

## **ENTERPRISE AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

Minute of Meeting of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 5 June 2013 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors J Kellas, H Anderson (substituting for Councillor J Giacopazzi), I Campbell, A Cowan, D Doogan, A Gaunt, T Gray, A Jack, G Laing, A Livingstone, W Robertson and A Younger.

In Attendance: B Renton, Depute Director (Environment); D Littlejohn (Head of Planning and Regeneration), C Haggart, H Hope, I Butt, A Seggie (all The Environment Service); C Flynn and Y Oliver (both Chief Executive's Service).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors J Flynn and J Giacopazzi.

Councillor J Kellas, Convener, Presiding.

### **350. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **351. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minute of the Meeting of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee of 20 March 2013 (Arts. 174-180) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

### **352. THE ENVIRONMENT SERVICE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2013/14 AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2012/13**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (13/262) seeking approval by the Environment Committee, Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee and Community Safety Committee, for their specific areas of interest, of The Environment Service Business Management and Improvement Plan 2013/14 and the Annual Performance Report 2012/13.

#### **Resolved:**

- (i) The Business Management and Improvement Plan 2013/14 and Annual Performance Report 2012/13 for the Environment Service pertaining to the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee's area of responsibility, as appended to Report 13/262, be approved.
- (ii) It be noted that Report 13/262 had also been considered by the Community Safety and Environment Committees on 5 June 2013 and would be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on 12 June 2013 for scrutiny and comment as appropriate.

**353. BUSINESS CONSULTANCY SUPPORT GRANTS AND UPDATE ON BUSINESS GROWTH INITIATIVES**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (13/272) (i) providing a brief update on some of the key business growth initiatives and outcomes delivered by the Council over the last year and (ii) outlining the criteria for a proposed new business consultancy grant, which will support local companies in accessing expert advice and support.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The brief update on some of the key business growth initiatives and outcomes delivered by the Council over the last year, be noted.
- (ii) The business consultancy support fund grants scheme criteria and guidelines, as set out in Appendix 2 to Report 13/272, be approved.

**354. GROWBIZ PROJECT**

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (13/273) outlining (i) the background to the Growbiz project which the Council has supported since 2007; (ii) how the project has developed since it was established as a pilot project in 2007; (iii) its growth through the awarding of LEADER funding; (iv) the outcomes achieved; and (v) what activities are planned for 2013/14.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The activities and outcomes delivered to date by the Growbiz project, be noted.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Environment) be requested to submit an annual report from the project at the end of 2013/14, to assess delivery against outcomes for the 2013/14 period.

**355. EMPLOYABILITY INITIATIVES – THE HUB PROJECT RELOCATION/OUTREACH AND NEW RECRUITMENT INCENTIVES)**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (13/274) (i) providing an update on the pilot HUB employment advice centre; (ii) outlining proposals to extend its services by relocating to a larger unit within Perth and to provide an outreach service in Aberfeldy, Blairgowrie and Crieff; and (iii) outlining proposals to introduce two new local recruitment incentives to provide wage subsidies to local companies to employ unemployed residents.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The relocation of The HUB project to larger premises within Perth City Centre, be noted.
- (ii) The provision of an outreach service from The HUB, initially weekly in Blairgowrie, Crieff and Aberfeldy, be noted.
- (iii) The provision of funding of £50,000 per annum for two years, to establish a wage incentive scheme providing incentives to local companies to recruit local unemployed individuals aged 25+, be approved.
- (iv) The provision of funding of £45,000 for the training element required to establish a Perth and Kinross youth wage incentive, targeting unemployed

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individuals aged 16-24, subject to a successful bid to the Youth Scotland Employment Fund, be approved.

