

## STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 10 June 2009 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors I Miller, G Hayton, K Baird, P Barrett, A Grant, E Grant, Provost Hulbert, A Jack, J Kellas, J Law (substituting for W Wilson), A MacLellan, M Roberts, W Robertson, A Stewart, B Vaughan and A Wylie.

In Attendance: B Malone, Chief Executive; G Stevenson, Executive Director (Corporate Services); R Brown, J Carney, E Crighton, I Innes, J Symon and R Thomson (all Corporate Services); J Fyffe, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services), J Walker, Housing and Community Care; M Antoniewicz, M Cochlan, P Graham, B Renton, G Taylor and S Thornton (all Chief Executive's); N Ballantine and J McCrone (both The Environment Service); and M Mitchell, Tayside Procurement Consortium.

Councillor I Miller, Convener, Presiding.

### 302. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

### 303. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

#### (i) Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

The Minute of the Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 1 April 2009 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

#### (ii) Appeals Sub-Committee

The Minute of the Meeting of the Appeals Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held on 30 April 2009 was submitted and noted. (**Appendix I**)

#### (iii) Executive Sub-Committee

The Minute of the Meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held on 29 April 2009 was submitted and noted. (**Appendix II**)

#### (iv) Property Sub-Committee

The Minute of the Meeting of the Property Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 20 May 2009 was submitted and noted. (**Appendix III**)

**(v) Corporate Health and Safety Consultative Committee**

The Minute of the Meeting of the Corporate Health and Safety Consultative Committee of 2 March 2009 was submitted and noted. **(Appendix IV)**

**(vi) Employees Joint Consultative Committee**

The Minute of the Meeting of the Employees Joint Consultative Committee of 26 February 2009 was submitted and noted. **(Appendix V)**

**304. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORTS 2008/09 (Art. 357/08)**

**(i) CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S SERVICE**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (09/280) reviewing the performance of the Chief Executive's Service for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

**Resolved:**

After noting that the report would also be considered by the Scrutiny Committee later in the day, the contents of Report 09/280 were considered, discussed in some detail and accepted.

**(ii) CORPORATE SERVICES**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (09/281) reviewing the performance of Corporate Services for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

**Resolved:**

After noting that the report would also be considered by the Scrutiny Committee later in the day, the contents of Report 09/281 were considered, discussed in some detail and accepted.

**305. EQUALITIES KEY ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS TO MARCH 2009**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (09/282) highlighting progress on key equality activities across all Services in relation to the statutory duty to promote disability, race and gender in service delivery and employment, and in relation to statutory duties in covering sexual orientation, age, religion and belief.

**Resolved:**

The satisfactory progress made in the six months to March 2009, as outlined in Report 09/282, be noted.

**306. GENDER EQUALITY SCHEME - YEAR 2 - PROGRESS REPORT  
(Art. 376/07)**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (09/283) outlining Year 2 activities and progress in relation to the Council's Gender Equality Scheme.

**Resolved:**

The progress made in relation to the Council's Gender Equality Scheme, as outlined in Appendix 1 to Report 09/283, be noted.

**307. CUSTOMER SERVICE PERFORMANCE MONITORING (Art. 810/05)**

There was submitted a report by the Modernisation and Efficiency Manager (09/284) providing information on customer service performance for the period April 2008 - March 2009.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The information on customer service performance, as detailed in Report 09/284, be noted.
- (ii) That the high level of employee focus on customer service continue.
- (iii) That customer service performance continue to be reported on an annual basis.

**308. RENEWAL AND REPAIR FUND 2009/2010 (Art. 513/08)**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (09/285) recommending the programme of works to be funded from the Renewal and Repair Fund in 2009/2010.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of Report 09/285 be noted.
- (ii) The proposed programme of works to be funded in 2009/10 from the Renewal and Repair Fund, as set out in Section 4 of Report 09//285, be confirmed.

