

## 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 16 April 2008 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors I Miller, G Hayton, K Baird, P Barrett, A Grant and E Grant; Provost J Hulbert; Councillors A Jack, J Kellas, S Miller (substituting for Councillor W Robertson), M Roberts, A Stewart, B Vaughan, W Wilson and A Wylie.

In Attendance: Councillors R Band, M Lyle and L Simpson; B Malone, Chief Executive; G Taylor, S Thornton, and T Yule (all Chief Executive's); G Stevenson, Executive Director (Corporate Services), I Innes, M Mitchell, S Merone, A Nairn, J Symon and R Thomson (all Corporate Services), D Roberts, Executive Director (Housing and Community Care); J Fyffe, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); and M Walker, Depute Director (Education and Children's Services); G Esson and J Walker (both The Environment Service).

Apologies for Absence: Councillor A MacLellan.

Councillor I Miller, Convener, Presiding.

### 221. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

### 222. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

#### (i) Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

The Minute of the Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 6 February 2008 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

#### (ii) Strategic Policy and Resources Executive Sub-Committee

The Minute of the Meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 12 February 2008 was submitted and noted (**Appendix I**).

#### (iii) Property Sub-Committee

The Minute of the Meeting of the Property Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 5 March 2008 was submitted and noted (**Appendix II**).

#### (iv) Provost's Sub-Committee

The Minute of the Meeting of the Provost's Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 6 February 2008 was submitted and noted (**Appendix III**).

#### (v) Corporate Health and Safety Consultative Committee

The Minute of the Meeting of the Corporate Health and Safety Consultative Committee of 3 December 2007 was submitted and noted (**Appendix IV**).

### 223. REVENUE BUDGET 2007/2008 – MONITORING REPORT NO 5

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (08/203), providing an update on, (1) the progress of the General Fund Revenue Budget based on the January 2008 ledger; and (2) the

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL  
STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
16 April 2008

projected financial positions of the Housing Revenue Account and the Council's Building Services DLO.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of Report 08/203 be noted.
- (ii) The adjustments to the 2007/08 management revenue budget, detailed in Sections 2.2 to 2.6 of Report 08/203, be approved.
- (iii) Individual Service virements, summarised in Appendix 2 of Report 08/203, be approved.

**224. COMPOSITE CAPITAL BUDGET 2007/10 – MONITORING REPORT NO 5**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (08/204), (1) providing a summary of the position to date with regard to the Composite Capital Programme for 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10; and (2) seeking approval for adjustments to the Programme.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of Report 08/204 be noted.
- (ii) The proposed budget adjustments to the three year Capital Budget 2007/10, as set out in Sections 3 and 4 of Report 08/204 and summarised in Appendices I and II to the Report, be approved.
- (iii) The proposed adjustments to budgetary expenditure on the Renewals and Repair Fund detailed in Section 5 of Report 08/204 and summarised in Appendix III to the Report, be approved.

**225. TREASURY ACTIVITY AND COMPLIANCE REPORT**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (08/205) providing a summary of the Loans Fund transactions for the quarter to 31 March 2008 and reporting on compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement, Treasury Management Practices and the Prudential Indicators for the same period.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of Report 08/205, submitted in accordance with the Council's approved Treasury Management Practices, be noted.

**226. AUTHORITY TO WRITE OFF BAD DEBT (LOCAL TAXES)**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (08/206) seeking approval to write off bad debts in respect of Council Tax (including Water and Sewerage), Non-Domestic Rates and Community Charge covering the period 1993/94 to 2007/08.

- (i) The identified bad debts, as detailed in the attached schedules to Report 08/206, be written off, subject to the files not being closed and to every effort being made to effect recovery should the opportunity exist.

**227. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (08/207) summarising the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan; the links between the Medium Term Financial Plan and the delivery of Corporate Plan key objectives and the financial and process risks which have been considered in preparing the components of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of Report 08/207 be noted.
- (ii) The monitoring arrangements set out in Section 5 of Report 08/207 be approved.

**228. CHARITABLE FUND**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (08/208) providing information on the Council's Charitable Fund including the annual accounts for 2006/07, the valuation report as at 31 December 2007 and details of the Statement of Investment Policy.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of Report 08/208 be noted.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL  
STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
16 April 2008

- (ii) That the future monitoring arrangements of the Charitable Fund should include an annual report to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee containing details of the overall performance of the Fund, together with the audited annual accounts and Statement of Investment Policy.

