

**MINUTES of MEETING of STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD  
on WEDNESDAY, 13 APRIL 2005**

**Present:** Councillor Allan Macaskill (Chair)

Councillor Robin Banks	Councillor Bruce Marshall
Councillor George Freeman	Councillor Alistair McKinlay
Councillor Daniel Kelly	Councillor James McQueen
Councillor Duncan MacIntyre	Councillor Dick Walsh
Councillor Robert Macintyre	

**Also Present:** Councillor Rory Colville Councillor Sidney MacDougall  
Councillor Robin Currie Councillor Donald MacMillan  
Councillor Donald Kelly Councillor Elaine Robertson  
Councillor Ronald Kinloch Councillor Len Scoullar  
Councillor Alistair MacDougall

**Attending:** James McLellan, Chief Executive  
Douglas Hendry, Director of Community Services  
Andy Law, Director of Operational Services  
Charles Reppke, Head of Democratic Services & Governance  
Gordon Nash, Head of Housing Services  
Bruce West, Head of Strategic Finance  
Donald Kelly, Chief Solicitor  
Blair Fletcher, Transportation Manager  
Douglas Blades, Public Transport Officer

**Apologies:** Councillor Ian Gillies Councillor Alison Hay

The Chairman advised the Committee of the recent death of Douglas Trigg who had formerly been the Secretary of the Association of Community Councils and a regular attendee of the Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Committee, the Community Planning Partnership and a co-opted Member of the Policy Development Group on the Review of the Scheme of Community Councils. He advised that there would be a memorial service held in the Church of Scotland, Esplanade, Oban on 21 April 2005 at 7.30pm.

The Chairman ruled, and the Committee agreed, that the business as dealt with at item 12 of this Minute be taken as a matter of urgency in order that the recruitment process could be instigated as soon as possible.

**1. MINUTES**

- (a) The Minutes of the Community Planning Partnership Meeting of 4 March 2005 were noted.
- (b) The Minutes of the Strategic Policy Committee of 17 March 2005 were approved as a correct record.

**2. LEADER'S REPORT**

The Leader of the Council submitted a report highlighting issues such as funding for Land Reform and Access Code, Kilmartin House Museum, the cancelling of the Caledonian MacBrayne Ferry Strike, a request he had made to the First Minister re advertising planning proposals, renewed efforts to reinstate the Campbeltown to Ballycastle Ferry Service, and the level of Council reserves. He also advised of his forthcoming meetings from 5 April to 16 May 2005 and

responded to questions arising from his report.

#### **Decision**

To note the contents of the report for the period 8 March 2005 to 1 April 2005.

(Ref: Report by Leader dated 31 March 2005, submitted).

### **3. DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT ISSUES**

The Spokesperson for Development and Environment issues, Councillor Robin Banks, submitted a report regarding the work of KIMO, uptake of recycling bins in Mid Argyll, the Whelk Leader+ Programme, Culture, the delay of the Planning White Paper until summer 2005 and tourism. Thereafter, he responded to questions arising from his report.

#### **Decision**

To note the contents of the report.

(Ref: Report by Spokesperson for Development and Environment Services dated 1 April 2005, submitted).

### **4. RURAL TRANSPORT GRANT 2005/6**

Approval was sought for the allocation of the expenditure proposed within the Rural Transport Grant for the financial year 2005/06.

#### **Decision**

1. To note the projects listed in Section 4A which have been absorbed into the main public transport budget.
2. To authorise the continuation of the services listed in Section 4B.
3. To authorise the introduction of the new services and projects listed in Section 4C.
4. In the event of continuing poor performance of any of the grant supported services, to authorise the Director of Development Services to discontinue such services and bring a further report to the Strategic Policy Committee to consider the introduction of selected services from Section 4D within the available budget.

(Ref: Report by Head of Transportation & Infrastructure dated 30 March 2005, submitted).

### **5. WASTE MANAGEMENT PPP CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE**

The Committee was updated on the current position of the Waste Management PPP Contract and also were given an outline of contractor performance in line with the original contract issued.

#### **Decision**

1. To note the monitoring arrangements in place until the end of 2004 and agree that future external auditing and monitoring of the PPP Contract be contained as part of the normal reporting of the Council's performance as required under the second award of Strategic Waste Funding in 2004.

2. To instruct the Director of Operational Services and relevant staff to take forward the Contract Review process with Shanks during the next financial year, taking account of any service changes and performance issues outlined in the submitted report or prior to the Review; and to report further to this Committee on the outcome of that Review in 2006.
3. To instruct the Director of Operational Services to bring a report to this Committee with regard to the commitment of funding from the Highlands and Islands Partnership Programme (HIPP) support awarded in 2001.

