

# 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 6 September 2006 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors Doig, Baird, Crabbie, Culliven (substituting for Councillor Wilson), Ellis (substituting for Councillor A Grant), Hayton, Livingstone, Hunter, MacLellan, Miller, Stewart and Young.

In Attendance: B Malone, Chief Executive; K MacDonald, Chief Executive's Service; A R McArthur, Executive Director (Corporate Services); I Innes, M Kennedy, H Mackenzie, J Somerville, J Symon, G Taylor and R Thomson (all Corporate Services); S Powell, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); G Bowland (Education and Children's Services); J Walker, the Environment Service; S I MacGregor (Housing and Community Care).

Apologies for Absence: Provost Scott and Councillors Barnacle, A Grant and Wilson.

Councillor Doig, Convener, Presiding.

## 578. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

## 579. MINUTES

- (i) The Minute of Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held on 21 June 2006 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.
- (ii) The Minutes of the Executive Sub-Committee of 28 June 2006, 7 July 2006 and 20 July 2006 were submitted and noted (**Appendices I, II and III**).
- (iii) The Minutes of the Appeals Sub-Committee of 6 September 2005-7 March 2006 and 18 July 2006 were submitted and noted (**Appendices IV - V**).
- (iv) The Minute of the Property Sub-Committee of 24 August 2006 was submitted and noted (**Appendix VI**).
- (v) The Minute of the Provost's Sub-Committee of 21 June 2006 was submitted and noted (**Appendix VII**).

## 580. REVENUE BUDGET 2006/07 – MONITORING REPORT NO 1 (Art 194/06)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (06/626) (1) providing an update on the progress of the General Fund Revenue Budget based upon the June 2006 ledger and (2) providing an update on the projected financial positions of the Housing Revenue Account and the Council's Trading Operations.

### Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 06/626 be noted.
- (ii) The adjustments to the 2006/07 management revenue budget, detailed in Sections 2.2 to 2.8 of Report 06/626, be approved.
- (iii) Individual Service virements, summarised in Appendices 1 and 2 of Report 06/626, be approved.

## 581. TREASURY ACTIVITY AND COMPLIANCE REPORT (Art 320/06)

There was submitted and noted a report by the Head of Finance (06/627) (1) providing a summary of the Loans Fund transactions for the quarter to 30 June 2006 and (2) reporting on compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement (TMPS), Treasury Management Practices (TMP) and the Prudential Indicators for the same period.

## 582. SAVINGS ARISING FROM EARLY RETIREMENT DECISIONS TAKEN IN 2005/06

There was submitted and noted a report by the Head of Finance (06/628) informing the Committee of the costs and savings arising from early retirements in the financial year 2005/06.

### **583. COMPOSITE CAPITAL BUDGET 2006/09 – MONITORING REPORT NO 1 (Art 87/06)**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (06/629) providing a summary position of the Composite Capital Programme for the years 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09 and seeking approval for adjustments to the Programme.

#### **Resolved**

- (i) The contents of Report 06/629 be noted.
- (ii) The transfer of expenditure, outlined in Section 4.2 and summarised in Appendix III to Report 06/629, be approved.
- (iii) The proposed programmes of expenditure for the additional capital grants, as set out in Section 3 and 5 of Report 06/629 and summarised in Appendices I and II to Report 06/629, be approved.
- (iv) The proposed budget and monitoring adjustments to the three year Capital Budget 2006/09, set out in Section 3, 4 and 5 of Report 06/629 and summarised at Appendices I and II to Report 06/629, be approved.
- (v) The proposed budget adjustments to the 2006/07 Renewal and Repair Fund Budget, as set out in Section 6 of Report 06/629 and summarised in Appendix IV to Report 06/629, be approved.

### **584. TELEPHONE STRATEGY**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (06/630) (1) outlining the proposed telephony strategy for Perth and Kinross Council and (2) highlighting the major changes required by the Council to implement the strategy and the impact this is likely to have on the Council and the public.

#### **Resolved:**

- (i) The change of extension numbering for Council sites, as detailed in Appendix A to Report 06/630, be agreed.
- (ii) The longer term plans for the use and installation of new telephony systems in Council buildings be approved.

### **585. KINROSS AREA BASED INITIATIVE (Art 489/05)**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Economic Development (06/631) setting out the proposals contained in the Kinross Area Based Initiative Action Plan.

#### **Resolved:**

- (i) The Action Plan, attached as Appendix 1 to Report 06/631, as the basis for taking forward the Kinross Area Based Initiative, be approved.
- (ii) The Head of Economic Development be requested to bring forward regular progress reports to future meetings of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee.

### **586. BIENNIAL REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (06/632) summarising the background and the process undertaken to review the Council's Financial Regulations. A copy of the proposed new Regulations, with all changes clearly highlighted was attached to the report.

#### **Resolved:**

The revised Financial Regulations, attached as Appendix 1 to Report 06/632, be approved.

### **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**

### **\*587. THE COUNCIL TAX (DISCOUNT FOR UNOCCUPIED DWELLINGS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2004 – PROPOSED USE OF THE FUND COLLECTED 2005/06 (Arts 904/04 and 217/05)**

There was submitted a joint report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) and the Executive Director (Housing & Community Care) (06/562) detailing the additional funds

collected as a result of the reduction in discount on long term unoccupied properties and second homes and outlining proposals for the use of the funds to assist in providing affordable housing. It was noted that this report had been submitted to, and approved by, the Housing & Health Committee on 16 August 2006.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The fund collected for Affordable Housing through the reduction in Council Tax discount on long term empty and second homes be noted.
- (ii) The use of the additional funds collected, as outlined in Report 06/562, be authorised.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Housing & Community Care) be given authority to arrange for the purchase of alternative sites, if those set out in Report 06/562 fail to be suitable for purchase through the use of the Council Tax Fund for Affordable Housing.
- (iv) The Housing & Health Committee be given delegated authority to approve the future plans for the use of the Council Tax Fund for Affordable Housing.