

THE MORAY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MORAY COUNCIL

THURSDAY 2 JULY 2009

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

A Wright (Depute Convener), L Bell, G Coull, S Cree, J Hogg, B Jarvis, G Leadbitter, J MacKay, M McConachie, A McDonald, G McDonald, E McGillivray, A McKay, F Murdoch, P Paul, D Ross, M Shand, J Sharp, R Shepherd and D Stewart.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Executive, the Director of Community Services, the Director of Environmental Services, the Chief Financial Officer, the Chief Legal Officer the Head of Estates Services, the Property Manager, the Elections Officer, the PPR & Communications Officer, Deborah Brands Principal Accountant and the Principal Committee Services Officer, Clerk to the Meeting.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors J Divers, J Hamilton, G McIntyre, I Ogilvie, J Russell and I Young.

1. CHAIR

In the absence of Councillor McIntyre, Councillor A Wright, Depute Convener took the chair.

2. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

In terms of Standing Order 25(iv) the Meeting agreed to accept as additional items of business to be transacted at the meeting the undernoted items on the Chairman certifying that, in his opinion, they required to be considered on the grounds of urgency. It was further agreed that they be taken as Items 7(a) and 8 respectively on the Agenda (paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Minute refer).

7(a). "Revised Performance Management Framework – Report by Chief Executive"

8, "Corporate Office Project" – Joint Report by Head of Estates Services and Property Manager [Para 9]"

3. 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.

<u>Para. No. of Minute</u>	<u>Para. No. of Schedule 7A</u>
11	9

4. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS

In terms of Standing Order 20 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.

5. FUNDING FROM RESERVES

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer asking the Council to note the progress on projects which were approved to be funded from reserves in 2008 / 09 and to consider whether various projects included in expenditure plans for 2008 / 09 be carried forward and funded from the Council's Reserves in 2009 / 10.

Following consideration the Council agreed:

- (a) to note the progress on projects approved to be funded from reserves in 2008 / 09.
- (b) that the projects detailed in APPENDIX 1 totalling £2,058,000 are funded from reserves in 2009 / 10.

6. DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2008 / 09

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer submitting to the Council the Draft Accounts of The Moray Council for the year ended 31st March 2009.

Following consideration the Council agreed that the Draft Accounts of The Moray Council for the year to 31st March 2009 be duly noted.

7. FINANCIAL PLAN UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing Members with an update on the Council's Financial Plan.

Prior to discussion of the report the Chief Financial Officer provided the Meeting with an oral overview of the Council's current financial position and provided some additional detail in regard to the key assumptions made in relation to the estimated budget shortfall for 2011/12.

Following discussion, during which the Chief Financial Officer responded to the various questions raised by Members in regard to the financial position facing the Council, the Meeting agreed to note:

- (a) the current position and assumptions in relation to the budget shortfall of £8m currently estimated for 2011 / 12.
- (b) that the position is subject to change in respect of further information being provided by departments and actual figures replacing the assumptions.

8. REVIEW OF THE MORAY COUNCIL SCHEME FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILS

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive informing the Council on the consultation and review of The Moray Council Scheme to Community Councils (CC) and revised CC boundaries and seeking approval to allow preparations to begin for CC election process starting in late August / September 2009.

Following consideration the Council agreed:-

- (a) to approve The Moray Council Scheme for Community Councils and revised CC boundaries for the term 2009-2013;
- (b) that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive in consultation with the relevant ward members to consider any comments from consultees which may propose changes to the CC Scheme and the incorporated boundaries, and make any amendment to the CC Scheme, if appropriate, to allow the electoral process to start in late August.

9. PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY IN SCOTLAND CONFERENCE

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive asking the Council to consider nominating an attendee or attendees for the Public Service Delivery Conference in Edinburgh on Tuesday 15th September 2009.

During discussion concern was expressed in regard to the lack of conferences specific to Chairmen of Audit and Scrutiny Committees which allow Chairmen to keep abreast of developments in the area of scrutiny and audit and it was agreed that this is an issue which should be raised with COSLA.

Following further discussion clarification was sought as to what the justification for attendance at this conference was as it appeared that in this instance it did not come from within the Council but from the promoters of the conference and it was agreed that in future, reports should include justification for attendance from the relevant Service Committee Chairman.

Thereafter it was agreed that:-

- (a) there be no Member representation at the Public Services Delivery in Scotland Conference on Tuesday 15th September 2009;
- (b) the Vice Convener raise the issue of the lack of suitable conferences for the Chairs of Audit and Scrutiny Committees with COSLA, and
- (c) future reports relating to attendance by Members at conferences include the Chairman of the relevant Service Committee's justification for attendance.

10. REVISED PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive asking the Council to agree to convene a special meeting of Full Council on 1 September 2009 to consider key outcomes, service standards for all Council services and local delivery action plans from the Single Outcome Agreement; and to consider the changes to committee reporting as a result of the revised performance management framework as detailed in the report.

Following consideration the Council agreed to:

- (a) convene a special meeting of Full Council on 1 September 2009 to consider key outcomes, service standards for all council services and local delivery action plans from the Single Outcome Agreement, and
- (b) approve the changes to committee reporting as a result of the revised performance management framework

11. CORPORATE OFFICE PROJECT [PARA 9]

There was submitted a joint report by the Head of Estates Services and the Property Manager asking the Council to note that conditional missives have now been concluded with Aldi Stores Ltd for the acquisition of the former supermarket premises at 2./10 High Street, Elgin and to approve

arrangements for the refurbishment/conversion of the premises to office accommodation.

Following consideration the Meeting agreed:-

- (a) to note that the Council has now concluded missives with Aldi Stores Ltd for the acquisition of the former supermarket premises subject to the Council obtaining planning consent for a change of use to offices and satisfying itself as to the viability of the scheme within 6 months, and
- (b) that option (a) Design and Build Contract be progressed as detailed in the report.