

THE MORAY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 5 MARCH 2013

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors F. Murdoch, (Chair), L. Creswell (Depute), G. Coull, S. Cree, J. Divers, G. Leadbitter, G. McDonald, A. McLean, P. Paul, D. Ross, R. Shepherd, C. Tuke and A. Wright.

ALSO PRESENT

Councillors G. Alexander and J. Mackay.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Corporate Director (Environmental Services), the Head of Development Services, the Planning and Economic Development Manager, the Transportation Manager, the Roads Maintenance Manager, the Estates Manager, the Environmental Protection Manager, Mrs R. Milburn, Principal Officer (Economic Development), Mr S. Williamson, Waste Management Officer, Mr A. McEachan, Legal Services Manager (Property & Contracts) and Mr D. Westmacott, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Meeting.

Also in attendance by invitation, Mr R. Sweetnam, Improvement Service (in respect of Presentation).

1. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS

In terms of Standing Order 20 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor Paul declared that the SNP Group had discussed Item 5 "Revenue Budget 2013/2014 – Roads Maintenance and Capital Budget 2013/2014 – Resurfacing, Bridges, Passing Places, Lighting Column Replacement and Lighting Improvements".

Thereafter, the meeting noted that there were no other declarations from group leaders or spokespersons in regard to any prior decisions taken on how members will vote on any item on the Agenda or any declarations of Members Interest in respect of any Item on the Agenda.

2. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Meeting agreed, in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, that 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 paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

<u>Para No of Minute</u>	<u>Para No of Schedule 7A</u>
14	6
15	6
16	6

3. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

There were no written questions.

4. PRESENTATION

The Committee noted an interesting and informative presentation from Mr Richard Sweetnam, Improvement Service, and the responses to the relevant questions thereafter.

5. REVENUE BUDGET 2013/2014 – ROADS MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2013/2014 – RESURFACING BRIDGES, PASSING PLACES, LIGHTING COLUMN REPLACEMENT AND LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS

Under reference to Paragraph 3 of the Minute of the special meeting of the Moray Council dated 13 February 2013, there was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) asking the Committee to approve detailed plans for the expenditure of funds allocated from the Revenue Budget 2013/2014 to roads maintenance and from the Capital Budget 2013/2014 to resurfacing/reconstruction, surface dressing, bridges, footways, drainage, passing places, lighting column replacement and lighting improvements.

During discussions, Councillor McDonald moved that this Committee recommends to the Policy and Resources Committee that the Western Link Road project, excluding the access required for the new Elgin High School development and the access to affordable housing land at Bilbohall, ends forthwith, creating a revenue budget saving in excess of £710,000 each year for 30 years. This was seconded by Councillor Paul.

Mr McEachan advised that he was of the opinion that a suspension of Standing Order 83 would be required to proceed with the motion following the decision of this Committee on 18 December 2012 to recommend to the Moray Council that it promotes a Compulsory Purchase Order in relation to the Western Link Road and that a material change in circumstances would be needed. Councillor McDonald advised that the budget deficit facing the Moray Council was a material change of circumstances to merit a suspension of Standing Order 83.

In response to Councillor McDonald's motion, Councillor Leadbitter, following advice from the Legal Adviser, declared a personal interest in this item and left the meeting, taking no part in the deliberation of the item.

Councillor Ross moved that the Committee do not recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee that the Western Link Road project, excluding the access

required for the new Elgin High School development and the access to affordable housing land at Bilbohall, end forthwith and await consideration of the Compulsory Purchase Order at the meeting of the Moray Council.

Thereafter, the meeting took a short adjournment to allow Officers to obtain further information.

On resumption of the meeting, the Chairman moved that a report be submitted to the meeting of the Moray Council on 27 March 2013 providing the financial implications of possibly suspending the Western Link Road scheme. Councillors McDonald and Ross withdrew their motions and this was unanimously agreed by the Committee.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- (i) approved the detailed allocation of funds from the Revenue Budget 2013/2014 to Roads Maintenance activities, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) approved the detailed allocation of funds from the Capital Budget 2013/2014 to the various roads asset groups and work types, as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report,
- (iii) noted that the detailed allocations are subject to the Policy and Resources Committee approving the projected capital underspends to be carried forward to 2013/14;
- (iv) agreed that the capital allocation for drainage and ironworks becomes the allocation for drainage and other works;
- (v) granted authority to the Roads Maintenance Manager to proceed with necessary roads maintenance works, whilst noting that the Roads Maintenance Manager will as soon as possible, publish a main list of schemes which can be funded from the budget provision as recommended in the report, and a reserve list of desirable schemes, which cannot presently be funded, along with a list of projects to be funded from the Capital allocation;
- (vi) noted that the list of schemes will be drawn up in accordance with the principles and objectives as detailed in the report, in the Roads Asset Management Plan and in the Capital Plan;
- (vii) granted delegated authority to the Roads Maintenance Manager to approve, in the event of any project being unable to proceed, the substitution of high priority schemes as replacements;
- (viii) granted delegated authority to the Roads Maintenance Manager to amend the programme of planned works should works of a higher priority emerge, due, for example, to a sudden deterioration in condition, to the consequential effects of winter or flooding; and
- (ix) agreed that a report be submitted to the meeting of the Moray Council on 27 March 2013 providing the financial implications of possibly suspending the Western Link Road scheme.

6. PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNALS AND WAITING RESTRICTIONS, ROTHES

Councillor Leadbitter rejoined the meeting.

Under reference to Paragraph 24 of the Minute of this Committee dated 20 April 2010, there was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) asking the Committee to approve the installation of traffic signals and the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order which will have the effect of introducing additional parking restrictions within Rothes, as detailed in Appendix 3 and shown in plans within Appendix 4 to the report.

