

# STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Minute of Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held in Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Buildings, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 14 December 2005 at 2.00pm.

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

In Attendance: B Malone, Chief Executive; P Kyle, Paul Wallace, T Yule (all Chief Executive's); A R McArthur, Executive Director (Corporate Services); D Francis, H McKenzie, I Innes, A Nairn, J Symon, G A Taylor, G M Taylor, S Thornton (all Corporate Services); J Irons, Executive Director (Planning and Transportation); A Gillies, (Planning and Transportation); L McConnell, Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); A Taylor (Education and Children's Services); H Hope, Environment Services.

Apology for Absence: Councillor Young

Councillor Doig, Presiding.

**THE CONVENER RULED THAT IN HIS OPINION THE FOLLOWING ITEM SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY IN TERM OF SECTION 50(B)(4)(B) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973 DUE TO THE VERY RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT BY POST OFFICE LTD TO COMMENCE A SEVEN WEEK CONSULTATION PERIOD ON THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF PERTH CENTRAL POST OFFICE, AND ITS SUBSEQUENT FRANCHISING.**

## 932. PROPOSED CLOSURE OF PERTH CENTRAL POST OFFICE

The Convener spoke on the very recent announcement by Post Office Ltd to commence consultation on a proposed withdrawal from the Post Office in South Street, Perth and to transfer some of the functions to a SPAR franchise.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) That the Council's concern regarding the withdrawal of services by the Post Office be conveyed to the Post-Office.
- (ii) That an urgent meeting, involving all party representation on the Council, the Local MP, MSP, trade unions, Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses, be sought with senior representatives of Post Office Limited to press for assurances on the continued provision of a full range of Post Office services in Perth.

## 933. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

## 934. MINUTES

The Minute of Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held on the 2 November 2005 (Articles 799 – 817) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

## 935. PROVOSTS SUB COMMITTEE

The Minute of Meeting of the Provost Sub Committee of 2 November 2005 was submitted and noted. (*Appendix I*)

## 936. EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Minute of Meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 28 November 2005 was submitted and noted. (*Appendix II*)

**937. APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

- (i) The Minute of Meeting of the Appeals Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 25 October 2005 was submitted and noted. **(Appendix III)**
- (ii) The Minute of Meeting of the Appeals Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 27 October 2005 was submitted and noted. **(Appendix IV)**

**938. REVENUE BUDGET 2005/06 – REVENUE MONITORING REPORT NO. 3 (Art 804/05)**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (05/850) providing an update on progress with the 2005/06 General Fund Revenue Budget based upon the October 2005 ledger and providing an update on the projected financial positions of the Housing Revenue Account and the Council's Trading Operations.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of Report 05/850 be noted
- (ii) The adjustments to the 2005/06 management revenue budget, detailed in Sections 2.2 to 2.7 of Report 05/850, be approved.
- (iii) Individual Service virements summarised in Appendices I and II of Report 05/850 be approved.

**939. COMPOSITE CAPITAL BUDGET 2005/08 – MONITORING REPORT NO.3 (Art 805/05)**

There was submitted a Report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (05/851) updating the Committee on progress with the Composite Capital Programme for 2005/06, as well as the position for 2006/07 and 2007/08 and seeking approval for adjustments to the Programme.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of Report 05/851 be noted.
- (ii) The proposed budget and monitoring adjustments to the three year Capital Budget 2005/08, set out in Sections 3 and 4 of Report 05/851 and summarised in Appendices I and II, of Report 05/851, be approved.
- (iii) The carry forward of the balance in the Renewal and Repair Fund, detailed in Section 5 and Appendix III to Report 05/851, be approved.

**940. REVIEW OF TREASURY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS DOCUMENT (Art 807/05)**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (05/852) notifying members of the revised Treasury Management Systems Document (TMSD), as required by the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management.

**Resolved:**

The revised Treasury Management Systems Document (TMSD) be approved.

**941. DELIVERING MODERNISATION AND IMPROVEMENT IN PERTH AND KINROSS**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (05/853) outlining the strategic context within which the Council is operating, analysing the Council's current position regarding modernisation and improvement and setting out a vision for the next five to ten years.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The current position with regard to modernisation and improvement across the Council be noted.
- (ii) The organisational vision articulated in Report 05/853 – i.e. *we believe that a dynamic innovative local Council, focused on delivering or facilitating excellent services, is the only way to achieve the Council's priorities for the communities for Perth and Kinross*, be approved.
- (iii) The core principles that underpin the Council's approach to modernisation and improvement, detailed in Report 05/853, be approved.
- (iv) The need for a consistent, corporate and innovative approach to addressing the significant programme of change facing the Council across key policy areas and services be agreed.

