

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
11 JANUARY 2017

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Environment Committee held in the Council Chambers, Ground Floor, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 11 January 2017 at 10:00am.

Present: Councillors A Grant, M Williamson, H Anderson (substituting for Councillor E Maclachlan), K Baird (substituting for Councillor M Roberts), R Brock, B Ellis, C Gillies, K Howie (substituting for Councillor A Younger), G Laing, M Lyle, D Melloy and W Robertson.

In Attendance: B Renton, Director (Environment); A Clegg, F Crofts, N McGill, M Petrie (up to and including Art. 10), B Reekie, K Scott, K Steven (up to and including Art. 10), N Taylor, J Williams and W Young (all The Environment Service); S Hendry, A Taylor and L Gowans (all Corporate and Democratic Services).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors M Barnacle, E Maclachlan, M Roberts and A Younger.

Councillor A Grant, Convener, Presiding.

5. WELCOME

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

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor Ellis declared a non-financial interest in Art. 11.

7. MINUTE

The minute of meeting of the Environment Committee of Wednesday 9 November 2016 (Arts. 762-771) was submitted, approved and authorised for signature.

8. PERTH AND KINROSS COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP – COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP

(i) Minute of Meeting of the Community Planning Community Safety and Environment Group of 19 August 2016 for noting

The minute of meeting of 19 August 2016 was submitted and noted.

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(ii) Summary Report from Community Safety and Environment Group on 9 December 2016

There was submitted and noted a briefing paper by the Director (Environment) (17/28) informing Committee of the recent report presented to the Community Safety and Environment Group.

9. THE ENVIRONMENT SERVICE SCHEME OF CHARGES 2017/18

There was submitted a report by the Director (Environment) (17/1), providing details of the charges in place within The Environment Service for financial year 2016/17, and the proposed charges for financial year 2017/18, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 17/1. Final approval of charges to be determined by the Council on 9 February 2017.

Resolved:

The proposed charges for financial year 2017/18, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 17/1, be noted.

10. AIR QUALITY: PUBLICATION AND IMPLICATIONS OF NATIONAL AIR QUALITY STRATEGY: 'CLEANER AIR FOR SCOTLAND – THE ROAD TO A HEALTHIER FUTURE'

There was submitted a report by the Director (Environment) (17/2) advising of the current air quality issues within the Perth and Kinross area and providing information on the new Scottish Government air quality strategy, "Cleaner Air for Scotland – The Road to a Healthier Future" (CAFS) and its implications for Perth and Kinross Council.

Resolved:

- (i) The future requirements of the CAFS strategy and the implications for the Council be noted.
- (ii) The need for a strategic approach to tackling air quality and the creation of a Corporate Air Quality Working Group to facilitate a fully integrated approach to improving air quality, including implementation of the CAFS strategy requirements, be approved.
- (iii) The Director (Environment) be instructed to bring forward further update reports to Committee in due course.

11. COMMUNITY GREENSPACE – WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

A presentation on the Community Greenspace – Engaging with our Communities was given by A Clegg, Community Greenspace Team Leader.

There was submitted a report by the Director (Environment) (17/3) providing an update on how Community Greenspace is working with communities to manage and maintain parks and open spaces, how they assess the impacts of the changes on our grounds maintenance operations and standards, along with how these initiatives will be further developed in future.

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Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 17/3, be noted.
- (ii) The Director (Environment) be instructed to submit a report in 18 months updating the Committee on the Engage, Empower and Equip Project.

12. GROUND MAINTENANCE MODERN APPRENTICE SQUAD - UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Director (Environment) (17/4) providing an update on (1) the conclusion of the Grounds Maintenance Modern Apprentice (MA) squad, which was funded by the Council budget process in February 2014 and again in 2016; and (2) on the progress made by the Grounds Maintenance MAs in terms of their personal and career development.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress of the original four Grounds Maintenance MAs in achieving permanent employment, be noted.
- (ii) The Director (Environment) be instructed to bring back a further update report at the end of the current two year placement.

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