

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Environment Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 20 November 2013 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors A Grant, M Williamson, M Barnacle, R Brock, B Ellis, J Giacomazzi (substituting for A Younger), C Gillies, G Laing, M Lyle, E Maclachlan, D Melloy, W Robertson and M Roberts.

In Attendance: J Valentine, Executive Director (Environment); A Clegg, K McNamara, B Reekie, B Renton, R Smith (all the Environment Service); C Flynn and C Irons (both Chief Executive's Service).

Apology for Absence: Councillor A Younger

Councillor A Grant, Convener, Presiding.

The Convener led discussion on Arts 652 to 660 ; the Vice-Convener led on Art 661.

652. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

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

653. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor M Williamson declared a non-financial interest in Art 656 Community Waste Fund Update (The Perth Bike Station) Report number 13/540.

654. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of the Environment Committee of 28 August 2013 (Arts. 496-501) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

655. THE ENVIRONMENT SERVICE SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE SUMMARY 2013

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (13/539) reviewing the performance of the Environment Service against its Business Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP) for the period 1 April 2013 to 30 September 2013.

Resolved

- (i) The contents of The Environment Service Six Monthly BMIP Exception Report, 1 April 2013 to 30 September 2013, as detailed in Appendix 1 of report 13/539, and pertaining to this Committee's area of responsibility, be accepted.

- (ii) It be noted that Report 13/539 would be submitted to the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee at a meeting later in the day, the Community Safety Committee on 4 December 2013, and to the Scrutiny Committee on 27 November 2013 for Scrutiny and comment as appropriate.

656. COMMUNITY WASTE FUND UPDATE

There was submitted and noted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (13/540) updating members on the final distribution of Community Waste Grant Funding to community groups and identifying the positive outcomes from the granting of the funding.

657. CHANGES TO ADVANCE BURIAL LAIR PURCHASE

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (13/541) outlining changes to Advance Burial Lair Purchase in public cemeteries and recommending a change in policy to ensure the equitable allocation and best use of available lair space within public cemeteries for the overall benefit of communities in Perth and Kinross.

Resolved

- (i) The pre-purchase of lairs in public cemeteries be limited to one lair per person where there is ten years or more capacity be approved.
- (ii) The pre-purchase of lairs not be permitted where there is less than ten years capacity.

658. CHARGING CRITERIA FOR PARKS EVENTS AND FOOTBALL BOOKINGS

Resolved

The Committee agreed that this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Environment Committee on 22 January 2014.

659. CONTROL OF GREY SQUIRRELS ON COUNCIL LAND

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (13/543) on action being undertaken to identify how large the grey squirrel population is on Council land and outlined the options available to the Council to address any potential impact that grey squirrels may have on native red squirrels as a result.

Resolved

- (i) The Perth and Kinross Red Squirrel Society undertake a survey in spring 2014 to monitor squirrel populations in Council managed locations as detailed in report 13/543 be approved.
- (ii) A report be submitted to a future meeting of the Environment Committee on the outcome of the survey and any recommended actions.

660. THE FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2009 – PROGRESS REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (13/544) on progress made in the implementation of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 towards the publication of the Council's Local Flood Risk Management Plans in 2016.

Resolved

- (i) The progress report on the implementation of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 appended to report 13/544 as Appendix B be approved.
- (ii) It be noted that an article would be included in the next edition of Perth and Kinross News summarising the progress made on the implementation of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.
- (iii) The proposed governance structure and terms of reference for the Tay Local Plan District Partnership appended to report 13/544 as Appendix C2 be approved.
- (iv) The appointment of the Head of Environmental Consumer Services to the Board of all Local Plan District Partnerships that Perth and Kinross Council is a member of be approved.
- (v) The proposed governance arrangements that have been adopted by the lead local authorities in the Forth, Forth Estuary and Tay Estuary Local Plan Districts as detailed in appendices C3, C4 and C5 to report 13/544 be noted.
- (vi) The proposed member/officer working arrangements for the Tay Local Plan District as referred to in appendix C to report 13/544 be noted.
- (vii) The proposed approval levels against each of the key outputs from the flood risk management planning process as detailed in appendix C to report 13/544 be approved.

661. ALMONDBANK FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (13/534) advising of progress on the Almondbank Flood Protection Scheme and seeking confirmation of an amended scheme.

Resolved

- (i) The Environmental information as outlined in report 13/534 be noted.
- (ii) The proposed changes for residents in the area be approved.
- (iii) The proposed Almondbank Flood Protection Scheme as outlined in report 13/534 be confirmed.
- (iv) The Executive Director (Environment) be authorised to carry out all necessary steps to progress the scheme to a final design stage to include: (a) giving notice of the decision to confirm the scheme, (b) submit an application for funding to the Scottish Government and (c) seeking deemed planning permission from the Scottish Ministers.
- (v) That progression to construction stage would be dependent upon future funding availability be noted.

