

# STIRLING COUNCIL

**MINUTES of MEETING of STIRLING COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD VIEWFORTH, STIRLING on THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2010 at 6.30pm**

**Present:**

Provost Fergus WOOD (in the Chair)

Councillor Neil BENNY	Councillor Graham LAMBIE
Councillor Alistair BERRILL	Councillor Alasdair MacPHERSON
Councillor Margaret BRISLEY	Councillor Corrie McCHORD
Councillor Ian BROWN	Councillor Colin O'BRIEN
Councillor Callum CAMPBELL	Councillor Paul OWENS
Councillor Scott FARMER	Councillor Steven PATERSON
Councillor Tony FFINCH	Councillor Graham REED
Councillor Colin FINLAY	Councillor Andrew SIMPSON
Councillor David GOSS	Depute Convenor Jim THOMSON
Councillor John HENDRY	Councillor Violet WEIR
Councillor Graham HOUSTON	

**In Attendance:**

Joyce Allen, Team Leader Democratic Support, Governance  
Jim Boyle, Chief Accountant, Finance & Procurement  
Michael Boyle, Interim Education Business Manager, Education  
Tony Cain, Head of Housing  
Liz Duncan, Acting Solicitor to the Council  
Bill Eadie, Head of Social Care  
Lisa France, Policy Officer, Chief Executive's Office  
Des Friel, Head of Economy, Employment & Youth  
Fiona Fulton, Communications Officer, Chief Executive's Office  
Lesley Gallagher, Community Planning Partnership Manager  
Bob Gil, Head of Assets, Property & Facilities Management  
Belinda Greer, Head of Education  
Janice Hewitt, Assistant Chief Executive (Care, Health & Wellbeing)  
Bob Jack, Chief Executive  
Kristine Johnson, Personnel Manager, Improvement & Customer Service  
Linda Kinney, Assistant Chief Executive (Learning, Empowerment & Citizenship)  
Christine MacLean, Policy Officer, Chief Executive's Office  
Rebecca Maxwell, Assistant Chief Executive (Sustainability, Economy & Environment)  
Hazel McMorrow, Head of Governance (Clerk)  
Peter Morgan, Chief Planning Officer, Planning, Regulation & Waste  
Katy Oliver, Team Leader, Marketing & Communications, Chief Executive's Office  
John Risk, Head of Improvement & Customer Service  
Kevin Robertson, Head of Planning, Regulation & Waste  
Joanne Scott, Depute Head of Education  
Cath Sutherland, Strategic & Community Planning Team Leader, Chief Executive's Office  
Kathleen Taylor, Head of Communities & Culture  
Willie Watson, Head of Finance & Procurement

## **SC586 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **SC587 URGENT BUSINESS**

The Provost advised that that there was no urgent business in terms of Standing Order 31.

## **SC588 MINUTES**

The following Minutes were submitted for approval:-

a. **Stirling Council – 24 June 2010**

**Decision**

The Council approved the Minutes of Meeting of Stirling Council held on 24 June 2010 as a correct record of the proceedings.

b. **Local Review Body – 2 September 2010**

**Decision**

The Council approved the Minutes of the Local Review Body held on 2 September 2010 as a correct record of the proceedings.

c. **Parental Appeals Panel – 23 June 2010**

**Decision**

The Council approved the Minutes of the Parental Appeals Panel held on 23 June 2010 as a correct record of the proceedings.

d. **Parental Appeals Panel – 9 June 2010**

**Decision**

The Council approved the Minutes of the Parental Appeals Panel held on 9 June 2010 as a correct record of the proceedings.

e. **Parental Appeals Panel – 7 June 2010**

**Decision**

The Council approved the Minutes of the Parental Appeals Panel held on 7 June 2010 as a correct record of the proceedings.

f. **Parental Appeals Panel – 1 June 2010**

**Decision**

The Council approved the Minutes of the Parental Appeals Panel held on 1 June 2010 as a correct record of the proceedings.

g. **Parental Appeals Panel – 1 April 2010**

**Decision**

The Council approved the Minutes of the Parental Appeals Panel held on 1 April 2010 as a correct record of the proceedings.

h. **Parental Appeals Panel – 9 March 2010**

**Decision**

The Council approved the Minutes of the Parental Appeals Panel held on 9 March 2010 as a correct record of the proceedings.

i. **Parental Appeals Panel – 30 November 2009 10.00 am**

**Decision**

The Council approved the Minutes of the Parental Appeals Panel held on 30 November 2009 as a correct record of the proceedings.

j. **Parental Appeals Panel – 30 November 2009 - 2.00 pm**

**Decision**

The Council approved the Minutes of the Parental Appeals Panel held on 30 November 2009 as a correct record of the proceedings.

## **SC589 WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

Three written questions had been received in terms of Standing Order 36. The questions and answers are attached at Appendix 1 to these Minutes.

Each Member who had put a written question was allowed one supplementary question and the supplementary questions and answers to these are also included in the Appendix.

## **SC590 QUESTION TIME**

In terms of Standing Order 43, Members had the opportunity to put questions to the Provost, the Leader of the Council, any Executive Member with relevant responsibility or Scrutiny Committee Chair or Chair of any other Committee or Panel as appropriate regarding any business included in the Volume of Minutes circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

The following questions were put:-

**Volume Page 17510, Minutes of Meeting of the Council on 24 June 2010 – Item SC553 – Appendix 1**

Councillor Brown asked Councillors Benny and Owens if they considered that the supervision of offenders carrying out work in the community was at an acceptable level?

Councillor Benny recognised the importance of rehabilitation in the process. Councillors Owens added that he was satisfied that staff had the necessary skills to supervise offenders carrying out community work and offenders had the opportunity to learn new skills in the process of carrying out the work.

**Volume Page 17521, Minutes of Meeting of the Council on 24 June 2010 – Item SC582 – Appendix 4 (b) Information and Advice on Motions**

Councillor Reed asked if the protocol on Council Events had been prepared and circulated? Councillor Brisley commented that Members required more advance notice of invitations to events.

The Assistant Chief Executive (Learning, Empowerment & Citizenship) confirmed that the practice of inviting Members to events had changed in accordance with the motion agreed by Council and the written protocol would follow in the near future.

**SC591 STIRLING DISTRICT TOURISM LIMITED - APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR**

The responsibilities of Stirling District Tourism Ltd included the management and operation of the National Wallace Monument and Stirling Old Town Jail as well as ongoing responsibility for the management and lease of the Rob Roy and Trossachs Visitor Centre and the Breadalbane Folklore Centre. The Council had previously appointed Councillors Ian Brown, Paul Owens and Steven Paterson as Directors of Stirling District Tourism Ltd.

On 25 August 2010, Councillor Brown advised members of the Stirling District Tourism Board of his intention to resign from office as a Director. A report by the Head of Governance invited the Council to appoint an Elected Member to fill the vacant post of Director.

**Decision**

The Council agreed to appoint Councillor Alasdair MacPherson as a Director to Stirling District Tourism Limited to replace Councillor Ian Brown who had recently resigned.

(Reference: Report by the Head of Governance dated 28 September 2010, submitted).

**SC592 CITIZENSHIP APPOINTMENTS PANEL – APPOINTMENTS**

The Council established a Citizenship Appointments Panel on 11 March 2004 to undertake interviews and recommend to Council suitable citizens to the “pool” for

various Committees and Panels as and when vacancies arose. Following a recruitment campaign in January 2010 two applications were received from citizens expressing an interest in the Prison Visiting Committees. One appointment was made to Cornton Vale Over 21s Visiting Committee and one appointment to the Glenochil Prison Visiting Committee.

Clackmannanshire Council had also recently undertaken a recruitment campaign for Prison Visiting Committee members and had a greater number of successful candidates than vacancies. The Chairs of the Cornton Vale Over 21s and Glenochil Prison Visiting Committees were on the interview panel. Members of the Citizenship Appointments Panel were asked if they would be willing to fill the remaining Stirling vacancies with the surplus candidates interviewed by Clackmannanshire Council. The majority of the Panel members confirmed that they would be happy to fill the remaining vacancies in this way.

A report by the Head of Governance invited the Council to endorse the decision of the Citizenship Appointments Panel in respect of filling the remaining vacancies and appoint suitable citizens to the vacancies on the Prison Visiting Committees.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed:-

1. to endorse the decision taken by members of the Citizenship Appointments Panel to appoint two citizens to the pool of Prison Visiting Committee members who were interviewed by Clackmannanshire Council;
2. to appoint the following citizen to Cornton Vale Over 21s Prison Visiting Committee, with effect from the date of receipt of a satisfactory Disclosure Scotland check:

Deborah Isabella Straiton

3. to appoint the following citizen to Glenochil Prison Visiting Committee, with effect from the date of receipt of a satisfactory Disclosure Scotland check:

Georgina Alexis Alexander

(Reference: Report by Head of Governance dated 9 August 2010, submitted).

### **SC593 KINLOCHARD VILLAGE HALL TRUST – NOMINATION OF TRUSTEE**

Kinlochard Village Hall was currently held in trust by ex officio trustees. The original trustees had granted a Deed of Trust setting out the purposes for which they held the hall and to form a management committee to deal with its general management and control. The management committee had carried out this role since then without any need to refer to the trustees.

With the aid of grant from the Scottish Government under the Scottish Rural Development Programme, the management committee were now extending and refurbishing the hall. The Council was providing bridging facilities to cover the gap between instalments to the building contractor becoming payable and the receipt of

funds from the Scottish Rural Development Programme. As a result, it was necessary for the trustees to sign the appropriate loan documentation.

A report by the Head of Governance confirmed that original trustees were specified in the Feu Charter as being “the School Teacher, the Bank Manager of the Bank of Scotland, the Minister of the Parish of Aberfoyle and the County Councillor for the District of Western Perthshire comprising Aberfoyle, Gartmore and Port of Menteith”. The original Trustees were all now deceased and the office of County Councillor had been abolished. As the original trust deed appointed the County Councillor for the locality in which Kinlochard was situated as the trustee, the report recommended that one of the Elected Members representing the Trossachs and Teith Ward be nominated as trustee for the Kinlochard Village Hall Trust,

### **Decision**

The Council agreed to nominate Councillor Fergus Wood to serve as trustee for the Kinlochard Village Hall Trust.

(Reference: Report by Head of Governance, dated 28 September 2010, submitted).

