

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 18 September 2013 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors I Miller, A Grant, D Cuthbert, A Gaunt (substituting for Councillor P Barrett), D Doogan, Provost L Grant (ex-officio), J Kellas, A MacLellan, D Pover, M Roberts, L Simpson (substituting for Councillor W Wilson), A Stewart, B Vaughan, and A Younger.

In Attendance: B Malone, Chief Executive; D Burke, Depute Chief Executive and Executive Director (Housing and Community Care); J Fyffe, Depute Chief Executive and Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); B Renton, J Handling, K Leer, D Littlejohn and A Seggie (all The Environment Service); J Walker and P Graham (both Housing and Community Care); and I Innes, J Somerville, J Symon and G Taylor (all Chief Executive's Service).

Apologies for Absence: B Band, P Barrett, I Campbell and W Wilson.

Councillor I Miller, Convener, Presiding.

522. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

523. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(i) Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

The minute of meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 12 June 2013 (Arts. 365-373) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

(ii) Executive Sub-Committee

The minutes of meetings of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 4 June 2013 and 17 July 2013 were submitted and noted. (**Appendix I & II**)

(iii) Appeals Sub-Committee

The minutes of meetings of the Appeals Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 9 April 2013, 29 April 2013 and 3 July 2013 were submitted and noted. (**Appendix III, IV & V**)

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(iv) Provost's Sub-Committee

The minutes of meetings of the Provost's Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 17 April 2013 and 12 June 2013 were submitted and noted. (**Appendix VI & VII**)

(v) Property Sub-Committee

The minutes of meetings of the Property Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 15 May 2013 and the special meeting of 27 May 2013 were submitted and noted. (**Appendix VIII & IX**)

(vi) Executive Director Appointments Sub-Committee

The minutes of meetings of the Executive Director Appointments Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 27 May 2013, 19 June 2013, 18 July 2013 and 31 July 2013 were submitted and noted. (**Appendix X - XIII**)

(vii) Employees Joint Consultative Committee

The minute of meeting of the Employees Joint Consultative Committee of 22 November 2012 was submitted and noted. (**Appendix XIV**)

(viii) Corporate Health, Safety and Wellbeing Consultative Committee

The minute of meeting of the Corporate Health, Safety and Wellbeing Consultative Committee of 4 March 2013 was submitted and noted. (**Appendix XV**)

524. COMPOSITE CAPITAL BUDGET 2013/20 AND HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2013/18 – MONITORING REPORT NUMBER 1

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (13/444) (1) providing a summary position to date for the Composite Capital Programme for 2013/14 to 2020 and the Housing Investment Programme 2013/14 to 2017/18; and (2) seeking approval for adjustments to the Programmes.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 13/444 be noted.
- (ii) The proposed budget adjustments to the seven year Composite Capital Budget 2013/14 to 2019/20, set out in Sections 2, 3 and 4 of Report 13/444 and summarised in Appendices I and II to Report 13/444, be approved.
- (iii) The proposed budget and monitoring adjustments to the five year Housing Investment Programme Budget 2013/14 to 2017/18, set out in Section 5 to Report 13/444 and summarised in Appendix III to Report 13/444, be approved.
- (iv) The revised 2013/14 Renewal and Repair Fund Budget, set out in Section 6 to Report 13/444 and summarised in Appendix IV to Report 13/444, be approved.

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525. REVENUE BUDGET 2013/14 – MONITORING REPORT NUMBER 1

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (13/445) (1) with the 2013/14 General Fund Revenue Budget based upon the June 2013 ledger, updated for any subsequent known material movements; and (2) providing an update on the projected financial position of the Housing Revenue Account.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 13/445 be noted.
- (ii) The adjustments to the 2013/14 Management Revenue Budget, detailed in Appendix 1 to and Sections 2, 3 and 4 of Report 13/445, be approved.
- (iii) The Service virements, summarised in Appendices 2 and 3 to Report 13/445, be approved.

526. ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENT 2012/13

There was submitted and noted a report by the Head of Finance (13/446) on the Annual Efficiency Statement for 2012/13. The Statement had previously been submitted to the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) for consolidation in the national return to the Scottish Government. The report also summarised the efficiency gains made by the Council during 2012/13 and highlighted those areas where the Council was seeking to make efficiency gains in the current financial year.

527. SAVINGS ARISING FOR EARLY RETIREMENT DECISIONS TAKEN IN 2012/13

There was submitted and noted a report by the Head of Finance (13/447) providing information on the costs and consequential savings of early retirement decisions taken in the financial year 2012/13.

