

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 20 June 2007 at 2.00pm.

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

In Attendance: B Malone, Chief Executive; J Irons, Depute Chief Executive and Executive Director (Environment); G Stevenson, Executive Director (Corporate Services); D Montgomery, Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); M McGregor, J Somerville, G Taylor and T Yule (all Chief Executive's); G Fogg, K Fraser, K Lawrie, H Mackenzie, A Nairn, J Symon, R Thomson, (all Corporate Services); B Atkinson and A Taylor (Education and Children's Services) and J Walker (Environment).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors K Baird, E Grant and W Robertson.

Councillor I Miller, Convener, Presiding

366. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

367. MINUTES

- (i) The Minute of the Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 5 March 2007 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.
- (ii) The Minute of the Meeting of the Appeals Sub-Committee of 23 February 2007 and continued on 3 March 2007 was submitted and noted. **(Appendix I)**
- (iii) The Minute of the Meetings of the Executive Sub-Committees of 16 April 2007 **(Appendix II)** and 31 May 2007 **(Appendix III)** were submitted and noted.
- (iv) The Minute of the Meeting of the Provost's Sub-Committee of 21 March 2007 **(Appendix IV)** was submitted and noted.

368. ESTABLISHMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

- (i) **Appeals Sub-Committee**
The Appeals Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be re-established and that the Sub-Committee comprise three members of the Council drawn from a pool of members trained to hear appeals by employees, and in the case of appeals by teachers, that the members should be members of the Lifelong Learning Committee.
- (ii) **Supporting People Appeals Sub-Committee**
The Supporting People Appeals Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be re-established and that the Sub-Committee comprise three members of the Council, not being members of the Housing and Health Committee.
- (iii) **Property Sub-Committee**
The Property Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be re-established and Councillors A Grant, G Hayton, A MacLellan, I Miller and A Stewart be appointed.

369. RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF OTHER GROUPS

(i) Corporate Health and Safety Consultative Committee

The Corporate Health and Safety Consultative Committee be re-established and three members of the Administration and one member of the Opposition be appointed.

(ii) Financial Assistance Panel

The Financial Assistance Panel be re-established and three members of the Administration and two members of the Opposition be appointed.

(iii) School Estate Strategy Board

The School Estate Strategy Board be re-established and Councillors G Hayton, I Miller and B Vaughan be appointed.

370. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES 2006-07 (Art. 484/05)

There was submitted and noted a report by the Head of Finance (07/411-Revised) on elected members' allowances and expenses for 2006/07 which, it was also noted, required to be published not later than 1 June each year in accordance with the Local Authorities Etc. (Allowances) (Scotland) Regulations 1995 (PART VI, 28(4)).

371. GRANTING OF NON-DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF (Art. 319/06)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (07/412) advising of the amount of Non-Domestic Rate relief granted to new applicants during the Financial Year 2006/2007.

Resolved:

The amount of relief granted for 2006/2007 in respect of new applications for Non-Domestic Rates, as outlined in Appendix A to Report 07/412, be noted.

372. TREASURY ACTIVITY AND COMPLIANCE REPORT (Art. 72)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (07/413) (1) providing a summary of the Loans Fund transactions for the quarter to 31 March 2007; and (2) reporting on compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement (TMPS), Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) and the Prudential Indicators for the same period.

Resolved:

- (i) The content of Report 07/413, submitted in accordance with the Council's approved Treasury Management Practices, be noted.
- (ii) The proposed amendments to the Treasury Management Policy, as detailed in Section 5 and Appendix III to Report 07/413, be approved.

373. RENEWAL AND REPAIR FUND 2007/2008

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (07/414) proposing a programme of works to be funded from the Renewal and Repair Fund in 2007/2008.

Resolved:

- (i) The content of Report 07/414 be noted.
- (ii) The programme of works to be funded from the Renewal and Repair Fund in 2007/08, as set out in Section 4 of Report 07/414, be approved.

374. REVENUE BUDGET UPDATE (Art. 76)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (07/415-Revised) updating the Committee on a number of significant budget issues which had arisen since the setting of the 2007/2008 Revenue Budget on 8 February 2007.

Resolved:

- (i) The content of Report 07/415 (Revised), be noted.

- (ii) The adjustments to 2007/08 Council Approved Revenue Budgets, detailed in Section 3 of Report 07/415 (Revised), be approved.
- (iii) The individual Service virements, summarised within Report 07/415 (Revised) and at Appendix 1, be approved.

375. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE COMPOSITE CAPITAL BUDGET 2007-2010 (Art. 77)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (07/416) proposing adjustments to the Composite Capital Budget 2007-2010 which was approved by the Council on 8 February 2007.

Resolved:

- (i) The proposed list of projects to be funded from the additional Scottish Executive Capital Grant for inclusion in the Composite Capital Budget 2007/08, as detailed in Section 3 and summarised at Appendix 1 to Report 07/416, be approved.
- (ii) The proposed allocation of anticipated Schools Fund Grant for 2008/09 and 2009/10, as detailed in Section 4 of Report 07/416, be approved.
- (iii) The Development of a Fibre Optic Network, detailed in Section 5 of Report 07/416, to be funded by Prudential Borrowing, be approved.

376. CORPORATE EQUALITIES SCHEME (GENDER) 2007-2010

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (07/417) seeking approval of the Council's Corporate Equalities Scheme (Gender) 2007-2010 which requires to be published by 28 June 2007.

Resolved:

- (i) The Council's Corporate Equalities Scheme (Gender) 2007-2010 be approved.
- (ii) The resource implications, set out in Section 5 of report 07/417, be agreed.
- (iii) The provisions of the Sex Discrimination (Public Authorities) (Statutory Duties) (Scotland) Order 2007 requiring listed authorities to produce an annual progress the Commission for Equalities and Human Rights para 5(1)(a) and (b) be noted.
- (iv) The 2008 public sector annual progress reports, intended to inform the Scottish Ministers' report for Scottish Public Sectors, as set out in para 9(1) (a) of the duty, be noted.

377. HUMAN RESOURCES STRATEGY "SECURING THE FUTURE – TOGETHER WITH OUR EMPLOYEES"

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (07/418) (1) setting out the Council's Human Resources Strategy "Securing the Future – Together With Our Employees"; and (2) advising that all other frameworks, plans and policies relating to Council employees would be directed by the overall strategy.

Resolved:

- (i) The Human Resources Strategy "Securing the Future – Together With Our Employees" be approved.
- (ii) The Human Resources Strategy "Securing the Future – Together With Our Employees" would direct all other frameworks, plans and policies relating to employees be noted.

378. EMBED CENTRE

There was submitted a report by the Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (07/419) (1) setting out proposals for a special provision to assist children with complex needs, including serious social, emotional and behavioural difficulties; and (2) noting that the EMBED Centre would bring together on one site a range of professionals working together to improve outcomes for these children and their families through early and positive intervention and that staff in the Embed Centre would also offer intensive support to children and families to avoid children being received into accommodation by the Council and provide facilities to interview children subject of child protection investigations.

Resolved:

- (i) The funding of the Project, as outlined in Report 07/419, be approved.
- (ii) The proposed overseeing of the Project's development by the Lifelong Learning Committee be approved.