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THE FIFE COUNCIL - ENVIRONMENT, ENTERPRISE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE - GLENROTHES.

18th November, 2010

10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon

PRESENT: Councillors Tony Martin (Chair), John Beare, Ian Chisholm, Ron Edwards, Mark Hood, Bill Kay, Mike Rumney, Ross Vettraino, William Walker, Marilyn Whitehead and Jim Young.

ALSO

PRESENT: Bill Main, President, Fife Chamber of Commerce.

ATTENDING: Stuart Nichol, Executive Director, Environment & Development Services; Bob McLellan, Head of Transportation Services; Stuart Knowles, Senior Manager, Transportation Services; Jim Moodie, Lead Officer, Harbours, Flood & Coast, Transportation Services; Keith Winter, Head of Development Services; Robin Presswood, Development Manager, Business & Strategy and George Sneddon, Team Leader, Business & Strategy, Development Services; Fraser Thomson, Head of Environmental Services; Laura C. Robertson, Accounting Team Leader, Finance & Procurement; Pauline Bogie, Communications Officer; Mike Melville, Team Leader (Democratic Services) and Liz Box, Committee Administrator, Standards & Governance, Performance & Organisational Support.

APOLOGIES FOR

ABSENCE: Councillors George Leslie, Jackie McKenna, Frances Melville and Dorothea Morrison.

363. MINUTE

The Committee considered the Minute of the Meeting of the Environment, Enterprise and Transportation Committee of 7th October, 2010.

Decision

The Minute was approved.

364. SUPPORTED TRANSPORT FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE - REVIEW OF DEMAND RESPONSIVE TRANSPORT SERVICES IN FIFE

Previous Minute Reference Para. 305 of 2010.E.E.T.C.164 refers

The Committee considered a report by the Senior Manager, Transportation Services informing on a review undertaken by the Supported Transport for Vulnerable People Member/Officer Group on the effectiveness of Taxi Card, Dial a Ride and Ring and Ride services in Fife and making recommendations on the way forward following the Member/Officer review.

Motion

Councillor Mike Rumney, seconded by Councillor Bill Kay moved that the report be approved subject to recommendations (i) and (iii) being deleted and replaced with the following:-

- (i) that Officers be instructed to bring forward to the next meeting of the Environment, Enterprise and Transportation Committee a fully costed business plan on the provision of demand responsive transport in the Cowdenbeath area, to be funded from savings from the reduced rail concessionary travel scheme; and

(iii)/

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- (iii) that a fully costed report be submitted to the next meeting of the Environment Enterprise and Transportation Committee on the provision of an e-purse payment system for the Taxi Card scheme, in consultation with taxi operators; and that the e-purse payment system be funded from underspends other than savings from the reduced rail concessionary travel scheme.

Amendment

Councillor Tony Martin, seconded by Councillor Ross Vettrains moved that the recommendations be approved as set out in the report.

Vote

Amendment - 6
Motion - 5

The Amendment was carried.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) that a business case be developed for the possibility of an alternative method of provision for demand responsive transport in the Cowdenbeath area;
- (2) to approve enhancements to the Taxi Card scheme in rural areas by allowing use of up to two vouchers per trip with the current 80 vouchers per annum, with a reduction in vouchers in Ring-and-Ride areas from 80 vouchers down to 40 vouchers per year; and
- (3) to approve the provision of an e-purse payment system for Taxi Card, to be funded from part of the additional £250k made available as part of the revised rail concession scheme agreed by Fife Council on 11th February, 2010.

365. **DUTIES OF PUBLIC BODIES: CLIMATE CHANGE ACT - CARBON REDUCTION COMMITMENT: TREASURY SPENDING REVIEW**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Environment and Development Services summarising the aims and issues outlined in the draft Scottish Government Guidance entitled "Duties of Public Bodies Relating to Climate Change Under Section 44 of the Climate Change (Scotland) 2009". The report also provided an update on the Carbon Reduction commitment arising from the recent Treasury Spending Review and sought approval for a response to the Scottish Government consultation on the draft Guidance.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the main aims and issues arising from the draft Guidance on the duties of public bodies relating to climate change under Section 44 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009;
- (2)/

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- (2) to delegate authority to the Executive Director, Environment and Development Services in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Environment Enterprise and Transportation Committee to approve the Council's response to the consultation on the Guidance on the Duties of Public Bodies, for submission to the Scottish Government by 26 November, 2010; and
- (3) to note the implications of the changes to the Carbon Reduction Commitment.

366. FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2009

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Transportation Services advising on the phased implementation of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 and the important implications for Fife Council arising from the implementation of the Act.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) that further reports would be submitted to the Environment Enterprise and Transportation Committee following the introduction of legislation on Flood Risk Management;
- (2) to note the financial and resource implications for Fife Council arising from the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009; and
- (3) to note the need to assist SEPA to prepare for local Flood Risk Management Plans and to comply with the new statutory duties.

367. SCOTLAND RAIL UTILISATION STRATEGY (RUS) GENERATION TWO: DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Transportation Services advising of the publication, in October 2010, of a Network Rail document entitled "Scotland Route Utilisation Strategy Generation 2: Draft for Consultation" and seeking approval for a response to be sent to Network Rail on behalf of Fife Council.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the publication of Network Rail's "Scotland Route Utilisation Strategy Generation 2: Draft for Consultation";
- (2) to delegate to the Head of Transportation Services, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Environment, Enterprise and Transportation Committee to respond to the consultation before the 13th January, 2011 deadline; and
- (3) that the response should include comments on (a) the need to upgrade the West Fife Rail Link, (b) re-siting of the Lochgelly Railway Station, and (c) provision of a Levenmouth Rail Link, and that members of the Environment Enterprise and Transportation Committee and the Fife Chamber of Commerce be included in consultation on the response as appropriate.

