

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 29 August 2007 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors R Ellis, J Flynn, A Grant (substituting for Councillor W Lumsden) A Gaunt, A Jack, J Kellas, J Law, M Lyle, H McDonald, M Roberts and A Wylie.

In Attendance: Councillors I Miller and B Vaughan; J Irons, Executive Director (Environment); J Valentine, R Bean, A Oljenik, C Haggart, D Kent, B Clough, P Marshall, J McCrone, P Kyle, J Deponio and A Seggie (all The Environment Service); T Cornet (Corporate Services); L Brown and A Wilson (both Chief Executive's Service).

Apology for Absence: Councillor W Wilson.

Councillor J Kellas, Convener, Presiding.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener reminded members of the forthcoming Briefing for Members on the Perth Area Plan, to be held on Thursday 13 September 2007.

516. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor A Grant declared a non-financial interest in Art. 527.

517. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minute of Meeting of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee of 13 June 2007 (Arts. 338-357) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

518. APPOINTMENTS TO AREA TOURISM PARTNERSHIP (3 MEMBERS)

The Convener reported on the need to appoint three members to the Area Tourism Partnership.

Resolved:

Councillors M Lyle, W Wilson and A Wylie be appointed to the Area Tourism Partnership.

519. THE ENVIRONMENT SERVICE ANNUAL SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2006/2007

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/548) reviewing Service performance against The Environment Service Business Management and Improvement Plan for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

Resolved:

- (i) The elements of the Environment Service – Business Management and Improvement Action Plan 01/04/06 to 31/03/07, relating to the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee, as detailed in the Appendix to Report 07/548, be approved.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Environment) be instructed to submit reports detailing performance during 2007-2008 and each subsequent year of the Plan to future meetings of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee and the Standards and Scrutiny Committee thereafter.

520. THE ENVIRONMENT SERVICE - BUSINESS MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2007-2010

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/549) presenting the Business Management and Improvement Plan for The Environment Service (1) outlining the core business of the service and (2) identifying actions to be taken and improvements to be made for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2010.

Resolved:

- (i) The Business Management and Improvement Plan for the Environment Service 2007-2010 relevant to the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee, as detailed in the Appendix to Report 07/549, be approved.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Environment) be instructed to submit reports detailing performance during 2007-2008 and each subsequent year of the Plan to the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee and to the Standards and Scrutiny Committee thereafter.

521. POLICY AND LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR WINTER SERVICE 2007/2008

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/550) recommending the level of service to be provided by the Council for the gritting and snow clearing of roads and footways in Perth and Kinross during the forthcoming winter of 2007/2008.

Resolved:

- (i) The level of service for winter 2007/2008, as outlined in Report 07/550, be provided using the plant and labour of Tayside Contracts and other Council Services.
- (ii) The recommended adjustments to the policy and level of service, arising from proposals brought forward at the annual winter maintenance review carried out in May 2007, be approved.
- (iii) The adjustments to the policy and level of service, introduced over the Festive Period in 2006 be continued for the Festive Period, 25 December 2007 to 2 January 2008.
- (iv) The Executive Director (Environment) be authorised to make arrangements outwith the policy and level of service in exceptional conditions such as snow emergencies.
- (v) A five year contract with Vaisala Ltd for the operation of the Ice Early Warning System, as outlined in paragraph 65 of Report 07/550, be approved.

522. AFFORDABLE HOUSING GUIDE

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/551) advising of the outcome of the consultation on the draft Affordable Housing Guide and recommending a finalised Guide.

Resolved:

- (i) The amended wording of the Affordable Housing Policy, as detailed in paragraph 19 of Report 07/551, be approved.
- (ii) The adoption of the Affordable Housing Guide, appended to Report 07/551, as additional guidance on the interpretation and implementation of the Affordable Housing Policy, be approved.
- (iii) The District Valuer's recommended commuted sums for each Housing Market Area as detailed in paragraph 28 of Report 07/551 be used for planning applications submitted after 29 August 2007 until such time as further guidance is available at a national level.
- (iv) The application of the guidance as part of an ongoing process to review affordable housing policy be approved, subject to periodic update following national and local input.

523. FLOODING LEGISLATION AND THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/552) outlining the legislation in Scotland relating to flooding, the Council's responsibilities under this legislation and the assistance it endeavoured to give to the community, sometimes over and above any statutory requirements.

Resolved:

The Council's limited roles and responsibilities in relation to flooding, as detailed in Report 07/552, be noted.

524. REVIEW OF PERTH AND KINROSS HERITAGE TRUST 2005-2007

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/553) reviewing Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust's activity and funding from 2005 – 2007 and seeking approval to enter into a Service Level Agreement with the Trust as part of a broader review of its future structure and strategic direction.

