

THE MORAY COUNCIL
MINUTE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MORAY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2007
COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors G McIntyre (Convener), A Bisset (Depute Convener), L A Bell, G S Coull, J S Cree, J A Divers, J Hamilton, J C Hogg, B Jarvis, G Leadbitter, M J McConachie, A D McDonald, G McDonald, A McKay, F J Murdoch, I Ogilvie, P Paul, D G Ross, J G Russell, M Shand, D C Stewart, and I R Young.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors J Mackay, E M McGillivray, R H Shepherd and A G Wright.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Executive, the Chief Financial Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Director of Environmental Services, the Director of Educational Services and the Senior Committee Services Officer, Clerk to the Meeting.

1. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

In terms of Standing Order 25 (iv) the Council agreed to accept as an additional item of business to be transacted at the meeting a recommendation from the Education and Social Services Committee in regard to the Moray Schools PPP Project on the Chairman certifying that, in his opinion, it required to be considered on the grounds of urgency in order to give early consideration of the recommendation.

2. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS

In terms of the relevant Standing Order 20 and the Councillor's Code of Conduct 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.

3. FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT AND CONCORDAT

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer advising the Council of the Concordat between the Scottish Government and CoSLA, a copy of which was appended to the report, and providing an update on the Council's next three years Financial Plan.

The Chief Financial Officer spoke to the report and the meeting noted that the Concordat identifies significant changes in funding for local government and the main changes were highlighted in Section 3.1 of the report. In regard to the Financial Plan he advised the meeting that, based on a number of already noted assumptions, the Council was looking at a shortfall of £11m over the next 4 years. Of this shortfall £7m relates to efficiency savings and as the Scottish Government has intimated, as part of its budget proposals, that local authorities will retain efficiency savings, the shortfall, based on these assumptions, is now £4m, which primarily relates to the major Capital Schemes under consideration. He also advised that it was important to note that the Concordat focuses attention on efficiency savings being able to meet local priorities and therefore there would be a need for the Council to focus its' attention on efficiency savings in order to meet its' Capital commitments. The meeting also noted that the Council had received funding of £150,000 from the Scottish Government to assist in

taking forward the Shared Services Review previously agreed by the meeting of Council on 14 November 2008 (para. 18 of minutes refers).

Following consideration that Council agreed to note the contents of the Concordat and the updated position in relation to the next three-year financial plan

4. MORAY SCHOOLS PPP PROJECT

Under reference to Paragraph 13 of the Minute of the Education and Social Services Committee dated 28 November 2007 there was submitted a report by the Chief Legal Officer inviting the Council to consider a recommendation from the Education and Social Services Committee in regard to the funding allocation for a PPP Schools Project in Moray.

Following consideration the Council agreed to approve the recommendation of the Education and Social Services Committee and agreed that in order for the Council to make best use of the PPP funding allocation from the Scottish Government to proceed to build a new Elgin Academy and a new Keith Primary School. The PPP scheme will proceed on the basis of the not for profit model proposed by the Scottish Government and the Council agreed that the scheme would be funded from the General Services budget rather than Council Tax increases.