

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 12 June 2013 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors I Miller, A Grant, B Band, M Barnacle (substituting for D Cuthbert), P Barrett, I Campbell (substituting for A Livingstone), D Doogan, J Kellas, A MacLellan, D Pover, M Roberts, L Simpson (substituting for W Wilson), A Stewart, B Vaughan, and A Younger.

In Attendance: B Malone, Chief Executive; D Burke, Depute Chief Executive and Executive Director (Housing and Community Care); J Fyffe, Depute Chief Executive and Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); J Valentine, Executive Director (Environment); B Renton (The Environment Service); J Walker and L Brady (both Housing and Community Care); H Mackenzie, K Donaldson, S Hendry, J Somerville, J Symon and G Taylor (all Chief Executive's Service).

Apologies for Absence: Provost L Grant; Councillors D Cuthbert, A Livingstone, and W Wilson.

Councillor I Miller, Convener, Presiding.

365. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

366. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(i) Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

The minute of meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 17 April 2013 (Arts. 211-221) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

(ii) Property Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Property Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 6 March 2013 was submitted and noted (*Appendix I*)

(iii) Appeals Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Appeals Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 6 March 2013 was submitted and noted (*Appendix II*)

367. BANKING ARRANGEMENTS – CO-OPERATIVE BANK

The Head of Finance updated the Committee on the Council's current banking arrangements with the Co-operative Bank. He reported that he had met with a representative of the Co-operative Bank the previous day and that no imminent change to the current banking arrangements was anticipated, there was no current investment risk to the Council, and that the position would continue to be monitored.

368. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S SERVICE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2013/14 AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2012/13 (Art. 303/12)

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (13/286) presenting the Chief Executive's Service Business Management and Improvement Plan 2013/14 and Annual Performance Report 2012/13.

Resolved:

- (i) The Chief Executive's Service Business Management and Improvement Plan 2013/14 and Annual Performance Report 2012/13 be approved.
- (ii) It be noted that Report 13/286 would be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on 12 June 2013 for scrutiny and comment.

369. AUTHORITY TO WRITE OFF DEBTS AND OBSOLETE STOCK (Art. 303/12)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (13/287) (1) seeking approval to write off identified debts in respect of Sales Ledger; Council Tax (including Water & Waste Water charges); Non-Domestic Rates; Irrecoverable Rents; Community Charge; Housing Benefit Overpayments; Commercial Rent and Car Park Trading Account Income; and (2) approval to write off obsolete stock.

Resolved:

That all amounts detailed in Section 3 of and in Appendices 1-3 to Report 13/287 be written off.

370. MAJOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN COUNCILS – ACCOUNTS COMMISSION REPORT MARCH 2013

There was submitted a joint report by the Depute Director (Environment) and Head of Finance (13/288) (1) providing a summary of the Accounts Commission report "Major Capital Investment in Councils" recommending improvements to help Councils achieve value for money from their capital investment; and (2) acknowledging the good practice within Perth and Kinross in relation to capital investment.

Resolved:

- (i) The Council's current position in relation to the key findings contained within the report, detailed at Appendix I to Report 13/288, be noted.
- (ii) The Accounts Commission report "Major Capital Investment in Councils", as attached at Appendix II to Report 13/288, be noted.

371. MANAGING EARLY DEPARTURES FROM SCOTTISH PUBLIC SECTOR – ACCOUNTS COMMISSION REPORT MAY 2013

There was submitted a report by David Burke, Depute Chief Executive (13/289) (1) providing a summary of the Accounts Commission report “Managing Early Departures from the Scottish Public Sector” highlighting principles of good practice on how organisations should design, manage and monitor their early departures scheme was provided in the summary; and (2) acknowledging that Perth and Kinross Council complies with the principles of good practice.

It was noted that there was an amendment to paragraph 31 of Report 13/289 with ‘approved’ in Report 13/289 in the second line being replaced with ‘noted’.

Resolved:

- (i) The Accounts Commission report “Managing Early Departures from the Scottish Public Sector”, as attached at Appendix 2 to Report 13/289, be noted.
- (ii) The Council’s current position, in relation to the principles of good practice, be noted.

372. WELFARE REFORM UPDATE – AUDIT SCOTLAND REPORT MAY 2013

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (13/290) advising of the Audit Scotland report “Welfare Reform Update”, and highlighting the relevant actions the Council had taken and continued to progress with regard to the Welfare Reform changes.

Resolved:

- (i) That reports on welfare reform changes continue to be submitted to the Housing and Health Committee as appropriate, and also to the Scrutiny Committee.
- (ii) Having noted that a report would be submitted to the Housing and Health Committee in August 2013, the decision of the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) to provide £1500 to Perth Action of Churches Together (PACT) to progress the establishment of a Food Bank be homologated.

373. VALEDICTORY

The Convener reported that Hugh Mackenzie, Head of Human Resources would shortly be retiring from the Council after 32 years service to Perth and Kinross. On behalf of the Committee the Convener paid tribute to Hugh's commitment and dedication to the Council and wished him well in his retirement. Hugh thanked the Convener and the members of the Committee for their good wishes and expressed his thanks to all the members of staff and elected members who had supported him throughout his career.

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