

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Environment Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 31 March 2010 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors A Grant, L Caddell, I Campbell, A Cowan, B Ellis, C Gillies, D Scott, A Gaunt (substituting for L Simpson) and A Younger.

In Attendance: J Irons, Executive Director (Environment); J Valentine, Depute Director (Environment); B Renton, K McNamara, B Reekie and A Clegg (all The Environment Service); P Frazer and A Wilson (both Chief Executive's Service).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors K Lyall, M Lyle, H McDonald and L Simpson.

Councillor A Grant, Convener, Presiding.

181. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

182. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minute of Meeting of the Environment Committee of 27 January 2010 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

183. BIODIVERSITY IMPROVEMENTS TO PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

There was a submitted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (10/170), (1) outlining the proposed changes to the maintenance of selected parks and open spaces, with the objective of improving biodiversity; (2) covering issues associated with the proposed changes to grass management, including steep bank maintenance; and (3) reviewing the outcome of the 2009 meadow trials and recommending continued grass management trials during the 2010 growing season, along with changes to the steep bank maintenance.

Resolved:

- (i) The improvements to biodiversity in the 2009 trials of changes to grass management, as detailed in Report 10/170, be noted.
- (ii) The extension of these trials to include additional sites in 2010, be approved.
- (iii) The adjustment in method of cutting of a number of bankings as detailed in Report 10/170, be approved.

184. WASTE INITIATIVE UPDATE

The Committee received and noted a presentation by B Reekie, Waste Service Manager, The Environment Service, updating Members on progress made on the Council's Waste Initiative.

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

185. RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT PROCUREMENT

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (10/171), providing feedback from the consultation exercise which was undertaken in the development of a new Waste Management Plan for Perth and Kinross, with regard to securing arrangements for the long term treatment and disposal of residual waste; and (2) in view of recent information gained, proposing a revised approach and timetable for the Council's residual waste treatment procurement.

Resolved:

- (i) It be noted that Report 10/171 had been approved previously by the Strategic Waste Member/Officer Working Group on 12 March 2010.
- (ii) Procurement of long term residual waste treatment, pending clarity of the uncertainties outlined in Report 10/171, be delayed.
- (iii) Secure short to medium term landfill arrangements via the following hierarchy of measures:
 - (a) Engage with other Councils to explore shared services collaborative working for residual waste treatment and disposal in the short term (up to 2015) and potential procurement in the longer term (post 2015). If this cannot be achieved:
 - (b) Extend the current landfill contract through the use of a 'Transparency Notice' through OJEU; or if this cannot be achieved:
 - (c) Tender for the Council's landfill requirements via the EU restricted procedure procurement.
- (iv) Engage with other Councils to explore shared service collaborative working for residual waste treatment in the medium-to-long term.

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