

THE MORAY COUNCIL

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

TUESDAY 20 APRIL 2010

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

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

APOLOGY

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors G McIntyre and I Ogilvie.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Director of Environmental Services, the Head of Direct Services, the Head of Development Services, the Roads Maintenance Manager, the Senior Engineer (Transport Development), the Transportation Manager, the Area Engineer (Lighting), Mr P Haslam, Senior Engineer, the Planning & Development Manager, L Paisey, Principal Accountant, A McEachan, Principal Solicitor (Commercial & Conveyancing), and Mrs S Kennedy, Committee Services Officer, Clerk to the Meeting.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor F Murdoch in respect of Agenda Items 5 & 21.

1. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS

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 or any declarations of Members Interest in respect of any item on the Agenda.

2. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The meeting noted that there were no written questions.

3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUDGET 2010/11

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services providing an overview of committed funding from the Economic Development budget for 2010/11 and a summary of proposals for this financial year.

The meeting noted that the Economic Development Budget, as in previous years, is under severe financial constraints and it is planned to maximise it with external funding sources wherever appropriate. As highlighted in Appendices 1 and 11 of the proposals contained within the report this can be accommodated within the existing budget allowance, including confirmed project slippage. It was also noted that any investment will be used for promoting Moray as a destination for visitors, as a place of businesses to grow and invest and to meet the targets of the Council's Single Outcome Agreement with the government and local, regional and national strategies.

During discussion Councillor G McDonald registered his disappointment at the cuts to the Moray Town Partnership which had been extremely successful in the past in producing a lot of good ideas.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the commitment from the budget for 2010/11 to date;
- (ii) the following proposals:
 - Business Gateway, Service Level Agreement of £239,056 for 2010/11
 - Visit Scotland, Partnership Agreement of £62,000 for 2010/11
 - Moray Towns Partnership contribution of £40,000 for 2010/11 and £60,000 for 2011/12
 - Rural Towns Business Improvement District development cost of £5,000, in principle, subject to separate report to Committee at a later date this year
 - Development Plan Related Projects, £10,000 for proposals to be agreed by Delegated Authority
 - Moray Tourism Development Company, contribution of £10,000 towards the development cost, subject to securing Match Funding
 - Ancestral Tourism, contribution of £10,000 subject to securing Match Funding;
- (iii) to approve the submission of appropriate external funding applications in order to match any of the Council's contribution, and
- (iv) that the recommendations be referred to Policy and Resources Committee for approval, where they impact on budget planning beyond 2010/11.

4. MORAY FOOD FESTIVAL 2010

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services seeking approval to promote a Moray Food Festival in 2010 and commit a budget not exceeding £10,000.

The Meeting noted that this festival provides an opportunity to promote Moray's quality Food and Drink Sector on the back of the nation awards and government initiatives. It can also promote the benefits of eating locally grown seasonal produce, and establish Moray as a premier destination for visitors interested in culture and interested in high quality foods while also having a wide appeal to local communities.

In response to a concern from Councillor Leadbitter re an indicative budget the Planning and Development Manager advised that he did not have this information to hand but would discuss the position further with Councillor Leadbitter following the meeting.

In response to Members' concerns, The Planning and Development Manager gave an assurance to Committee that this would be a Moray wide festival event.

On the invitation of the Chairman the meeting also heard the views of Councillor Murdoch, who is not a member of the Committee and noted her concerns in regard to the proposal.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to

- (i) approve a Moray Food Festival and to approve a contribution not exceeding £10,000 from the Economic Development Budget towards the total project cost of £20,000; and
- (ii) approve the submission of appropriate external funding applications and/or seek sponsorship from the Food industries in order to match the Council's contribution on a pound for pound basis.

5. LEADER

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services updating the Committee on the first year of the Moray LEADER programme and inviting members to agree match funding payments towards the Cairngorm LEADER programme.

The meeting noted that the National LEADER programme and consequently our local programme was late in starting and is well on target in terms of committed funding. As in previous LEADER programmes, it is expected that the present time frame maybe be extended to account for the late start. Presently the Scottish Government is considering to transfer some of its funding options under the SRDP to the local LAG's and the annual review meeting of the Moray LEADER strategy and business plan in May will take account of it. Overall the first year of operation has been highly successful in leveraging investment from a wide range of funding resources into Moray's rural economy.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the progress made by the LEADER programme during its first year; and
- (ii) pay the £3,250 yearly contribution to the Cairngorm National Park LEADER Programme from the Economic Development budget.

