

# 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 21 March 2007 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors Baird, Barnacle, Crabbie, Doig, A Grant, Hayton, Hunter, Lennie, Livingstone, MacLellan, Miller, Stewart, Wilson and Young.

In Attendance: J Irons, Depute Chief Executive and Executive Director (Environment) and S Merone (Environment Service); A R McArthur, Executive Director (Corporate Services); I Gerono (Housing & Community Care); K Lawrie, H Mackenzie, A Nairn, J Symon, R Thomson, L Whiteford (all Corporate Services); G Taylor, S Thornton and T Yule (all Chief Executive's).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Barr, Culliven and Hulbert

Councillor Doig, Convener, Presiding

## 192. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

## 193. MINUTES

- (i) The Minute of the Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held on 7 February 2007 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.
- (ii) The Minute of the Meeting of the Appeals Sub-Committee of 23 January 2007 was submitted and noted. **(Appendix I)**
- (iii) The Minutes of the Meetings of the Executive Sub-Committees of 14 February 2007 **(Appendix II)** and 14 March 2007 **(Appendix III)** were submitted and noted.
- (iv) The Minutes of the Meetings of the Executive Director Appointments Sub-Committee of 7 February 2007 **(Appendix IV)**, 27 February 2007 **(Appendix V)** and 1 March 2007 **(Appendix VI)** were submitted and noted.
- (v) The Minute of the Meeting of the Property Sub-Committee Committee of 8 March 2007 was submitted and noted. **(Appendix VII)**
- (vi) The Minute of the Meeting of the Corporate Health and Safety Consultative Committee of 4 December 2006 was submitted and noted.
- (vii) The Minute of the Meeting of the Employees Joint Consultative Committee of 28 November 2006 was submitted and noted.

COUNCILLORS BARNACLE AND A GRANT JOINED THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

## 194. REVENUE BUDGET 2006/07 – MONITORING REPORT NO 5 (Art. 70)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (07/241) (1) providing an update on the General Fund Revenue Budget based upon the December 2006 ledger; and (2) providing an update on the projected financial positions of the Housing Revenue Account and the Building Services DLO.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of Report 07/241 be noted.
- (ii) The adjustments to the 2006/07 and 2007/08 management revenue budgets, detailed in Sections 2.2 to 2.11 of Report 07/241, be approved.
- (iii) Individual Service virements, summarised in Appendix 1 to Report 07/241, be approved.

## 195. COMPOSITE CAPITAL BUDGET 2006/09 – MONITORING REPORT NO 5 (Art. 71)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (07/242) (1) providing a summary of the position to date for 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 07/242 be noted.

- (ii) The proposed budget adjustments to the three year Capital Budget 2006/09, as set out in Sections 3 and 4 of Report 07/242 and summarised in Appendices I and II to the report, be approved.
- (iii) The proposed carry forward of any unutilised Renewal and Repair Fund resources at the end of the financial year be approved.

#### **196. ANNUAL TREASURY STRATEGY 2007/08 – 2009/10**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (07/243) detailing the Council's proposed Treasury Strategy and activities for the three financial years 2007/08 to 2009/10, and outlining the limits within which they will be undertaken.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The three year Treasury Strategy for 2007/08-2009/10, as detailed in Report 07/243, submitted in accordance with the Council's approved Treasury Management Practices, be approved.

#### **197. AUTHORITY TO WRITE OFF BAD DEBTS (LOCAL TAXES)**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (07/244) seeking approval to write off identified bad debts in respect of Council Tax (including water and sewerage charges), Non-Domestic Rates and Community Charge.

**Resolved:**

- (i) Subject to discussion with the Council's auditors, the sums shown in the various schedules attached to Report 07/244, be written off by the Council.

#### **198. AUTHORITY TO WRITE OF BAD DEBTS (SALES LEDGER) AND OBSOLETE STOCK**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (07/245) seeking approval to write off identified bad debts in respect of sales ledger debt and also seeking approval to write off obsolete stock within The Environment Service and Building Services DLO.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The Sales Ledger debts, amounting £226,193.16 as detailed in Appendix to Report 07/245, be written off.
- (ii) Obsolete and damaged stock, amounting to £6,360 as detailed in Section 4 of Report 07/245, be written off.

