

ENTERPRISE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 21 February 2007

Chair:

Councillor Chris Thompson

Councillors Present:

Mushtaq Ahmad, Archie Buchanan, Sam Casserly, Pam Clearie, Jim Docherty, Allan Falconer, Beith Forrest, Ian Gray, James Handibode, Graeme Horne, Eileen Logan, Billy McCaig (Senior Depute), Denis McKenna, Mary McNeill, Danny Meikle, Alice Marie Mitchell, Graham Scott, Mary Smith, Hamish Stewart, Jim Wardhaugh

Councillors' Apologies:

David Baillie, Tony Carlin (Depute), Jim Daisley, Maureen Devlin, Gerry Docherty, James Malloy, Edward McAvoy, Michael McGlynn, John McGuinness, David McLachlan, Bill McNab

Attending:

Corporate Resources

N Docherty, Administration Assistant; J McDonald, Administration Adviser; D Wynn, Public Relations Officer

Enterprise Resources

I Urquhart, Executive Director; J Cannon, Head of Roads and Transportation Services; A Colthart, Head of Finance and Information Technology; J McCaffer, Head of Regeneration; H McNeil, Head of Estates and Support Services

Finance and Information Technology Resources

F Scott, Accountant

1 Declaration of Interests

The following interests were declared:-

<i>Councillor(s)</i>	<i>Item(s)</i>	<i>Nature of Interest(s)</i>
C Thompson	Clyde Gateway Project – Land at Downiebrae Link Road, Farme Cross – Compulsory Purchase Orders	Board Member
Buchanan	Voluntary Sector and Social Economy Developments	Board Member of Hamilton and East Kilbride Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) Network and East Kilbride Credit Union

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Enterprise Resources Committee held on 13 December 2006 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Committee decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

3 Minutes of Special Meeting

The minutes of the special meeting of the Enterprise Resources Committee held on 24 January 2007 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Committee decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

4 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2006/2007 - Enterprise Resources

A joint report dated 12 January 2007 by the Executive Directors (Enterprise Resources) and (Finance and Information Technology Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 29 December 2006 against budgeted expenditure for 2006/2007 for Enterprise Resources.

Details were provided on proposed budget virements to realign budgets.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the underspend position on Enterprise Resources' revenue budget and the forecast to 31 March 2007 of an underspend position be noted; and
- (2) that the budget virements, detailed in the appendix to the report, be approved.

5 Capital Budget Monitoring 2006/2007 - Enterprise Resources

A joint report dated 12 January 2007 by the Executive Directors (Enterprise Resources) and (Finance and Information Technology Resources) was submitted advising of progress on the Enterprise Resources' capital programme 2006/2007 and summarising the expenditure position at 29 December 2006.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

6 Enterprise Resources - Workforce Monitoring - November and December 2006

A joint report dated 26 January 2007 by the Executive Directors (Corporate Resources) and (Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the following employee information for Enterprise Resources for November and December 2006:-

- ♦ attendance statistics
- ♦ occupational health statistics
- ♦ accident/incident statistics
- ♦ disciplinary hearings, grievances and Dignity at Work cases
- ♦ analysis of leavers
- ♦ Joint Staffing Watch as at 9 December 2006

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

7 Inspection Fees from Construction Consent Sites

A report dated 12 February 2007 by the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) was submitted on revised fees for carrying out inspections and testing on construction consent sites.

In accordance with Section 21 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, before undertaking any new road construction, a developer required to obtain construction consent from the local authority who had the right to carry out inspection and testing on the new work and to charge for costs incurred. A sliding scale of charges was used for such inspections.

It was proposed that the inspection and testing fees for construction consent applications be increased on the basis of existing criteria, as detailed in the appendix to the report, with effect from 1 April 2007. The revised charges would generate additional income of £25,000 per annum.

The Committee decided: that the inspection and testing fees for construction consent applications, as detailed in the appendix to the report, be increased with effect from 1 April 2007.

[Reference: Minutes of 8 February 2006 (Paragraph 10)]

8 Clyde Gateway Project - Land at Downiebrae Link Road, Farme Cross - Compulsory Purchase Orders

A report dated 7 February 2007 by the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the compulsory purchase of land at Mathieson Road and Duchess Road, Farme Cross to allow the agreed Business Plan for Clyde Gateway to be progressed.

The Council was a partner in the Clyde Gateway Regeneration Initiative and had committed approximately £8 million as its contribution to the works identified in the Business Plan. The land required for inclusion in the Initiative was in private ownership. Informal discussions had taken place with the respective landowners with a view to the land being acquired by agreement. However, in the event that agreement could not be reached, there would be a requirement to secure the land by compulsory purchase.

The Committee decided: that the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources), in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, be authorised to promote 2 Compulsory Purchase Orders under Section 198(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 over land at Mathieson Road and Duchess Road, Farme Cross, as detailed in the appendices to the report, if agreement to acquire the land could not be reached.

[Reference: Minutes of 13 December 2006 (Paragraph 6)]

Councillor C Thompson, having declared an interest in this item, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration. Councillor McCaig took the Chair for this item only

9 Economic Development Programmes 2007/2008

A report dated 26 January 2007 by the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) was submitted on a range of business and tourism support programmes offered by the Council for 2007/2008.