6. MORAY ENERGY EFFICIENCY FAIR 2010

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Environmental Services informing the Committee of the outcome of the Moray Energy Efficiency Fair.

The chair on behalf of the Committee complimented exhibitors and visitors on this positive and worthwhile event.

7. 2010/2011 BUDGET SAVINGS - GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services informing the Committee of how the 2010/2011 Revenue Budget savings for Grounds Maintenance will be achieved.

Following consideration the Committee agreed the changes to be made to grounds maintenance operations, as identified in paragraph 3.3 of the report, in order to achieve the 1st year revenue budget savings of £30,000 in 2010/2011.

8. 2010/2011 BUDGET SAVINGS - MORAY TRAINING SUPERVISOR

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services informing the Committee of how the 2010/2011 Revenue Budget savings for Moray Training supervision will be achieved.

Following consideration the Committee noted that a vacant Moray Training Supervisor post will be removed from the Environmental Protection staffing structure in order to achieve the revenue budget saving of £26,000 in 2010/2011.

9. WASTE MANAGEMENT - RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BULKY HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION AND THE WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Environmental Services advising the Committee on the relationship between the bulky household waste collection service and the Council's duty under the waste electrical and electronic equipment regulations in relation to their deliberation on the Council's bulky household waste collection service and in particular the charging of white goods.

10. CAPITAL PLAN 2010/2011

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services seeking Committee approval for a number of projects in the Capital Plan for 2010/2011, as detailed in the Appendix to the report.

During discussion Councillor Leadbitter requested that in terms of accuracy that the figures in the final report be recorded consistently throughout the report.

During discussion Councillor G McDonald moved deferral of the report to allow for further consideration to be given to harbour spend and on the advice of Mrs Paisey, Principal Accountant, Councillor G McDonald withdrew his motion and agreed that this issue be referred to the appropriate Committee for consideration.

In response to a question from Councillor Bell with regard to page 8 of the report in relation to the cost of a bin the Head of Direct Services advised that he would ask the Waste Manager to respond to him following the meeting.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) approve the expenditure for 2010/2011 on each of the Capital projects listed in the Appendix to the report; and
- (ii) inform the Policy and Resources Committee to reconsider the capital plan to include harbour spends.

11. REVENUE BUDGET 2010/2011 - ROAD MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL BUDGET 2010/2011 - RESURFACING, LIGHTING COLUMN REPLACEMENT AND LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services asking the Committee to approve detailed plans for the expenditure of funds allocated from the Revenue Budget 2010/2011 to roads maintenance and from the Capital Budget 2010/2011 to resurfacing/reconstruction, lighting column replacement, hydro network alterations and lighting improvements.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:

- (i) to approve the detailed allocation of funds, from the Revenue Budget 2010/2011 to Roads Maintenance activities, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.
- (ii) the Capital Allocation for carriageway resurfacing/reconstruction may also be used for works on other roads assets provided such works are in accordance with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, and to agree the allocation of these funds, as detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.

- (iii) to grant authority to the Roads Maintenance Manager to proceed with works whilst noting that the Roads Maintenance Manager will, as soon as possible, publish a main list of schemes, which can be funded by the budget provision 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.
- (iv) to note that the list of schemes will be drawn up in accordance with the principles and objectives detailed in this report.
- (v) to grant 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; and
- (vi) to grant 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.

12. REVENUE BUDGET 2010/2011 - HARBOUR MAINTENANCE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services asking the Committee to approve the Revenue Budget Programme for 2010/2011 Harbour Maintenance.

During discussion Committee noted Members concerns with regard to the condition of its harbours.

Thereafter, the Committee approved the Revenue Budget 2010/2011 Harbour maintenance as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

13. REVENUE BUDGET 2010/2011 - CAR PARKS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services asking the Committee to approve the Revenue Budget 2010/2011 programme for car park repairs and maintenance.

During discussion the Head of Direct Services agreed to provide a breakdown to Members with regard to page 3 of the report relating to the condition survey and structural appraisal for the two multi-storey car parks in Elgin.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to approve a programme of works for 2010/2011 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

14. REVENUE BUDGET 2010/2011 - FLOOD PREVENTION

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services asking the Committee to:

- (i) approve the Revenue Budget for 2010/2011 (Flood Prevention) and authorise expenditure;
- (ii) note that the balance is allocated to Coastal Protection; and
- (iii) approve the Project Plan for Flood Risk Management (Flood Prevention Revenue Works).

The meeting noted the progress of flood prevention works during 2009/1010 was generally satisfactory. However some of the work originally programmed was not carried out within the 2009/2010 programme owing to unforeseen difficulties and the works affected would generally be carried over into the 2010/2011 programme.

