

# COUNCIL MEETING

Minute of Council Meeting held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 29 March 2006 at 2.00pm.

Present: Provost Scott, Councillors Baird, Barnacle, Barr, Barrett, Bushby, Caddell, Coburn, Cowan, Crabbie, Doig, Dow, Ellis, Flynn, Gillies, A Grant, E Grant, Hayton, Hulbert, Hunter (from Art 224(b)), Jack, Livingstone, Lumsden, Lyall, Mair, McDonald, McEwen, MacLellan, Miller, Mulheron, Robertson, Simpson, Stewart, Telfer, Wilson and Young.

In Attendance: B Malone (Chief Executive), P Wallace and K MacDonald (both Chief Executive's Service); A R McArthur (Executive Director – Corporate Services); G Taylor and M Kay (both Corporate Services); D Roberts (Executive Director – Housing and Community Care), D Burke and G Fraser (both Housing and Community Care); L McConnell (Interim Executive Director – Education and Children's Services) and R Bean (Planning and Transportation).

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Culliven, Howie, Lennie, Lloyd and D Scott

Provost Scott, Presiding.

## 221. 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

At the commencement of the meeting Provost Scott referred to this week being the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Perth and Kinross Council Unitary Authority and he paid tribute to his predecessors as Provost and Elected Members and Council Officers past and present for their efforts during the previous ten years.

## 222. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor Simpson declared a financial interest in Art. 224(a); Councillor Barnacle declared a non-financial interest in Art. 224(b) and Provost Scott declared a non-financial interest in Art. 224(b).

## 223. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### (a) Special Council Meetings of 9 February 2006 and 15 March 2006

The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of 9 February 2006 (Arts. 94-95) and 15 March 2006 (Arts. 206-207) were submitted, approved as correct records and authorised for signature.

### (b) Council Meeting of 15 February 2006

The Minute of the Council Meeting of 15 February 2006 (Arts. 107-114) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

## 224. NOTICES OF MOTION IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER 26

COUNCILLOR SIMPSON, HAVING DECLARED A FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER 6, WITHDREW FROM THE MEETING AND LEFT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

### (a) Post Offices

In terms of Standing Order 26, the Council considered and agreed the following Motion by Councillors Livingstone and Barr.

#### **Resolved:**

- (i) Perth and Kinross Council recognises the valuable social contribution that Post Offices make, and their importance to both community life and local economies.

- (ii) The Council:
- (a) will write to the Prime Minister and the First Minister calling upon them to adopt a 'joined up' approach to resolve the grave financial problems affecting Post Offices, and to make every effort to create a climate for a vibrant and viable Post Office Network of a suitable size to meet the needs of Perth and Kinross and Scotland.
  - (b) Strongly supports the view of the National Federation of Sub Postmasters that public agencies such as the Department of Work and Pensions, the Inland Revenue, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, the Passport Agency, the Scottish Executive, the National Health Service and Perth and Kinross Council, at least offer, if not promote the choice of Post Offices for transactions and information dissemination thereby supporting and sustaining the network.
  - (c) Deplores the current proposal to scrap the Post Office Card Account in 2010 and will write to the Chief Executives of the Bank of Scotland and The Royal Bank of Scotland, calling upon them to allow their customers easy access to the Post Office Network, as other banks have done.

COUNCILLOR SIMPSON RETURNED TO THE MEETING AND COUNCILLOR HUNTER ENTERED THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

PROVOST SCOTT, HAVING DECLARED A NON-FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER 6, WITHDREW FROM THE MEETING AND LEFT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER 23 COUNCILLOR FLYNN, AS DEPUTE PROVOST TOOK THE CHAIR.

**(b) Toll Bridges**

In terms of Standing Order 26, the Council considered and agreed the following Motion by Councillors Hulbert and Livingstone, together with an additional resolution in response to a letter from Angus Council dated 9 March 2006, copies of which had been circulated at the meeting (06/352).

**Resolved:**

Perth and Kinross Council strongly supports the development of transport links throughout Scotland. It recognises that bridges and river crossings form a crucial part in the transport infrastructure and therefore:

- (1) Supports the principle of toll free bridges in Scotland.
- (2) Welcomes the withdrawal of tolls on the Skye and Erskine bridges.
- (3) Supports the business and congestion case being put forward by the Tay Road Bridge Joint Board (which consists of representatives of Dundee City Council, Fife Council and Angus Council) for the scrapping of tolls on the Tay road bridge.
- (4) Notes the plans for a new Kincardine bridge (toll free) and the consequent increased traffic flows projected for Kinross-shire and the urgent requirement for a second Forth road bridge to be built.
- (5) Supports the development of environmental and sustainable public transport initiatives in connection with the provision of the second Forth road bridge and the continued operation of the first bridge.
- (6) Recognises the contribution of rail transport in east central Scotland and strongly supports the infrastructure investments in the Forth and Tay rail bridges.
- (7) Instructs the Chief Executive to write to Angus Council agreeing to participate in the campaign for toll free bridges in Scotland together with neighbouring authorities.

PROVOST SCOTT RETURNED TO THE MEETING AT THIS POINT AND RESUMED THE CHAIR.

## **225. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

### **The Minutes of Committees from 9 February 2006 to 15 March 2006**

The decisions recorded in Arts. 97-106 and 115-205, copies of which had been circulated to all members of the Council, were submitted and approved.

