

HOUSING AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of the Housing and Health Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 25 May 2005 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors Barrett, Crabbie, Miller (substituting for Councillor Culliven), Dow, Flynn, E Grant, Hayton, Hunter, Lennie, MacLellan, Mulheron (until the end of Article), D Scott, and Mrs P Fyfe and Mrs M Miller.

In Attendance: Councillor Lloyd (from beginning of Article (Art. ...)), A Wilson, V Goldthorp (both Corporate Services); C Crawford, J Dean, L Cooper, C Worrall, K Heuer, I Genono, (All Housing & Community Care); F MacKay, M Underwood (both Planning and Performance Management).

Apology for Absence: Councillor Culliven.

Councillor Hunter, Presiding

Prior to the commencement of business the Convener welcomed Jim Dean, Lead Officer, Adult Services to the meeting, and congratulated Muriel Miller on her re-election as Chair of Perth and Kinross Tenants and Residents Federation. He also welcomed to the meeting the Federation Treasurer, Pat Fyfe, substitute on this occasion for Esther Muir, Vice Chair.

The Convener advised members of the forthcoming Seminar on Affordable Housing on 22 June 2005 at 9.30 at 3 High Street, and urged support for this important event.

382. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

383. MINUTES

The Minutes of Meeting of the Housing and Health Committee of 13 April 2005 (Arts. 263-271) were submitted, approved as a correct record, and authorised for signature.

COUNCILLOR JOHN LLOYD ENTERED THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

384. POLICY ON THE KEEPING OF PETS IN COUNCIL TENANCIES

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (05/319) on the proposals for a policy on the keeping of pets in Council tenancies and the handling of complaints about pets.

Councillor MacLellan acknowledged the work done on the proposed policy but considered that further consultation was necessary on matters including enforcement. He broadly welcomed the report but suggested that it could be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.

Motion – (Councillors MacLellan and Flynn) To defer the report to the next meeting to enable further consultation by a working group.

Amendment – (Councillors Miller and Barrett)

To approve the proposals for the introduction of a Policy on the Keeping of Pets in Council tenancies, including the introduction of criteria in relation to permissions for the keeping of pets and the introduction of pet registers and protocols with other Services or Agencies in the handling of complaints about pets.

Amendment – 7 votes

Motion – 5 votes

Resolved:

In accordance with the Amendment.

385. REQUEST FOR FUNDING – PERTH AND KINROSS TENANTS AND RESIDENTS FEDERATION

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (05/320) outlining the request for funding from the Federation and proposing financial assistance for the year 2005/2006.

Resolved:

- (i) Financial assistance to the Federation amounting to £135,182 for the 2005/06 financial year be approved, less the amount of any under-spend for the year 2004/05.
- (ii) That funding be paid quarterly in advance.
- (iii) That future funding bids continue to be submitted prior to each relevant financial year, or as soon as possible thereafter.

COUNCILLOR MULHERON LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

386. HOUSING AND BUILDING SERVICES BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2005-2008

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (05/321) seeking approval of Housing and Building Services Business Management and Improvement Plan for the years 2005/2008.

Resolved:

The Housing and Building Services Business Management and Improvement Plan for the years 2005/2008 be approved.

387. PERTH AND KINROSS INTERIM STANDARD DELIVERY PLAN

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (05/322) seeking approval of the Interim Standard Delivery Plan for submission to Communities Scotland.

Resolved:

The Interim Standard Delivery Plan be approved.

388. KITCHEN REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME 2005-2010

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (05/323), (1) detailing the tendering process used to obtain competitive bids for the kitchen refurbishment programme, 2005-2010, relating to 7,705 houses; (2) outlining proposals for delivering the project over a five year period; and (3) seeking approval to appoint Sidey Glaziers Ltd., of Perth as Principal Construction Partner.

Resolved:

- (i) The formal appointment of Sidey Glaziers Ltd., Perth as Principal Construction Partner for the project, be approved.
- (ii) The agreed maximum price be approved, representing a cost of £3,142 per unit.
- (iii) The outline programme for the project be approved.
- (iv) The proposals for Rent Uplifts, Refusals/Denied Access and Tenants Own Improvements, as detailed in Section 9.2 of Report 05/323, be approved.

389. PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING GRANT (PSHG) BUDGET 2005/06 AND PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (05/324) summarising the Council's expenditure and outcomes for Private Sector Housing Grant in 2004/05 and setting out the budget available and targets for 2005/06.

Resolved:

- (i) The expenditure and outcomes for Private Sector Housing Grant in 2004/05, as set out in Section 3 of Report 05/324, be noted.

- (ii) The proposed expenditure and targets for Private Sector Housing Grant in 2005/06, as set out in Section 4 of Report 05/324, be noted.
- (iii) The proposal to introduce "fast tracking" for applications for disabled adaptations to enable discharge from hospital, as set out in paragraphs 4.4 to 4.6 of Report 05/324, be approved, and it be remitted to the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care), with the Interim Director (Environment Services), to agree the criteria and details of the procedures.
- (iv) It be remitted to the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care), with the Interim Director (Environment Services) to submit bids to the Scottish Executive for future Private Sector Housing Grant funding for 2006/07 and beyond to meet the agreed priorities of the Council.
- (v) The proposed actions which the Council is taking to meet the challenges and opportunities of developing new practices and strategies for private sector housing repairs and improvements, including those offered by the proposals within the Housing (Scotland) Bill 2005, be noted and approved.

390. DEVELOPMENTS FOR CARERS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (05/325) outlining (1) the changes that have taken place at both a national and a local level since the development of a Carers Strategy for Perth and Kinross in 1998; (2) the developments in Carers Services that have taken place to date as a result of the Strategy; and (3) the plans for the future rolling out of the Strategy.

Resolved:

- (i) The main contents of the Carers Strategy, as attached to Report 05/325, be noted, in particular those points which have been updated, including Sections 6, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 9 and 11.
- (ii) The updated Strategy, together with the Action Plan for 2005/08, be approved.
- (iii) The updated strategy be printed and distributed as widely as possible to people in the local communities of Perth and Kinross.

391. TENDERS ACCEPTED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS 2004/2005

There was submitted and noted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (05/326) detailing Tenders accepted by the Council Secretary for the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2005.

392. DRAFT RESPONSE TO THE SMOKING, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005 (PROHIBITION OF SMOKING IN CERTAIN PREMISES) REGULATIONS 2005

There was submitted a report by the Head of Performance Planning and Management (05/309) providing a response from Perth and Kinross Council to the Scottish Executive document on the proposed prohibition of smoking in certain premises.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 05/309 be approved and the submission of the appendix as a response from Perth and Kinross Council to the Scottish Executive consultation document.