In response to queries from the Committee, the Transportation Manager confirmed that he would provide further information to Ward Members on whether additional parking restrictions were required for the traffic signals and what management proposals were in place for traffic joining the A941 from Burnside Street.

Following consideration, the Committee:-

- (i) approved the proposed Traffic Regulation Order, as detailed in Appendix 3, and shown in plans, set out in Appendix 4 to the report, to introduce new and consolidate existing parking restrictions in Rothes;
- (ii) instructed the Head of Direct Services and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make and implement the Order if, following the consultation period, there are no outstanding objections;
- (iii) approved the proposal to install traffic signals with pedestrian facilities at New Street/High Street/Seafield Square, Rothes; and
- (iv) noted that the Transportation Manager would provide further information to Ward Members on whether additional parking restrictions were required for the traffic signals and what management proposals were in place for traffic joining the A941 from Burnside Street.

7. WASTE MANAGEMENT – WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) providing the Committee with an update on progress with the Council's Waste Strategy Action Plan.

The Committee joined Councillor Cree in commending the ongoing work of Mr Williams, Waste Management Officer and his team.

During discussions, the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) advised that a further update report would be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

Following consideration, the Committee:-

- (i) commended the ongoing work of Mr Williams, Waste Management Officer and his team;

- (ii) noted current progress with the Council's Waste Strategy Action Plan; and
- (iii) noted that a further update report would be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

8. STREET LIGHTING – ENERGY REDUCTION STRATEGY

Under reference to Paragraph 11 of the Minute of this Committee dated 13 March 2013, there was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) seeking Committee's approval for applying further measures to reduce street lighting electricity consumption and energy costs.

The Committee joined Councillor Leadbitter in encouraging Moray residents to take part in Earth Hour by switching off their lights for an hour on 23 March at 8.30pm.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- (i) approved the standards detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, to achieve reduced energy consumption within the street lighting network;
- (ii) agreed that the standards, detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, will apply to prospectively adoptable street lighting networks provided by developers;
- (iii) noted that a report would be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee, exploring the potential for 'spend to save' investment in LED lighting and a review of the application of standards detailed in Appendix 1; and
- (iv) encouraged Moray residents to take part in Earth Hour by switching off their lights for an hour on 23 March at 8.30pm.

9. CASTLE TO CATHEDRAL TO CASHMERE

Under reference to Paragraph 5 of the Minute of Policy and Resources Committee dated 27 November 2012, there was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) providing the Committee with an update of the developments of the Castle to Cathedral to Cashmere initiative consisting of the Elgin Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS), the Heritage Experience and Grant Lodge.

During discussions, Councillor Murdoch moved that a report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee on the implications of terminating the existing contract for feasibility studies on Grant Lodge and what the financial implications on the current budget would be and recommended that the partnership management group look at other sources of funding and sustainable uses for Grant Lodge that do not use Council services. This was unanimously agreed by the Committee.

Thereafter, Councillor Divers moved that Councillors Allan, Leadbitter and himself be appointed to the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) project management group. There being no one otherwise minded, this was agreed.

Following consideration, the Committee:-

- (i) noted the developments of the Castle to Cathedral to Cashmere initiative;
- (ii) agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee on the implications of terminating the existing contract for feasibility studies on Grant Lodge and what the financial implications on the current budget would be;
- (iii) recommended that the partnership management group look at other sources of funding and sustainable uses for Grant Lodge that do not use Council services; and
- (iv) agreed that Councillors Allan, Divers and Leadbitter be appointed to the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) project management group.

10. MORAY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP – VERBAL UPDATE

The Committee noted an informative update from the Planning and Economic Development Manager on progress being made on the Moray Economic Strategy implementation programme by the Moray Economic Partnership.

11. DIRECT SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 3: 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2012

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) outlining the performance of Direct Services for the period from 1 October to 31 December 2012.

Following consideration, the Committee:-

- (i) noted performance against Economic Development and Infrastructure Performance Indicators, Service Improvement Plan, Revenue and Complaints at the end of September 2012, as detailed in Sections 4 and 5 of the report;
- (ii) welcomed good performance as indicated in paragraph 5.1 of the report; and
- (iii) noted the actions being taken to seek improvements where required.

12. QUESTION TIME

Councillor Ross queried, with the support of the Committee, whether appropriate signage on the A98 could be provided for the Woman's Land Army Memorial in Clochan. The Corporate Director (Environmental Services) advised that he would look into the matter and advise accordingly.

In response to further queries regarding communities requesting appropriate signage, the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) confirmed that he would assess concerns and submit a report to a future meeting of this Committee on how to approach requests for appropriate signage from communities.

13. PROPOSED LEASE VARIATIONS (PARA 6)

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) seeking Committee's approval to a proposed lease variation with tenants of a Council property in Buckie.

Following consideration, the Committee:-

- (i) approved the proposed lease variations, as detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the report; and
- (ii) agreed that the Legal Services Manager (Property & Contracts) conclude the legal documentation.

14. DIRECT SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET: QUARTER 3 MONITORING REPORT FOR TRADING ACCOUNTS (PARA 6)

Under reference to Paragraph 5 of the Minute of the Policy and Resources Committee dated 22 June 2010, there was submitted and noted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) informing Committee of the progress of Trading Accounts against revenue budgetary targets for the financial year 2012/13 during the period 1 October 2012 to 31 December 2012.

15. SERVITUDE AGREEMENT, GARMOUTH (PARA 6)

There was submitted and agreed a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) seeking the Committee's homologation of the Head of Housing and Property's decision, in consultation with the Chair and Depute Chair of the Committee, as well as the Ward Members, to approve a servitude over Council owned land in Garmouth.