## **226. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND – FOURTH STATUTORY REVIEW – FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO SCOTTISH MINISTERS FOR THE PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL AREA (Art. 692/05)**

There was submitted a report by the Council Secretary (06/217) advising that on 9 March 2006 the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland had published its report to Scottish Ministers containing final recommendations for twelve multi-member wards within the Perth and Kinross Council area.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) The report to Scottish Ministers by the Local Government Boundary Commission containing its final recommendations for twelve multi-member wards in the Perth and Kinross Council area be noted.
- (ii) The previous position as set out in Paragraph 2.6 of Report 06/217 be confirmed and comments be made to Scottish Ministers accordingly.
- (iii) The Chief Executive be instructed to advise Scottish Ministers of the Council's comments by 20 April 2006.

## **227. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE – CORPORATES RULES AND STANDARDS – ANNUAL REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS; SCHEME OF ADMINISTRATION AND CONTRACT RULES AND INCLUSION OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT STANDARDS**

There was submitted a report by the Council Secretary (06/223) advising on the annual review of the Council's Standing Orders; Scheme of Administration and Contract Rules and proposing the inclusion of the approved Corporate Project Management Standards in the Corporate Rules and Standards of the Council.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) The position with regard to the annual review of the Standing Orders, Scheme of Administration and Contract Rules, and in particular the production by the Council Secretary on 1 April 2006 of a revised Scheme of Administration incorporating the amendments to the Scheme approved by the Council since March 2005 be noted.
- (ii) Officers who exercise delegated authority in terms of the Scheme of Administration be instructed to ensure that their Schemes of Delegation accord with the revised Scheme.
- (iii) The position with regard to the outstanding issues referred to in Paragraphs 2.5, 3.1 and 3.3 of Report 06/223 be noted.
- (iv) The intention to submit reports on these issues and on the requirement for any consequential amendments to the Corporate Rules and Standards of the Council to the Member/Officer Working Group and thereafter to the Council be noted.
- (v) The inclusion of the Corporate Project Management Standards in the Corporate Rules and Standards of the Council be approved.

## **228. "CHANGING LIVES": THE REPORT OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SOCIAL WORK REVIEW**

There was submitted a joint report by the Interim Depute Director (Education & Children's Services) and Chief Social Work Officer (06/218) outlining the findings and recommendations of "Changing Lives": The Report of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Social Work Review and the Government's response to it.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) The findings and recommendations of the Report of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Social Work Review as outlined in Section 4 of Report 06/218 be noted.
- (ii) The Chief Social Work Officer be instructed to bring forward a draft implementation plan to address the findings and recommendations of the Review in Perth and Kinross taking into account engagement of staff and stakeholders in the process.

## **229. ROLE OF THE CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (06/220) setting out the recommendations for the development of the role of Chief Social Work Officer in Perth and Kinross Council, taking into account the specific responsibilities of the Chief Social Work Officer and the structure for the delivery of Social Work Services in Perth and Kinross Council.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) The Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) develop a protocol that reflects the model of Social Work Services delivery within Perth and Kinross to fulfil the responsibility of the Chief Social Work Officer specified in legislation and Scottish Executive guidance, to be referred to the Executive Officer Team and subsequently to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval.
- (ii) The Chief Social Work Officer be instructed to bring forward an Annual Report to the Executive Officer Team and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and relevant Committees covering all aspects of the Chief Social Work Officer role.

## **230. PROPOSAL TO MERGE MEMBER / OFFICER WORKING GROUPS**

There was submitted a joint report by the Head of Business Change and Improvement and the Council Secretary (06/219) setting out a proposal to merge the work being undertaken by the Local Governance Member/Officer Working Group and the Modernisation and Improvement Member/Officer Working Group by establishing a single combined Member/Officer Working Group.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) It be agreed to merge the work being undertaken by the Local Governance Member/Officer Working Group and the Modernisation and Improvement Member/Officer Working Group by establishing a single combined Member/Officer Working Group to be known as the Modernisation and Governance Member/Officer Working Group.
- (ii) The proposed role, remit and membership of the combined Member/Officer Working Group as set out in Report 06/219 be approved.
- (iii) Five members of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be appointed to the combined Member/Officer Working Group.
- (iv) Officer representation on the Member/Officer Working Group be the Chief Executive, the Executive Director (Corporate Services), the Head of Business Change and Improvement and the Council Secretary, together with other lead officers as appropriate.

## **231. ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (06/224) outlining the development process and proposing governance and delivery arrangements for the Organisational Change and Improvement Plan.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) The Organisational Change and Improvement Plan appended to Report 06/224 be approved.
- (ii) The Chief Executive be instructed to report annually on the overall progress of the Organisational Change and Improvement Plan as part of the Annual Performance report.

## **232. APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL BODIES**

### **(a) Tayside Community Justice Authority**

#### **Resolved:**

Councillors Barr and Young be appointed to the Tayside Community Justice Authority and Councillors Simpson and Stewart be appointed as substitute members.

### **(b) Castle Huntly Prison Visiting Committee**

#### **Resolved:**

Councillor E Grant and Councillor Hunter be appointed to the Castle Huntly Prison Visiting Committee.