**229. CORPORATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE VOLUNTARY/COMMUNITY SECTOR REVENUE BUDGET 2008/09**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (08/209) setting out the Corporate Financial Assistance to the Voluntary/Community Sector Revenue Budget and the allocations of financial assistance to be awarded to the major organisations for the year ended 31 March 2009.

**Revenue:**

- (i) The proposed budget structure and allocations set out in Report 08/209 for each funding heading under the Corporate Financial Assistance to the Voluntary/Community Sector Budget for the year 2008/09 be approved.
- (ii) Funding of £139,000 to Perth Citizens Advice Bureau be approved and the first tranche, representing six months operations be paid; that the Housing and Community Care Service continue to be the monitoring service for that organisation and that a monitoring report on the performance of the Bureau be submitted after 6 months.

**230. CORPORATE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY – SCOTLAND EXCEL MEMBERSHIP**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (08/210) setting out the proposal for the Council to take up membership of Scotland Excel including the proposed funding arrangements for this proposal and benefit opportunities for the Council.

**Motion (Councillors I Miller and Provost Hulbert)**

- (i) **membership of Scotland Excel for three years from 1 May 2008 be approved;**  
(ii) **the Head of Legal Services execute the Scotland Excel terms and conditions and any other necessary joining documents, in order that the Council give effect to this decision, and**  
(iii) **Councillor John Law be the Council's representative on the Scotland Excel Committee.**

Amendment (Councillors A Stewart and B Vaughan)

- (i) membership of Scotland Excel for three years from 1 May 2008 be approved;  
(ii) the Head of Legal Services execute the Scotland Excel terms and conditions and any other necessary joint documents, in order that the Council give effect to this decision; and  
(iii) Councillor A Jack be the Council's representative on the Scotland Excel Joint Committee.

Amendment – 5 votes

Motion – 10 votes

**Resolved:**

In accordance with the Motion.

**231. CLIMATE CHANGE – SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR SCOTTISH CLIMATE CHANGE BILL**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (08/211) outlining a draft response to the Scottish Government's consultation document on its proposals for a Scottish Climate Change Bill. The consultation document sought responses on a number of important questions about the shape of the policy and what issues should be taken into account when developing the Bill.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL  
STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
16 April 2008

**Motion (Provost Hulbert and Councillor Barrett)**

The proposed responses contained in Appendix 1 to Report 08/211 be endorsed and the Executive Director (Environment) be authorised to submit these to the Scottish Government as the Council's response to the consultation document, subject to the deletion from the response to question 3 of 'Government should also consider how the expansion of nuclear generation might be best accommodated'.

Amendment (Councillors A Stewart and B Vaughan)

The proposed responses contained in Appendix 1 to Report 08/211 be endorsed and the Executive Director (Environment) be authorised to submit these to the Scottish Government as the Council's response to the consultation document.

Amendment – 5 votes

Motion – 10 votes

**Resolved:**

In accordance with the Motion.

**232. AYTOUN HALL, AUCHTERARDER**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/213) (Revised) providing details of the options for the future development and funding of Aytoun Hall in Auchterarder. The report also referred to the pledge from the former First Minister of up to £500,000 to the people of Auchterarder, expressly towards the refurbishment of the Aytoun Hall.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To note the options for the future development of Aytoun Hall, Auchterarder, identified in Report 08/213, including the operational and financial implications of each option, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 08/213.
- (ii) The Council retains and upgrades Aytoun Hall at a cost of £975,000, using the £500,000 First Minister's pledge to cover an element of these costs, and Council resources and/or developer contributions at a cost of £475,000 to meet the balance.
- (iii) Officers be authorised to continue negotiations with Auchterarder Leisure and Recreation Association to determine its future role in relation to Aytoun Hall.

**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.**

**233. INVESTMENT IN LEARNING: PROPERTY DISPOSALS**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Property (08/212) (Revised) detailing those properties declared surplus to requirements as a result of the Investment in Learning Programme and seeking approval of options for the disposal and future utilisation of each property.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The issues and the proposed site utilisation options highlighted within Report 08/212 be noted.
- (ii) The Council's previous decision of 14 February 2008 to dispose of the surplus Investment in Learning project properties as detailed in Section 4.3 of Report 08/212 be re-affirmed.
- (iii) A further report be submitted to provide more details of the options in relation to Hill Primary School, Blairgowrie; Kinross High School; and the Glebe Special School, Scone, including a development brief where appropriate.
- (iv) The preferred option for disposal and future utilisation of the other properties, as highlighted, in Appendix A be approved.