**356. EVENTS AND FESTIVALS STRATEGY**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (13/275) (i) seeking approval for a refreshed strategic approach to the attraction, development and delivery of an ambitious programme of events and festivals in Perth and Kinross and the allocation of resources within the agreed Council budget to support events; and (ii) outlining the Council's ambition for the area as a whole to be the destination of choice for UK and international visitors.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The Events and Festivals Strategy, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 13/275, be approved.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Environment), be requested to provide a report on progress on the Events and Festival Strategy in 12 months time.

**357. BRINGING PRIVATE SECTOR EMPTY HOMES AND VACANT PROPERTIES BACK INTO USE**

There was submitted a joint report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) and Executive Director (Environment) (13/256) providing an update on the work across the Council to bring empty and vacant properties within the private sector back into residential or commercial use.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The innovative work being carried out across Perth and Kinross to bring empty and vacant properties within the private sector back into residential or commercial use, and the progress over the past year, be noted.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) and Executive Director (Environment) be requested to submit further reports on the progress of the empty homes and vacant properties initiatives to future meetings of the Housing and Health and Enterprise and Infrastructure Committees.
- (iii) It be noted that Report 13/256 had also been considered by the Housing and Health Committee on 29 May 2013.

**358. CYCLING, WALKING AND SAFER STREETS PROJECTS 2013/14**

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (13/276) (i) detailing the Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Projects implemented in 2012/13; and (ii) seeking Committee approval for a list of works funded from the Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Grant 2013/14 of £158,000 from the Scottish Government.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The schemes implemented from the Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Grant Fund in 2012/13, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 13/276, be noted.

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- (ii) The proposed list of works for Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets projects for the financial year 2013/14, as detailed in Appendices 2 and 3 to Report 13/276, be approved.
- (iii) The applications for funding from the Sustrans Community Links 2013/14 programme, as detailed in Appendices 2 and 3 of Report 13/276, be noted.

**359. ORGANISATIONAL BLUE BADGES**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (13/277) seeking approval of the adoption of criteria for assessing applications for organisational Blue Badges in Perth and Kinross in accordance with the Code of Practice for local authorities on the Blue Badge Scheme issued by Transport Scotland.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The administrative arrangements for organisational Blue Badges, as set out in Section 2 of Report 13/277, be noted.
- (ii) The eligibility criteria, as set out in Section 3 of Report 13/277, be approved, noting that any abuse of the organisational Blue Badges might result in confiscation of all badges awarded to an organisation.
- (iii) The enforcement arrangements, as set out in Section 3 of Report 13/277, be approved.
- (iv) The Executive Director (Environment) be requested to bring back to the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee a report on the implementation of this policy in 12 months time.

**360. PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS – GLENEARN COMMUNITY CAMPUS, PERTH**

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (13/278) (i) outlining the difficulties experienced at Glenearn Community Campus due to inconsiderate parking; and (ii) recommending a variation to the Perth Traffic Regulation Order to allow the temporary 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions at the Campus to be made permanent.

**Resolved:**

The commencement of the legal procedure to promote a variation to the relevant Traffic Regulation Order necessary to make the temporary 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions permanent at Glenearn Community Campus, be approved.

**361. PROPOSED NO LEFT TURN, BANKHEAD/BACK BRAE JUNCTION, BLAIRGOWRIE**

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (13/279) (i) detailing the proposals to introduce a permanent 'No Left Turn' restriction at the Bankhead/Back Brae junction in Blairgowrie; and (ii) recommending a variation to the Blairgowrie Traffic Management Order to accommodate this change.

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**Resolved:**

The commencement of the legal procedure to promote a variation to the relevant Traffic Regulation Order necessary to make the temporary 'No Left Turn' restriction permanent at the Bankhead/Back Brae junction in Blairgowrie, be approved.

**362. AMENDMENTS TO THE LIST OF PUBLIC ROADS**

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (13/280) recommending that the List of Public Roads be updated to take account of the additions detailed therein.

**Resolved:**

The amendments to the List of Public Roads, as detailed in the Schedule appended to Report 13/280, be approved.

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