

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
19 JUNE 2019

COUNCIL MEETING

Minute of meeting of Perth and Kinross Council held in the Council Chamber, Ground Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 19 June 2019 at 11.00am.

Present: Provost D Melloy, Councillors C Ahern, H Anderson, A Bailey, K Baird, B Band, M Barnacle, P Barrett, B Brawn, R Brock, A Coates, S Donaldson, D Doogan, E Drysdale, J Duff, A Forbes, T Gray, D Illingworth, A Jarvis, G Laing, M Lyle, R McCall, S McCole, X McDade, T McEwan, A Parrott (up to and including Art. 342), B Pover, C Purves, J Rebbeck, C Reid, W Robertson, F Sarwar, C Shiers, L Simpson, C Stewart, R Watters, M Williamson and W Wilson.

In Attendance: K Reid, Chief Executive; J Valentine, Depute Chief Executive; S Devlin, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); B Renton, Executive Director (Housing and Environment); J Pepper, Depute Director (Education and Children's Services); K McNamara, Depute Director (Housing and Environment); D Littlejohn, P Marshall, A Condcliffe, A Deans, J Ferguson and K Steven (all Housing and Environment); L Simpson, G Fogg, S Hendry, S MacKenzie, C Flynn, D Robertson and S Walker (all Corporate and Democratic Services); C Cardno and R McLean, both Sweco UK.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors H Coates and I James.

Provost D Melloy, Presiding.

The Provost led the discussion for Arts. 339-341 and 343-350 and the Depute Provost for Art. 342.

339. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

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

340. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

341. REQUEST FOR DEPUTATION

In terms of Standing Order 72, it was agreed to hear a request received from Scone and District Community Council to address the Council in relation to Art. 342.

In terms of Standing Order 34, it was agreed to vary the order of business to consider Art. 342 at this point.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
19 JUNE 2019

342. PERTH TRANSPORT FUTURES PROJECT PHASE 2 – CROSS TAY LINK ROAD – REVIEW OF ALIGNMENT BETWEEN A93 AND A94

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer (19/189) providing (1) a technical comparative assessment between the current preferred route of the Cross Tay Link Road (between the A93 and A94 only) as originally scoped, assessed and determined by the Council ('the current preferred route'); and (2) a recently proposed alternative route situated to the north of Housing Development Site H29 ('the northern route'). A risk based assessment of the northern route had also been undertaken using the same criteria: technical, financial, environmental, economic and legal and provided a clear professional recommendation for elected members to consider.

A revised version of the scoring table from paragraph 3.7 of Report 19/189 was circulated for members' information.

In terms of Standing Order 72, Professor J Belch and Mr D McKerracher, representing Scone and District Community Council, addressed the Committee and answered Members questions. Following their representations they withdrew to the public benches.

Motion (Councillors M Lyle and P Barrett)

For the reasons set out in Report 19/189, The Council retains and takes forward the current preferred route of the Cross Tay Link Road between the A93 and the A94, as set out in Report 19/189.

Amendment (Councillors C Stewart and F Sarwar)

That the Council:

notes the contents of report 19/189, and the technical comparative assessment;

notes the advice on best value, but is aware that best value must be interpreted in more than purely financial terms, and that there is a particular requirement to achieve sustainable development;

believes that the Council can go further than meeting minimum statutorily required levels of air quality;

believes that the 'northern alignment' detailed in the report will still address air quality issues at Bridgend and in the city centre, but will better serve future residents of the Scone North (H29) housing development in terms of community links, active travel, and air quality, and therefore overall health and well-being, and will therefore avoid future costs to the public sector associated with ill-health, such costs including but not limited to those accruing to the Council itself, and that any additional investment now can be regarded as 'spend-to-save' thus fulfilling the requirement to achieve best value;

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
19 JUNE 2019

and therefore approves the alternative northern route as set out in the report and undertakes to address the financial implications of this decision at its next budget-setting meeting in February 2020.

In terms of Standing Order 58 a roll call vote was taken.

26 members voted for the Motion as follows:

Councillors C Ahern, H Anderson, K Baird, B Band, P Barrett, B Brawn, A Coates, S Donaldson, D Doogan, E Drysdale, J Duff, A Forbes, T Gray, D Illingworth, A Jarvis, M Lyle, R McCall, S McCole; Provost D Melloy; A Parrott, J Rebbeck, C Reid, W Robertson, C Shiers, M Williamson and W Wilson

11 members voted for the Amendment as follows:

Councillors A Bailey, M Barnacle, R Brock, G Laing, X McDade, T McEwen, B Pover, C Purves, F Sarwar, C Stewart and R Watters.

1 member abstained as follows:

Councillor L Simpson.

Resolved:

In accordance with the Motion.

In terms of Standing Order 60, Councillor C Stewart requested his dissent to the decision taken be recorded.