Resolved:

- (i) The Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust's activity and funding from 2005 – 2007, be noted.
- (ii) The Council enter into a Service Level Agreement with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust to undertake the activities identified within Report 07/553, be approved.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Environment) be instructed to submit a further report on the detail of a Service Level Agreement with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust to a future meeting of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee.

525. COUNTRYSIDE RANGER SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2006/2007

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/554) seeking approval of the 2006/2007 Annual Report for the Countryside Ranger Service for submission to Scottish Natural Heritage.

Resolved:

The Countryside Ranger Service Annual Report for 2006/2007 be approved and submitted to Scottish Natural Heritage.

526. PERTH AND KINROSS OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/555) summarising the activities and progress to date of the Perth and Kinross Outdoor Access Forum and recommending the appointment of two newly elected members and reappointment of those members to be retained.

Resolved:

- (i) The activities and progress of the Perth and Kinross Outdoor Access Forum from November 2006 to date, be noted.
- (ii) The two new members and existing members, as recommended in Appendix 1 to Report 07/555, be appointed to the Forum for a period of three years.
- (iii) The members to be retained in their appointment for at least a further year, as detailed in Appendix 2 to Report 07/555, be confirmed.
- (iv) The Executive Director (Environment) be instructed to fill any casual vacancy arising in this period within the Recreation Group with the reserve candidate, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 07/555.

527. KINFAUNS CASTLE – JUDGEMENT IN RELATION TO THE LAND REFORM (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003

There was submitted a joint report by the Executive Director (Environment) and the Head of Legal Services (07/556) providing: (1) the background to the judgement in relation to the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 with regards to Kinfauns Castle; (2) the Council's position in defending the case; (3) the decision not to appeal the judgement; and (4) the implications of the judgement in relation to the future work of the Council.

Resolved:

The terms of Report 07/556 be noted.

IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER 6, COUNCILLOR A GRANT DECLARED A NON-FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

528. CONSERVATION OF BUILT HERITAGE – COUPAR ANGUS CONSERVATION AREA

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/557) seeking approval of the draft Coupar Angus Conservation Area Appraisal and for the notification to Scottish Ministers of the intention to redesignate the conservation area with an extended boundary.

Resolved:

The final draft Coupar Angus Conservation Area Appraisal, the proposed extended Coupar Angus Conservation Area boundary and associated management measures, be approved and progressed on to formal redesignation by notification to Scottish Ministers.

529. ALTERATIONS TO TRAFFIC FLOWS AND PARKING PROVISION IN PART OF HIGH STREET AND RESTRICTED ACCESS TO MURRAY STREET, PERTH

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/558): (1) summarising the responses to the consultation and formal advertising of the Draft Traffic Regulation Order, proposing the alteration of the waiting restrictions in parts of High Street, Perth, undertaken as part of the legal procedure to promote the Traffic Regulation Order; and (2) recommending that objections received be set aside and the Order be made as advertised.

Resolved:

The objections to the part of the Traffic Regulation Order relating to the alteration of the waiting restrictions in parts of High Street, Perth be set aside and the Order be made as advertised.

530. VISITSCOTLAND PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/559): (1) presenting the Annual Performance Report on VisitScotland Perthshire's activities in 2006/7; (2) proposing content for the Partnership Agreement between Perth and Kinross Council and VisitScotland for 2007/08; and (3) providing an update on VisitScotland's Information and Sales Review.

Resolved:

- (i) VisitScotland's Annual Report on activity undertaken over the previous 12 months, be noted.
- (ii) The proposed content for the 2007/08 Partnership Agreement between Perth and Kinross Council and VisitScotland, as outlined in Appendix 2 to Report 07/559, be approved.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Environment) be instructed to submit a six month performance report against the service delivery detailed in the Agreement to a future meeting of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee.
- (iv) The Council's representatives on the Perthshire Tourism Partnership be authorised to respond on behalf of the Committee to VisitScotland consultations on the Regional Information and Sales Review.

531. EU LEADER PROGRAMME 2007-2013

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/560) outlining the process for bidding for EU LEADER funding to support rural development activities in the period to 2013.

Resolved:

- (i) The Council become an active member of the new Local Action Group being established to prepare a LEADER funding bid for Rural Tayside.
- (ii) A sum of up to £3000 be allocated towards the preparation of the bid documents, conditional on matching funding being provided by Angus Council and Scottish Enterprise Tayside.

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 IS EXEMPT IN TERMS OF SCHEDULE 7A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1973

532. PERTH AND KINROSS RURAL BUSINESS INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/561) detailing a request for financial assistance from the Rural Business Infrastructure Scheme (RBIS).

Resolved:

Grant funding of £18,000 to Tullimet Limited for an expansion to the current development at Blair Atholl Sawmill Yard, Highland Perthshire, be approved.