

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minute of the Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street Perth on Wednesday 2 November 2005 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors Baird, Barr, Barrett (substituting for Councillor Livingstone), Crabbie, Doig, A Grant, Hayton, Hunter, Lennie, MacLellan, Stewart, Wilson and Young.

In Attendance: B Malone, Chief Executive, A Seggie, R Somers, P Wallace and T Yule (all Chief Executive's); A R McArthur Executive Director (Corporate Services), K Donaldson, S Grant, J Low, M McGregor, B Maddox, S Merone, A Nairn, J Somerville, J Symon and G Taylor (all Corporate Services); J Irons Executive Director (Planning and Transportation), R Bean and A Gillies (both Planning and Transportation) and A Taylor (Education and Children's Services)

Apologies for Absence: Provost Scott, Councillors Barnacle, Livingstone and Miller.

Councillor Doig, Presiding.

799. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

800. MINUTE

The Minute of Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held on 7 September 2005 (Arts) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

801. EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Minutes of Meetings of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 26 September 2005 and 24 October 2005 were submitted and noted. **(Appendices I and II)**

802. EMPLOYEES' JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The Minute of Meeting of the Employees' Joint Consultative Committee of 26 May 2005 was submitted and noted.

803. CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Minute of Meeting of the Corporate Health and Safety Committee of 6 June 2005 was submitted and noted.

804. REVENUE BUDGET 2005/06 – MONITORING REPORT NO. 2 (Art. 662/05)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (05/736) providing an update on progress with the 2005/06 General Fund Revenue Budget based upon the August 2005 ledger, and the projected financial positions of the Housing Revenue Account and the Council's Trading Operations.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 05/736 be noted.
- (ii) The adjustments to the 2005/06 management revenue budget, as set out in sections 2.2 to 2.7 of Report 05/736, be approved.
- (iii) Individual service virements, summarised at Appendices I and II of the Report 05/736, be approved.

805. COMPOSITE CAPITAL BUDGET 2005/2008 – MONITORING REPORT NO. 2 (Art. 663/05)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (05/724) updating the Committee on progress with the Composite Capital Programme for 2005/06, and seeking approval for adjustments to the Programme.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 05/724 be noted.
- (ii) The proposed budget and monitoring adjustments to the three year Capital Budget 2005/08, as set out in sections 3 and 4 and summarised at Appendices I and II of Report 05/724, be approved.

806. 2 YEAR REVENUE BUDGET 2006/07 TO 2007/08 & 3 YEAR CAPITAL BUDGET 2006/07 TO 2008/09 – BUDGET REPORT NO. 1

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (05/735) (1) setting out progress with the preparation of the Council's 2 Year Revenue Budget and (2) seeking approval for setting 9 February 2006 as the date of the Special Council meeting to determine Perth and Kinross Council's Budget and Council Tax in accordance with the Convention of Local Authorities' (COSLA) recommended common Council Tax setting day.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of the Report 05/735 be noted.
- (ii) The approach to the revenue budget process be approved.
- (iii) The Special Council meeting to set the 2006/07 Final and 2007/08 Provisional Revenue Budgets and Council Tax be held on 9 February 2006 in accordance with the COSLA recommendation on a common Council Tax setting day.
- (iv) The Provisional 3 Year Capital Budget (2006/07 to 2008/2009) be submitted for consideration at the same Council meeting on 9 February 2006.

807. TREASURY ACTIVITY AND COMPLIANCE REPORT (Art. 665/05)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (05/725) providing a summary of the Loans Fund transactions for the quarter to 30 September 2005 and reporting on compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement, Treasury Management Practices and the Prudential Indicators for the same period.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 05/725, submitted in accordance with the Council's approved Treasury Management Practices, be noted.

808. EXTERNAL FUNDING – DEVELOPING A STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

There was submitted a report by the Head of Economic Development (05/726) outlining the current situation regarding external funding, identifying priority areas and outlining a process to develop an External Funding Strategy and Action Plan.

Resolved:

- (i) The significant funding attracted by the Council into the area be noted.
- (ii) The process to develop an External Funding Strategy and Action Plan, as outlined in Report 05/726, be approved.
- (iii) The extensive consultation proposed both internally within the Council and with communities and external partners be noted.
- (iv) The external funding priorities that the Strategy and Action Plan should be accessing be agreed as European Funds, Lottery Funds and Trust Funds.

809. EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT – PROGRESS REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (05/733) providing details on the Council's approach to the Scottish Executive's Efficient Government initiative.

Resolved:

- (i) The scope of the current Efficient Government Fund bids and the approach to the five main Efficient Government workstreams be approved.

- (ii) The proposed approach to engagement in Stage 2 of the Efficient Government process be endorsed.
- (iii) The progress to date in terms of Efficient Government and implications for the Council in participating in full business case development and potential implementation be noted.