**309. TREASURY ACTIVITY AND COMPLIANCE REPORT (Art. 49)**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (09/286) providing a summary of the Loans Fund transactions for the quarter to 31 March 2009 and reporting on compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement, Treasury Management Practices and the Prudential Indicators for the same period.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of Report 09/286, submitted in accordance with the Council's approved Treasury Management Practices, be noted.
- (ii) The proposed arrangements for providing training for members, as detailed in Section 5 of Report 09/286, be approved.
- (iii) The proposed lending and investment policy, as detailed in Section 6 of Report 09/286, be approved.

**310. UPDATE OF MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (Art. 225/08)**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (09/287) updating the Medium Term Financial Plan, originally approved by the Committee in April 2008 and noting progress on strengthening the links to workforce and asset management planning. The report also summarised the potentially serious implications of the Chancellor's 2009 Budget statement on future Council funding and made recommendations on preparing the 2010/11 General Fund Revenue Budget.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of Report 09/287 be noted.
- (ii) The proposed approach to up-dating the 2010/2011 General Fund Provisional Revenue Budget, as set out within Section 5.10 to 5.17 of Report 09/287, be approved.

**311. AUTHORITY TO WRITE OFF BAD DEBTS AND OBSOLETE STOCK (Art. 511/08)**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (09/288), seeking approval to write off bad debts in respect of Sales Ledger; Council Tax (including Water and Sewerage charges); Non-Domestic Rates; Community Charge; Irrecoverable and Void Rents; Property and Commercial Rents; Housing Benefit Overpayments; Obsolete Stock and Car Park Trading Account Income.

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the amounts set out in Section 3 and detailed in the appendices to Report 09//288, be written off.
- (ii) To note that action will continue to be taken to recover the amounts being written off where appropriate.

**312. TAYSIDE PROCUREMENT CONSORTIUM ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (09/289), (1) summarising the activities of Tayside Procurement Consortium (TPC) for the financial year 2008/09 and; (2) providing an update on actual performance against the approved Procurement Strategy 2008-2011.

**Resolved:**

The contents of Report 09/289, submitted in accordance with the approved Tayside Procurement Consortium Strategy 2008-2011, be noted.

**313. SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ST JOHN'S KIRK, PERTH AS AN EVENTS AND CULTURAL VENUE**

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive (09/290) recommending approval of funding of £100,000 to provide assistance to St John's Kirk Trust to develop the interior of the Kirk as an events and cultural venue in addition to its current ecclesiastical use.

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**Resolved:**

That funding of £100,000 be provided to the Trust of St John's Kirk, Perth to provide assistance towards the development of St John's Kirk as an events and cultural venue in addition to its current ecclesiastical use, subject to the Kirk proceeding with the development in line with the core project outline in the Business Case presented to the Council, be approved.

**314. CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2009/2010**

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (09/291) presenting the Corporate Asset Management Plan 2009/2010.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The Corporate Asset Management Plan 2009/2010 be approved.
- (ii) A Member/Officer Working Group be established to champion the adoption of asset management practices across all Council Services with the membership, remit, etc be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

**315. PROPOSED EXTENSION OF EXISTING MAINS GAS NETWORK TO FERGUSON PARK, RATTRAY**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (09/292) outlining proposals to extend the existing mains gas network into the Ferguson Park area of Rattray, enabling tenants to receive a choice of fuels for their new central heating systems, scheduled to be installed in 2010.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The variation to the Housing Capital Investment Programme, to allow the extension of the mains gas network into the Ferguson Park housing estate in Rattray, be approved.
- (ii) The acceptance of a quotation from Scotia Gas Networks, to carry out the necessary gas infrastructure works at a cost of £105,000, be approved.
- (iii) It be remitted to the Head of Housing to develop affordable warmth measures (based on gas supplies being available) and obtain competitive tenders for the central heating and insulation works.

**316. VALEDICTORY**

The Convener paid tribute to the significant contribution to the Council's work made by Gavin Stevenson, Executive Director (Corporate Services) and presented him with a token of his personal appreciation. Gavin responded in appropriate terms, mentioning in particular how much he had enjoyed his time with the Council and thanking members of his staff for their support during the period.

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