Following discussion the Committee agreed to:

- (i) approve the Revenue Budget 2010/2011 (Flood Prevention) and authorise expenditure;
- (ii) note that the balance is allocated to Coastal Protection; and
- (iii) approve the Project Plan for Flood Risk Management (Flood Prevention Revenue Works).

15. REVENUE BUDGET 2010/2011: COASTAL PROTECTION

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services asking the Committee to:

- (i) approve the Revenue Budget for 2010/2011 (Coastal Protection) and authorise expenditure;
- (ii) note that the balance is allocated to Flood Alleviation; and
- (iii) approve the Project Plan for Flood Risk Management (Coastal Protection Revenue Works).

The meeting noted that the programme of Coastal Protection revenue Works is required to meet the Council's commitments in the Moray Community Plan for 2005-2010.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- (i) approve the Revenue Budget 2010/2011 (Coastal Protection) and authorise expenditure;
- (ii) note that the balance is allocated to Flood Alleviation; and
- (iii) approve the Project Plan for Flood Risk Management (Coastal Protection Revenue Works).

16. SECOND MORAY LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services presenting a Draft Moray Local Transport Strategy (LTS) and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (Non Technical Summary) to the Committee.

The meeting noted that the Draft Moray Local Transport Strategy acknowledges many of the changes in policy and organisations since the publication of the original Moray Local Transport Strategy, including the Moray Structure Plan and the Moray Local Plan (2008). It also recognises the circumstances affecting local government finances. The third stage of developing the Draft Moray Local Transport Strategy involves undertaking a period of consultation, Following consultation responses will be reviewed and a Final Moray Local Transport Strategy will be prepared and submitted to a future Committee.

During discussion the Senior Engineer (Transport Development) agreed to widen the list of consultees and to make full use of the Website facility to consult.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the contents of the report and associated appendices.
- (ii) delegate the Director of Environmental Services to undertake consultation, with the list of stakeholder organisations identified including SEA submission; and
- (iii) submit a future report on the responses and a Final Local Transport Strategy for approval.

17. ELGIN ROAD HIERARCHY - RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION SUBMISSIONS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services concerning the requirement identified in the Moray Local Plan for the production of an Elgin Road Hierarchy (page 79 of the Moray Local Plan refers).

The Meeting noted that only minor changes are proposed as a consequence of the receipt of consultation responses. The identification of primary and district distributor roads will provide a framework for development management and traffic management. This will help to reduce the overall impact of traffic and that the Elgin Road Hierarchy can be used as a material consideration in respect of future planning applications in relation to MLP (2008) Policy T6 Traffic Management.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the responses received to the consultation for the proposed Elgin Road Hierarchy - Primary and District Distributor Roads;
- (ii) approve the recommendations set out in Appendix 2 of the report; and

- (iii) approve the Elgin Road Hierarchy for the purposes of development management and traffic management.

18. TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION SUBMISSIONS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services advising Committee of the comments and representations received to the proposed document that would form part of the overall Moray Council Road Design Procedures and Standards publications.

The meeting noted the need for early consultation so that transportation requirements can be identified and appropriate planning permission sought is widely accepted. This document will provide guidance to enable the identification of all transportation requirements in advance of any future application. There are a number of proposed changes as a consequence of consultation responses. The most significant one related to the new arrangements for dealing with passing places on single track roads and possible contributions to Dial-a-bus services through the Service Level Agreement with Aberdeenshire Council Planning Gain Services. Through this document notice will be provided to developers/applicants that developer contributions may be required in certain circumstances. The detailed arrangement will be handled by the Planning Gain service.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the responses received to the consultation;
- (ii) approve the recommendations set out in Appendix 2 of the report; and
- (iii) delegate authority to the Director of Environmental Services to make the necessary changes and publish this document.

19. PROPOSED ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER - GLOVER STREET, ELGIN

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services asking the Committee to approve the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order which will alter the existing parking restrictions on Glover Street, Elgin as detailed in Appendix A and shown in Plans Appendix B to the report.

The Transportation Manager noted the suggestion by Councillor G McDonald that he look at the layout of the road markings at the junction of Greyfriars Street and South College Street and agreed to investigate the situation and respond to Councillor G McDonald.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) approve the proposed Traffic Regulation Order to alter the existing waiting restrictions on Glover Street, Elgin and instruct the Director of

Environmental Services and Chief Legal Officer to proceed with the statutory process; and

- (ii) agreed to instruct the Director of Environmental Services and the Chief Legal Officer to make and implement the order if, following the consultation period, there are no outstanding objections.

