

## **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 1 October 2014 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors I Miller, A Grant, B Band, P Barrett, I Campbell, D Cuthbert, D Doogan, J Kellas, A MacLellan, D Pover, M Roberts, A Stewart, B Vaughan, W Wilson and A Younger.

In Attendance: B Malone, Chief Executive; J Valentine, Executive Director (Environment); J Walker, Executive Director (Housing and Community Care); L Carson, C Flynn, I Innes, C Irons, J Symon and G Taylor (all Chief Executive's Service) and B Atkinson and J Cockburn (both Education and Children's Services).

Apologies: Provost L Grant

Councillor I Miller, Convener, Presiding.

### **628. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting and an apology was noted as above.

### **629. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **630. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

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

The minute of meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 11 June 2014 (Arts. 418 – 427) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

#### **(ii) Corporate Health, Safety and Wellbeing Consultative Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Corporate Health, Safety and Wellbeing Consultative Committee of 17 March 2014 was submitted and noted.  
*(Appendix I)*

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**(iii) Property Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Property Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 21 May 2014 was submitted and noted. **(Appendix II)**

**(iv) Employees Joint Consultative Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Employees Joint Consultative Committee of 29 May 2014 was submitted and noted. **(Appendix III)**

**(v) Executive Sub-Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 18 June 2014 was submitted and noted. **(Appendix IV)**

**(vi) Appeal Sub-Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Appeal Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 4 July 2014 was submitted and noted. **(Appendix V)**

**(vii) Appeal Sub-Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Appeal Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 19 August 2014 was submitted and noted. **(Appendix VI)**

**(viii) Provost's Sub-Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Provost's Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 27 August 2014 was submitted and noted. **(Appendix VII)**

**631. REVENUE BUDGET 2014/2015 – MONITORING REPORT NUMBER 1**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (14/407) providing (1) an update on progress with the 2014/2015 General Fund Revenue Budget based upon the July 2014 ledger and (2) an update on the projected financial position of the Housing Revenue Account.

The Convener expressed his thanks to all Services for the savings detailed in report 14/407 achieved through vigorous financial management, and also to all staff involved in the Ryder Cup which had presented a good image of Perth and Kinross to the rest of the world.

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**Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of Report 14/407 be noted.
- (ii) The adjustments to the 2014/15 Management Revenue Budget, detailed in Appendix 1 and Sections 2, 3 and 4 of Report 14/407 be approved.
- (iii) The service virements, summarised in Appendices 2 and 3 to Report 14/407, be approved.
- (iv) A report be submitted to a future meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the under-recovery of income from housing rents due to delays in bringing on stream some new build and converted properties.

**632. COMPOSITE CAPITAL BUDGET 2014/21 AND HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2014/19 – MONITORING REPORT NUMBER 1**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (14/408) (1) providing a summary position to date for the Composite Capital Programme for 2014/15 to 2020/21 and the Housing Investment Programme 2014/15 to 2018/19 and (2) seeking approval for adjustments to the Programmes.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of report 14/408 be noted.
- (ii) The proposed budget adjustments to the seven year Composite Capital Budget 2014/15 to 2020/21 set out in sections 2,3 and 4 of report 14/408 and summarised in Appendices I and II, be approved.
- (iii) The proposed budget and monitoring adjustments to the five year Housing Investment Programme Budget 2014/15 to 2018/19, set out in section 5 to report 14/408 and summarised in Appendix III, be approved.
- (iv) The revised 2014/15 Renewal and Repair Fund Budget set out in section 6 to report 14/408 and summarised in Appendix IV, be approved.
- (v) A report be submitted to a future meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on improvements to the Capital Programme Governance arrangements.

**633. ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENT 2013/14**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Head of Finance (14/409) on the Annual Efficiency Statement for 2013/14. The statement had previously been submitted to the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) for consolidation in the national return to the Scottish Government. The report also summarised the efficiency gains made by the Council during 2013/14 and highlighted those areas where the Council was seeking to make efficiency gains in the current financial year.

**634. TAYSIDE PENSION FUND EMPLOYER CONSULTATION – INVESTING IN TOBACCO**

There was submitted a joint report by the Head of Finance and the Head of Legal Services (14/410) to determine the Council's response to the consultation received from Tayside Pension Fund on the continued investment in tobacco stocks given the legal framework within which investment decisions required to be made.

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**Resolved:**

- (i) Advise the Tayside Pension Fund that the Council would support the Fund disinvesting in tobacco stocks given the effect of tobacco on the health of the citizens of Perth and Kinross, only if suitable alternative investments were identified.
- (ii) Request that the Tayside Pension Fund, through its Fund Managers, keeps the issue of alternative investments to tobacco under review and that if the Fund Managers could identify other investments which would provide satisfactory returns without materially affecting the volatility of risk and return, the Fund should disinvest in tobacco.
- (iii) An update on progress towards disinvesting in tobacco products within twelve months be requested from Tayside Pension Fund and submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

**635. SAVINGS ARISING FROM EARLY RETIREMENT DECISIONS TAKEN IN 2013/14**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (14/411) providing information on the costs and savings arising from early retiral decisions taken in the financial year 2013/14.

**Resolved:**

The overall net savings achieved by the Council of £8,453,601 in relation to members of the Local Government Pension Scheme and £103,433 in respect of members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme as detailed in the appendix to report 14/411 be noted.

**636. AUDIT SCOTLAND – SCOTLAND'S PUBLIC FINANCES, A FOLLOW UP AUDIT: PROGRESS IN MEETING THE CHALLENGES**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (14/412) providing a summary of the follow up audit by Audit Scotland on Scotland's public finances and progress in meeting the challenges.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The Audit Scotland report, Scotland's Public Finances – A Follow-Up Audit: Progress in Meeting the Challenges, be noted.
- (ii) The Audit Scotland report be issued to councillors not on the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

**637. ANNUAL REPORT FOR FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND 2013/14**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal Services (14/413) on (1) the Council's arrangements for funding external bodies and Following the Public Pound (FPP) and (2) monitoring of the Council's performance against the Code of Guidance for Funding External Bodies and Following the Public Pound for the financial year 2013/14.

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**Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of report 14/413 and the ongoing commitment by the Council to working in partnership with voluntary sector service providers, be noted.
- (ii) A report on a review of the Council's Code of Guidance for Funding External Bodies and Following the Public Pound be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee on 3 December 2014.

***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***

**638. KNOWEHEAD HOUSE, DUNDEE ROAD, PERTH – PROPOSED DISPOSAL**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (14/414) on (1) seeking approval for the disposal of Knowehead House, Dundee Road, Perth and (2) recommending acceptance of the offer from the second highest bidder.

**Resolved:**

Disposal of Knowehead House, Dundee Road, Perth to the second highest bidder, failing which the third highest bidder, resulting in the redevelopment of a vacant and prominent property in Perth, be approved.

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