## **SC594 SUMMER RECESS – URGENT BUSINESS**

At its meeting on 24 June 2010 (paragraph SC562 refers), the Council approved arrangements for dealing with urgent business during the Summer recess. A report by the Head of Governance advised that one item of business had been considered by the Chief Executive under the Summer recess procedures, the details of which were outlined in a separate report to be considered under exempt business.

The Housing Portfolio Holder asked why a press statement on the lease of premises at 1-5 Port Street, Stirling for a One Stop Shop had been released prior to the Council considering the exempt report by the Chief Executive. In response, the Chief Executive confirmed that the press statement referred to decisions already taken under delegated authority and did not reveal any exempt information. The Portfolio Holder indicated that he was unhappy with the response and the process followed in respect of the use of delegated authority.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed to note that the one decision taken under the Summer recess arrangements for dealing with urgent business was the subject of a separate report on the agenda under exempt business.

(Reference: Report by Head of Governance, dated 20 September 2010, submitted).

## **SC595 REVISED COUNCIL REPORTING TEMPLATE**

The existing Council reporting template had been in operation since 2006 and since that time a number of comments and concerns had been made by Officers and Members about its style and content. A report by the Head of Governance recommended approval of a revised template, which sought to address the concerns raised and incorporated a number of suggested improvements. The revised template also included new paragraphs on Equality Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments to meet the legal requirement of a comprehensive

verification of the author's assessment of the potential environmental and equalities implications of proposed decisions, including ensuring that an Equality Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment had been completed for all new Council policies where appropriate.

Members queried the reference in paragraph 3.1 of the submitted report that Officer recommendations did not necessarily reflect the views of the Administration. The Head of Governance explained that the majority of reports would be prepared by Officers with the political backing of the Administration but there may be rare occasions when reports would be brought forward without any political input. The new template included an additional tick box under the consultations section to ensure that the appropriate Portfolio Holder had been consulted and all reports for potential submission to Council or the Executive would continue to be considered by the cross party Business Management Group prior to inclusion in the appropriate agenda. The Head of Service added that guidance notes would be circulated to assist Officers in preparing reports using the new format and training would also be offered via Heads of Service. Specific training on Equality Impact Assessments for Officers and Members would also be made available.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed:-

1. to approve the revised reporting template attached as Appendix 3 to the submitted report and adopt it as the new Council reporting style, subject to the associated guidance clarifying that recommendations, would in the main, be prepared by Officers with the political backing of the Administration and the rare occasions when recommendations would be brought forward without any political input;
2. to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to make any future amendments to the template as necessary, in consultation with the Business Management Group.

(Reference: Report by Head of Governance dated 27 September 2010, submitted).

## **SC596 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a duty on all local authorities in Great Britain to review their UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places at least once every four years with the first such review to be completed by the end of 2007. The polling districts and polling places in the Stirling Constituency were reviewed in the Autumn of 2007 and approved by Council on 13 December 2007 (paragraph SC98 refers).

The Boundary Commission for Scotland had recently completed a review of the Scottish Parliament boundaries and the draft Statutory Instrument to implement the Commission's recommendations had been laid before Parliament and was expected to receive approval within the next couple of months. A report by the Head of Governance indicated that a review of polling districts and polling places had been undertaken over the last few months taking account of the changes in the Scottish Parliament boundary for the Stirling Constituency.

In carrying out the review the local authority must seek to ensure that all electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as were practicable in the circumstances and so far as was reasonable and practicable that the polling places were accessible to electors who had a disability. Officers had also tried to minimise the use of primary schools where possible and the associated disruption caused to education.

As part of the current review, comments and suggestions were invited on any aspect of the existing polling districts and polling places, as well as on the new proposals detailed in Appendix 1 to the submitted report. All comments/suggestions received in the course of the review were set out in Appendix 2 to the submitted report.

The report sought approval of the proposed polling districts and polling places detailed in Appendix 1 to the submitted report. It was also recommended that the Chief Executive should have delegated authority to approve any alterations to polling places in the event that a building designated as a polling place became unavailable unexpectedly.

The Housing Portfolio Holder referred to a previous request in 2007 for the location of a polling place in Throsk and confirmed that the new Community Hall in Throsk was due to open within the next couple of months. The other Members for Ward 7 also supported this request.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed:-

1. to approve the proposed polling districts and polling places detailed in Appendix 1 to the submitted report following the recent review of polling districts and polling places, with the addition of a separate polling district and polling place for Throsk;
2. to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to approve any alterations to polling places in the event that a building designated as a polling place unexpectedly became unavailable.

(Reference: Report by Head of Governance dated 13 September 2010, submitted).

### **SC597 DRAFT ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON STIRLING'S SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT 2009/10**

Stirling Community Planning Partnership and the Scottish Government formally signed Stirling's Single Outcome Agreement in August 2009. In signing the document, partners committed to working together to realise the outcomes for Stirling's citizens and communities, and to ensuring Stirling's contribution to the outcomes for Scotland. A report by the Chief Executive presented the Draft Annual Progress Report on the Single Outcome Agreement for 2009/10. The progress report was required by Scottish Government and would be submitted to the Community Planning Partnership's Scottish Government Director.

The progress report was not intended to be a detailed study of all activities undertaken by partners singly and collectively in pursuit of Single Outcome Agreement outcomes. Rather it was an opportunity to consider progress on indicators, and provided an overview of the embedding of a collaborative outcome

based approach to the delivery of services across the Community Planning Partnership.

The report also brought together the performance data on the Single Outcome Agreement Indicator Set with a summary narrative on the work programmes of the Critical Partnerships during 2009/10 as set out in Appendix 2 to the submitted report. The Executive Delivery Group had recently concluded that the current indicators were not quite fit for purpose and as part of the refresh of the Single Outcome Agreement from 2011 onwards, the Community Planning Partnership was working with the revised National Indicators to prepare a shorter, more strategically relevant Stirling indicator set.

A summary of the progress report would be prepared and communicated to citizens and communities, in line with the Public Performance Reporting requirement of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

Councillor Berrill gave notice of his intention to move an Amendment, which was circulated.

The Provost adjourned the meeting at 7.25 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 7.35 pm with all Elected Members present.

### **Motion**

“The Council agrees to note that the Community Planning Partnership will report its progress to citizens and communities in accordance with the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.”

Moved by Councillor Steven Paterson, seconded by Councillor Scott Farmer.

### **Amendment**

“The Council:-

1. resolves to remove its name from Stirling’s Single Outcome Agreement Annual Progress Report 2009-10 until it has been rewritten to reflect the Council’s policy on clear English;
2. further resolves to conduct a full review of the structures of the Community Planning Partnerships and the Single Outcome Agreement and request a full public disclosure of the financial commitments and actual expenditures in the Community Planning Partnership for 2009-10;
3. does not consider the setting up of committees to be an end in itself;
4. requests that all of the individual partnerships prepare detailed Action Plans that reflect specific costed actions. These actions should reflect real actions that will have an impact on the people of Stirling.”

Moved by Councillor Alistair Berrill, seconded by Councillor Neil Benny.

On the roll being called the vote on the Amendment was as follows:-

For the Amendment (12)

Councillor Neil Benny  
Councillor Alistair Berrill  
Councillor Margaret Brisley  
Councillor Callum Campbell  
Councillor Tony Ffinch  
Councillor Colin Finlay  
Councillor John Hendry  
Councillor Corrie McChord  
Councillor Colin O'Brien  
Councillor Paul Owens  
Councillor Andrew Simpson  
Councillor Violet Weir

Against the Amendment (9)

Councillor Ian Brown  
Councillor Scott Farmer  
Councillor Graham Houston  
Councillor Graham Lambie  
Councillor Alasdair MacPherson  
Councillor Steven Paterson  
Councillor Graham Reed  
Depute Convener Jim Thomson  
Provost Fergus Wood

Not Voting (1)

Councillor David Goss

The Amendment was carried by 12 votes to 9, with 1 Member not voting and became the Substantive Motion.

On the roll being called the vote on the Substantive Motion was as follows:-

For the Substantive Motion (14)

Councillor Neil Benny  
Councillor Alistair Berrill  
Councillor Margaret Brisley  
Councillor Ian Brown  
Councillor Callum Campbell  
Councillor Tony Ffinch  
Councillor Colin Finlay  
Councillor David Goss  
Councillor John Hendry  
Councillor Corrie McChord  
Councillor Colin O'Brien  
Councillor Paul Owens  
Councillor Andrew Simpson  
Councillor Violet Weir

### Against the Substantive Motion (8)

Councillor Scott Farmer  
Councillor Graham Houston  
Councillor Graham Lambie  
Councillor Alasdair MacPherson  
Councillor Steven Paterson  
Councillor Graham Reed  
Depute Convener Jim Thomson  
Provost Fergus Wood

### **Decision**

The Substantive Motion was carried by 14 votes to 8 and accordingly the Council:-

1. resolved to remove his name from Stirling's Single Outcome Agreement Annual Progress Report 2009-10 until it had been rewritten to reflect the Council's policy on clear English;
2. further resolved to conduct a full review of the structures of the Community Planning Partnerships and the Single Outcome Agreement and requested a full public disclosure of the financial commitments and actual expenditures in the Community Planning Partnership for 2009-10;
3. did not consider the setting up of committees to be an end in itself;
4. requested that all of the individual partnerships prepare detailed Action Plans that reflected specific costed actions. These actions should reflect real actions that would have an impact on the people of Stirling.

The Chief Executive indicated that the workloads of Officers would have to be assessed in light of the request to rewrite the Single Outcome Agreement in plain English and he was unable to give a timescale for this work.

(Reference: Report by Chief Executive dated 17 September 2010, submitted).

## **SC598 STIRLING'S COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

The new structures and organisational arrangements in Stirling were intended to encourage everyone to think and behave differently and the significant financial challenges being faced would demand new approaches and ways of working. A report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Learning, Empowerment & Citizenship) brought forward proposals for Stirling's Communications Strategy.

Communication was identified as the vital element of the Council's organisational culture and the way in which its key priorities would be facilitated and supported. The Assistant Chief Executive explained that communications started at the top of the organisation and was the personal responsibility of every Elected Member of the Council, every member of staff and all others who worked in the name of Stirling Council. Communication must be owned and fulfilled by the organisation as a whole, championed by communications specialists to provide leadership, advice and support in ways that matched the new and changing needs of the organisation.

The Communications Strategy was proposing a fresh approach to positioning and describing the Council and its work, with people and place at the heart of communications. This repositioning and re-focussing of communications would mean different expectations and demands of the internal communication function and resource. To ensure the success of the proposed Communications Strategy, a Transition Plan had been prepared to address the issues arising from the new approach, including the organisation of the communications function, a communications messaging framework and a corporate communication plan aligned with the strategic priorities.

