

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Environment Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 17 January 2007 at 2.00pm

Present: Councillors Barnacle, Baird, Barr, Barrett, Coburn, Cowan, Gillies, A Grant, Jack (substituting for Councillor Bushby), Lyall, McDonald and Mulheron.

In Attendance: K McNamara, E Scott, T Cornet, C Haggart, J McCrone and J Valentine (all The Environment Service); A Wilson and L Brown (Chief Executive's Service)

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Bushby and Caddell.

Councillor Barnacle, Convener, Presiding.

Prior to the commencement of business the Convener drew members' attention to the previously distributed information sheet advising them of:

- (i) A 'Highly Commended' accolade in the 2006 National Recycling Awards in November; and
- (ii) A 'Best Local Authority' award at the Composting Association in December.

On behalf of the Committee, he commended Council Staff for their efforts in achieving these awards.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor Barnacle declared a non-financial interest in Art. 37.

36. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF 18 OCTOBER 2006

The Minute of Meeting of the Environment Committee of 18 October 2006 (Arts. 647-650/06) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

***37. CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY BILL: PARLIAMENT'S ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING IN BLAIR ATHOLL**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/62) updating Members with progress on the Private Member's Bill to amend the boundary of the Cairngorms National Park to include parts of Highland Perthshire.

Resolved:

- i) Progress on the Cairngorms National Park Boundary Bill, in particular the Stage 1 scrutiny by Parliament's Environment and Rural Development Committee in Blair Atholl, be welcomed.
- ii) That the Council's oral evidence be provided by the Head of Sustainable Development Planning, be agreed.

38. POLICY FOR PUBLIC TOILET PROVISION

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/63) (1) discussing the current position with regard to public toilet provision in Perth and Kinross; and (2) proposing a policy for the future provision of such facilities.

Resolved:

The policy recommended in Report 07/63 for the provision of public toilet facilities by the Council be adopted, closing seven unattended public toilets, introducing 61 new Comfort Scheme Partnerships, providing significantly more toilets in significantly more settlements, being made freely available for use by the public and providing a far higher than previously level of service across Perth and Kinross.

39. PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CALYX, PERTH COLLEGE AND PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF A PLANT PRODUCTION AND EDUCATION/TRAINING UNIT.

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/64) (1) outlining proposals to relocate the Council's plant nursery to the Calyx as part of a partnership development with the Calyx and Perth College; and (2) seeking approval (a) for the project in principle and (b) to appoint consultants to undertake design work and detailed site investigations.

Resolved:

- i) The feasibility of a joint plant production and education/training facility to be developed jointly between the Council, Perth College and Calyx be investigated.
- ii) The existing Calyx consultants, Nicoll Russell, be appointed at a cost of £20,000, to take the project to outline proposal stage, and there also be a detailed assessment of the Westbank site at a cost of £10,000.
- iii) A joint partnership project team be established to take the project forward.
- iv) A further report be submitted to Committee when site investigations and development work are complete.

40. TENDERS ACCEPTED AND WORKS AWARDED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/65) detailing the tenders accepted and works awarded for Environment related schemes by the Executive Director (Environment) under delegated powers during the period 1 July 2006 to 30 September 2006.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 06/65, and the contract awards as detailed in Appendix 1, be noted.