- (v) An Investment in Improvement Fund be considered as part of the current revenue budget process.
- (vi) The Chief Executive bring forward the organisational change and improvement plan to an early meeting of the Council.

#### **942. STRATEGIC REVIEW OF PROPERTY RELATED SERVICES**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (05/857) outlining the findings and recommendations of the Strategic Review of Property Related Services.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The recommendations, arising from the Strategic Review of Property Related Services detailed in Section 5 of Report 05/857, be approved and the new single service be established with effect from 1 April 2006.
- (ii) The recommendation regarding the revised role of the Asset Management Board, detailed in Section 6 of Report 05/857, be agreed in principle and be referred to the Local Governance Member/Officer Working Group to develop detailed proposals for submission to the Committee on 1 February 2006.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Corporate Services) initiate the recruitment process for the Head of Property and that this post be advertised both externally and internally.
- (iv) The Executive Director (Corporate Services) implement the appropriate organisational and management arrangements; and
- (v) The Implementation Plan, attached as Appendix A to the Review Report, be agreed.

#### **943. STRATEGIC REVIEW OF EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (05/855) outlining the findings and recommendations of the Strategic Review of Education and Children's Services.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The recommendations of the Strategic Review outlined in Section 4.0 of Report 05/855 and in Section 7 of the Review Report, be agreed.
- (ii) The Implementation Plan, attached as Appendix III to the Review Report, be agreed and the intention to incorporate the relevant findings and recommendations from the Review be noted in the Improvement Plan developed following the INEA (Inspection of Educational Authorities) Follow-Up Inspection.
- (iii) The Chief Executive initiate the recruitment process for the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) along with new senior management posts identified in the Review Report (Appendix II), and that these posts be advertised internally and externally.
- (iv) Maggi Allan be appointed external advisor for the recruitment of the Executive Director.
- (v) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services), on appointment, to finalise the management structure below the level of Head of Service in conjunction with the Chief Executive.
- (vi) Management responsibility for Criminal Justice transfer permanently to the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) with effect from 1 January 2006.
- (vii) Further to (vi) above, the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) determine any subsequent organisational changes required, and to implement these arrangements following appropriate consultation with staff, trade unions and the Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services).
- (viii) A programme of regular meetings be established between the Conveners of Lifelong Learning, Housing and Health and Community Safety Committees to discuss cross-cutting issues.
- (ix) That the Scheme of Administration be amended to reflect the new organisational and management arrangements.
- (x) The potential financial implications of the recommendations of the Review be noted.
- (xi) A progress report on the Improvement Plan, developed following the INEA Follow-Up Inspection, incorporating relevant findings and recommendations from the Review, be submitted to the Standards and Scrutiny Committee in September 2006.
- (xii) The Executive Director (Corporate Services) report back to the Committee once detailed financial information on the implications of the review is available.

#### **944. STRATEGIC REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENT SERVICES – ORGANISATIONAL AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) (05/856) setting out the recommended organisational and management arrangements for the integration of the existing Environment Services and Planning and Transportation Service.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The organisational and management arrangements, as detailed in Section 12 of Report 05//856, be agreed with effect from 1 April 2006.
- (ii) The new service be called the Environment Service.
- (iii) The early retiral of the Head of Outdoor and Support Services with effect from 31 March 2006 be noted.
- (iv) That where the Scheme of Administration refers to Executive Director (Environment Services), this be taken as a reference to the Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) be reconfirmed.
- (v) The Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) initiate the recruitment process for the post of Depute Director and the post be advertised externally and internally.
- (vi) The Executive Director (Planning and Transportation) determine any subsequent organisational changes required and implement the arrangements, following appropriate consultations with staff and trade unions.
- (vii) The Local Governance Member/Officer Working Group review the functions of the Environment Committee, Community Safety Committee and the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee to provide a more effective link between the various integrated service functions at elected member level.
- (viii) The Local Governance Member/Officer Working Group review the relationship between the Development Control Committee and the Policy-Making Committee to ensure a more effective link between policy and implementation at elected member level.

#### **945. AUCHTERARDER COMMUNITY SCHOOL – ACTION PLAN PROGRESS (Art. 200/05)**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (05/854) outlining progress on the action agreed by the Standards and Scrutiny Committee on 9 March 2005 following a report from the Chief Executive on the Community School at Auchterarder.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of Report 05/854 be noted.
- (ii) The recovery of the cost of possible inadequacies of the design team and contractor be not pursued through litigation and no further action be taken.
- (iii) To note that Report 05/854 would be submitted to the Standards and Scrutiny Committee on 25 January 2006 for approval.