In response to questions from Members, the Assistant Chief Executive confirmed that she would be happy to include Elected Members in workshops as part of the Transition Plan.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed to endorse the proposals for Stirling's Communications Strategy set out in the submitted report.

(Reference: Report by Chief Executive dated 28 September 2010, submitted).

## **SC599 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING & MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK: SECOND QUARTER UPDATE 2010/2011**

At its meeting on 10 December 2009 (paragraph SC475 refers), the Council acknowledged the significant financial challenges ahead, and approved a medium term financial planning and management framework, including a budget reduction target of £25M over the period until 2013/14, to help it to meet the anticipated budget reductions that would require to be made. At the Council meeting on 24 June 2010 (paragraph SC567 refers), the budget reduction target was increased to £30M, in response to the revised projections being made nationally about likely public expenditure trends and it was also agreed that regular reports would be brought to Council.

A report by the Chief Executive presented a second quarter update on the progress of the budget workstreams and provided further information on the revised national projections on the outlook for public sector expenditure in the UK and what the implications might be for Stirling Council.

Since the first quarter update report was presented to the Council in June, the Centre for Public Policy for Regions had released its Public Finance Advisory Note 2 in July and Scotland's Independent Budget Review Panel had released its comprehensive report on the Scottish Budget. The Centre for Public Policy for Regions report identified a likely real terms reduction in support for local government over the next five years. The cash grant impact was forecast as a reduction of 4% in 2011/12, then a cash grant freeze for the following four years up to 2015/16. This forecast was in line with the Council's revised budget reduction target of £30M, as approved in June. If however the health sector were to be protected by the Scottish Government, the cash reduction could be significantly worse for councils, with a reduction of as much as 7% in 2011/12, with further reductions of 1%-1.5% per annum for the following four years.

The Independent Budget Review Panel report indicated that the environment for Scottish public services would be fundamentally different in the coming years, with real terms reductions in spending prevailing for possibly as long as fifteen years. The Panel emphasised strongly the need for immediate action to be taken by the government and by public bodies to identify spending priorities and to take early action to make any changes necessary to implement those priorities, including the implementation of cost reduction measures.

The Chief Executive explained that COSLA had imposed a three year pay settlement on single status employees, following failure to agree a negotiated settlement with employee representatives. The three-year pay structure included an increase of 0.65% for 2010/11 and 0% for 2011/12 and 2012/13. The Council had budgeted 1% for pay awards in the current financial year, so a saving of around £250,000 would be realised from service budgets. The assumptions for pay in the financial strategy would also need to be adjusted, with a further saving of around £2.2M each year possible if this were to be applied to all local government staff including teachers, although there was no settlement for teachers at this stage.

Appendix 1 to the submitted report set out a revised financial outlook for 2011/12 to 2013/14, with the impact of a pay freeze built in as an updated assumption. Although this would ease the pressure on the overall picture, and could potentially have brought the required budget reduction down to £25M, the impact of possible protection of Health in the Spending Review remained a huge uncertainty. For this reason it was recommended that the target at the current figure of £30M be maintained.

The Chief Executive confirmed that each workstream group has examined, prioritised and recommended a number of opportunities that could be taken forward for more detailed analysis. The Council Management Team was acting as a key governance group for the programme and had reviewed which of these opportunities were most likely to deliver significant financial benefit, and therefore which areas resources should be focused on. He added that the next quarter update was likely to show a significant increase in identified savings against provisional targets. Appendix 2 to the submitted report set out the current estimates of savings against the provisional targets from the workstreams thus far.

The Costs of Employment workstream was expected to deliver around half of the budget reduction target for the coming years. 762 employees had expressed an interest in voluntary severance with around 300 employees confirming that they would like to continue their note of interest. Heads of Service were currently assessing the impact of these proposals and the Council would be asked to approve any severances before employees were released. In response to a question from an Elected Member, the Chief Executive confirmed that everything possible would be done to avoid compulsory redundancies.

Members noted the critical dates of 17/18 November 2010 when the Scottish Government would set out their budget proposals with the detailed local government allocations then becoming available later in December. In response to a question on the council tax freeze, the Chief Executive confirmed that the Independent Budget Review report suggested that ending the council tax freeze policy might need to be considered in the future. It was noted that a 1% increase in council tax generated around £440,000 in income.

It was recognised that management efficiency savings alone would not be sufficient to meet the very challenging budget gap that was forecast for 2011/12 and beyond. The Council would inevitably be forced to consider reducing the level of service in some areas, or even discontinuing the provision of some services altogether. The Management Team and the Finance Review Group would provide management and political steers for this process, but it would ultimately be the Council that would take decisions on these matters.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed:-

1. to note the contents of the submitted report, as part of a regular series of reports to the Council in terms of the Medium Term Financial Planning and Management Framework and progress of the budget workstreams that were being managed by the Finance Review Group and the Management Team;
2. to maintain the budget reduction target at £30m over the three years 2011/12 to 2013/14.

(Reference: Report by Chief Executive on behalf of the Council Management Team dated 17 September 2010, submitted).

### **SC600 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK: COSTS OF EMPLOYMENT - PAY SETTLEMENT – 2010/11 TO 2012/13**

Following the pay claim for 2010/11 from Scottish Joint Council and Scottish Joint Negotiating Committee (Craft) Unions, for an increase of 3% or £600, if greater, the Employers made a final pay offer in April 2010 involving a multi year deal covering the 3 year period 2010/11 to April 2012/13. The Employers also agreed that they would recommend to Councils a package of measures, which would seek to avoid compulsory redundancies as far as possible.

Unison, Unite and GMB all informed COSLA shortly after the offer that they had rejected it, but would consult further. Unison conducted a consultative ballot of its Local Government membership and announced on 2 August 2010 that 80% of those voting had rejected the pay offer.

A report by the Chief Executive confirmed that on 27 August 2010, COSLA Leaders agreed to impose a pay settlement for the years 2010/11 to 2012/13 which would involve an increase of 0,65% for 2010/11, and a pay freeze for 2011/12 and 2012/13. The COSLA circulars appended to the submitted report detailed the pay and allowance increases and hourly rates for the former APT&C, manual workers and craft operatives.

The Labour Group Leader indicated that in respect of the discussion at the COSLA Leaders' Group, the Labour Group would have supported the Employers' final pay offer and the package of measures seeking to avoid compulsory redundancy.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed:-

1. to implement COSLA's Pay Circulars attached to the submitted report, which involved a pay increase of 0.65% for 2010/11, and a pay freeze for 2011/12 and 2012/13;

Circular 2/10 (Annexe 1) - (Spinal Column of Hourly Rates);  
Circular 3/10 (Annexe 2) - (Spinal Column of Hourly Rates – Craft Operators)  
and  
Circular 4/10 (Annexe 3) (Salaries Agreement – Scottish Joint Council)

2. that the increase would be included in November 2010 pays, backdated to 1 April 2010.

(Reference: Report by Chief Executive on behalf of the Council Management Team, dated 1 October 2010, submitted).

In terms of Standing Order 35, the Council adjourned  
for a comfort break at 8.30 pm.

The Council reconvened at 8.40 pm with the same Members present.

#### **SC601 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK: COSTS OF EMPLOYMENT - STIRLING COUNCIL CAR ALLOWANCES/CAR POOL - PROGRESS REPORT**

In April 2009, Stirling Council Management Team approved the roll out of a Council car pool scheme as part of the Single Status Agreement. A joint report by the Chief Executive and the Head of Assets, Property & Facilities Management provided an update on car allowances, the operation of Stirling Council's car pool scheme and sought approval to purchase fleet using prudential borrowing to replace vehicles which were currently on hire.

The report noted that the introduction of the fleet would save at least £93,000 in the current year; with total mileage travelled by staff on business reducing by around 27%. Capital expenditure of £604,317 was also proposed for the purchase of 79 vehicles (55 Smart, 20 VW Polos, 3 Caddy vans and 1 Transporter van) for the pool fleet using prudential borrowing. It was estimated that this would save a further £55,000 per annum.

The Head of Assets, Property and Facilities Management confirmed that Elected Members could use the pool cars providing the appropriate licence checks were carried out.

#### **Decision**

The Council agreed:-

1. to approve capital expenditure of £604,317 for the purchase of 79 vehicles (55 Smart, 20 VW Polos, 3 Caddy vans and 1 Transporter van) for the pool car fleet using prudential borrowing;
2. to note the reduction in car allowances/cost of the car pool over the past year;

3. to note the position in relation to the operation of pooled vehicles across the Council.

(Reference: Joint Report by Chief Executive and Head of Assets, Property and Facilities Management, on behalf of the Council Management Team, dated 27 September 2010, submitted).

## **SC602 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK: EDUCATION FRAMEWORK PAPER**

At its meeting on 10 December 2009 (paragraph SC475 refers), the Council approved a Medium Term Financial Planning and Management Framework in response to the significant financial challenges facing the authority. A Fundamental Review of the Education Budget was identified as one of the key workstreams with a target reduction of £10.341m.

The major challenge for the Fundamental Review of Education Workstream Group was to identify and target areas of service that would bring about efficiencies without reducing the core entitlement of children and families to a good quality education.

The group had identified three broad themed areas:

- Education: Forth Valley
- Review and remodel the shape of services locally
- Non statutory provision

A report by the Chief Executive set out a proposed Framework for Change in Education including a possible savings target of £4.75m with a further £2.5m if agreements were sought and changes made to some national agreements.

It was recognised that the education service locally was governed by a highly centralised system nationally and that the scope to make wholesale changes to the education function and services locally would be limited without national support. Appendix 1 to the submitted report listed the major functions of Education Authorities as set out in the legislative framework.

The proposed next steps would include the group reviewing and exploring options for each themed area involving political and professional discussions with the wider service, trade union colleagues and nationally with COSLA and the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland. The group would set out a work programme and produce detailed papers on each themed area for consideration in the first instance by the Finance Review Group and thereafter to the Council. The timescale for implementing changes to service provision was August 2011/12. In response to a question from the Labour Group Education Spokesperson on changing the number of periods in a secondary school week, the Assistant Chief Executive (Learning, Empowerment & Citizenship) confirmed that all options would be explored.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed:-

1. to approve the proposals set out in the submitted report for the education workstream group to explore further;
2. to note the impact of the constraints on further budget reductions in education and, in particular, the shortfall in meeting the budget target.

