

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 16 June 2010 at 9.30am.

Present: Councillors I Miller, G Hayton, B Band (substituting for P Barratt), J Coburn (substituting for W Wilson), T Gray (substituting for W Robertson), J Flynn, A Grant, E Grant, Provost Hulbert, M Lyle (substituting for K Baird), A MacLellan, M Roberts, A Stewart, B Vaughan and A Wylie.

In Attendance: B Malone, Chief Executive; J Irons, Executive Director (Environment) and Depute Chief Executive; M Antoniewiez; I Innes, J Mackay, H Mackenzie, J Somerville, J Symon, G Taylor, and T Yule (all Chief Executive's Service); J Fyffe, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); H Stuart (Education and Children's Services); R Thomson and J Valentine (both the Environment Service); D Burke, Executive Director (Housing and Community Care).

Apology: Councillor J Kellas.

Councillor I Miller, Convener, Presiding.

343. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

344. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(i) Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

The Minute of the Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 21 April 2010 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

(ii) Joint Executive Sub-Committee of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and Housing and Health Committee

The Minute of the Meeting of the Joint Executive Sub-Committee of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and Housing and Health Committee of 26 April 2010 was submitted and noted. (**Appendix I**)

(iii) Executive Sub-Committee

The Minute of the Meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 2 June 2010 was submitted and noted subject to '21 March 2011' in P1(ii) being amended to read '31 March 2011'. (**Appendix II**)

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(iv) Provost's Sub-Committee

The Minute of the Meeting of the Provost's Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 21 April 2010 was submitted and noted. (**Appendix III**)

(v) Special Meeting of Provost's Sub-Committee

The Minute of the Special Meeting of the Provost's Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 26 May 2010 was submitted and noted. (**Appendix IV**)

(vi) Corporate Health and Safety Consultative Committee

The Minute of the Meeting of the Corporate Health and Safety Consultative Committee of 1 March 2010 was submitted and noted. (**Appendix V**)

(vii) Employees Joint Consultative Committee

The Minute of the Meeting of the Employees Consultative Committee of 25 February 2010 was submitted and noted. (**Appendix VI**)

345. AUTHORITY TO WRITE OFF BAD DEBTS AND OBSOLETE STOCK (Art. 311/09)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (10/328) seeking an update on, (1) approval to write off identified bad debts in respect of Sales Ledger; Council Tax (including Water & Sewerage charges); Non-Domestic Rates; Community Charge; Irrecoverable and Void Rents; Housing Benefit Overpayments and Car Park Trading Account Income; and (2) seeking approval to write off obsolete stock.

Resolved:

That all amounts detailed in Section 3 of and in Appendices 1-3 to Report 10/328 be written off.

346. PROPOSED PARTICIPATION IN SCOTTISH FUTURES TRUST 'HUB' CONTRACT

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (10/329), (1) outlining the Scottish Futures Trust **hub** Initiative; and (2) seeking approval for Perth and Kinross Council to formally engage with the East Central **hub** Partnership.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Council engage with the **hub** initiative's East Central Territory as a partner in principle be approved.
- (ii) That the Chief Executive communicates the final decision from the Council to Scottish Futures Trust via the Letter of Intent template included at Appendix B to Report 10/329.

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- (iii) That the role of Senior Responsible Officer for Perth and Kinross Council be fulfilled by the Depute Director (Environment).
- (iv) That further reports be submitted to Committee when key decisions require to be taken, including when the contact is concluded.

347. CUSTOMER SERVICE PERFORMANCE MONITORING (Art. 307-09)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Business Transformation and Improvement (10/330) providing information on customer service performance for the period April 2009 – March 2010 which showed that the Council is performing well against its customer service standards.

Resolved:

- (i) The information for customer service performance for the period April 2009 – March 2010 as provided in Report 10/330 be noted.
- (ii) That the Council continues to perform well against its customer service standards be noted.
- (iii) That promotion of a focus on customer service for Council employees be continued.
- (iv) That the Head of Business Transformation and Improvement continues to report customer service performance on an annual basis be approved.

348. CORPORATE EQUALITY SCHEME (GENDER) 2010-2013 (Art. 306/09)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Business Transformation and Improvement (10/331) seeking approval for the revised and updated Corporate Equality Scheme (Gender) 2010-2013 to enable it to be published by 29 June 2010.

Resolved:

The revised and updated Corporate Equality Scheme (Gender) 2010-2013 be approved, for publication on the Council's website by 29 June 2010, in line with the Council's statutory duties.

349. EQUALITY KEY ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS TO MARCH 2010 (Art. 305/09)

There was submitted and noted a report by the Head of Business Transformation and Improvement (10/332), together with performance summaries for each of the Council Services, highlighting progress for key equality activities across all Services to 31 March 2010.

350. STATUTORY EQUALITIES EMPLOYMENT MONITORING STATISTICS

There was submitted a report by the Head of Human Resources (10/337) providing a corporate level analysis of employment equalities statistics for the year to 31 March 2010 and the six month period to 31 March 2010.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 10/337 be noted.

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- (ii) The employment equalities related data contained in the appendices attached to Report 10/337, as already agreed by the Equalities Strategic Group on 25 May 2010, be approved for publication.

351. SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PERTH THEATRE AND DEWARS CENTRE, PERTH (Art 75/09)

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive (10/341) recommending approval for funding of £600,000 and £90,000 respectively to provide an additional contribution to the Perth Theatre redevelopment project and to fund essential time-critical plant and equipment repairs at the Dewars Centre, Perth.

Resolved:

- (i) To provide funding of an additional £600,000 towards the Perth Theatre redevelopment project, subject to Horsecross proceeding with the development in line with the £13.04 million project, outlined in Appendix 1 of Report 10/341.
- (ii) To provide of funding of £90,000 towards essential boiler and ice-making plant repairs at the Dewars Centre, in order to allow the ongoing operation of the facility, subject to the funding being released once evidence is provided that the works have been satisfactorily carried out.

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