

HOUSING AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Housing and Health Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 19 August 2009 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors P Barrett, A Wylie, B Band, I Campbell, J Flynn, A Gaunt, G Hayton (substituting for W Robertson), K Howie, E Maclachlan, M Roberts, D Scott, C Shiers and H Stewart; Mr A Boyd and Mrs P Fyfe (substituting for Mrs E Muir) (both Tenants' and Residents' Federation).

In Attendance: D Burke, Executive Director (Housing and Community Care); L Cameron, C Crawford, J Dean, J Gilruth, B Grigg, L Potter, S Rankin, L Ross (all Housing and Community Care); M Morrison (Corporate Services); A Wilson, S Hendry and J Jarvie (all Chief Executive's Service).

Apologies for Absence: Councillor W Robertson and Mrs E Muir.

Councillor P Barrett, Convener, Presiding.

412. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

413. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minute of Meeting of the Housing and Health Committee of 13 May 2009 (Arts. 241-248) was submitted, approved as a correct record, and authorised for signature.

414. AUTHORITY TO WRITE-OFF BAD DEBTS AND OBSOLETE STOCK – STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 10 JUNE 2009 (Art. 311)

The decision taken by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 10 June 2009, to write off the various amounts set out in Report 09/288 but where appropriate to continue to take action to recover the amounts being written off, be noted.

415. DRAFT HOUSING (SCOTLAND) BILL: A CONSULTATION – PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL'S RESPONSE

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (09/374) proposing Perth and Kinross Council's response to the Scottish Government's Draft Housing (Scotland) Bill. The consultation, which took forward proposals first highlighted in *Firm Foundations: the Future of Housing in Scotland*, aimed to safeguard social housing for the future and to improve value for tenants and taxpayers, the intention of the Scottish Government being to introduce the Bill in the Scottish Parliament in 2010.

Motion (Councillors P Barrett and G Hayton)

The Perth and Kinross Council response to the Draft Housing (Scotland) Bill, as detailed in Appendix A to Report 09/374, be approved for submission to the Scottish Government .

Amendment (Councillors M Roberts and I Campbell)

The response to the Housing (Scotland) Bill consultation as set out in Appendix A to Report 09/374 be approved with the deletion of the first and final paragraphs of the answer to question 1.1.

Motion – 9 votes

Amendment – 4 Votes

Resolved:

In accordance with the Motion.

416. REVIEW OF HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY (Art. 243)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (09/375), (1) presenting the results of the consultation on the draft Housing Allocations Policy; and (2) recommending its approval.

Resolved:

- (i) The outcome of consultation with stakeholders, as set out in Section 3 of Report 09/375, be noted.
- (ii) The proposed Housing Allocations Policy for Perth and Kinross Council, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 09/375, be approved, with the new scheme to be launched in September 2009.
- (iii) The proposal, as set out in Section 3.18 and Appendix 3 to Report 09/375, to establish a Member/Officer and Tenants' and Residents' Federation Working Group, to assist and monitor the development of the Housing Options service, be approved.

417. SCHEME OF ASSISTANCE FOR PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (09/376), (1) summarising progress to date on the development of a Scheme of Assistance for the repair, improvement and adaptation of private sector properties within Perth and Kinross; and (2) seeking approval for several recommendations to be considered for inclusion within the consultation on the draft Scheme of Assistance.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress made in developing the Perth and Kinross Scheme of Assistance be noted.
- (ii) The consultation draft, as appended to Report 09/376, be approved.
- (iii) The options for inclusion within the Scheme of Assistance, set out in Clauses 3.3 and 3.4 of Report 09/376, be approved.

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- (iv) Consideration be given to discretionary grants for Below Tolerable Standard (BTS) houses during consultation on the Scheme of Assistance, as set out in Clauses 3.8 and 3.9 of Report 09/376.
- (v) The Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) be remitted to submit a further report on the recommended Scheme of Assistance to the Housing and Health Committee in October 2009.

418. MACMILLAN TAYSIDE BENEFITS PARTNERSHIP (Art. 57)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (09/377) advising Members of further developments to the MacMillan Tayside Benefits Partnership, including an extension to the Partnership, in relation to Welfare Rights advice, to those affected by long term health conditions.

Resolved:

It be agreed that the Macmillan Tayside Benefits Partnership be extended to include targeted welfare benefits and money advice to those affected by long-term health conditions.

419. COMMUNITY MEALS SERVICE (Art. 267(b))

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (09/378), (1) providing an update on the implementation and development of the Community Meals Service which commenced in October 2008 within Perth and Kinross; and (2) recommending further development of the Service.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress made to date in the implementation and development of the Community Meals Service, as detailed in Report 09/378, be noted.
- (ii) The proposals, as set out in Section 3 of Report 09/378, to enable further development of the Service, be approved.

420. PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF THE PERTH AND KINROSS DRUG AND ALCOHOL TEAM – SECURING THE FUTURE

J Gilruth, Housing and Community Care, gave a presentation highlighting the achievements of the Drug and Alcohol Team over the past year, along with examples of various partnerships which had been developed. These partnerships contributed to child protection, community safety, carer support and better outcomes for service users.

***421. PROGRESS ON ALCOHOL CONFERENCE ACTIONS (Arts. 400 and 410)**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (09/360) identifying the progress made by the Community Planning Strategic Health and Community Safety Partnerships and the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership in delivering the nine actions identified through the 'Real Unit Cost' Conference on Alcohol held on 12 November 2008.

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Resolved:

- (i) Progress made in delivering the key actions arising from the Conference, as detailed in Report 09/360, be noted.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) submit a further report to the Community Safety, Housing and Health and Lifelong Learning Committees in six months time detailing the further progress made in the relevant action areas.
- (iii) It be noted that Report 09/360 was submitted to the Council's Community Safety Committee on 12 August 2009 and Lifelong Learning Committee on 19 August 2009.

422. CORPORATE PARENTING MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP – APPROVAL OF GROUP'S REMIT (Ar. 401 and 406)

There was submitted and noted the remit of the Corporate Parenting Member/Officer Working Group (09/369), which had earlier today, been approved by the Lifelong Learning Committee (Art. 406), and previously noted for its interest by the Community Safety Committee (Art. 401).

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