(Reference: Report by Chief Executive, on behalf of the Council Management Team, dated 7 September 2010, submitted).

## **SC603 GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME REVIEW**

At its meeting on 11 February 2010 (paragraph SC495 refers), Council agreed to undertake a review of the General Services Capital Programme and remitted to the Finance Review Group to oversee the review. Through the review, Members wished to ensure that the Council's capital expenditure was fully in line with its strategic, policy and operational priorities. A further report to Council on 24 June 2010 agreed the process by which the review would be completed and the criteria against which investment proposals would be assessed. A joint report by the Chief Executive, and the Assistant Chief Executive (Sustainability, Economy & Environment) set out the results of the prioritisation exercise.

The Assistant Chief Executive explained that investment proposals had been invited from Heads of Service, Portfolio Holders and Political Groups. In total 130 proposals had been submitted, the majority of which were assessed and included in an initial ranking list considered by the Finance Review Group on 8 September 2010. A small number of proposals were not assessed, either because they were already covered in other proposals or they were not appropriate for capital expenditure. The results of the initial assessment were set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report.

At its meeting on 8 September 2010, the Finance Review Group asked for a risk assessment of the proposals to be undertaken and for the sensitivity of the weightings to be tested. The Group also asked for the scale of some proposals to be reviewed and for practical considerations, particularly assurances on the ability to implement the investment proposals, to be taken into account. As a result a revised priority list was produced and was set out in Appendix 2 to the submitted report.

Although the Finance Review Group and the Council had previously approved the weighting of the scoring criteria, the Finance Review Group also asked for information on the impact of changing the weightings. Appendix 3 to the submitted report set out the impact of varying the weightings.

Elected Members indicated that the recent briefing on the capital programme review was helpful and suggested that, in future, two briefings (one evening and one day time) should be offered to allow as many Members to attend as possible. It was also acknowledged that Political Groups required further time to review the investment proposals before reaching a view on a final priority order.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed:-

1. to note the outcome of the General Service Capital Programme Review;

2. that Political Groups undertake a further review of capital investment proposals, to enable a priority order to be finalised and reported to the Council in December 2010;
3. that in future at least two dates (one evening and one day time) be offered for Members' Briefings to allow as many Members as possible to attend.

(Reference: Joint Report by Chief Executive and Assistant Chief Executive (Sustainability, Economy & Environment), on behalf of the Council Management Team, dated 7 September 2010, submitted).

## **SC604 TREASURY MANAGEMENT FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE 2010/11**

A report by the Head of Finance & Procurement provided an update on Treasury Management activities and strategy for the current financial year 2010/11. The primary objective of the Treasury Strategy for the remainder of the 2010/11 financial year would be to continue to maintain the debt portfolio on a strong, low risk, long term basis.

The estimated cashflow projections for the remainder of the 2010/11 financial year indicated an expected cashflow deficit. In August 2010, the Public Works Loans Board interest rate levels fell quite considerably and the Council took the opportunity to secure some medium term borrowing at extremely attractive interest rates.

The Head of Finance & Procurement confirmed that the Council's investment priorities would continue to be the security of capital, liquidity of investments and the minimisation of risk. During the first part of the 2010/11 financial year, the level of investment balances were relatively low. However, having now undertaken new Public Works Loan Board Borrowing, investment levels were expected to increase.

The Council currently used brokers to facilitate short term investments and temporary borrowing requirements and direct dealing with financial institutions was limited to deposit accounts offering Base Rate or above. However due to new Financial Services Authority liquidity requirements, there was an expectation that such instant access and notice deposit accounts would be withdrawn, or would pay lower rates of interest. A number of financial institutions had also indicated a move away from dealing through brokers in order to avoid brokerage fees. In order to maintain the Council's ability to deal with the highest rated counterparties and ensure diversification of any investments undertaken with counterparties, it was proposed that in future the Council could also deal directly with any financial institution meeting the Council's creditworthiness criteria.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed:-

1. to note the Treasury Management activities and strategy for 2010/11 as outlined in the submitted report;
2. to note the intention to extend the Council's direct dealing abilities as detailed in Paragraphs 3.8 and 3.9 of the submitted report.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance & Procurement dated 3 September 2010, submitted).

## **SC605 STIRLING COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10**

Each year as part of the Council's performance reporting arrangements, an annual report was produced for the previous financial year. A report by the Chief Executive presented the Stirling Council Annual Report for 2009/10 which gave a balanced picture of progress towards achieving the Council's priorities, as outlined in the Shaping Stirling: Strategic Plan 2008-12.

Audit Scotland had challenged councils to make their public performance reporting more accessible and readily understandable. They had also challenged councils to present performance information in a more balanced way, acknowledging areas where performance needed to improve as well as celebrating areas of success. The Annual Report included details on the 25 Statutory Performance Indicators that Audit Scotland audited and published for all local authorities in Scotland.

In addition to this formal report, the Council made use of its newsletter to provide a performance report to its citizens. Details would be included in the Winter 2010 issue of Stirling magazine, covering both those areas where the Council had performed well against its strategic priorities and those where further improvement or action was required.

The Labour Group Economy Spokesperson proposed that the Residents' Survey be reintroduced and carried out as soon as possible in 2011, with the aim of reporting to Council in October 2011. The Chief Executive confirmed that work was already underway to bring forward proposals for a Residents' Survey.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed:-

1. to approve the Stirling Council Annual Report 2009/10 for publication as detailed in Appendix A to the submitted report;
2. to note that the details of the content of the report would be published in the Winter issue of Stirling Magazine;
3. that the Residents' Survey be reintroduced and carried out as soon as possible in 2011, with the aim of reporting to Council in October 2011.

(Reference: Report by Chief Executive dated 28 September 2010, submitted).

## **SC606 STIRLING COUNCIL AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2009/10**

The Council's External Auditors, Audit Scotland, were in the process of certifying Stirling Council's Accounts for the year to 31 March 2010. In accordance with the requirements of the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 1985, the Accounts required to be formally presented to Members of the Council.

A report by the Head of Finance & Procurement outlined the key features of the financial position displayed in the 2009/10 Audited Accounts, as well as the anticipated outcome of the audit, based on discussions with the Auditor up to the time of publication of the report. It was anticipated that there would be no qualifications to the Independent Auditor's Report.

Copies of the accounts and a summary of audit matters would be distributed to Members and the accounts would be placed on the Council's website for viewing by interested organisations and the general public.

It was noted that as a result of International Financial Report Standard requirements for Private Finance Initiative/Public Private Partnership schemes, the Council's new Public Partnership High Schools and Balfroon High School had been brought back onto the Council's Balance Sheet and accounted for accordingly. The main impact of this change was that land and buildings assets had increased by £156m in 2009/10, with the addition of a Finance Lease creditor of £75.6m representing the Council's commitment to make future payments under the contracts.

The Auditor's Final Report on the Accounts would be prepared at some point during October 2010 and would be presented to the Governance & Audit Committee on 9 November 2010 and full Council on 2 December 2010.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed:-

1. to note the Annual Accounts in respect of Stirling Council for the year ended 31 March 2010;
2. to note that the Auditor's Final Report on the Accounts would be presented to the Governance & Audit Committee on 9 November 2010 and full Council on 2 December 2010.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance & Procurement dated 27 September 2010, submitted).

### **SC607 BALFRON SCHOOL CAMPUS – PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE AGREEMENT**

At the end of March 2010 Jarvis plc, the parent company of Balfroon School Services, the company with whom the Council had entered into the Balfroon Private Finance Initiative Agreement, went into administration. The Administrator quickly approached the Council regarding an offer from a new company, SGP Limited, to take over both the Private Finance Initiative contract and the Facilities Management sub contract.

A report by the Head of Assets, Property & Facilities Management explained that the Council had a contractual right to terminate the contract as a result of Jarvis plc going into administration. This would allow the Council to either provide services itself, or seek another provider. However, the Scottish Government had indicated that termination of the contract would lead to cessation of Level Playing Field Support, as the contract would no longer be a Private Finance Initiative contract. This meant that termination of the contract would be financially unviable as it could lead to the loss of £1.59M per annum of support grant. Despite lengthy discussion between Officers and the Scottish Government it had not been possible to find a way forward that would allow termination and yet maintain Level Playing Field Support.

At the end of June 2010, the Administrators wound down their active involvement with the project with SGP Limited managing the contract under licence. Negotiations with SGP Limited to conclude the novation of the main contract and Facilities Management sub contract had reached a stage where the Council was now able to

satisfy itself with regards to the suitability of SGP Limited as noted in the report to Council of 24 June 2010. The novation of the contract effectively meant that SGP Limited would take on the contractual responsibilities of both the Private Finance Initiative contractor and the facilities management sub-contractor.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed to approve conclusion of the novation of the Balfroon Schools Private Finance Initiative contract and the associated Facilities Management sub contract to SGP Limited.

(Reference: Report by Head of Assets, Property & Facilities Management dated 27 September 2010, submitted).

## **SC608 SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR KILDEAN, STIRLING**

A report by the Head of Planning, Regulation & Waste provided options for a proposed Development Framework for Kildean, Stirling.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed not to consider the submitted report.

(Reference: Report by Head of Planning, Regulation & Waste dated 28 September 2010, submitted).

## **SC609 STIRLING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN: PROPOSED REVISED TIMETABLE AND REPORT ON RESPONSES TO THE MAIN ISSUES REPORT**

The Clerk to the Council confirmed that recommendation 2.1 in the report by the Head of Planning, Regulation & Waste sought to change a decision of the Council taken in April 2010. Standing Order 72 stated that no motion, which sought to alter or revoke a decision of the Council, or had that effect, would be considered or passed until at least six months after the decision was taken originally, unless no less than two thirds of Members present and entitled to vote at any Council meeting agreed to reconsider the decision.

In terms of Standing Order 72, the Council unanimously agreed to reconsider the decision on the Local Development Plan timetable agreed by the Council on 22 April 2010 (paragraph SC531 refers).

Stirling Council had been progressing the preparation of a new Local Development Plan for Stirling in accordance with the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006. On 22 April 2010, the Council approved the Main Issues Report and supporting documents. Consultation on the Main Issues Report was undertaken during the period May to July 2010. A series of 15 Road Shows were held in communities across the area with 996 people attending.

A report by the Head of Planning, Regulation & Waste summarised the outcome of the consultation process and the representations received and sought approval for a revised timescale for the production of the Stirling Local Development Plan. The revised timetable was set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report.

