

THE MORAY COUNCIL

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

TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2013

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor D Ross.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Corporate Director (Environmental Services), the Head of Direct Services, the Head of Development Services, the Planning and Economic Development Manager, the Transportation Manager, the Roads Maintenance Manager, the Environmental Protection Manager, the Consultancy Manager, Mr P Nevin, Senior Solicitor (Property & Contracts) and the Democratic Services Manager as Clerk to the Meeting.

1. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS

In terms of Standing Order 20 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct, 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.

Para No of Minute

13
14
15

Para No of Schedule 7A

8 & 9
6, 8 & 9
6

3. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The meeting noted the following written question submitted by Councillor McLean and the response thereto:

Following the recent decision by this Council in July to remove bus subsidies, can I ask whether the results of a survey taken by the one group which was consulted, namely Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council, were passed to the relevant bus operator to assist them in the planning of their new timetable?

RESPONSE

The information submitted to the Public Transport Unit was passed to Mr William Mainus, who was, at that time, Commercial Manger of Stagecoach in Aberdeen. It is understood that there has been dialogue between the Community Council representatives and Stagecoach as a result.

Councillor McLean stated that the answer to the question was contrary to what the local Members had been advised by the Community Council and that it was good to have the matter clarified and to hear that the survey results had been passed on.

4.UPDATE ON BUCKIE SHIPYARD

The Committee noted a verbal update by the Chairman on the current situation relating to the Buckie Shipyard following it going into administration on 23 August 2013. He stated that since that time a great deal of work has been ongoing with several interested parties to try to secure the future of the shipyard. He further stated that, along with Councillor McDonald, the Chief Executive and the Corporate Director (Environmental Services), he had attended a very positive meeting on 2 September 2013 with Fergus Ewing MSP, Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism and Stewart Stevenson MSP, Minister for Environment and Climate Change following which Mr Ewing was going on to see the Administrator and interested parties. He advised that due to staff being able to find alternative employment the footfall at the Buckie Job Centre had been lower than expected and he was aware that the company Forsyths had provided employment to 10 staff members on the day the company announced its administration and he was therefore of the opinion that there were hopeful signs and that there will be a positive outcome from negotiations over the pursing weeks and months.

5.PRESENTATION BY TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

The meeting received a presentation from Mr Alasdair Graham, A96 Programme Manager Transport Scotland, Mr Alan Gillies A96 Programme Manager, Jacobs UK and Mr David Burt A96 Engineer – Jacobs UK outlining to the Meeting the background to the A96 dualling and the work that will be undertaken by Jacobs UK Limited who have been commissioned by the Scottish Government to take forward preliminary engineering work.

At the conclusion of the presentation they responded to Members questions and thereafter the Chairman, on behalf of the Council, thanked them for a very informative presentation.

6.DIRECT SERVICES – CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING – 31 JULY 2013

There was submitted and noted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) informing the Committee of the current position regarding Direct Services Revenue and Capital budgets for the period to 31 July 2013.

7.INCHBERRY LANDSLIP

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) updating the Committee on the outcome of a ground investigation into the causes of the landslip problem at Inchberry, Mosstodloch and proposing further work to implement a solution.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- (i) approve the recommended solution (Option 4) to install a drainage system into the slope face; and
- (ii) note that the Roads Maintenance Manager will amend the programme of planned works for 2013/14 accordingly.

8.PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNALS AND WAITING RESTRICTIONS, ROTHES

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) asking the Committee to consider the outstanding objection received to the statutory consultation of The Moray Council (Various Streets Rothes – Waiting Restrictions) Order 2013.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- (i) over-rule the outstanding objection received as outlined in paragraph 3.8 and Appendix 3, approved the undernoted Traffic Regulation Order with the proposed alteration to Schedule 2 to 60 minute waiting rather than 30 minute waiting;
- (ii) authorise the Head of Direct Services and Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make the undernoted order

“The Moray Council (Various Streets Rothes – Waiting Restrictions) Order 2013”; and
- (iii) instruct the Head of Direct Services to procure and install the traffic signals as previously reported to this Committee.

9.AUDIT SCOTLAND NATIONAL REPORT – MAINTAINING SCOTLAND’S ROADS

There was submitted and noted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) advising the Committee of the findings from the Audit Scotland National report ‘Maintaining Scotland’s Roads: An Audit Update on Councils’ Progress’.

