

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 1 November 2006 at 2.00pm.

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

In Attendance: Councillor Jack; B Malone, Chief Executive; K MacDonald, T Yule and L Dott (all Chief Executive's Service); A R McArthur, Executive Director (Corporate Services); I Innes, K Lawrie, J Low, H Mackenzie, J Somerville, J Symon and G Taylor (all Corporate Services); S Powell, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); J Irons Executive Director (Environment Service); R Bean (Environment Service); G Fraser (Housing and Community Care).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Barnacle, Barr, Doig and Miller.

Councillor Wilson, Vice-Convener, Presiding.

683. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

684. MINUTES

- (i) The Minute of the Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held on 6 September 2006 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.
- (ii) The Minute of the Meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of 18 October 2006 was submitted and noted (**Appendix I**).
- (iii) The Minute of the Meeting of the Provost's Sub-Committee of 6 September 2006 was submitted and noted (**Appendix II**).
- (iv) The Minutes of the Meetings of the Appeals Sub-Committee of 18 July 2006 and 18 September 2006 were submitted and noted (**Appendices III & IV**).
- (v) The Minute of the Meeting of the Property Sub-Committee of 5 October 2006 was submitted and noted (**Appendix V**).

685. REVENUE BUDGET 2006/07 – MONITORING REPORT NO 2 (Art. 580)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (06/741) (1) providing an update on the progress of the General Fund Revenue Budget based upon the August 2006 ledger and (2) providing an update on the projected financial positions of the Housing Revenue Account and the Council's Trading Operations.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 06/741 be noted.
- (ii) The adjustments to the 2006/07 management revenue budget, detailed in Sections 2.2 to 2.8 of Report 06/741, be approved.
- (iii) Individual Service virements, summarised in Appendices 1 and 2 of Report 06/741, be approved.

686. REVENUE BUDGET 2007/08 AND 3 YEAR COMPOSITE CAPITAL BUDGET 2007/08 TO 2009/10 – BUDGET REPORT NO 1

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (06/750) (1) setting out the progress with the preparation of the Council's Provisional Revenue Budget for 2007/08 and Composite Capital Budget for 2007/08 – 2009/10, and (2) seeking approval for a Special Council

Meeting to determine Perth and Kinross Council's Budget and Council Tax in accordance with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA) recommended Council Tax setting day.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 06/750 be noted.
- (ii) The approach to the Revenue and Capital Budget processes, as set out in Sections 3 and 4 of Report 06/750, be approved.
- *(iii) A Special Council meeting, to determine the 2007/08 Final Revenue Budget and Council Tax be set in accordance with any CoSLA agreed recommendation on a common Council Tax setting day for 2007/08 (date to be confirmed), be approved.
- (iv) The Council to consider and determine the Composite Capital Budget for financial years 2007/08 – 2009/10 at the same Special Meeting of the Council.

687. COMPOSITE CAPITAL BUDGET 2006/09 – MONITORING REPORT NO 2 (Art. 583)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (06/742) providing a summary position of the Composite Capital Programme for the years 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09 and seeking approval for adjustments to the Programme.

Resolved

- (i) The contents of Report 06/742 be noted.
- (ii) The proposed programmes of expenditure for the additional capital grants, as set out in Sections 3 and 4 and summarised at Appendices I and II of Report 06/742, be approved.
- (iii) The proposed budget and monitoring adjustments to the three year Capital Budget 2006/09, as set out in Sections 3 and 4 and summarised in Appendices I and II of Report 06/742, be approved.
- (iv) The proposed budget adjustments to the 2006/07 Renewal and Repair Fund Budget, as set out in Section 5 of Report 06/742 and summarised in Appendix III to Report 06/742, be approved.

688. TREASURY ACTIVITY AND COMPLIANCE REPORT (Art. 581)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (06/743) (1) providing a summary of the Loans Fund transactions for the quarter to 30 September 2006 and (2) reporting on compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement (TMPS), Treasury Management Practices (TMP) and the Prudential Indicators for the same period.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 06/743, submitted in accordance with the Council's approved Treasury Management Practices, be noted.
- (ii) The proposed increase in the limits for investments over 6 months, in the Council's Treasury Policy, as detailed in Section 5 of Report 06/743, be approved.

689. ORGANISATIONAL ICT STRATEGY

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (06/744) seeking approval of the Organisational ICT Strategy.

Resolved:

- (i) The Organisational ICT Strategy be approved.
- (ii) The Head of IST be instructed to regularly review the Organisational ICT Strategy and report to future meetings of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee.

690. EXTERNAL FUNDING – STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2006-2010 (Art. 808/05)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Economic Development (06/745) (1) outlining the Council's finalised External Funding Strategy and Action Plan, and (2) summarising the key points highlighted during the consultation process.

Resolved:

- (i) The External Funding Strategy and Action Plan be agreed.
- (ii) The Financial Assistance budget be reviewed to reflect the new Investment approach as outlined in the Strategy.

691. REDUNDANCY POLICY AND PROCEDURE

There was submitted a report by the Head of Human Resources (06/746) seeking approval for the Redundancy Policy and Procedure, a copy of which was appended to Report 06/746.

Resolved:

The Redundancy Policy and Procedure be approved.

692. CORPORATE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY (Art. 323)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (06/747) setting out the proposed Corporate Procurement Strategy for Perth and Kinross Council, including an action plan detailing procurement activity to be undertaken to support the delivery of the Procurement Programme.

Resolved:

The Corporate Procurement Strategy and Action Plan be approved.

693. VIEWFINDER SIXTEENTH QUESTIONNAIRE (Art. 326/05)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Business Change & Improvement (06/748) presenting the key findings from the sixteenth Viewfinder questionnaire.

Resolved:

- (i) The findings of the Sixteenth Questionnaire be noted and appropriate officers use the results to inform policy document/implementation and service delivery/planning, subject to amendment to Point 2.4 of Report 06/748 to read:
"seventy-nine per cent of respondents have not personally witnessed both the dropping of litter and other anti-social behaviour by neighbours."
- (ii) That future Viewfinder reports submitted to the Committee have copies of the respondents' questionnaire attached as an Appendix to the report.

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

694. ACQUISITION AND SALE OF LAND AT MILL STREET/HIGH STREET, PERTH IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED RETAIL DEVELOPMENT (Art. 70/04)

There was submitted a joint report by the Executive Director (Environment) (06/749) recommending the purchase of Perth Concert Hall and the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) building in Mill Street for Perth and Kinross Council and the subsequent sale of the DWP building and other parcels of land in Mill Street to KW (Perth) Ltd to enable the construction of a new retail development between Mill Street and High Street and to resolve the ownership of the Concert Hall.

Resolved:

- (i) The purchase of the Concert Hall and the DWP Building from Perth and Kinross Leisure, on the terms and conditions contained in Report 06/749, be agreed.
- (ii) The sale of the DWP building and other parcels of land at Mill Street to KW Perth Ltd, on the terms and conditions contained in Report 06/749, for the sole purpose of the erection of a retail development between High Street and Mill Street, be agreed.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Corporate Services) be remitted to report more fully on the financial implications arising from the property acquisitions as part of the budget review process.
- (iv) The Executive Director (Environment) be requested to bring forward further reports on detailed proposals for the retail development and the redevelopment of Thimblerow.