THERE FOLLOWED A RECESS AND THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 2.15PM

343. NOTICE OF MOTIONS IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER 39

(i) Removal of VAT on Sanitary Products

Motion (Councillors F Sarwar and A Bailey)

In the UK, VAT is still currently applied to sanitary products. The campaign for period dignity acknowledges the impact of costly sanitary products and other period related products on women and girls, especially those affected by lower incomes and domestic abuse. The dignity, health and well-being of women and girls should come before collecting VAT on items which are necessities and not luxuries. The Council therefore, supports the campaign for period dignity and asks the Council Leader to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling for all VAT to be removed from sanitary products.

Resolved:

In accordance with the Motion, with the following addition: The Council Leader to also write on similar terms to the current Members of the European Parliament who represent Scotland.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
19 JUNE 2019

(ii) Climate Change Emergency

Motion (Councillors R Watters and F Sarwar)

The Extinction Rebellion campaign and other similar campaigns led by Greta Thunberg and young people round the world are drawing critical attention to what is recognised as the number one issue facing the world today. This was re-emphasised in May 2019 when the UN body, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services, issued a report warning about the damage human beings are causing to the planet. The report notes that climate change is one of the top drivers of this damage and it is not too late to turn things around, but to do so require transformational change.

The contribution the Council has made to reduce our own carbon footprint is acknowledged, yet there remains much to do and as noted a transformational change is required.

As a Council we wish to play our part in accelerating this transformational change, understand the implications for climate change in everything we do, and lead by example. This Council requests the Chief Executive to set out a route map to deliver, through co-production with citizens and other stakeholders, a low carbon Perth & Kinross, specifically to:-

1. Under the auspices of the Perth and Kinross Offer, establish a forum with our Community Planning Partners to scope out the required vision and transformational change necessary for climate change.
2. Report back to the Council before end of March 2020 with details of
 - A baseline report on where we are now both as a Council and the wider Perth and Kinross CPP Area
 - An analysis of our current plans and strategies and their compatibility with the need for transformational change
 - A route map and the identification of the resources required for delivery
 - Arrangements to ensure that the consideration of climate change is embedded in our decision making processes
 - Measures to ensure the Council is seen as an exemplar in reducing its carbon footprint, including measures which can be implemented immediately

Resolved:

In accordance with the Motion.

344. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of the meeting of Perth and Kinross Council of 24 April 2019 (Arts. 222-232) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
19 JUNE 2019

345. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES FROM 10 APRIL 2019 to 22 MAY 2019

The decisions recorded in Arts. 171-221 and 233-291, copies of which had been circulated to all members of the Council, were submitted and noted.

346. ANNUAL TREASURY REPORT 2018/19

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (19/190) (1) summarising the Council's treasury activities for the 2018/19 financial year; and (2) comparing actual performance with the approved Treasury and Investment Strategy for 2018/19.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 19/190, submitted in accordance with the Council's approved Treasury Management Practices, be noted.

347. UPDATE ON GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN 2018-23

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer (19/191) providing an update on implementation of the Perth and Kinross Council Gaelic Language Plan 2018 – 2023.

Resolved:

The progress made in the implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan 2018-2023, and feedback from Bòrd na Gàidhlig on strengths and areas for future development, be noted.

348. PROPOSAL TO GRANT THE FREEDOM OF PERTH TO BRIGADIER SIR MELVILLE JAMESON KCVO CBE, LORD-LIEUTENANT OF PERTH AND KINROSS

There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Executive and Depute Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer (19/192) relating to a proposal to grant the Freedom of the City of Perth to Brigadier Sir Melville Jameson KCVO CBE on his retirement as Lord-Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross.

Resolved:

- (i) In terms of Section 206 of the Local Government (S) Act 1973, the Freedom of the City of Perth be granted to Brigadier Sir Melville Jameson KCVO CBE on his retirement as Lord-Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross.
- (ii) The Freedom of the City of Perth ceremony to take place at the close of the City of Perth Salute on Sunday 18 August 2019.
- (iii) The Depute Chief Executive be delegated authority, in consultation with the Provost, to finalise the arrangements for the event.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
19 JUNE 2019

349. APPOINTMENTS TO WORKING GROUP/OUTSIDE BODY

Resolved:

- (i) It be agreed that Councillor X McDade replace Councillor M Barnacle on the Modernising Governance Member/Officer Working Group.
- (ii) It be agreed that Councillor A Jarvis replace Councillor C Stewart on the Scotland Excel Joint Committee, with Councillor D Illingworth replacing Councillor C Purves as the substitute member.

350. AMENDMENTS TO SCHEME OF ADMINISTRATION

Resolved:

The following changes to the Scheme of Administration be agreed:

PART 3

DELEGATION TO OFFICIALS

25. Statutory Appointments of Officers

Section 25.1 – Amend relevant sections as follows:

Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968

Section 3 – Chief Officer of Social Work – Depute Director (Education and Children's Services)

26. Duties of Statutory Officers

Chief Social Work Officer

Section 26.15 – Amend as follows:

The Council has resolved that the Depute Director (Education and Children's Services) is the Chief Social Work Officer.

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