810. CUSTOMER FIRST REVIEW – PHASE ONE (Art. 220/05)

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (05/727) outlining the outcomes of the first phase of the Customer First review and the next stage of the review process.

Resolved:

- (j) The Customer First Phase 1 findings be approved.
- (ii) The Customer First Phase 2 outline plan be approved.
- (iii) That future progress reports be submitted to the Committee for consideration, with the first being due on 15 March 2006.

811. CORPORATE EQUALITIES SCHEME (RACE) 2005-2008

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (05/728) seeking approval for the Council's Corporate Equalities Scheme (Race) 2005-2008 which requires to be published by 30 November 2005.

Resolved:

- (i) The Council's draft Corporate Equalities Scheme (Race) 2005-2008 be approved.
- (ii) The resource implications, detailed in Report 05/728, be noted.
- (iii) That progress reports be submitted to the relevant committee on a six monthly basis, commencing in April 2006.

COUNCILLOR BARRETT LEFT AND RETURNED TO THE MEETING DURING DISCUSSION OF THE ABOVE ITEM.

812. PERTH AND KINROSS MANAGING ENCAMPMENTS POLICY

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (05/729) seeking approval for the Managing Encampments Policy for Perth and Kinross Council.

Resolved:

The Managing Encampments Policy for Perth and Kinross Council be approved.

813. CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY AND CONSTITUTION OF THE CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (05/730) outlining the revised Health and Safety Policy for the Council, establishing the responsibilities for Health and Safety, setting out a plan to further develop health and safety issues across the Council and proposing a revised constitution for the Corporate Health and Safety Committee.

Resolved:

The Health and Safety Policy, the associated proposals and the constitution of the Corporate Health and Safety Consultative Committee, be approved.

814. EMPLOYEE SURVEY 2005 (Art. 276/05)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (05/731) detailing the findings of the Council's first Employee Survey and indicating how the Council will demonstrate its response to the findings.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 05/731 be noted.
- (ii) The key corporate issues, listed in Report 05/731, be endorsed.

815. REVISED EMPLOYEE CODE OF CONDUCT (Art. 181/98)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (05/732) seeking approval of the revised Employee Code of Conduct.

Resolved:

Following an amendment to the Appendix to Report 05/732, to incorporate reference to an accredited Trade Union official being permitted to contact the media and speak on behalf of a Council employee, the revised Employee Code of Conduct be approved.

816. REVISED RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION POLICY (Art. 763/01)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Human Resources (05/734) detailing the changes to the Recruitment and Selection Policy which is required to allow Perth and Kinross Council to meet the requirements of the Fixed Term Employees (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2002, and incorporating a procedure to deal with recruitment and selection complaints.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 05/734 be noted.
- (ii) That the changes to the Recruitment and Selection Policy as outlined in Report 05/734, as well as an additional change to Appendix 1 to Report 05/734 to ensure that anyone participating in the selection process has undergone fair selection training, be approved for immediate implementation.

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

817. REDEVELOPMENT OF PERTH CITY HALL: REPORT ON PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL OF PREFERRED DEVELOPER. (Art. 500/05)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) (05/739) advising on the outcome of consultation with the public, representative bodies and Historic Scotland on the five short listed proposals for the City Hall and recommending the approval of a preferred bidder.

Motion: (Councillors Doig and Wilson)

- (i) **The outcome of the consultation on the future of the City Hall with the public, Historic Scotland and representative bodies be noted.**
- (ii) **The lease of the City Hall to the preferred developer, on the basis of the main terms and conditions as set out in Report 05/739 and otherwise on terms and conditions to the satisfaction of the Head of Property Management and Head of Legal Services, be approved.**
- (iii) **The Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) be authorised to investigate and report back on the required improvements to access, servicing, environment and road safety around the City Hall as a consequence of the proposed development.**
- (iv) **That a further report on the funding requirements associated with the foregoing be submitted to a future Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration and the detail of any proposals be considered by the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee.**

Amendment: (Councillors A Grant and Lennie)

- (i) The outcome of the consultation on the future of the City Hall with the public, Historic Scotland and representative bodies be noted.
- (ii) The lease of the City Hall to the preferred developer, on the basis of the main terms and conditions as set out in Report 05/739 and otherwise on terms and conditions to the satisfaction of the Head of Property Management and Head of Legal Services, be approved.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) be authorised to investigate and report back on the required improvements to access, servicing, environment and road safety around the City Hall as a consequence of the proposed development.
- (iv) That a further report on the funding requirements associated with the foregoing be submitted to a future Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration and the detail of any proposals be considered by the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee.
- (v) Notwithstanding (i)-(iv) above and the position of Historic Scotland, the Council retain the option of the demolition of Perth City Hall.

Amendment – 3 Votes

Motion – 9 Votes

Abstentions – 1

Resolved:

In accordance with the Motion.