In response to a question from a Member on the information on the Council's website, the Head of Service confirmed that information would be updated in accordance with the timetable approved by Council. The Portfolio Holder for Environment & Sustainability thanked Officers for their hard working in progressing the Local Development Plan.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed:-

1. to approve the revised Local Development Plan timetable attached at Appendix A to the submitted report;
2. to note the content of the submitted report and the background papers, which summarised the representations received to the Main Issues Report and as a result of the consultation process.

(Reference: Report by Head of Planning, Regulation & Waste dated 20 September 2010, submitted).

## **SC610 MOTIONS IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER 16**

Prior to the Meeting, Elected Members had received supplementary information from Officers on the subject of the Motions. The supplementary information is attached at Appendix 2 to these Minutes.

### **a) Commercial Sales in Stirling's Schools**

“Commercial organisations such as Orange and Royal Bank of Scotland enter school classrooms under the premise that they are there to educate pupils about how best to manage money (eg understanding phone tariffs, credit and rates etc). Ultimately, they are there for commercial purposes over and above educational purposes. The advice they give pupils is unlikely to be impartial, and this fact has been recognised by the Financial Services Authority (FSA).

Council supports and wholly recommends continued education of school pupils with regard to financial/money matters.

Council agrees that such education can only be delivered by an impartial, non-commercial organisation suitably qualified to provide such information.

Council mandates the appropriate officer within Education to bring a paper to the next meeting of the Council to review and identify all commercial organisations involved in such activity and recommend and identify alternative impartial, non-commercial organisations to deliver similar educational/information services.”

Moved by Councillor Callum Campbell, seconded by Councillor Alistair Berrill.

### **Direct Negative**

Councillor Scott Farmer, seconded by Councillor Graham Lambie moved the Direct Negative.

On the roll being called the Members present voted as follows:-

For the Motion (12)

Councillor Neil Benny  
Councillor Alistair Berrill  
Councillor Margaret Brisley  
Councillor Callum Campbell  
Councillor Tony Ffinch  
Councillor Colin Finlay  
Councillor John Hendry  
Councillor Corrie McChord  
Councillor Colin O'Brien  
Councillor Paul Owens  
Councillor Andrew Simpson  
Councillor Violet Weir

Against the Motion (10)

Councillor Ian Brown  
Councillor Scott Farmer  
Councillor David Goss  
Councillor Graham Houston  
Councillor Graham Lambie  
Councillor Alasdair MacPherson  
Councillor Steven Paterson  
Councillor Graham Reed  
Depute Convener Jim Thomson  
Councillor Fergus Wood

**Decision**

The Motion was carried by 12 votes to 10 and accordingly the Council agreed to approve the terms of the Motion.

**b) [Beaully to Denny Power Line](#)**

“Stirling Council condemns the SNP government for its failure to include appropriate safeguards and mitigation conditions upon the developers of the Beaully to Denny power line who have indicated that they will not pursue the under grounding of the line but opt for intrusive and dangerous pylons through several of our communities. Stirling Council resolves to oppose the pylon proposals and calls on the SNP government to introduce whatever legislation is necessary to provide the local planning authority with the necessary powers to enforce mitigation schemes including under grounding to protect the interests of our residents and the environment in which they live.”

Moved by Councillor Corrie McChord, seconded by Councillor Colin O'Brien.

**Direct Negative**

Depute Convener Jim Thomson, seconded by Councillor Steven Paterson moved the Direct Negative.

On the roll being called the Members present voted as follows:-

For the Motion (12)

Councillor Neil Benny  
Councillor Alistair Berrill  
Councillor Margaret Brisley  
Councillor Tony Ffinch  
Councillor Colin Finlay  
Councillor David Goss  
Councillor John Hendry  
Councillor Corrie McChord  
Councillor Colin O'Brien  
Councillor Paul Owens  
Councillor Andrew Simpson  
Councillor Violet Weir

Against the Motion (9)

Councillor Ian Brown  
Councillor Scott Farmer  
Councillor Graham Houston  
Councillor Graham Lambie  
Councillor Alasdair MacPherson  
Councillor Steven Paterson  
Councillor Graham Reed  
Depute Convener Jim Thomson  
Provost Fergus Wood

Not Voting (1)

Councillor Callum Campbell

**Decision**

The Motion was carried by 12 votes to 9 with 1 Member not voting and accordingly the Council agreed to approve the terms of the Motion.

In terms of Standing Order 35, the Council adjourned  
for a comfort break at 10.35 pm.

The Council reconvened at 10.45 pm with the same Members present.

**c) Scottish Deprivation Index**

“Stirling Council reaffirms its commitment to regeneration and improvement of communities identified in the Scottish Deprivation Index and requests that a new strategic and operational plan is developed. The problems identified in the index will become more severe in view of the increasing challenges posed by addressing the reduced financial resources available and disproportionately upon meeting the needs of disadvantaged people living in some of our rural and urban communities. Council therefore requests that

officers bring forward a decision paper before the 2011-12 budget is determined on how to provide resources to meet the social policy and service objectives required by Stirling Council, other public agencies and residents of these communities to make our towns and villages a better place to live and work for everyone.”

Moved by Councillor John Hendry, seconded by Councillor Corrie McChord.

### **Amendment**

“Council notes that work is currently underway with regard to Financial Inclusion, Employability, Apprenticeships and Skills and Innovations through the development of an Economic Action Plan being undertaken by the Stirling Economic Partnership.

Council also notes that Regeneration and Improving our Communities is one of the emerging workstreams of the Strategic Forum on Sustainability, Environment and Economy.

Council therefore instructs the Strategic Forum on Sustainability, Environment and Economy to prioritise a revised strategy, taking account of the current economic climate and diminishing resources and that such a strategy be brought to Council at the earliest opportunity for consideration.”

Moved by Councillor Scott Farmer, seconded by Councillor Graham Houston.

On the roll being called the Members present voted as follows:-

#### For the Amendment (14)

Councillor Neil Benny  
Councillor Alistair Berrill  
Councillor Ian Brown  
Councillor Callum Campbell  
Councillor Scott Farmer  
Councillor Tony Ffinch  
Councillor David Goss  
Councillor Graham Houston  
Councillor Graham Lambie  
Councillor Alasdair MacPherson  
Councillor Steven Paterson  
Councillor Graham Reed  
Depute Convener Jim Thomson  
Provost Fergus Wood

#### Against the Amendment (8)

Councillor Margaret Brisley  
Councillor Colin Finlay  
Councillor John Hendry  
Councillor Corrie McChord  
Councillor Colin O'Brien  
Councillor Paul Owens

Councillor Andrew Simpson  
Councillor Violet Weir

The Amendment was carried by 14 votes to 8 and became the Substantive Motion.

### **Decision**

The Substantive Motion was unanimously agreed and accordingly the Council noted that work was currently underway with regard to Financial Inclusion, Employability, Apprenticeships and Skills and Innovations through the development of an Economic Action Plan being undertaken by the Stirling Economic Partnership.

Council also noted that Regeneration and Improving our Communities was one of the emerging workstreams of the Strategic Forum on Sustainability, Environment and Economy.

Council therefore instructed the Strategic Forum on Sustainability, Environment and Economy to prioritise a revised strategy, taking account of the current economic climate and diminishing resources and that such a strategy be brought to Council at the earliest opportunity for consideration.

### **d) Full Council Meetings**

“Stirling Council agrees to amend Standing Orders to the effect that all Full Council Meetings will be suspended at 10 pm and unfinished business items be carried forward until the next day at 10 am.”

Signed by Councillor Ian Brown and Councillor Graham Reed.

The Clerk confirmed that no alteration in Standing Orders could be made without notice being given at one meeting of the Council to be discussed at the following meeting. The Motion could only be considered at this meeting if the Council agreed by a two-thirds majority of the Members present to suspend Standing Orders.

### **Motion**

Councillor Ian Brown, seconded by Councillor Corrie McChord moved the suspension of Standing Orders.

### For the Motion (11)

Councillor Margaret Brisley  
Councillor Ian Brown  
Councillor Colin Finlay  
Councillor David Goss  
Councillor John Hendry  
Councillor Corrie McChord  
Councillor Colin O'Brien  
Councillor Paul Owens  
Councillor Graham Reed  
Councillor Andrew Simpson

Councillor Violet Weir

Against the Motion (11)

Councillor Neil Benny  
Councillor Alistair Berrill  
Councillor Callum Campbell  
Councillor Scott Farmer  
Councillor Tony Ffinch  
Councillor Graham Houston  
Councillor Graham Lambie  
Councillor Alasdair MacPherson  
Councillor Steven Paterson  
Depute Convener Jim Thomson  
Provost Fergus Wood

There being an equality of votes the Chair had a second casting vote which he cast against the Motion.

**Decision**

In terms of Standing Order 122, as the required two thirds majority was not achieved to enable Standing Orders to be suspended, the Motion would be debated at the Council meeting on 2 December 2010.

**The Council resolved under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6, 8 & 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.**

**SC611 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT DISPOSALS UPDATE – PROGRESS WITH BANNOCKBURN ROAD & QUAKERFIELD PARADE DISPOSALS**

The Council previously agreed to the disposal of the shops at Bannockburn Road and Quakerfield Parade. A joint report by the Head of Assets, Property & Facilities Management and the Head of Housing provided an update on progress with the disposal of the two Parades and sought agreement for a way forward for the continuing management of the Quakerfield Parade.

The Parade at Quakerfield consisted of 5 shops on the ground floor and 10 residential properties above, 6 of which had been sold. The tenants of the Parade were written to and offered the “right to buy” in March 2009. Negotiations commenced with several tenants but by November 2009 all tenants had confirmed that they did not wish to proceed, primarily as they did not wish to accept the liability for the car park at the rear of the property, which was currently being maintained by the Council. One tenant did extend their lease for a period of three further years.

The Head of Assets, Property & Facilities Management explained that that by a quirk of accounting/historic investment, the Parade was jointly held by the Housing Revenue Account and General Fund accounts. It was recommended that the entire account should come under the Housing Revenue Account. This would require an

internal purchase between accounts, with the Housing Revenue Account paying £606,000 over the next three years as and when resources permitted.

The Parade at Bannockburn Road consisted of 12 shops and 5 residential properties above the shops, 4 of which had been sold. The tenants of the Parade were written to and offered the “right to buy” in June 2009 and by September, the majority of tenants had confirmed that they wished to proceed. Offers were sent out to these tenants in December 2009 but since then the tenants had sought clarification on various issues. The Head of Service confirmed that as negotiations had been ongoing for several months, Strategic Asset Management intended to put a long stop date of the end of September 2010 on the negotiations, otherwise the Council reserved the right to review the price.