The future delivery of the Business Gateway Lanarkshire contract in 2007/2008 was being re-tendered by Scottish Enterprise. However, it was proposed that a provisional allocation of £30,000 be made to Lanarkshire Enterprise Services Limited, subject to the current Service Level Agreement being replaced by a “fee only” arrangement with core funding being provided on a pro-rata basis.

To secure continuity of delivery, an overall programme of business and tourism support for 2007/2008 was proposed as follows:-

Programmes 2007/2008	Budget
Property Advice Service	£10,000
ROA Start-up Support	£10,000
Lanarkshire Skills Training Programme	£30,000
Supplier Development Programme	£40,000
Business Support Programme	£60,000
Business Gateway – Contractor's Fee	£30,000
Job Rotation Training Support	£60,000
Business Development Initiatives (Including STEP Programme and Green Jobs Pilot)	£30,000
Sub-Total (Business Support)	£270,000
LEADER+ Management Fee	£30,000
Rural Development Initiatives (Match funding for RDR)	£49,450
VisitScotland TIC Core Cost	£97,000
Lanarkshire Strategic Tourism Marketing Project	£28,000
Lanarkshire Branding and Communications Project	£40,000
Payments to Other Bodies	£152,500
Marketing/Advertising (Economic Development)	£55,000
Sub-Total (Rural/Tourism Development)	£451,950
Economic Development overall Total	£721,950

The proposed expenditure of £721,950 for the business and tourism support programmes would be met from existing resources within Enterprise Resources' revenue and capital budgets for 2007/2008.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the business and tourism support programmes for 2007/2008 amounting to £721,950, as detailed above, be approved; and
- (2) that a report on the future delivery of the Council's business support services following the outcome of the Business Gateway re-tendering exercise by Scottish Enterprise be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

[Reference: Minutes of 31 May 2006 (Paragraph 7)]

10 Voluntary Sector and Social Economy Developments

A report dated 1 February 2007 by the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the funding contributions for a number of voluntary sector and social economy initiatives in South Lanarkshire for 2007/2008.

The Council had given significant support to the development of the local community, voluntary sector and the social economy and an overall programme of voluntary sector and social economy developments for 2007/2008 was proposed as follows:-

Project	Funding for	Partner/ External Funding Levered	Enterprise Resources' contribution for 2007/2008
South Lanarkshire CVS Network	Transitional funding for 2007/2008 while review process was completed	£347,000	£100,000
Social Economy Development	Support services for social economy organisations	£180,000	£45,000
Credit Union Development	Credit Union Network and individual Credit Unions	£65,000	£34,000
Healthy Valley Initiative	Core costs until March 2008	£250,000	£25,000
Outdoor Resource Base	Core costs for 2007/2008	£100,000	£20,000
Totals		£942,000	£224,000

The proposed expenditure of £224,000 for voluntary sector and social economy development programmes would be met from existing resources within Enterprise Resources' revenue and capital budgets for 2007/2008.

The Committee decided: that the voluntary sector and social economy development programmes for 2007/2008 amounting to £224,000, as detailed above, be approved.

Councillor Buchanan, having declared an interest in this item, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration

11 Routes to Inclusion Programme

A report dated 1 February 2007 by the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the:-

- ♦ outcomes of the Routes to Inclusion activity undertaken during 2006/2007
- ♦ programme of expenditure for the Routes to Inclusion initiatives in 2007/2008

The Routes to Inclusion projects implemented in 2006/2007 had proved successful, both in terms of attracting people from excluded groups and ensuring their progression towards work, and a number of initiatives were currently underway which would further develop Routes to Inclusion activity.

The 2007/2008 Routes to Inclusion programme aimed to build on the past successes and expand both target groups in geographical areas. The programme was detailed in an appendix to the report.

The total funding required for the delivery of the programme in 2007/2008 was £838,000 with Enterprise Resources' contribution of £340,000 being met from within existing budgets.

The Committee decided: that the proposed Routes to Inclusion activity and expenditure for 2007/2008, as detailed in the appendix to the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 4 May 2005 (Paragraph 7)]

12 Boghead Reservoir, Kirkmuirhill - Reservoirs Act 1975

A report dated 8 January 2007 by the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the action taken, in terms of Standing Order No 36(c) because of the timescales involved, by the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources), in consultation with the Chair and an ex officio member, to serve a written Notice, due to the risk of flooding and subsequent damage to land and highways at Boghead Reservoir, Kirkmuirhill, on Doonin Plant Limited, 1 New Street, Cambuslang under Sections 8(1) and 9(7) of the Reservoirs Act 1975.

The Committee decided:

that the action taken, in terms of Standing Order No 36(c), by the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources), in consultation with the Chair and an ex officio member, to serve a written Notice, due to the risk of flooding and subsequent damage to land and highways at Boghead Reservoir, Kirkmuirhill on Doonin Plant Limited, 1 New Street, Cambuslang under Sections 8(1) and 9(7) of the Reservoirs Act 1975, be noted.

13 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

Chair's Closing Remarks

The Chair thanked members and officers involved with the Committee for their hard work and support over the last four years. He wished those members who were standing for re-election the best of luck and those standing down the very best for the future.