20. PROPOSED ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER - SCHOOL ROAD, KEITH

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services asking the Committee to approve the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order which will remove motorised vehicular traffic and introduce new and alter existing waiting restrictions in the area of School Road and Drum Road, Keith as detailed in Appendix A and shown in the Plan, Appendix B to this report.

During discussion the Transportation Manager gave an assurance to Committee that Members concerns re Banff Road/A95/A96 would be taken into consideration and consultation would be undertaken with the Scottish Government/Bear Scotland if necessary. The follow up report to Committee will include an assessment of A96/A95 junction.

Thereafter, the Committee approved the promotion of the proposed Traffic Regulation Order to introduce a prohibition to motor vehicles and introduce new and alter existing waiting restrictions in the area of School Road and Drum Road, Keith as detailed in schedule Appendix A and plan Appendix B to this report and instruct the Director of Environmental Services and Chief Legal Officer to proceed with the statutory process.

21. PROPOSED 20 MPH SPEED RESTRICTION, ELGIN CENTRE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services asking the Committee to approve the promotion of a 20 mph speed limit within the central area of Elgin bounded by the A96 Trunk Road, Greyfriars Street and Lossie Wynd as detailed in Appendix B and as shown on the plan in Appendix A to this report.

Following a motion by Councillor G McDonald, seconded by Councillor A Wright the Committee noted the consensus of opinion was that there was no wish to introduce a 20 mph Traffic Regulation Order.

Thereafter, it was agreed that this should not preclude any necessary works being carried out on Glover Street in connection to the new Council HQ proposals, and that a report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee with regard to the provision for pedestrians crossing Glover Street.

22. PROPOSED 40 MPH SPEED RESTRICTION B9012 DUFFUS ROAD, ELGIN

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services asking the Committee to approve the promotion of a 40 mph speed restriction to cover a new residential development on the B9012 Duffus Road that forms part of a planning condition and amend the existing 30 mph speed restriction to take account of the Speed Limit Review process currently being undertaken.

During discussion Members' raised various concerns with regard to the proposed 40 mph restriction and agreed that a short seminar on the process for Speed Limit Review would be beneficial.

Thereafter, Committee agreed to:

- (i) consult on the proposed Traffic Regulation Order to introduce a 40 mph restriction on alter the existing 30 mph restriction and instruct the Director of Environmental Services and Chief Legal Officer to proceed with the statutory process; and
- (ii) that following the Consultation period that a further report be submitted to this Committee for consideration; and
- (iii) hold a mini seminar with Members' and selected consultees on the National Speed Limit process.

Councillor Hamilton left the meeting on the conclusion of this item.

23. PROPOSED ONE-WAY RESTRICTION, B9116 QUARRY BRAE, NEWMILL

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services asking the Committee to approve the promotion of a one-way restriction to all traffic on B9116, Quarry Brae, Newmill as detailed in Appendix B and as shown on the plan in Appendix A to this report.

During consideration Councillor Bell asked if it could be investigated whether a weight restriction would be an appropriate addition at this location. The Head of Direct Services advised that it would be looked at in terms of Environmental Issues and if necessary would come back to Committee as a separate issue.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) approve the proposal to introduce a one-way restriction on B9116 Quarry Brae, Newmill and instruct the Director of Environmental Services and the Chief Legal Officer to proceed with the statutory process; and
- (ii) instruct the Director of Environmental Services and the Chief Legal Officer to make and implement the order if, following the consultation period, there are no outstanding objections.

24. PROPOSED ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER - VARIOUS STREETS, ROTHES

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services asking the Committee to approve the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order which will have the effect of introducing additional parking restrictions within Rothes as detailed in Appendix A and shown in Plans Appendix B to the report.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the report for a minimum of 6 months and in the interim to monitor the effects of the temporary waiting restrictions imposed due to the bridge works.

25. PUBLIC TRANSPORT - SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services providing the Committee with updated information on the withdrawal of subsidised and commercial bus journeys following the decision of the Policy and Resources Committee on 30 March 2010 to reduce the budget for subsidised bus services.

During discussion the Head of Direct Services gave an assurance to Councillor Paul that there were no duplicate services running the issue was that Committee has in front of them a package of service cuts which had been identified in the budget. However, there were some limited alternative services in place and there would inevitably be inconvenience to the public.

Thereafter, the Committee noted the withdrawals being made by Stagecoach Bluebird as part of and in response to the Council's decision to reduce funding for subsidised bus services.

26. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions during question time.