The property at 17 Bannockburn Road was vacant when the disposal process for the Parade commenced and was advertised for sale receiving a very good open market offer, which was about to be accepted and concluded by the end of September 2010. The tenants of some of the properties initially did not wish to purchase and these tenants were being given a further chance to buy, with a long stop date of early October 2010 to confirm whether they wished to proceed. If these tenants still did not wish to purchase the properties, then it was recommended that they be marketed with them as sitting tenants by end of October 2010. In addition, one of the current tenants was a new tenant and it was recommended that they should also be afforded a right to purchase, with a long stop date of the end of October 2010. Again, if they were not interested in purchasing the property, then it would be marketed with them as a sitting tenant. The proposals for Bannockburn Road would allow the Council to dispose of assets, bring retained areas up to an adoptable standard and additionally protected land for future roads and housing improvements/redevelopment.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed:-

1. to the principle of internal purchase of the Quakerfield properties by the Housing Revenue Account from the General Fund Account for the values outlined in Appendix 1 to the submitted report over the next three years, as resources permitted;
2. to any unsold properties at Bannockburn Road being advertised for sale, on the open market or at auction, as investment properties for sale with sitting tenants.

(Reference: Joint Report by Head of Assets, Property & Facilities Management and Head of Housing dated 20 September 2010, submitted).

### **SC612 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK: ASSET UTILISATION – OFFICE ACCOMMODATION REVIEW – SHORT AND MEDIUM/LONG TERM STRATEGY**

As part of the Medium Term Financial Planning Framework, the Asset Utilisation workstream had a budget savings target of £1M. A report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Sustainability, Economy & Environment) updated Council on progress made with the city centre Office Accommodation review since the last report in June 2010. The report in June concluded that the Council had a significant over capacity of office accommodation in the city centre and that savings could be made by

consolidating into smaller capacity across fewer offices without impacting on front line service delivery.

The option appraisal progressed since June 2010 had now narrowed the choice down to two main options comprising continued ownership of Municipal Buildings and Old Viewforth, retention of the existing lease at Wolfcraig and either extension of the lease at Drummond House or purchase of the current Stirling College building on Kerse Road. Both options would deliver capacity of approximately 800-900 desk spaces but with flexibility to downsize if appropriate. In both options, the New Viewforth building would be surplus to requirements.

The options recommended in the submitted report had the potential to deliver at least £450,000 savings per annum from 2014/15, with an additional consequential saving of £370k possible in 2011/12. Both options would also require a level of capital investment to maximise building occupancy and address backlog maintenance, the costs of which had been built into the option appraisal. This applied in particular to the Municipal Buildings and would be best delivered through a temporary closure of the building to allow remodelling work to be undertaken. Closure of the Municipal Buildings, as well as facilitating renovation work, would generate a short-term revenue saving. On this basis, Council was asked to consider temporary mothballing the Municipal Buildings from 1 April 2011. Together with other short-term solutions set out in the report, short-term savings of at least £370,000 were possible in 2011/12.

## **Decision**

The Council agreed:-

1. to approve a medium/long term strategy based on consolidation into Old Viewforth, Municipal Buildings and Wolfcraig plus either Drummond House or the Stirling College building on Kerse Road and to instruct Officers to seek to conclude negotiations with either Forth Valley College to acquire the Stirling College site and buildings or to renegotiate the Drummond House lease, with authority delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Council Leader and Depute Leader, to conclude a deal for one or other property. In the event that negotiations with Forth Valley College and the Drummond House landlord were not successful, Officers were instructed to bring a further report back to Council;
2. to instruct Officers to commence the process of seeking to maximise future values from the release of the New Viewforth site;
3. to approve temporary closure of the Municipal Buildings to allow necessary remodelling and renovation work to be undertaken and in order to maximise short-term revenue savings arising, the temporary closure to take effect from 1 April 2011 or as soon as possible thereafter;
4. to instruct Officers to bring forward proposals for the necessary remodelling and renovation work of the Municipal Buildings to a future meeting of the Executive;
5. to instruct Officers to continue to explore whether a temporary closure of the Wolfcraig offices could generate additional short-term revenue savings;
6. to release up to £195,000 from reserves to facilitate the vacating and securing of the Municipal Buildings to allow temporary closure to happen;

7. to note that significant capital funding would be required in the short to medium term to generate the medium to long-term savings outlined in either option contained in the submitted report.

(Reference: Report by Assistant Chief Executive (Sustainability, Economy & Environment) dated 17 September 2010, submitted).

#### **SC613 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK: ASSET UTILISATION - 1-5 PORT STREET, STIRLING - ONE STOP SHOP – USE OF DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

As part of the asset utilisation budget savings workstream the Council was currently reviewing its office provision. An opportunity had arisen to lease a prime city centre unit at 1-5 Port Street, Stirling to act as a One Stop Shop for the Council's business. A report by the Chief Executive outlined action taken by him under delegated powers to enter into a lease for the premises at 1-5 Port Street, approve the refurbishment of the building for reception, meeting, office and ancillary space to be funded from reserves and approve the closure of the local office provision at the Municipal Buildings, with service provision transferred to the One Stop Shop. The report also sought authority for Officers to commence consultation with the local communities, with a view to closing the local offices at Raploch and Cornton.

The Chief Executive explained that the terms of the lease were very favourable and this opportunity would fulfil a longstanding ambition of the Council for a One Stop Shop in Stirling city centre. Discussions with the Council's community planning partners and other public agencies such as Visit Scotland to share the premises with the Council were ongoing. Both the Police and NHS Forth Valley had indicated that they could not partner the Council in sharing the premises at this stage, although some police presence as part of the Retailers Against Crime unit was being pursued.

A financial analysis of the estimated costs of entering into the lease indicated a small overall saving, before any contribution from partners, but based on the closure of three local offices in or near the city centre when the One Stop Shop opened. The Chief Executive confirmed that it could, however, be a key step in unlocking other office accommodation review opportunities. It was also estimated that a net saving of approximately £70,000 per annum could be achieved with the transfer of functions and subsequent closure of six rather than three local offices in the wider Council area.

It was envisaged that the One Stop Shop would provide access to a variety of services including housing, revenues and benefits and registration in particular. The building would also provide office space on two floors for around 30-35 staff. The report indicated that the estimated cost of fitting out the building was £450,000.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing expressed concern that neither himself nor the Housing Advisory Group had been consulted on these proposals. He also requested a full explanation of the implications of the proposals on the Housing Revenue Account. The Chief Executive explained that the decisions taken under delegated authority had been the subject of full consultation with the Group Leaders by e-mail and at a meeting of the Leaders' Group. He added that the Housing Revenue Account charges referred to were the worst-case scenario.

In relation to the fit out costs of the One Stop Shop, the Chief Executive indicated that this would be carried out at the minimum cost possible with existing furniture being reused wherever possible. In response to a question on recent flooding in the vicinity of the One Stop Shop site, the Chief Executive confirmed that the flooding issues related to a neighbouring building.

### **Motion**

“That the Council agree:-

1. to note that delegated powers were used to:-
  - a) approve entry into a Lease for the premises at 1-5 Port Street, Stirling on the basis of the Heads of Terms as outlined in the submitted report, subject to appropriate Planning permission being received;
  - b) approve refurbishment of the building for reception, meeting, office and ancillary space to be funded from reserves, based on the cost estimate contained in the submitted report;
  - c) delegate authority to the Chief Executive to conclude negotiations with community planning partners and other public agencies to co-locate with the Council at 1-5 Port Street, Stirling on terms that provide value to the Council;
  - d) approve closure of local office provision at Municipal Buildings, with service provision transferred to the One Stop Shop;
2. to instruct Officers to commence consultation with the local communities and the Housing Advisory Group with a view to closing the local offices at Raploch and Cornton.”

Moved by Councillor Graham Houston, seconded by Councillor Corrie McChord.

### **Amendment**

The Council agreed:-

1. to note that delegated powers were used to:
  - a) approve entry into a Lease for the premises at 1-5 Port Street, Stirling on the basis of the Heads of Terms as outlined in the submitted report, subject to appropriate Planning permission being received;
  - b) approve refurbishment of the building for reception, meeting, office and ancillary space to be funded from reserves, based on the cost estimate contained in the submitted report;
  - c) delegate authority to the Chief Executive to conclude negotiations with community planning partners and other public agencies to co-locate with the Council at 1-5 Port Street, Stirling on terms that provide value to the Council;
  - d) approve closure of local office provision at Municipal Buildings, with service provision transferred to the One Stop Shop;

2. to instruct Officers to commence consultation with the local communities and the Housing Advisory Group with a view to rationalising all Council Local Offices. The results of the review to be incorporated into a Paper for presentation to a future meeting of the Executive Committee.”

Moved by Councillor Graham Reed, seconded by Councillor Neil Benny.

On the roll being called the vote on the Amendment was as follows:-

For the Amendment (7)

Councillor Neil Benny  
Councillor Alistair Berrill  
Councillor Ian Brown  
Councillor Callum Campbell  
Councillor Tony Ffinch  
Councillor David Goss  
Councillor Graham Reed

Against the Amendment (15)

Councillor Margaret Brisley  
Councillor Scott Farmer  
Councillor Colin Finlay  
Councillor John Hendry  
Councillor Graham Houston  
Councillor Graham Lambie  
Councillor Alasdair MacPherson  
Councillor Corrie McChord  
Councillor Colin O'Brien  
Councillor Paul Owens  
Councillor Steven Paterson  
Councillor Andrew Simpson  
Depute Convener Jim Thomson  
Councillor Violet Weir  
Provost Fergus Wood

The Amendment was defeated by 15 votes to 7.