10.FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT PLAN

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) asking the Committee to agree the Project Plan for the development of the Flood Risk Management Strategies and Plans including Surface Water Management Plans for the Findhorn Nairn and Speyside District, and that the Project Plan model and processes will apply equally to the North East District.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:

- (i) the proposed Project Plan for developing the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Plan for the Findhorn, Nairn and Speyside Local Plan District,
- (ii) that the model be adopted for the North East District Project Plan;
- (iii) to delegate to the relevant Steering Group approval of catchment characterisation and long-listing of options to reduce flood risk in each Potentially Vulnerable Area (PVA); and
- (iv) to receive future reports detailing proposed objectives, options, prioritisation and Flood Risk Management Strategies and Plans.

11.CARBON MANAGEMENT

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) which reviewed the Carbon Management Plan 2009-2014, and identified the targets and performance against those targets relating to carbon and financial savings and provides recommendations for future improvements.

During discussion a query was raised in regard to the lack of any direct reference to CIFAL within the report or associated Carbon Management Plan and in response the Head of Development Services advised that the review was looking at the current Plan up to 2014 and that the agreement with CIFAL was that they would support the Communities and Sustainability Partnership. He further advised that an initial Communities and Sustainability workshop is to be held on 13 September 2013 which will involve CIFAL and the Scottish Government and that the proposal is that CIFAL will introduce a new tool related to behaviour change associated with carbon and resource efficiency.

Councillor McDonald stated that he would recommend that a member from each of the political groups be invited to attend the workshop on the 13 September 2013. This was agreed.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the targets and revised baselines and the successful delivery of projects to meet these targets;
- (ii) to instruct that all future service plans include a section identifying the direct and indirect impacts of each service with regard to carbon and resource use together with actions to reduce these;
- (iii) that carbon related to waste management should form part of the strategic review for residual waste;
- (iv) to confirm that carbon, resource efficiency and whole life costing should form part of the consideration for all procurement to meet the requirements of the Moray Council procurement strategy 2010-14;
- (v) to note a review of the use of the BREEAM standard to determine if more appropriate contract specification or methodologies can achieve the same or better results; and
- (vi) that one member from each of the political groupings is invited to attend the Communities and Sustainability workshop to be held on 13 September 2013 which CIFAL and the Scottish Government will run in conjunction with the Council and Community Planning Partnership.

12. INDUSTRIAL PORTFOLIO ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) requesting Committee to consider the terms of the 2012/13 Annual Report on the Council's Industrial Portfolio.

Following consideration the Committee welcomed the good performance of the Council's Industrial Portfolio and agreed:

- (i) to note the terms of the 2012/13 Annual Report; and
- (ii) that a further report be submitted to a future meeting on future industrial development proposals/opportunities.

13. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions raised.

14. PROPOSALS FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE NET STORE AREA IN BUCKIE (TO ACCOMMODATE POTENTIAL OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE BASE FOR USE BY THE OFFSHORE RENEWABLES INDUSTRY AND OTHER BUSINESSES) [PARAS 8 & 9]

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) informing the Committee of progress of the work of the offshore renewables officer working group in promoting and facilitating potential operations and maintenance (O&M) requirements at Buckie Harbour, and asking the Committee to approve conversion of the Buckie Net Store area and premises to suit the needs of a potential O&M company and other industrial uses.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- (i) approve the proposed conversion of the Buckie Net Store area and premises, which would be suitable to accommodate units to support an Operations & Maintenance (O&M) company serving the proposed offshore wind farms in the Moray Firth, together with other existing and developing industrial uses; and
- (ii) withdraw its interest in the Buckie Drifter for Operations and Maintenance purposes, to allow the property to be marketed for disposal and that a further report be brought forward to the Policy and Resources Committee on whether it can be considered for disposal under the community asset transfer process.

15. ROAD CONSTRUCTION – SITUATION REPORT [PARAS 6, 8 & 9]

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) providing Committee with a situation report regarding Road Construction Consents.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the contents of the report;
- (ii) authorise the Head of Direct Services to instruct the works for Station House, Mulben(05/0255), using funds (up to £40k) from existing capital budget; and
- (iii) authorise the Head of Direct Service to prepare and submit an annual monitoring report covering Road Construction Consents with associated Road Bonds.

16. DIRECT SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET: 31 JULY 2013 MONITORING REPORT FOR TRADING ACCOUNTS [PARA 6]

There was submitted and noted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) informing Committee of the progress of Significant Trading Operations against revenue budgetary targets for the financial year 2013/14 during the period to 31 July 2013.