528. COMMERCIAL PROPERTY INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (13/448) (1) seeking to secure approval for the identified priorities in the Commercial Property Investment Programme for the delivery of site infrastructure and development of business space utilising the additional £3.544m capital funding allocated in the 2013/14 and 2014/15 budgets; (2) setting out the medium term aspiration over 10 years for commercial property investment to support economic growth to 2022/23 underpinning the City Plan for Perth and its objective of encouraging new investment in the area; (3) outlining an ambitious programme of investment in key projects, with future anticipated receipts of £3.008m, to be realised on the disposal of key sites; and (4) noting that additional capital funding may also be secured over the period of the programme from external sources including European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) or Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund.

Resolved:

The immediately available capital resources secured through the budget process be utilised as set out as the priority activity in the programme attached at Appendix 1 to Report 13/448.

529. CORPORATE CIVIL CONTINGENCIES MANAGEMENT POLICY

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (13/449) (1) providing an overview of the responsibilities of the Council as required by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (Contingencies Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2005; and (2) introducing a Corporate Civil Contingencies Management Policy for approval that details corporate specific responsibilities to key post holders to enable the Council to carry out its statutory duties in this regard.

Resolved:

The Civil Contingencies Management Policy, as set out in Appendix I to Report 13/449, be approved.

530. CORPORATE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (13/450) reviewing the Corporate Occupational Health and Safety Policy, as required by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and setting out proposals to enhance health and safety management arrangements across the Council.

Resolved:

- (i) The updated Corporate Occupational Health and Safety Policy, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report 13/450, be approved.
- (ii) The ongoing development, consultation and implementation of topic specific management arrangements be consulted on, agreed and approved through the Corporate Health, Safety and Wellbeing Consultative Committee.
- (iii) That the 'Performance Record' approach/delivery methodology, as described in section 2 of Report 13/450, be adopted to ensure that the Corporate Occupational Health and Safety Policy is aligned with the management and support of health and safety consistently across the Council and is compliant with Health and Safety Executive guidance, be noted.

531. REFURBISHMENT OF THE KINROSS CURLING RINK

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (13/451) (1) outlining a request for funding from Kinross Curling Trust; (2) noting that the Trust was seeking £125,000 of funding to assist towards the refurbishment of the Kinross curling rink; and (3) noting that the Trust had already secured a Stage 1 funding commitment from SportScotland's lottery fund and had raised significant additional funding through the local curling community and the local community, currently totalling £335,500.

Motion (Councillors Miller and A Grant)

- (i) The request from Kinross Curling Trust for a funding contribution in 2014/15 of £125,000 from Reserves towards a refurbished Kinross Curling Rink be approved (subject to confirmation of the SportScotland grant award).
- (ii) The earmarking of £125,000 in Reserves to support the Kinross Curling Trust project be approved.

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- (iii) **The Executive Director (Environment) be instructed to draft a letter of offer to the Kinross Curling Trust and to include appropriate conditions.**

Amendment (Councillors Roberts and Vaughan)

The Committee agree to defer consideration of the request from Kinross Curling Trust for a funding contribution in order to examine whether the contribution would be in the form of a loan rather than a grant.

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

3 members voted for the Amendment as follows:
Councillors Roberts, A Stewart and Vaughan.

10 members voted for the Motion as follows:
Councillors Miller, A Grant, Gaunt, Cuthbert, Doogan, Kellas, MacLellan, Pover, Simpson and Younger.

Resolved:

In accordance with the Motion.

532. STONEWALL SCOTLAND – GOOD PRACTICE PROGRAMME FOR PUBLIC SERVICES

There was submitted a report by D Burke, Depute Chief Executive (13/452) recommending that Perth and Kinross Council sign up for the Stonewall Scotland Good Practice Programme for Public Services.

Resolved:

- (i) It be agreed that the Council sign up for the Stonewall Scotland Good Practice Programme for Public Services.
- (ii) The benefits which will be provided by signing up to the programme be noted.

533. USE OF COUNCIL TAX RESERVE TO DELIVER AFFORDABLE HOUSING

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (13/377) making recommendations on the use of Council Tax Reserves to facilitate the delivery of affordable housing.

It was noted that the Housing and Health Committee had considered Report 13/377 at its meeting on 14 August 2013.

Resolved:

The proposed use of Council Tax Income on Second Homes to provide additional affordable housing within the funding framework available from the Scottish Government, as set out in Table 1 of Report 13/377, be approved.

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