On the roll being called the vote on the Motion was as follows:-

For the Motion (20)

Councillor Neil Benny  
Councillor Alistair Berrill  
Councillor Margaret Brisley  
Councillor Ian Brown  
Councillor Callum Campbell  
Councillor Scott Farmer  
Councillor Tony Ffinch  
Councillor Colin Finlay  
Councillor David Goss  
Councillor Graham Houston  
Councillor Graham Lambie  
Councillor Corrie McChord

Councillor Colin O'Brien  
Councillor Paul Owens  
Councillor Steven Paterson  
Councillor Graham Reed  
Councillor Andrew Simpson  
Depute Convener Jim Thomson  
Councillor Violet Weir  
Provost Fergus Wood

Against the Motion (0)

Not Voting (2)

Councillor John Hendry  
Councillor Alasdair MacPherson

**Decision**

The Motion was carried by 20 votes to 0, with 2 Members Not Voting and accordingly the Council agreed:-

1. to note that delegated powers were used to:-
  - a) approve entry into a Lease for the premises at 1-5 Port Street, Stirling on the basis of the Heads of Terms as outlined in this report, subject to appropriate Planning permission being received;
  - b) approve refurbishment of the building for reception, meeting, office and ancillary space to be funded from reserves, based on the cost estimate contained in this report;
  - c) delegate authority to the Chief Executive to conclude negotiations with community planning partners and other public agencies to co-locate with the Council at 1-5 Port Street, Stirling on terms that provided value to the Council;
  - d) approve closure of local office provision at Municipal Buildings, with service provision transferred to the One Stop Shop;
2. to instruct Officers to commence consultation with the local communities and the Housing Advisory Group with a view to closing the local offices at Raploch and Cornton.

(Reference: Report by Chief Executive dated 20 September 2010, submitted).

**SC614 ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT FOR WASTE MATERIAL RECOVERY:  
TRANSPORT, RECOVERY AND DISPOSAL - CONTRACT VALUE IN EXCESS OF  
£1M**

Identifying and implementing alternative methods of processing and recovering re-useable and recyclable materials from mixed waste accepted at Household Waste Recycling Centres and commercially collected waste (that were previously being sent to landfill) were key elements of the Council's approach to meeting the targets in the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Plan. A report by the Head of Planning,

Regulation & Waste outlined the benefits of processing these waste types through a Materials Recovery Facility and sought approval for the award of the associated contract.

Seven Materials Recovery Facility operators submitted bids for the two contract lots and following a price/quality assessment the most economically advantageous tenders offering best value to the Council were:-

- Lot 1: Household Residual Mixed Waste (from Household Waste Recycling Centres) – Wm. Dow Group £1,506,600
- Lot 2: Commercial Mixed Waste – Wm Dow Group £1,742,700

It was anticipated that this service would commence from 1 December 2010, with the initial contract term expiring on 31 March 2013, with two further one-year extension options available.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed:-

1. to note the benefits of recovering resources from these particular waste streams in terms of increased recycling and diversion of residual wastes from landfill;
2. to note the procurement process associated with the (two Lot) contract for the recovery of recyclables via a Materials Recovery Facility;
3. to approve acceptance of the tenders submitted by Wm Dow Group for Lot 1 amounting to £1,506,600 and Lot 2 amounting to £1,742,700.

(Reference: Report by Head of Planning, Regulation & Waste dated 13 September 2010, submitted).

### **SC615 ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF BAILED MIXED PLASTIC BOTTLES - CONTRACT VALUE IN EXCESS OF £250K**

Stirling Council had made significant progress in both reducing and recycling the volume of waste disposed of to landfill, in line with the Forth Valley Area Waste Plan, the recently launched Zero Waste Plan for Scotland and statutory targets. The Council collected mixed plastic bottles via the recycling kerbside collection service, and sold these recyclates for re-processing, thereby contributing to the recycling targets and generating revenue.

A report by the Head of Planning, Regulation & Waste detailed the procurement process followed in respect of a contract for the purchase of bailed mixed plastic bottles and sought Council approval for the award of the contract.

Six companies submitted bids for the contract and following a price/quality assessment the most economically advantageous tender offering best value to the Council was from AWS Eco Plastic Limited, amounting to an anticipated income of £307,800 over the duration of the contract, including optional extensions. It was anticipated that this service would commence from 25 October 2010, with the initial

contract term expiring on 31 March 2013, with two further one-year extension options available.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed:-

1. to note the benefits of collecting and recycling mixed plastic bottles in terms of increased recycling and diversion of residual wastes from landfill, and generating income to the Council;
2. to note the procurement process associated with the contract for the purchase of bailed mixed plastic bottles;
3. to approve acceptance of the tender submitted by AWS Eco Plastic Limited, amounting to an income of £307,800 over the duration of the contract, including optional extensions.

(Reference: Report by Head of Planning, Regulation & Waste dated 13 September 2010, submitted).

### **SC616 LAND TRANSACTION - STIRLING ROAD DRYMEN**

In May 2010, after a lengthy planning process the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park granted planning permission to MacTaggart & Mickel to develop housing on a site off Stirling Road, Drymen. The development proposal for which permission had been granted included land currently in the ownership of the Council and operating as a public car park.

In July 2010, McTaggart & Mickel formally approached the Council to conclude the land transaction necessary to give effect to the planning permission granted – a right of access across the car park and transfer of land from the Council to MacTaggart & Mickel for development as housing. The initial offer proposed by the developer was not considered to represent best value to the Council and Officers had attempted to negotiate a more beneficial position. The developer was now pressing for the land transaction to be concluded.

The issues facing the Council were whether or not to conclude a land transaction with MacTaggart & Mickel, and if so to determine what represented best value in the circumstances. Ultimately these would be matters for negotiation with the developer. A report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Sustainability, Economy & Environment) sought guidance from Members on the parameters within which that negotiation should take place.

Members indicated that they would wish Officers to conclude negotiations with MacTaggart & Mickel on the basis of achieving a price in excess of the lowest figure quoted in paragraph 3.14 of the submitted report.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed:-

1. to confirm it wished to enter into negotiations with MacTaggart & Mickel in relation to the site at Stirling Road, Drymen on the basis of a price in excess

of the lowest figure quoted in paragraph 3.14 of the submitted report and instruct Officers to progress negotiations, with any final offer to be agreed by the Head of Finance & Procurement in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economy, Tourism & Finance;

2. that should the transaction with MacTaggart & Mickel proceed, to transfer to Rural Stirling Housing Association for affordable housing purposes at a value to be jointly agreed with the District Valuer, the area of land marked blue in Appendix 2 to the submitted report;
3. to note that separate discussions were ongoing in relation to arrangements for the management and maintenance of open space at the Stirling Road site and that these did not form part of the land transaction.

(Reference: Report by Assistant Chief Executive (Sustainability, Economy & Environment) undated, submitted).

The Provost declared the meeting closed at 12.15 am

**QUESTION 1**

**QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR COLIN FINLAY FOR ANSWER BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR EDUCATION AT THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2010.**

**Question**

“Firstly can I praise Stirling’s Students and teaching staff for their excellent SQA results this summer. And can I ask what specific programmes or projects will be running this year (2010-11) in our schools that will target learners in the bottom 20% of educational attainment. A percentile that has not improved as highly or as consistently as the top 20% has. And what are the expected outcome from these projects, if there are any being implemented this year?”

**Answer**

I would like to join the councillor in praising our students and teaching staff for the success in the 2010 SQA results.

Work is currently being done in the following areas:-

- A strong focus on early intervention continues to be a priority for the Education Service particularly for vulnerable children.
- Recovery programmes for literacy and numeracy are being implemented in primary schools with encouraging results.
- Attainment meetings have been set up for each of the secondary schools.
- The Head of Education and senior officers from the Education Service are meeting with head teachers and senior management teams of each school to discuss the SQA results with a view to making further improvements.
- Skills for Work courses and vocational provision in partnership with colleges will be progressed further.
- A Strategy Group to address raising attainment for the lowest performing 20% of young people in Stirling Council has been set up. The group will produce short term and long term plans to address the ongoing issue of low attainment.
- A robust system for monitoring and tracking pupil attainment will be implemented.
- Officers from the Education Service will meet with the head teacher and senior management team from each of the seven secondary schools to discuss pupils who are in danger of not achieving English and maths at SCQF level 3. These pupils will become the focus for targeted support by schools and monitored by Quality Development Officers for the remainder of the session.
- School attendance has been highlighted as a significant contributing factor to low pupil performance in Stirling, and this will be addressed through a more consistent application of Stirling’s Attendance Policy.

### **Supplementary Question**

Will Elected Members receive feedback on the outcomes of the projects and initiatives targeting learners in the bottom 20% of educational attainment?

I commend the hard work and commitment of parents, head teachers, teachers and other Officers in Education in raising educational attainment. I can confirm that progress on all the work being undertaken will be reported back to Members.

## QUESTION 2

### **QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL BENNY FOR ANSWER BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY AT THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2010.**

#### **Question**

"Will the portfolio holder join with me in welcoming going carbon neutral Stirling's recent project to brighten up the town with flower boxes? Is it not imperative that the council stands aside to allow community groups to take responsibility for our community?"

#### **Answer**

As Councillor responsible for the Environment I very much welcome any initiative to brighten up the streets of Stirling.

Councillor Benny will be well aware however if he attends his local community council, the reaction about the planters being erected without their knowledge or understanding.

All public funded bodies need to involve local people. Without the support of the community the project is likely to fail.

#### **Supplementary Question**

Given that the Prime Minister recently said that society is not a spectator sport, will the Portfolio Holder find a way to get off the backs of communities and community councils?

I do want communities to actively do things to improve their environment. However Carbon Neutral is publicly funded and in this instance did not consult all community councils, they should have involved all communities.

## QUESTION 3

### **QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR IAN BROWN FOR ANSWER BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY AT THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2010.**

#### **Question**

"A letter appeared in the Stirling Observer (29 September 2010) from a resident in Causewayhead which seems to suggest that there is a move to emptying Brown Bins on a monthly basis. Can the portfolio holder advise Council if there is a change to the schedule for emptying Brown Bins?"

#### **Answer**

Waste Services is currently trialling the collection of cardboard separately from green waste (brown bins) in Causewayhead. The aim of this trial is to ascertain if it is possible to collect cardboard as part of the existing kerbside recycling collection service; and if so to consider if the collection frequency for brown bins (comprising green waste only) can be reduced or possibly stopped at certain times of the year.

The separate collection of cardboard provides the potential for income from the sale of this recyclable material. Furthermore, the removal of cardboard from brown bins reduces the level of contamination of the green waste, thus improving the quality and reducing the costs of the composting process. This, coupled with the possible reduction in frequency of collection of brown bins could result in considerable financial savings for the Council.

The trial in Causewayhead started in August 2010, and is proposed to run over the Winter and possibly into the Spring, dependant on performance of service delivery. Early indications are that the trial is proving to be relatively successful. A public perceptions survey will be carried out during October / November to gauge residents' views, which will be taken into account in the full assessment of the trial, which will inform any potential changes to the Council's recycling and waste collection service.

