section 9 of Report 06/333, be approved.
- (ii) The implementation and improvement plan, as set out at Appendix A to Report 06/333, be approved.

**324. EASTERN PERTSHIRE AREA INITIATIVE**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Economic Development (06/334) setting out the proposals in the Eastern Perthshire Area Initiative Action Plan.

**Resolved:**

The Draft Action Plan, as contained at Appendix 1 to Report 06/334, be approved, as a basis for taking forward the Eastern Perthshire Area Initiative.

**325. PROPOSED BUSINESS FIRST REVIEW**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Economic Development (06/335) outlining the proposed scope of the Business First Review, the draft objectives, composition of the review team, operational arrangements and the proposed timescale.

**Resolved:**

The scope of the Business First Review, the objectives, composition of the review team, operational arrangements and timescale, be approved.

**326. VIEWFINDER FIFTEENTH QUESTIONNAIRE (Art 221/06)**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Performance Planning (06/336) presenting the key findings from the fifteenth Viewfinder questionnaire.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The findings of the Fifteenth Questionnaire be noted and appropriate officers use the results to inform policy development/implementation and service delivery/planning.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Environment) be requested to bring forward a report to a future meeting of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee on transport arrangements between Perth and Ninewells Hospital, Dundee.

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

### 327. STRATEGIC WASTE FACILITIES – STRATEGIC OUTLINE CASE, STRATEGIC WASTE FUNDING AND LANDFILL ALLOWANCE

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (06/289) drawing together several areas of work in connection with development the Council's strategic waste requirements, to overcome the Council's reliance on landfill, and to minimise financial liabilities arising from Landfill Allowance legislation.

It was also noted that the Environment Committee at the meeting of 26 April 2006 had considered this report and had noted Recommendation (a) and approved Recommendations (c) and (e).

**Resolved:**

- (i) The position with the submission of the Waste Strategic Outline Case and application for Strategic Waste Funding to the Scottish Executive be noted.
- (ii) An investigation of the procurement option in relation to securing a site for an energy from waste facility in the Perth and Kinross area be agreed.
- (iii) The procurement of waste facilities be based on;
  - a) Tendering contracts for Materials Recovery and In Vessel Composting under European Restricted Procedure;
  - b) Letting a larger contract for an Energy for Waste (EfW) plant, under either the Restricted or Negotiated Procedure. The scale, complexity and risk of this procurement would necessitate a Public Private Partnership approach;
- c) A separate contract for the Council's landfill requirements, to replace the existing landfill contract which expires in 2009, with the delivery of these arrangements being through the establishment of a dedicated contract procurement and monitoring team, subject to the availability of suitable funding.