

**THE MORAY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &  
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2009**

**COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN**

**PRESENT**

Councillor J Russell (Chairman), S Cree (Deputy Chair), L Bell, G Coull, J Hamilton, G Leadbitter, G McDonald, G McIntyre, I Ogilvie, and A Wright.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of J Divers, P Paul and R Shepherd.

**ALSO PRESENT**

Also present Councillor Murdoch in respect of Item 9 'Bridges Capital and Revenue Programmes 2009/2010'.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Director of Environmental Services, the Head of Direct Services, the Environmental Protection Manager, the Head of Estates Services, L Paisey, Principal Accountant, A McEachan, Principal Solicitor (Commercial and Conveyancing), D Westmacott, Apprentice Committee Services Officer and the Senior Committee Services Officer, Clerk to the Meeting.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE IN RESPECT OF THE HIE PRESENTATION**

Councillors McConnachie, Murdoch, Shand & Stewart, W Roe, Chairman of HIE, C MacPherson Area Manager (Moray) HIE and C Buxton, Regional Manager (Moray & Islands) HIE.

**HIE PRESENTATION**

Prior to the commencement of business and on the invitation of the Chairman, Mr W Roe, Chairman of HIE gave a presentation to Members on the changes introduced by Scottish Government relating to the work of HIE in assisting to build sustainable economic growth and the Agency's related work and aims for the area, including Moray. Following Mr Roe's presentation he and C MacPherson responded to questions and thereafter the Chairman, on behalf of the Council thanked him for the interesting and informative presentation.

## **1. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS**

The Meeting noted that there were no declarations from group leaders or spokespersons in regard to any prior decisions taken on how members will vote on any item on the Agenda.

## **2. EXEMPT INFORMATION**

The meeting resolved that in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the public and media representatives be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items of business appearing at the relevant paragraphs of this minute as specified below, so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in the appropriate paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

<b>Para No of Minute</b>	<b><u>Para No of Schedule 7A</u></b>
11 & 12	9
13	1

## **3. WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

The meeting noted the terms of the written question from Councillor G Coull and the response thereto.

In response to a supplementary question from Councillor Coull with regard to the terms of a petition he had received, which the Chair accepted at the conclusion of the meeting, the meeting noted that like many other similar problems throughout Moray, which have come to light during the development of the flood alleviation schemes, these issues will be included for consideration in the preparation of Local Flood Risk Management Plans which will be submitted to the Flood Alleviation Sub-Committee in due course for consideration.

## **4. FLOOD DAMAGE REPAIRS - SEPTEMBER 2009**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services providing the Committee with further information on the extent of non-housing repairs required following the flooding on 3 and 4 September 2009, details of which were set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the details provided in the report and approve the actions being taken by Officers to carry out the repairs necessary.

## **5. ELGIN TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

Under reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of this Committee dated 3 February 2009 there was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services updating the Committee on the appointment of framework consultants to assist in the delivery of Elgin Traffic Management Projects and sought approval for the re-profiling of the Capital Plan to accommodate property acquisition and update on progress.

Prior to considering the report the Chairman read out the terms of a prepared statement following the meeting 7 October 2009 between representatives of Moray Council and the Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson in regard to the Elgin Traffic Review. The meeting noted that Transport Scotland and The Moray Council have been working together to develop a joint understanding on the transport challenges facing Elgin and to establish a joint framework to take forward schemes that would ease congestion through a co-ordinated approach. A draft report was discussed at the meeting on with the Minister on the 7 October and potential early intervention measures identified and a report thereon will be published shortly. The Chairman also paid tribute to the Minister for his commitment to supporting the partnership process and that the Council looked forward to the Minister's continued interest and involvement.

Following consideration the Committee agree to:-

- (i) note the appointment of Jacobs Consultancy to a framework agreement for transportation and design services;
- (ii) approve the revised capital plan requirements for 2009/10 to accommodate property acquisition and that this requirement is taken forward into the next review of the capital plan; and
- (iii) note the progress on the design of the Extension to Edgar Road.

## **6. INVESTIGATION OF 20 MPH SPEED RESTRICTIONS AROUND SCHOOLS**

Under reference to Paragraph 8 of the Minute of this Committee dated 26 May 2009 there was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services outlining the 20mph speed restriction schemes which have been implemented around schools in Moray and reasons why the same have not been promoted at all schools. There were appended to the report as Appendix1 details of each of the schools without 20mph limits.

During discussion reference was made to flowchart relating to Item 8 on the agenda 'Review of Speed Limits' and it was suggested that a similar exercise would be beneficial in respect of 20mph speed restrictions around schools. It was agreed that a note be prepared and circulated to Members in regard to the procedure for implementing speed limits.

Following discussion Councillor Coull, seconded by Councillor Leadbitter, moved that The Moray Council introduce a policy of 20mph around all schools within Moray in accordance with Scottish Government guidance ETLCD Circular 1/2004 and that it be remitted to the Director of Environmental Services to prepare a programme for future installation for submission to this Committee for consideration.

Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Wright, moved approval of the recommendations, as detailed in Section 2.1 of the report.

On a division there voted:-

For the Motion (4) Councillors Coull, Leadbitter, G McDonald and Ogilvie

For the Amendment (6) Councillors Bell, Cree, Hamilton, McIntyre, Russell and Wright.

Abstentions (0)

Accordingly the amendment became the finding of the meeting and it was agreed:-

- (i) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee on the three schools where a 20mph limit is appropriate for future implementation and the school where new vehicle activated signing is proposed; and
- (ii) that others should have no treatment or alternative measures introduced.

## **7. REVIEW OF SPEED LIMITS**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services informing the Committee of the contents of the Scottish Government ETLCD CIRCULAR NO 1/2006: SETTING LOCAL SPEED LIMITS and sought approval of a draft procedure to carry out the assessments of speed limits in accordance with this new guidance. A copy of the proposed procedures for 30mph and 40/50mph were appended to the report.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note the contents of this report relating to the latest guidance on setting local speed limits; and
- (ii) approve the procedure set out in Appendix A for assessing all speed limits in Moray.

## **8. BRIDGES CAPITAL AND REVENUE PROGRAMMES 2009/2010**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services seeking approval of the Capital Budget for Bridge Assessments and Strengthening, the

Capital Budget for Rail Bridge Assessments and the Revenue Budget for Bridge Maintenance for 2009/2010, details of which were set out in Section 3 of the report.

On the invitation of the Chairman Councillor Murdoch, who is not a member of the Committee, sought clarification of the location of the retaining wall at Fife Street, Dufftown referred to in Section 3.9 of the report relating to proposed works for 2009/10. On noting that the location of the wall was that on the A941 at Fife Street Councillor Murdoch drew the Committee's attention to the lack of a footpath in this area and enquired as to the possibility of remedying this problem when repairing/replacing the retaining wall.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the detailed plans for expenditure of funds from:-
  - (a) the Capital Budget 2009/10 to Bridge Assessments and Strengthening;
  - (b) the Capital Budget 2009/10 to Rail Bridge Assessments;
  - (c) the Revenue Budget 2009/10. This expenditure forms part of the Roads Maintenance Capital and Revenue Works Programme 2009/10;
- (ii) that the completion of the footpath on Fife Street, Dufftown be considered for inclusion with the proposed works to replace/repair the retaining wall and advise Councillor Murdoch of the outcome.

## **9. ADOPTION OF ROADS ON TO LIST OF ROADS**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services seeking Committee approval for the addition to Statutory List of Public Roads of the roads specified in the Schedule appended to the report and indicated on the location maps, which were also appended to the report.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to approve the adoption of the roads scheduled in the Appendix appended to the report to the Statutory List of Public Roads.

## **10. QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions raised.

## **11. FORSYTHS WORKSHOP, COMMERCIAL ROAD, BUCKIE (Para 9)**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Estates Services seeking Committee approval of the grant of a lease of ground for the extension of Forsyths Workshop, Commercial Road, Buckie, details of which were set out in Section 3.3 of the report.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to approve the grant of a lease to Forsyths Limited in respect of a 0.549 hectare site, shown as Areas 1 and 2 on the appendix to the report, at Forsyths Workshop, Commercial Road, Buckie on the terms detailed in Section 3.3 of the report.

## **12. MOSSTODLOCH INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MOSSTODLOCH (Para 9)**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Estates Services seeking Committee approval of the renunciation of the lease of 8 Mosstodloch Industrial Estate, Mosstodloch, details of which were set out in Section 4 of the report.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to approve a renunciation of Mr Stephen Yule's lease of 8 Mosstodloch Industrial Estate, Mosstodloch, on the terms detailed in Section 3.4 of the report.

## **13. THE SPEYSIDE WAY AND COUNTRYSIDE RANGER SERVICES (Para 1)**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services advising the Committee of the pending reduced funding for the management and maintenance of the Speyside Way Long Distance Route and sought approval to restructure the current Ranger Services in Moray to absorb the reduced funding whilst improving service provision.

During discussion the meeting noted that the project to extend the Long Distance Route (LDR) from Buckie Harbour up to adjacent to Cluny Square, Buckie, which does not require Scottish Government approval, would proceed.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note the reduction of external funding for the Speyside Way and Countryside Ranger Services as from April 2010;
- (ii) approve the alternative proposal for the future of the Speyside Way and Countryside Ranger Services as detailed in Section 4 of the report;
- (iii) grant the Director of Environmental Services delegated authority to implement the alternative proposal following full consultation with staff and Trade Unions; and
- (iv) note the effective termination of the partnership Minute of Agreement for the Speyside Way as from 31 March 2010 and agrees to Officers continuing to liaise with CNPA and Highland Council on an alternative working agreement to ensure the long term continuity of management and maintenance of the Speyside Way.