

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 12 September 2007 at 2.00pm.

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

In Attendance: B Malone, Chief Executive; J Irons, Depute Chief Executive and Executive Director (Environment); G Stevenson, Executive Director (Corporate Services); Executive D Roberts, Director (Housing and Community Care) B Renton, G Taylor, S Thornton and T Yule (all Chief Executive's); G Fogg, K Lawrie, H Mackenzie, A Nairn, J Symon, R Thomson, (all Corporate Services); B Atkinson, J Fyffe and A Taylor (Education and Children's Services).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors A MacLellan and W Wilson

Councillor I Miller, Convener, Presiding

543. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

544. MINUTES

- (i) The Minute of the Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held on 20 June 2007 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.
- (ii) The Minute of the Meeting of the Property Sub-Committee of 30 August 2007 was submitted and noted. (**Appendix I**)
- (iii) The Minute of the Meeting of the Provost's Sub-Committee of 20 June 2007 (**Appendix II**) was submitted and noted.

545. REVENUE BUDGET 2007/08 – MONITORING REPORT NO 1

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (07/582) (1) providing an update on the 2007/08 General Fund Revenue Budget based upon the June 2007 ledger; and (2) providing an update on the projected financial positions of the Housing Revenue Account and the Building Services DLO.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 07/582 be noted.
- (ii) The adjustments to the 2007/08 management revenue budget, detailed in Sections 2.3 to 2.11 of Report 07/582, be approved.
- (iii) Individual Service virements, summarised in Appendix 1 to Report 07/582, be approved.

546. ANNUAL TREASURY REPORT 2006/07

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (07/583) summarising the Council's treasury activities for the 2006/07 financial year, whilst contrasting actual performance with the approved Treasury Strategy for 2006/07.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 07/583, submitted in accordance with the Council's approved Treasury Management Practices (TMP's), be noted.

547. TREASURY ACTIVITY AND COMPLIANCE REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (07/584) providing a summary of the Loans Fund transactions for the quarter to 30 June 2007, and reporting on compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement (TMPS), Treasury Management Practices (TMP's) and the Prudential Indicators for the same period.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 07/584, submitted in accordance with the Council's approved Treasury Management Practices (TMP's), be noted.
- (ii) The increased investment limits for individual Foreign Banks in the Approved Lending and Investment Policy, as details in Section 5 of Report 07/584, be approved.

548. SAVINGS ARISING FROM EARLY RETIREMENT DECISIONS TAKEN IN 2006/07

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (07/585) providing information on the costs and savings arising from early retiral decisions taken in the financial year 2006/07.

Resolved:

The savings achieved, as indicated in Appendix 1 to Report 07/585, be noted.

549. COMPOSITE CAPITAL BUDGET 2007/10 – MONITORING REPORT NO 1

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (07/586) (1) providing a summary of the position to date for the Composite Capital Programme for the years 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10; and (2) seeking approval for adjustments to the programme.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 07/586, be noted.
- (ii) The proposed budget and monitoring adjustments to the three year Capital Budget 2007/10, as set out in Sections 3, 4 and 5 of Report 07/586 and summarised in Appendices I and II to the report, be approved.
- (iii) The proposed budget adjustments to the 2007/08 Renewal and Repair Fund Budget set out in Section 6 and summarised at Appendix IV to Report 07/586, be approved.

550. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORTS

(i) Chief Executive's Service Annual Performance Report

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (07/587) reviewing the performance of the Chief Executive's Service for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

Resolved:

The contents of the Chief Executive's Service Annual Performance Report covering the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, be approved.

(ii) Corporate Services Annual Performance Report

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (07/588) reviewing the performance of Corporate Services for the period from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

Resolved:

The contents of the Corporate Services Annual Performance Report 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, be approved.

551. BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLANS

(i) Chief Executive's Service Business Management And Improvement Plan

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (07/589) presenting the Chief Executive's Business Management and Improvement Plan for the period 2007-2010.

Resolved:

- (i) The Chief Executive's Business Management and Improvement Plan for 2007-2010, be approved.
- (ii) The preparation of further reports reviewing the performance of the Service, in accordance with corporate guidelines, be approved.

(ii) Corporate Services Business Management And Improvement Plan 2007-2010

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (07/592) presenting the Corporate Services' Business Management and Improvement Plan 2007-2010, setting out the Service objectives, key activities and targets for the three year period.

Resolved:

The Corporate Service's Business Management and Improvement Plan for 2007-2010, be approved.

552. ENERGY MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION POLICY

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (07/569) seeking the Committee's agreement to an Energy Management and Conservation Policy, the report having been recommended for approval by the Property Sub-Committee on 30 August 2007.

Resolved:

The adoption of the Energy Management and Conservation Policy, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report 07/569, be approved.

553. CORPORATE PROPERTY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2006/2007

There was submitted a report by the Head of Property (07/568) presenting the Corporate Property Asset Management Plan 2006/2007, the report having been recommended for approval by the Property Sub-Committee on 30 August 2007.

Resolved:

The adoption of the Corporate Property Asset Management Plan 2006/2007 be approved.

***554. SURPLUS PROPERTY DISPOSALS – PROPOSED POLICY TO FACILITATE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

There was submitted a joint report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) and the Head of Property (07/527) recommending that, in future, the disposal price for properties to be developed for affordable housing should be determined using a special assumption that the land is to be developed for that purpose, rather than using market value.

It was noted that the Housing and Health Committee had approved, in principle, that where properties held on the Housing Revenue Account are declared surplus and the property is to be disposed of for the purpose of development of affordable housing by Registered Social Landlords, then, subject to Scottish Ministers' approval being obtained, the disposal price should be determined using a special assumption that the land is to be developed for that purpose.

Resolved:

The decision of the Housing and Health Committee be supported and sites held on the General Fund, be given the same approval.

555. DIGNITY AT WORK PROCEDURE

There was submitted a report by the Head of Human Resources (07/590) seeking approval for the Dignity at Work Procedure, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report 07/590, which replaces the existing Harassment at Work Procedure.

Resolved:

The Dignity at Work Procedure, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report 07/590, be approved.

556. EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND ATTENDANCE PROCEDURE

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (07/591) seeking approval of the Employee Health and Attendance Procedure, to replace the existing Sickness Absence Management Procedure.

Resolved:

The Employee Health and Attendance Procedure, as appended to Report 07/591, be approved.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS BE EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION WHICH WAS EXEMPT IN TERMS OF SCHEDULE 7A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1973

557. ACQUISITION OF OFFICES AT 5 & 7 WHITEFRIARS CRESCENT, PERTH

There was submitted a report by the Head of Property (07/577) seeking authority to allow the Head of Property to continue negotiations for and conclude the acquisition of 5 & 7 Whitefriars Crescent, Perth, all as outlined in the Report, the acquisition being considered to be beneficial to the Council.

It was noted that the Property Sub-Committee had, at its meeting on 30 August 2007, recommended that the acquisition proceed on the terms outlined in the Report.

Resolved:

The actions of the Head of Property be approved and the acquisition of the offices at 5 & 7 Whitefriars Crescent, Perth, be acquired, at a price and other terms considered by the Head of Property, in consultation with the Head of Finance, as representing best value to the Council.