

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held in the Council Chambers, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 19 April 2017 at 10.00am.

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

In Attendance: B Malone, Chief Executive; J Fyffe, Senior Depute Chief Executive, L Potter, L Simpson, J Symon, G Taylor and C Irons (all Corporate and Democratic Services); D Stokoe and G Motion (both Education and Children's Services – up to the end of the public items); B Renton, T Flanagan, C Jolly, (up to the end of the public items) S MacKenzie, K McNamara (up to the end of the public items) and A Thomson (all Environment Service) and B Atkinson, L Cameron and K Fraser (all Housing and Community Care – up to the end of the public items).

Apologies for Absence: Provost L Grant and Councillor A Livingstone.

Councillor I Miller, Convener, Presiding.

. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting and apologies and a substitution were noted as above.

In terms of Standing Order 13, the Committee agreed that the meeting be recorded for use as part of the elected member development programme after the elections in May 2017.

. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(i) Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

The minute of meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 8 February 2017 (Arts. 77 - 84) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

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(ii) Executive Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee Executive Sub-Committee of 26 January 2017 was submitted and noted. **(Appendix I)**

(iii) Employees Joint Consultative Committee

The minute of meeting of the Employees Joint Consultative Committee of 24 November 2016 was submitted and noted. **(Appendix II)**

(iv) Corporate Health, Safety and Wellbeing Consultative Committee

The minute of meeting of the Corporate Health, Safety and Wellbeing Consultative Committee of 12 December 2016 was submitted and noted. **(Appendix III)**

(v) Property Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee Property sub-committee of 26 October 2016 was submitted and noted. **(Appendix IV)**

(vi) Appeals Sub-Committee

(a) The minute of meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee Appeals sub-committee of 2 and 7 December 2016 and 19 January 2017 was submitted and noted. **(Appendix V)**

(b) The minute of meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee Appeals sub-committee of 10 February 2017 was submitted and noted. **(Appendix VI)**

REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17 - MONITORING REPORT NUMBER 4

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (17/152), providing an update (1) on the progress made with the 2016/17 General Fund Revenue Budget based upon the January 2017 Ledger, updated for any subsequent known material movements; and (2) on the projected financial position of the Housing Revenue Account.

Motion (Councillors I Miller and J Kellas)

- (i) The contents of Report 17/152 be noted.**
- (ii) The adjustments to the 2016/17 Management Revenue Budget, as detailed in Appendix 1 to and Section 2 of Report 17/152, be approved.**
- (iii) Service virements, as summarised in Appendices 2 and 4 to Report 17/152, be approved.**
- (iv) The adjustments to the 2017/18 Council Approved Budget detailed in section 5 and appendix 5 of Report 17/152, be approved.**

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- (v) **That the Perth and Kinross Integrated Joint Board had approved a budget requisition consistent with the 2017/18 Revenue Budget proposition from Perth and Kinross Council, be noted.**
- (vi) **Directors convey the thanks of the Committee to all services for achieving the significant savings detailed in Report 17/152.**

Amendment (Councillors D Cuthbert and I Campbell)

The final underspend on winter maintenance, currently estimated at £450,000, be transferred to Roads Maintenance in 2017/18 and not to Reserves.

In terms of Standing Order 44, a roll call vote was taken.

Eight members voted for the Motion as follows:
Councillors B Band, D Doogan, A Grant, J Kellas, I Miller, A Munro, D Pover and A Younger.

Six members voted for the Amendment as follows:
Councillors P Barrett, I Campbell, D Cuthbert, K Baird, M Roberts and W Wilson.

One member Abstained as follows:
Councillor B Vaughan.

Resolved:

In accordance with the Motion.

COMPOSITE CAPITAL BUDGET 2016/23 & HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2016/21 – MONITORING REPORT NUMBER 4

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (17/153), (1) providing a summary position to date for the Composite Capital Programme for 2016/17 to 2022/23 and the Housing Investment Programme 2016/17 to 2020/21 and (2) seeking approval for adjustments to the Programmes.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 17/153, be noted.
- (ii) The proposed budget adjustments to the seven year Composite Capital Budget 2016/17 to 2022/23 as set out in Sections 2 and 3 and summarised at Appendices I and II to Report 17/153, be approved.
- (iii) Authority be delegated to the Director (Education and Children's Services) to respond to the Scottish Government in relation to the proposed allocation of Early Learning and Childcare Capital Grant as detailed in section 2.6 of Report 17/153.
- (iv) The proposed budget adjustments to the Housing Investment Programme Budget 2016/17 and 2020/21 as set out in Section 4 and summarised at Appendix III to Report 17/153, be approved.

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COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER POLICY

There was submitted a report by the Senior Depute Chief Executive (17/154) introducing a draft Policy on Community Asset Transfer which would enable the Council to respond appropriately to Part 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and support communities to take control of the things that matter to them.

Resolved:

- (i) The Community Asset Transfer Policy attached as Appendix 1 to Report 17/154, be approved.
- (ii) An update report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

DISCRETION ON APPLYING COUNCIL TAX SURCHARGES ON LONG TERM EMPTY DWELLINGS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Safety) (17/155) on the introduction of discretion on applying Council Tax Surcharges on Long Term Empty Dwellings.

Resolved:

The Council Policy on the Charging of Council Tax on Long Term Empty Dwellings to provide flexibility be amended as outlined in section 3 to Report 17/155, from Financial Year 2017/18, be approved.

TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME 2015-2020 PROGRESS UPDATE AND CORPORATE DIGITAL PLATFORM

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive (17/156) (1) providing an update on the Council's Transformation Programme and (2) recommending that additional funding of £288,500 be drawn down from the Transformation Reserve to deliver a Combined Mail Solution as an extension to the current Corporate Digital Platform Transformation Project.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress of the Transformation Programme 2015-2020, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 17/156, be noted.
- (ii) The release of additional funding of £288,500, comprising £205,000 project support costs and unavoidable increased costs of £83,500, from the Transformation Reserve for the expansion of the Corporate Digital Platform Project to include a Combined Mail solution within a re-phased reduced timeframe, be approved.

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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.

MILL QUARTER, PERTH – THIMBLEROW SITE DEVELOPMENT

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive (17/157), (1) providing an update on progress with the proposed Mill Quarter development and (2) seeking approval to the revised terms and conditions for the sale of the Thimblerow site, along with the proposed lease-back of the multi-storey car park.

Resolved:

- (i) An increase in the developer's priority return on costs for the development from 15% to 20% to enable the highest bidder to meet their funders' requirements.
- (ii) It be remitted to the Depute Chief Executive to report back to this Committee on the sale price for the land when conditions and other development elements were finalised.
- (iii) The lease of the car park to the Council for a period of 30 years be approved at an initial rent of £276,375 per annum and the associated lease conditions set out in the draft Heads of Terms for the Mill Quarter car park as summarised in sections 5.3 – 5.10 of Report 17/157.
- (iv) Discussion be held with the developer regarding minimising the time the Thimblerow car park was out of use while works were being carried out.

VALEDICTORY

The Convener thanked all members and officers, particularly senior officers for their support and guidance. The Convener also wished good luck to the new Council following the election on 4 May 2017.

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