Any proposed changes to the collection of cardboard and reduction of frequency of green waste brown bin collection would require a policy decision by the Council.

#### **Supplementary Question**

It is important to tell the wider community about trials not just the communities directly affected. In future will the Portfolio Holder make sure that this point is addressed?

Consultation was undertaken with the local community and local Members and I have given Councillor Brown a copy of the letter sent out. I take on board the comments made in taking forward future trials.

**MEETING of the STIRLING COUNCIL to be held in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS,  
OLD VIEWFORTH, STIRLING on THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2010**

**Motions in terms of Standing Order 16**

Information/advice from Officers

**a) Commercial Sales in Stirling's Schools**

The recommendation goes against the grain of Scottish Government policy that has for the last 6 years, and continues to, encourage commercial organisations to engage with schools to support Curriculum for Excellence and Enterprise in Education. Activities include work placements, mentoring, modern apprenticeships, staff secondments, project support and learning partnerships (see recent revised Determined to Succeed (Determined to Succeed) website <http://www.employersandyoungpeople.org/Home>).

Stirling Council Education Service Determined to Succeed team has about 700 organisations that are registered to work with schools in supporting pupils work placements. Furthermore the Determined to Succeed team has developed a number of strategic business partners to work with schools, such as Capita and Dobbies. The schools also have their own local and strategic partners, from parents and small local businesses to major companies such as Microsoft.

A recent document issued by Learning Teaching Scotland summarises the development and benefits of Enterprise in Education that have been delivered through the national Determined to Succeed scheme:

In November 2004 The Scottish Government published the purposes and principles of a Curriculum for Excellence. Within this policy and in subsequent updates it is made clear that the curriculum is about more than subjects and curriculum areas. It aims to ensure that young people have opportunities to develop the skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work - including the development of pre-vocational, enterprising and employability skills as well as the opportunity to put learning into a practical context.

In November 2007 this approach was further outlined in Skills for Scotland, the national skills strategy. This document included a commitment to "build new and more engaging models of work experience" as well as identifying the need to "make the link between the classroom and the workplace so young people see the relevance of their learning." The OECD Report on "Quality and Equity of Schooling in Scotland" also echoed this, as did Her Majesty Inspectorate of Education in Improving Scottish Education 2008.

Determined to Succeed has a particular focus on better preparing young people for the world of work by providing opportunities to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence they will need to gain and sustain future employment. It brings together the classroom and workplace to give pupils experiences of enterprising, entrepreneurial, vocationally oriented and career-related learning, and supports teaching and learning which is effectively connected to the world of work.

Curriculum for Excellence states that one of the purposes of the Curriculum is that all children and young people in Scotland should develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they will need if they are to flourish in life, learning and work, now and in the future, and this is summed up in the 4 capacities. Moreover developing Skills for Learning Life and work is a key entitlement as it supports in moving into a positive and sustained destination.

The following Building The Curriculum 4 Curriculum for Excellence document also provides guidance regarding partnership working:

Pg. 18 "At the heart of enterprise in education are young learners who have a knowledge and practical understanding of the world of work - organisations across the private, public and third sectors, entrepreneurship (including social entrepreneurship) and volunteering - and the skills and positive attitudes required to support sustained economic growth."

Pg. 28: "Local authority staff will want to consider:-

- The potential for supporting establishments in identifying and supporting partnerships to deliver opportunities for skills development including encouraging links between employers and schools.
- The importance of working in partnership with establishments to support opportunities for more young people to engage in active learning and to experience learning in a practical context
- The lead role Local Authorities have in 16+ Learning Choices and in supporting transitions for young people".

The recommendation to find alternative impartial, non-commercial organisations to deliver similar educational/information services would be counter to the national Determined to Succeed strategy. Furthermore, most of the business partnerships that work with schools in Stirling Council are provided on a voluntary basis at no cost to the Council. If this resource was no longer available, not only would it be detrimental to providing real life experiences and helping to provide positive and sustained destinations for young people, but the cost of bringing in training providers to deliver similar programmes would be considerable and it is not currently budgeted for. Furthermore, most of the business engagements with schools are part of the planned delivery of Curriculum for Excellence and are managed by teaching staff to ensure that the experience is appropriate and relevant for young people in schools. It is seen as being particularly helpful in supporting the most vulnerable young people in preparing for a successful transition to life, learning and work beyond school.

**b) Beauly to Denny Power Line**

On 28 September 2005, applications were made to Scottish Ministers by Scottish Hydro-Electric Transmissions Limited (SHETL) and Scottish Power Transmission Limited (SPT) for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, for the erection of a 400kv overhead transmission line from Beauly (in Highland) to Denny. All local authorities along the route were notified.

Stirling Council, along with Highland Council, Perth & Kinross Council and the Cairngorms National Park Authority, objected to the application, which resulted in a Public Inquiry. 17,250 objections were also received from others.

The Public Inquiry was held to consider all objections and took place at various locations along the proposed route of the transmission line, on various dates between 6 February and 20 December 2007. After the Inquiry closed a further 2,994 objections were received.

The Report of the Inquiry was finalised and submitted to Scottish Ministers on 11 February 2009, and comprises 6 volumes.

The Reporter's conclusions and recommendations to Scottish Ministers were that consent should be granted for the transmission line, with the exception of two sections, where the Reporter recommended that consent should be withheld due to the major adverse impact the line would have in these locations; one was at Glenside, to the south of Plean.

Scottish Ministers, on 6 January 2010, announced their approval of the entire length of the Beauly to Denny Transmission Line scheme. Consent was granted under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, with Planning Permission deemed to be granted under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

Under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, Scottish Ministers have power to consent or reject applications to install overhead power lines. Scottish Ministers have no powers to direct that sections of Electricity infrastructure be undergrounded.

As Electricity is a reserved matter, changes to this legislation would need to be made by the UK Parliament.

Within the Stirling Council area, whilst agreeing with the assessment of the Reporter that the visual and landscape impact at Glenside would be significant, Scottish Ministers considered that, on balance, the demonstrated need for a whole line development and the technical and economic justification for the transmission line, outweighed the concerns at this section and decided that consent should be granted. Scottish Ministers, however, imposed a condition to the consent that a mitigation scheme should be drawn up by the applicants for a short section of the line at Glenside and should be submitted to Scottish Ministers for approval.

In addition to this, and not recommended by the Reporters, the Scottish Ministers imposed a condition on the consent requiring the applicants to prepare a 'Stirling Visual Impact Mitigation Scheme' for the section of line between the Cocksburn Wood and Airthrey Castle in the Ochils and from Logie to Glenside and to submit this to Scottish Ministers for approval. In this case, however, the condition states that Scottish Ministers must consult with Stirling Council before any decision is made.

A subsequent briefing note produced by the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit indicated that the Stirling Visual Impact Mitigation Scheme could take the form of "re-routeing, re-sizing of towers, screen planting or undergrounding".

SPT have now prepared their Visual Impact Mitigation Scheme and are proposing to introduce screen planting and painting of some towers in order to mitigate the visual and landscape impact of the towers. This is their proposed response to the Condition imposed upon them by Scottish Ministers, and Stirling Council have the opportunity to comment on this now as part of the forthcoming consultation process and also when formally consulted by Scottish Ministers when the Visual Impact Mitigation Scheme is submitted to the Scottish Ministers for their approval.

The Condition requiring the Visual Impact Mitigation Scheme states that this has to be approved by the Scottish Ministers, not the local Planning Authority. The Electricity Act 1989 gives power of approval to the Government for such Schemes. Stirling Council therefore has no powers to enforce the Condition.

As with the original application, the advice from the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit is that, under Section 37 of the Electricity Act, the Scottish Ministers can approve or reject the Visual Impact Mitigation Scheme, but they cannot require that SPT undertake undergrounding as part of the Visual Impact Mitigation Scheme.

The Council on 11 March 2010 agreed that undergrounding of sections of the power line was its preferred option and called on Scottish Ministers to invoke the Precautionary Principle and declare a moratorium on the project until all health issues and undergrounding options had been properly investigated. The Chair of the Council's Beauty – Denny Power Line Steering Group wrote to the Scottish Minister requesting the above action be taken, this was declined.

At the request of the Steering Group, SPT are undertaking a local public consultation exercise on their proposed Visual Impact Mitigation Scheme, with a series of consultation sessions and public meetings arranged for week commencing 25 October in Causewayhead, Fallin, Cowie and Plean. The Council will be represented at these meetings and all stakeholders and interest groups will be invited.

Following the consultation exercise, SPT are required to submit their Visual Impact Mitigation Scheme proposals to Scottish Ministers. Scottish Ministers are required to consult with Stirling Council on these proposals prior to granting approval.

**c) Scottish Deprivation Index**

Officers from a number of Council Services and Community Planning partners are currently working on a range of initiatives that address the issues identified in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

In terms of specific initiatives, Financial Inclusion is one of the themes of 'Open for Business', the Economic Strategy developed by the Stirling Economic Partnership. The work set out in the Action Plan for this theme have been agreed after considering a number of the issues that the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation identified as affecting a number of communities across the Stirling Council area. The main initiatives include improving the collective understanding of financial inclusion and widening the approach to tackling poverty and deprivation.

Specific actions have included reviewing the membership and purpose of the Anti-Poverty Working Group, submitting a detail response to the Scottish Government's Financial Capability consultation, mapping of communities most at risk of financial exclusion and matching service provision with need.

In addition, work is underway on developing a 'poverty profiling' tool for partner policies, improving the use of a targeted approach to early intervention and being more effective in the support to those most at risk and most disadvantaged. A major partnership event is also planned for Spring 2011 to improve partners understanding of the UK Government's proposed Welfare Reforms and how we respond locally to them.

The Strategic Forum for Sustainability, Economy and Environment has indicated that it wishes to consider issues relating to the Council's approach to Regeneration and Tackling Polarisation within the Stirling area. An initial discussion on this is scheduled for the 11 November meeting of the Forum with a view to addressing some of the issues set out in the motion. It is unlikely, however, that this will be able to deliver the detailed decision paper requested in the motion within the timescale suggested. An update can be provided to the next Council meeting in December if Members wish, following the discussion at the Strategic Forum.

**d) Full Council Meetings**

Standing Orders do not currently make specific provision for the adjournment of meetings, except in those situations where there is no quorum (**SO 28**) or disorderly conduct (**SO 117**).

Equally, though, Standing Orders do not specifically preclude the adjournment of meetings. Current practice is that adjournments take place with the agreement of the majority of those present.