

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held in Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Buildings, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 7 February 2007 at 2.00pm.

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

In Attendance: B Malone, Chief Executive; J Irons, Depute Chief Executive and Executive Director (Environment); A R McArthur, Executive Director (Corporate Services); S Powell, Executive Director (Education & Children's Services); D Roberts, Executive Director (Housing & Community Care); C Flynn, I Innes, K Lawrie, A Nairn, J Symon, G Taylor, R Thomson (all Corporate Services); T Yule, A Wilson and S Thornton; (all Chief Executive's).

Apologies for Absence: Provost Scott, Councillors Hunter and Miller.

Councillor Doig, Convener, Presiding

68. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

69. MINUTES

- (i) The Minute of the Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 December 2006 (Arts. 784-792/06) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.
- (ii) The Minutes of the Meetings of the Executive Sub-Committee of 12 December 2006, 10 January 2007 and 23 January 2007 were submitted and noted. **(Appendices I, II & III)**
- (iii) The Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Director Appointments Sub-Committee of 23 November 2006 and 19 January 2007 were submitted and noted. **(Appendices IV & V)**
- (iv) The Minute of the Meeting of the Provost's Sub-Committee of 13 December 2006 was submitted and noted. **(Appendix VI)**
- (v) The Minute of the Meeting of the Property Sub-Committee Committee of 25 January 2007 was submitted and noted. **(Appendix VII)**

70. REVENUE BUDGET 2006/07 – MONITORING REPORT NO 4 (Art No 786/06)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (07/86) (1) providing an update on the General Fund Revenue Budget based upon the November 2006 ledger; and (2) providing an update on the projected financial positions of the Housing Revenue Account and the Council's Building Services DLO.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 07/86 be noted.
- (ii) The adjustments to the 2006/07 management revenue budget, detailed in Sections 2.2 to 2.8 of Report 07/86, be approved.
- (iii) Individual Service virements, summarised in Appendix 1 to Report 07/86, be approved.

71. COMPOSITE CAPITAL BUDGET 2006/09 – MONITORING REPORT NO 4 (Art No 685/06)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (07/87) (1) providing a summary of the Composite Capital Programme for the years 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09; and (2) seeking approval for adjustments to the Programme.

Resolved

- (i) The contents of Report 07/87 be noted.
- (ii) The proposed budget and monitoring adjustments to the three year Capital Budget 2006/09, as set out in Sections 3 and 4 of Report 07/87 and summarised in Appendices I and II to the Report, be approved.

- (iii) The proposed adjustments to the 2006/07 Renewal and Repair Fund, set out in Section 5 of Report 07/87 and summarised at Appendix III of the Report, be noted.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS BE EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION WHICH WAS EXEMPT IN TERMS OF SCHEDULE 7A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1973

72. TREASURY ACTIVITY AND COMPLIANCE REPORT (Art No 688/06)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (07/88) (1) providing a summary of the Loans Fund transactions for the quarter to 31 December 2006; and (2) reporting on compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement (TMPS), Treasury Management Practices (TMP's) and the Prudential Indicators for the same period.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 07/88, submitted in accordance with the Council's approved Treasury Management Practices, be noted
- (ii) The proposal to include Foreign Banks in the Approved Lending and Investment Policy, as detailed in Section 5 of Report 07/88, be approved.
- (iii) The reappointment of the Council's Treasury Advisers, Sector Treasury Services Ltd, for the reasons set out in Section 6 of Report 07/88, be approved.

73. AWARD OF DEBT COLLECTION SERVICES CONTRACT

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (07/89) outlining the process undertaken to secure a single debt collection service contract for Corporate Services, Housing & Community Care and The Environment Service.

Resolved:

- (i) The award of the Contract for the Council's debt collection services to George Walker & Company, 16 Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow G1 3AB for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2010, be approved.

74. RESERVES STRATEGY (Art No 92/06)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (07/92) recommending a strategy for managing the Council's reserves, with the exception of the Housing Revenue Account balances in the context of setting the Council's Revenue Budget 2007/08.

Resolved:

- (i) The proposals to earmark General Fund balances, set out in Section 3 of Report 07/92, be approved.
- (ii) The proposed approach to managing uncommitted General Fund balances, set out in Section 4 of Report 07/92, be approved.
- (iii) The proposed approaches to managing the Usable Capital Receipts Reserve; Renewal and Repair Fund; the Insurance Fund and the Capital Fund, as set out in Sections 5 to 8 of Report 07/92, be approved.