#### **199. PROGRESS REPORT ON REGENERATION OUTCOME AGREEMENT (Art. 444/06)**

There was submitted a joint report by the Head of Strategic Management & Improvement and the Head of Housing Strategy (07/246) providing a summary of the progress towards the implementation of the Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) as well as feedback from the monitoring meeting with Communities Scotland.

Councillor Hunter praised the valuable work undertaken by community volunteers in supporting the implementation of the ROA.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The continuing progress made towards the implementation of the Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) be noted.
- (ii) The outcome of discussions with Communities Scotland during the monitoring meeting in November 2006 be noted.
- (iii) The declining status of many of the datazones covered by the ROA, outlined in Section 4 of Report 07/246 and the approach agreed by the Community Planning Partnership to request further examination of this matter by the themed partnerships, be noted
- (iv) The referral of identifying equalities indicators and information gathering systems to the Community Planning Implementation Group, as outlined in Sections 5.3 to 5.7 of Report 07/146, be noted.
- (v) The proposed expenditure for Community Regeneration Fund monies for 2007/08, outlined in Section 6 of Report 07/246, be approved.
- (vi) The proposed expenditure for the Area Based Initiatives Budget (ABI) for 2007/08, outlined in Section 6 of Report 07/246, be approved.

- (vii) The change in reporting requirements for the Eastern Perthshire and Kinross Partnerships, as outlined in Sections 8.5 and 8.6 of Report 07/246, be noted and the virement of £60,000 from the ABI Budget, to allow for the continued support of the work by Economic Development staff with these two rural Partnerships be approved.
- (viii) The ongoing progress with work funded through Housing Estates Regeneration Fund be noted and the timetable for this work, as outlined in Sections 3.4 to 3.9 of Report 07/246, be approved.

## **200. CORPORATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE VOLUNTARY/COMMUNITY SECTOR REVENUE BUDGET 2007/08**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (07/247) (1) setting out the Corporate Financial Assistance to the Voluntary/Community Sector Revenue Budget; and (2) the allocations of financial assistance to be awarded to the major organisations for the year to 31 March 2008.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) The revised guidance for Corporate Financial Assistance to the Voluntary/Community Sector, to take effect from 1 April 2007, be approved.
- (ii) The proposed budget structure and allocations, set out in Report 07/247 for each funding heading under the Corporate Financial Assistance to the Voluntary/Community Sector Budget for the year 2007/08, be approved.
- (iii) In the event that an urgent decision is required on a grant application above £2,000 and less than £50,000 and prior to the first meeting of the Financial Assistance Panel following the Council Elections on 3 May 2007, powers be delegated to the Executive Director (Environment)/Depute Chief Executive to take necessary action, with such actions to be reported to first meeting of the Financial Assistance Panel, be approved.
- (iv) Funding of £132,900 to Perth Citizens Advice Bureau and payment of first tranche representing six months of operations, be approved; and Housing & Community Care services be asked to continue to be the monitoring service for that organisation and to submit a monitoring report on performance after 6 months.
- (v) Funding of £80,000 to Churches Action for the Homeless and payment of the first tranche representing six months of operation be approved; and The Environment Service (Economic Development) be asked to monitor that organisation and submit a monitoring report on performance after 6 months.

## **\*201. FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (07/248) outlining the improvements to the Council's arrangements for External Funding and Following the Public Pound (FPP) following the report by Audit Scotland of the national study of FPP across all Councils.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) The improvement actions which had already been implemented, be noted and the future improvement actions be agreed, all set out in Report 07/248.
- (ii) That the appropriate changes to the Scheme of Administration be submitted to the Council at their next meeting.

## **202. VALEDICTORY**

This being the last meeting of the Committee before the Local Government Elections on 3 May 2007, the Convener thanked everyone for their contribution over the last four years.