368. **FIFE KEY SECTORS PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Development Services providing an update on the range of programmes and initiatives designed to support and strengthen Fife's key economic growth sectors; advising on progress following the re-alignment of activity to focus on the tourism and renewable sectors, in line with the "Growing Fife's Future" - The Fife Economic Development Strategy 2009-2020; and reporting on future priorities given the current economic climate and associated pressures.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the considerable progress made in the development of the existing Key Sectors Programme and the appointment of the Fife Renewables Champion to co-ordinate activity in the renewables sector, and
- (2) to remit to the Head of Development Services to review Key Sector outputs and activities and to hold further discussions with Business Gateway Fife and Green Business Fife regarding the re-alignment of resources to support the new key sector priorities.

Councillor Mark Hood left the meeting during discussion of the above item.

369. **PERFORMANCE REPORTS AUTUMN 2010**

(a) Introduction

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Performance and Organisational Support providing an introduction to the Autumn cycle of Service Performance Reports to Strategic Committees and an annual overview of performance against each of the Council's Big 8 priorities for which the Environment Enterprise and Transportation Committee had lead responsibility.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the refinements made to performance reporting arrangements.

(b) Development Services

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Development Services on the performance of the Service to Autumn 2010 and progress by the Service against the Big 8 priorities for which Development Services had been identified as having lead responsibility.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the Autumn Performance Report 2010 for Development Services;
- (2) that the Executive Director, Environment and Development should provide information to members of the Environment Enterprise and Transportation Committee on the Council's policy on sickness and bereavement absence; and
- (3)/

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- (3) that the Head of Development Services should provide a briefing paper to members of the Committee on progress on the Hydrogen Office project at Methil Docks Business Park.

(c) **Environmental Services**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Environmental Services on the performance of the Service to Autumn 2010 and progress by the Service against the Big 8 priorities for which Environmental Services had been identified as having lead responsibility.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the Autumn Performance Report 2010 for Environmental Services; and
- (2) that the Head of Environmental Services should submit a report to the Environment Enterprise and Transportation Committee in Spring 2011 providing an update on the Comfort Scheme.

(d) **Transportation Services**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Transportation Services on the performance of the Service to Autumn 2010 and progress by the Service against the Big 8 priorities for which Transportation Services had been identified as having lead responsibility.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the Transportation Services Autumn 2010 Performance Report;
- (2) that the Head of Transportation Services should carry out a review of fuel costs for fleet vehicles over the winter period 2010/11; and
- (3) to ask the Head of Transportation Services to convey the congratulations of the Committee to all staff in his Service for their work over the 2009/10 winter period and for achieving ten nominations for categories in the Scottish Transport Local Authority of the Year 2010 awards.

370. **ANNUAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY PERFORMANCE REPORT - 2009/10**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Development Services outlining the range of economic development activity undertaken by Development Services during 2009/10, its outputs, and its contribution towards the Council's community planning objectives, in particular the Fife Economic Strategy, Growing Fife's Future.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the economic development activity undertaken by Development Services in 2009/10;
- (2)/

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- (2) to note Fife's economic challenges for the future as outlined in Section 8 of the Annual Economic Development Activity Performance Report (2009/10), copies of which were available electronically; and
- (3) that the Head of Development Services should brief members of the Environment Enterprise and Transportation Committee on (a) single work programmes, (b) the Business Premises Renovation Allowance scheme; (c) business start-ups in Fife, and (d) progress in relation to land at Lammerlaws Road, Burntisland.

371. **ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE REVENUE BUDGET: PROJECTED OUTTURN 2010/11**

The Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and Resources, the Head of Development Services, the Head of Environmental Services and the Head of Transportation Services advising on the Revenue Budget Outturn position for 2010/11 for Development Services, Environmental Services and Transportation Services.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) to recommend that the Council's Policy Finance and Asset Management Committee approves the virement, as outlined in the report, for corrective action for Transportation Services; and
- (3) to approve the virement outlined in paragraph 4.5 of the report in relation to the transfer of Zero Waste Strategy funding for the implementation of Household Waste Collection Changes.

372. **ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE CAPITAL BUDGET: PROJECTED OUTTURN 2010/11**

The Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and Resources, the Head of Development Services, the Head of Environmental Services and the Head of Transportation Services advising of the projected Capital Budget Outturn position for 2010/11 for Development Services, Environmental Services and Transportation Services.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

373. **LANDFILL TAX BACK CLAIM UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Environmental Services advising on the outcome of the second Landfill Tax back claim made to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) by the Council's Waste Treatment and Disposal Team.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) agreed to note the successful outcome of the second Landfill Tax back claim; and
- (2)/

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- (2) congratulated Rosemary Hynd, John Conaghan and Neil Walker, Environmental Services employees, for their initiative and innovation which had resulted in Fife Council receiving a rebate of £2,569,961, Dundee City Council £180,541 and Perth and Kinross Council £4,705; plus interest of £83,552.

374. **BONNYGATE, CUPAR AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Environmental Services advising of the recently completed Bonnygate Cupar Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) which contained a set of measures which aimed to improve the air quality in the designated Bonnygate, Cupar Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the proposed measures in the Air Quality Action Plan for dealing with air pollutant levels in the Bonnygate, Cupar Air Quality Management Area and to endorse the implementation of these measures in seeking compliance with the statutory air quality objectives; and
- (2) to note that the Bonnygate, Cupar Air Quality Action Plan had been used as an example of best practice by DEFRA.

375. **HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

The Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Development Services, the Head of Transportation Services, the Head of Environmental Services and the Head of Asset and Facilities Management Services outlining highlights and achievements with regard to the range of activities being undertaken by the combined Services in delivering the Council's Community Planning Objectives.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.