(Ref: Report by Director of Operational Services dated 1 April 2005, submitted).

## **6. MAINTAINING SCOTLAND'S ROADS**

The Committee considered a request from the Audit Committee inquiring whether the Strategic Policy Committee were satisfied that the Council has the necessary resources to address the issues highlighted in the report and if not whether they have sought, or intend to seek additional funds, from the Scottish Executive to assist in delivering the actions outlined in the report "Maintaining Scotland's Roads".

### **Decision**

That a report be brought to a future meeting detailing the position regarding Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) and also containing information from COSLA as to what other Local Authorities are doing to meet these costs.

(Ref: Extract of Minute of the Audit Committee of 4 March 2005, submitted).

## **7. REGIONAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIPS: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

The Committee was asked to endorse a prioritised list of projects, both strategic and local in character, which could be developed and submitted to the Transport Partnerships as the Council's bid, when these Partnerships receive allocations from the Scottish Executive.

### **Decision**

1. To agree that the prioritised list of projects, as contained as an Appendix to the submitted report, form the basis of future bids to the Regional Transport Partnerships, noting that the Policy Development Group on Scotland's Transport has taken account of the issues raised by Area Committees and revised the list accordingly.
2. To note that circumstances may arise outwith the control of the Council which might cause delays to the procurement of prioritised projects, and that alternatives from the list may have to take precedence to ensure that the Council retains its allocation.
3. To agree that the Otter Ferry/Port Ann link should not remain on the list of strategic projects but that the Council would welcome a private operator seeking to run such a service, at no cost to the Council.

(Ref: Report by Director of Development Services dated 4 April 2005, submitted).

## **8. EVENTS AND FESTIVAL FUNDING CRITERIA**

The Council agreed on 10 February 2005 to establish an Events and Festivals Budget of £300,000 to cover the 3 next years. The Committee was asked to consider a report

proposing the criteria against which applications would be assessed to determine if they qualify for grant assistance from this budget.

### **Motion**

To agree that the report should form the basis for a 6 week consultation with SED, AIE, HIE and other partners such as Visit Scotland and Events Scotland but that the criteria set out within the submitted report be amended to allow the minimum grant award to be £3,000.

Moved by Councillor George Freeman, seconded by Councillor Robert Macintyre.

### **Amendment**

To agree that the report should form the basis for a 6 week consultation with SED, AIE, HIE and other partners such as Visit Scotland and Events Scotland but that the criteria set out within the submitted report be amended to allow the minimum grant award to be £4,000.

Moved by Councillor Robin Banks, seconded by Councillor Bruce Marshall.

### **Decision**

The Motion was carried by 6 votes to 4 and the Committee resolved accordingly.

(Ref: Report by Director of Community Services dated 17 March 2005, submitted).

## **9. HOUSING ALLOCATIONS TO HOMELESS FAMILIES IN BED AND BREAKFAST ACCOMMODATION**

In response to the Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order 2004 of 6 December 2004, the Committee was requested to consider preparation of a briefing note as an addendum to the Council's Allocations Policy.

### **Decision**

1. To agree that a briefing note be prepared to be used as an addendum to the Council's Allocations Policy highlighting legislative changes and including the following:-

"Once a homeless family with dependent children have had their homelessness application processed and it has been confirmed that the family is unintentionally homeless then the homeless family will have priority over any waiting list applicant when allocating council properties or in making nominations to Registered Social Landlords".

(Ref: Report by Director of Community Services dated 15 March 2005, submitted).

The Committee resolved in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the press and public for the following 3 items of business on the grounds that it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 8 & 9, 9 and 6 respectively of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

## **10. MOAT COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE, ROTHESAY**

The Committee was asked to consider a recommendation by the Bute and Cowal Area Committee of 1 February 2005 relating to the lease for the former café area within the

Moat Community Education Centre, Rothesay.

**Decision**

To agree the recommendation of the Bute and Cowal Area Committee to extend the lease to 20 years on the terms outlined in the submitted report.

(Ref: Report by Director of Corporate Services dated 21 January 2005 and Extract Minute from the Bute & Cowal Area Committee of 1 February 2005, submitted).

**11. LAND ADJACENT TO OBAN HIGH SCHOOL**

The Committee was asked to consider the terms of a report by the Head of Legal and Protective Services.

**Decision**

To agree the recommendation as contained at paragraph 2.1 of the submitted report.

(Ref: Report by Head of Legal and Protective Services dated 4 April 2005, submitted)

**12. COUNCIL AIRPORTS MANAGER**

The Committee was asked to consider the terms of a report by the Head of Transportation and Infrastructure.

**Decision**

To agree the recommendation as contained within the submitted report.

(Ref: Report by Head of Transportation and Infrastructure dated 12 April 2005, tabled)