

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting of Perth and Kinross Council held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 19 December 2007 at 10.30am.

Present: Provost J Hulbert, Councillors W Wilson, K Baird, R Band, P Barrett, L Caddell, I Campbell, J Coburn, B Ellis, J Flynn, A Gaunt, C Gillies, A Grant, E Grant, G Hayton, A Jack, J Kellas, J Law, W Lumsden, K Lyall, M Lyle, E Maclachlan, A MacLellan, H McDonald, D Melloy, I Miller, S Miller, P Mulheron, M Roberts, D Scott, C Shiers, L Simpson (until Art. 804), A Stewart, H Stewart, B Vaughan, A Wylie and A Younger.

Also Attending: B Malone, Chief Executive; J Irons, Depute Chief Executive; G Taylor, T Yule, B Renton, J Dickson, D Anderson and A Taylor (all Chief Executive's Service); D Roberts, Executive Director (Housing and Community Care); J Fyffe, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); G Stevenson, Executive Director (Corporate Services), J Symon and I Innes (both Corporate Services) and C Wyllie (External Audit).

Apology: Councillor E Howie

Provost Hulbert, Presiding

796. DARA, ALMONDBANK

Prior to the commencement of business, the Provost referred to recent press reports that the Minister of Defence was considering selling the Defence Aviation Repair Agency (DARA), Almondbank to Vector Aerospace, outlined the impact the sale of the facility might have on the local economy and workforce and stressed the need for the Ministry of Defence to retain the specialist engineering facility in Almondbank.

Resolved:

- (i) A meeting with the relevant DARA Trade Union Officials and a delegation of elected members to discuss the current situation be arranged as a matter of urgency.
- (ii) Representations be made to the Minister for Defence Equipment and Supply to reconsider any proposal to sell the DARA Almondbank facility.

797. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

798. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Council Meeting of 14 November 2007 (Arts. 693-700) and Special Council Meeting of 5 December 2007 (Arts. 746-747) were submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

799. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Minutes of Committees from 14 November 2007 to 12 December 2007

The decisions recorded in Arts. 677-692, 701-745 and 748-765, copies of which had been circulated to all members of the Council, were submitted and approved.

800. VISION, DIRECTION AND TRAVEL IN EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

John Fyffe, who took up his post of Executive Director (Education & Children's Services) on 1 December 2007, gave a presentation outlining the way ahead to achieve excellence in Perth and Kinross Education and Children's Services through a shared vision, key priorities and key strategies.

801. AUDIT OF BEST VALUE AND COMMUNITY PLANNING – SUBMISSION TO AUDIT SCOTLAND

There was submitted a report by the Head of Strategic Management and Improvement (07/841) providing an overview of the written submission, to be provided to Audit Scotland in terms of the forthcoming Audit of Best Value and Community Planning in the Council.

Resolved:

- (i) The position with regard to the forthcoming Audit of Best Value and Community Planning by Audit Scotland be noted.
- (ii) The written submission, as contained in Appendix 2 to Report 07/841, be approved.
- (iii) It be remitted to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to undertake any final revisions to the submission prior to forwarding the document to Audit Scotland by 18 January 2008.

802. PROPOSAL FOR A CORPORATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/842) highlighting the Council's legal responsibilities and commitments in contributing towards achieving sustainable development, and proposing a corporate framework to monitor, evaluate and report the Council's sustainable development performance to evidence this.

Resolved:

The proposed framework, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 07/842, be adopted as the Council's approach to Corporate and Service Sustainable Development and implemented with immediate effect.

803. EQUALITIES STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2007-2010 (Art. 668)

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (07/843) presenting the Council's Equalities Strategy and Action Plan for the period 2007 – 2010.

Resolved:

The Equalities Strategy and Action 2007-2010, as detailed in the Appendix to Report 07/843, be approved.

COUNCILLOR SIMPSON LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

804. ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS AND EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S FINAL REPORT 2006/2007

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (07/844) presenting the Council's audited Abstract of Accounts for the financial year 2006/2007 and the External Auditor's Report to Members for that year.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 07/844 be noted.
- (ii) The External Auditor's Final Report and Abstract of Accounts be submitted to the next meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee on 23 January 2008 for detailed consideration.

805. BUDGET UPDATE REPORT NO. 1

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (07/845) (1) on progress made with preparing the General Fund Revenue Budget 2008/09 – 2010/11 and the Composite Capital Budget and (2) setting out Perth and Kinross Council's funding position over the next three financial years as announced in the Local Government Finance Settlement.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 07/845 be noted.
- (ii) It be noted that the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) Leaders' Meeting of 7 December 2007 agreed 14 February 2008 as National Council Tax Setting Day, which is in accordance with the Council approved date for the Special Budget Meeting.

806. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE – CORPORATE RULES AND STANDARDS – STANDING ORDERS AND SCHEME OF ADMINISTRATION – REVISIONS AND AMENDMENTS (Art. 245)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Democratic Services (07/846(a)) presenting a revised version of the Council's Scheme of Administration, reflecting the changes to the political decision-making structure approved by the Council, together with a request for further amendments in respect of delegation to the Executive Director (Environment) and the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) and additional amendments to the Scheme of Administration in respect of the Lifelong Learning Committee.

Resolved:

- (i) The revised Scheme of Administration, as contained in Appendix 1 to Report 07/846(a), the amendments in relation to the Appointment Panels and Education Appeal Committee and delegation to the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) in respect of Schools Education, be approved.
- (ii) The recommendations of the Planning Etc (Scotland) Act 2006 Member/Officer Working Group in relation to delegation to the Executive Director (Environment), as set out in Appendix 2 to and referred to in Paragraphs 3.4 to 3.10 of Report 07/846(a), be approved, other than the references to 'ten or more' separate households where they occur.

807. REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES (Art. 729/06)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Democratic Services (07/846) updating members on the review of Parliamentary Constituency Polling Districts and Polling Places within the area of Perth and Kinross.

Resolved:

The proposals for the designation of polling districts and polling places, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report 07/846, be approved.

808. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO PERTH AND KINROSS LICENSING FORUM

There was submitted a report by the Head of Democratic Services (07/847) seeking approval to appoint members to the Perth and Kinross Licensing Forum.

Resolved:

- (i) The allocation of places to the Perth and Kinross Licensing Forum, as detailed in Section 3 of Report 07/847, be approved.
- (ii) It be noted that the Council's Licensing Standards Officer (when appointed) would be an ex officio member of the Forum.
- (iii) It be delegated to the Head of Democratic Services, in consultation with the Clerk to the Licensing Board and leaders of the political groups, to appoint members to the Forum.

809. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Open Estate Prison Visiting Committee

Resolved:

Mr A Muir be appointed to the Open Estate Prison Visiting Committee to replace Councillor M Roberts.

(b) Innerpeffray Library

Resolved:

Councillor A Cowan be appointed to the Innerpeffray Library Mortification Board to replace Councillor H McDonald

(c) Comrie Community Centre Management Committee

Resolved:

- (i) A request be made to Comrie Community Centre Management Committee to amend their constitution in light of the impact the introduction of multi-member has had on the appointment of elected members to wards or area specific organisations.

- (ii) An appointment to the Comrie Community Centre Management Committee be deferred meantime.

(d) Perth and Kinross Community Health Partnership

Resolved:

Councillor A Wylie and Mr D Burke, Depute Director (Housing and Community Care) be appointed to the Perth and Kinross Community Health Partnership in addition to Councillor P Barrett.