

ENTERPRISE AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 7 March 2007 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors Cowan, Doig, Ellis, Hulbert, Livingstone, Lumsden, McDonald, McEwen, Mair, Miller (substituting for Councillor Telfer), Robertson and Simpson.

In Attendance: J Irons, Executive Director (Environment), R Bean, J Valentine, A Olejnik, A Deans, P McLennan, P Kyle and A Seggie (all The Environment Service); T Cornet (Corporate Services); A Wilson and L Brown (both Chief Executive's). and E Guthrie, Director, Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Jack and Telfer.

Councillor Livingstone, Convener, Presiding.

165. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor Simpson declared a financial interest in Art 170 and Councillors Cowan and Ellis declared a non-financial interest in Art 175.

166. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minute of Meeting of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee of 17 January 2007 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

COUNCILLORS HULBERT AND MCEWEN ENTERED THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

167. INVESTIGATIONS INTO MILNATHORT FLOODING IN DECEMBER 2006

There was tabled a briefing note by the Executive Director (Environment) detailing the first progress report submitted by Atkins who had been appointed by the Council to provide an independent engineering and hydrological verification of the Council's Consultant Engineers' initial design of flood defences, and their subsequent investigation into the flooding which had occurred in Milnathort on 13 and 14 December 2006.

The Committee noted:

- (i) That a copy of the briefing note would be issued to those residents in Milnathort who had been directly affected as a result of the flooding in December 2006;
- (ii) That further reports on the investigations into the causes of the flooding in Milnathort would be submitted to future meetings of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Executive Sub-Committee and shared with the members of the local community as and when appropriate.

168. THREATENED CLOSURE OF FISHERIES LABORATORY, FASKALLY, PITLOCHRY

The Committee noted that the threatened closure of the fisheries laboratory at Faskally, Pitlochry had been averted and the research centre was to be retained.

169. CITTASLOW

The Committee noted that Perth had been awarded Cittaslow membership.

IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER 6, COUNCILLOR SIMPSON, HAVING DECLARED A FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM, WITHDREW FROM THE CHAMBER AND TOOK NO PART IN THE DECISION THEREON.

170. FUTURE OF THE POST OFFICE NETWORK

There was submitted a report by the Head of Economic Development (07/175) outlining a suggested response to the recent Department of Trade and Industry consultation on the Post Office Network, following consultation with the local community, local post offices, and other local stakeholders. Additional information relating to a survey of Post Office users was tabled at the meeting.

Resolved:

The response to the recent Department of Trade and Industry consultation on the Post Office Network, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 07/175, be approved.

COUNCILLOR SIMPSON RETURNED TO THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

171. REVIEW OF PERTH CITY PARTNERSHIP

There was submitted a report by the Head of Economic Development (07/176), (1) outlining the findings of an independent study into the Perth City Partnership and the City Centre Management Initiative, and (2) making recommendations about future arrangements.

Resolved:

- (i) The significant contribution made by Perth City Partnership to the development of Perth over the last 17 years, be noted.
- (ii) The significant changes to the environment in which it operated, and particularly the development of Community Planning as the statutory means by which wider community objectives should be pursued, be noted.
- (iii) The winding up of the Perth City Partnership and the incorporation of its functions into those of the Economic Partnership, be approved.
- (iv) The Economic Partnership be requested to strengthen the private sector representation on the Partnership, and the City Centre Action Group, with the City Centre Action Group reporting directly to the Partnership.
- (v) The continuation of the Perth City Centre Management Initiative at an operational level, with the Initiative reporting at a strategic level to the Economic Partnership, and operationally to the Head of Economic Development, be approved.

172. PERTH AND KINROSS BUSINESS AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

There was submitted a report by the Head of Economic Development (07/177), (1) reviewing the pilot Business Ambassador Programme; (2) detailing feedback received from the survey of Ambassadors; and (3) outlining future actions for the Programme.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress made in the pilot Business Ambassador Programme, be acknowledged.
- (ii) The Ambassador Programme, as a fully integrated element in marketing Perth and Kinross, be approved.

173. SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/174), (1) advising of the publication of the National Transport Strategy by the Scottish Executive which set out the framework for the future of transport in Scotland; (2) summarising the main issues of the Strategy; and (3) referring to any potential schemes or improvements that may have a direct bearing on the Council area.

Resolved:

The publication of the National Transport Strategy and the implications for the role of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership and the Council, be noted.

174. TACTRAN: REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY: DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/179) providing a response to the publication of the Draft Regional Transport Strategy by the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership (TACTRAN).

Having regard to Members comments that the Council (1) seek the inclusion of additional interventions for road safety improvements to the A9 north and south of Perth; improvements to the A977 to address both road safety and congestion issues; improvements to the Inverness-Perth-Edinburgh rail service; and consideration of Errol as a potential alternative airport should improvements proposed at Dundee Airport not be achieved and (2) request clarification of TACTRAN's proposal to develop a regional parking policy framework, the Committee **resolved**:

- (i) The TACTRAN 'preferred strategy' as highlighted in the draft Regional Transport Strategy, be welcomed and supported.
- (ii) The comments of the Committee, as referred to above, and those contained in Report 07/179, form the basis of the Council's response to the consultation on the draft Regional Transport Strategy.
- (iii) The SUSTRANS Connect 2 bid for a new pedestrian/cycle bridge across the Tay, be supported.

IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER 6, COUNCILLORS COWAN AND ELLIS DECLARED A NON-FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

175. PERTH AND KINROSS COUNTRYSIDE TRUST ANNUAL REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/173) presenting the Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust's Annual Report for 2005-06 and its Business Plan for 2006/07 – 2008/09. Councillor Ellis as Chairman of the Countryside Trust, and Councillor Cowan as a Trust member, expressed their gratitude to the Council and its officers for their support to the work of the Trust over the previous 10 years.

Resolved:

- (i) The Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust Annual Report for 2005-06, be noted.
- (ii) The Committee approve the Trust's Business Plan for 2006/07 to 2008/09 for its interest.

176. TENDERS ACCEPTED AND WORKS AWARDED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/172), (1) detailing the tenders accepted and works awarded for Roads and Forward Planning related schemes by the Executive Director (Environment) under delegated powers during the period 1 October 2006 to 31 December 2006; and (2) detailing tenders accepted and contracts awarded for Public, Education and Community Care Transport under similar powers for the same period.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 07/172 and the contract awards, as detailed in Appendices (i) to (v) in respect of Roads and Forward Planning related schemes, and Appendix (vi) in respect of Public, Education and Community Care transport, be noted.
- (ii) The publication of tender information for transport contracts be authorised.

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

177. PERTH AND KINROSS RURAL BUSINESS INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME

There was submitted a report by the Head of Economic Development (07/178) detailing a request for financial assistance from the Rural Business Infrastructure Scheme (RBIS).

Resolved:

Grant funding of £20,000 to Tombreck Limited for a development at Tombreck, Lawers, Perthshire, be approved.