

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 21 June 2006 at 2.00pm.

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

In Attendance: B Malone, Chief Executive; K MacDonald and T Yule (both Chief Executive's Service); A R McArthur, Executive Director (Corporate Services); D Anderson, L Duncan, D Henderson, I Innes, J Jennings, H Mackenzie, J Somerville and G Taylor (all Corporate Services); J Irons, Executive Director (Environment); I Gerono (Housing and Community Care).

Apologies for Absence: Provost Scott and Councillors Baird, Barr, Crabbie, Lennie and Livingstone.

Councillor Doig, Convener, Presiding.

439. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillors Ellis, A Grant and Miller declared a non-financial interest in Art 444.

440. MINUTES

- (i) The Minute of Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held on 10 May 2006 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.
- (ii) The Minute of Executive Sub-Committee of 15 May 2006 was submitted and noted **(Appendix I)**
- (iii) The Minute of Provost's Sub-Committee of 1 February 2006 was submitted and noted **(Appendix II)**.
- (iv) The Minute of Appeals Sub-Committee of 27 April 2006 was submitted and noted **(Appendix III)**.
- (v) The Minute of Appeals Sub-Committee of 23 May 2006 was submitted and noted **(Appendix IV)**.
- (vi) The Minute of Property Sub-Committee of 8 June 2006 was submitted and noted **(Appendix V)**.
- (vii) The Minute of Employees JCC of 23 February 2006 was submitted and noted.
- (viii) The Minute of Corporate Health & Safety Consultative Committee of 6 March 2006 was submitted and noted.

441. ANNUAL TREASURY REPORT 2005/06 (Art 249/05)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (06/464) summarising the Council's treasury activities for the 2005/06 financial year and contrasting actual performance with the approved Treasury Strategy for the same period.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 06/464, submitted in accordance with the Council's approved Treasury Management Practices, be noted.

442. INVESTMENT IN IMPROVEMENT FUND PROPOSALS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (06/465) detailing proposals for the deployment of the Investment In Improvement Fund approved as part of the 2006/07 revenue budget process.

Resolved:

- (i) The proposals for the allocation of resources from the Investment in Improvement Fund as detailed in Section 3.4 of Report 06/465, be approved.

- (ii) The proposals for governance of the Fund, set out in Section 4 of Report 06/465, be approved.
- (iii) That further progress reports on the deployment of resources be submitted to the Modernising Governance Member/Officer Working Group.
- (iv) That appreciation of the cross-party support in this matter be noted.

443. BUILDING SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN 2006/2007 (Art 386/05)

There was submitted a joint report by the Executive Directors (Housing & Community Care) and (Corporate Services) (06/466) seeking approval of the Building Services Business Plan for the eighteen month period 1 April 2006 to 30 September 2007.

Resolved:

The final year update of the Business Plan for 2006-2007, incorporating the 2006/07 Building Services revenue budget, be approved.

COUNCILLORS ELLIS AND MILLER, HAVING DECLARED A NON-FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM, WITHDREW FROM THE MEETING AND LEFT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

444. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE REGENERATION OUTCOME AGREEMENT (Art 489/05)

There was submitted a joint report by the Head of Housing Strategy and the Head of Performance Planning & Management (06/467) summarising the first annual report to Communities Scotland on progress made towards implementation of the Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) and providing an update on the progress of the Area Based Initiatives (ABI) programme.

Resolved

- (i) The annual report for submission to Communities Scotland, as contained in Appendix 1 to Report 06/467, be noted.
- (ii) The Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) budget for 2006-07, as set out in paragraph 6.1 of Report 06/467, be noted.
- (iii) The CRF Expenditure Profile for 2006-08, attached as Appendix II to Report 06/467, be noted.
- (iv) The progress achieved over the past year in the delivery of the ABI programme in Eastern Perthshire, Kinross and Perth City as well as across the ROA areas be noted.
- (v) The allocation of the ABI budget for 2006/07, set out in paragraph 6.1 of Report 06/467, be approved.
- (vi) The application for Housing Estate Regeneration Fund, attached as Appendix III to Report 06/467, be approved.

COUNCILLORS ELLIS AND MILLER RETURNED TO THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

445. CONSULTATION ON THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR SCOTLAND 2007-2013 (Art 200/06)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Economic Development (06/468) summarising the Scottish Executive's proposals for a new Scottish Rural Development Programme to establish a mechanism to deliver this over the period 2007-13 and the Council's response thereto.

Resolved:

- (i) Subject to an amendment to the response to Question 2, as contained in Appendix 1 to Report 06/468, to (a) answer yes, and (b) include additional text noting that payments should be made to actively managed farmed land, including actively managed environmental schemes, Appendix 1 to Report 06/468 detailing the Council's response to the Scottish Executive's consultation paper be approved.
- (ii) The proposal to establish Regional Partnership Assessment Committees be endorsed, subject to these Committees being as local as possible to ensure local priorities are delivered.
- (iii) The Committee's response emphasising recommendation (ii) that the Regional Partnership Assessment Committee should be as local as possible, be forwarded to COSLA.
- (iv) Concern be expressed to the Scottish Executive Minister for Environmental and Rural Affairs, on the inadequacy of the budget for the programme as this could result in limited impact on

the rural economy, and this concern be raised with the Perth and Kinross Parliamentary Forum.

446. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION POLICY (Art 179/06)

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director of Corporate Services (06/469) setting out proposed revisions to the Council's Freedom of Information policy.

Resolved:

The revised Council's Freedom of Information Policy be approved.

447. MANAGING OCCUPATIONAL STRESS PROCEDURE (Art 319/98)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Human Resources (06/470) seeking approval for a revised Managing Occupational Stress Procedure.

Resolved:

The revised Managing Occupational Stress Procedure be approved.