

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of Special MEETING of the **RESOURCES AND CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 9 February 2006 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors ALEX KING, RON SCRIMGEOUR, JACK GIBB, IAN MACKINTOSH, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, PETER MURPHY, ROB MURRAY, ROBERT MYLES, PETER NIELD, GEORGE NORRIE MBE, HELEN OSWALD, BILL ROBERTON, MARK SALMOND and DAVID SELFRIDGE.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Provost BILL MIDDLETON.
Councillor KING, Convener in the Chair.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Committee agreed to note that no declarations of interest were made.

2. PROVISIONAL REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2006/2007

There were submitted (a) [Report No 152/06](#) by the Acting Director of Finance being a Background Report apprising members of the Provisional Revenue Budget submissions of each Council Department and of the departmental budget cuts considered necessary to allow the Council to deliver a Revenue Budget within the resources expected to be available, and also setting out the Provisional Capital Budget submissions for those departments with Capital Expenditure; (b) [Joint Report No 153/06](#) by the Chief Executive and the Acting Director of Finance apprising members of the outcomes from a number of Best Value and Efficient Government Initiative Reviews that had been undertaken in recent months and outlining the impact of the recommendations from these reviews on the 2006/2007 Revenue Budget, the efficiency savings identified from these reviews forming an integral part of the 2006/2007 budget considerations; (c) [Report No 154/06](#) by the Acting Director of Finance being the Provisional Revenue Budget volume, together with a commentary by each Head of Department; (d) [Report No 155/06](#) by the Acting Director of Finance being the proposed Departmental Budget Cuts Volume; and (e) [Report No 156/06](#) by the Acting Director of Finance, being the Provisional Capital Budget 2006/2007.

The Committee was advised that the Central Consultative Committee had met earlier today and considered the Budget Reports. All members of the Committee had expressed sympathy with the Council's position at having to make continued cuts whilst sustaining quality services. The trade unions had also been concerned that sufficient funds would be available for the implementation of job evaluation. The teacher representatives had expressed concern at the possible inability to implement the final strand of the reduction in the maximum pupil contact week for each teacher to 22½ hours, at the same time as delivering other major, worthwhile developments in education. Concern had also been expressed at the reduction in per capita allowances to schools and provision for school maintenance, and the possible effects on public safety with the reduction in the provision for lighting and structural maintenance. The direct labour staff employed within the Leisure Services also considered that they appeared to be facing a disproportionate number of cuts. The Committee also noted with concern a number of cuts within Environmental and Consumer Protection, such as the removal of the free village bulky waste uplift, reduction in the number of refuse collection vehicles and reduction in the street sweeping budget. The Chief Executive had been asked to take up some of these specific points with the appropriate Directors. While service delivery remained a priority, budget cuts had to be practical, with compulsory redundancies and the closure of facilities to be avoided wherever possible.

The trade union and teacher representatives had made a number of general and specific comments on the proposed budget. (These are recorded in the minute of the Central Consultative Committee meeting which would be submitted to the next ordinary meetings of the Education and this Committee in March 2006.)

Councillors Mackintosh, Murphy, Myles, Neild, Norrie and Salmond indicated that they wished to reserve their position on the budget to the special meeting of the Council.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the views of the Trade Union representatives on the Central Consultative Committee arising from their meeting earlier today;
- (ii) to note the provisional base revenue budget submissions for 2006/2007 of Miscellaneous Other Services (excluding interest on Revenue Balances and Provision for Additional Burdens which would be considered at the Council Tax setting meeting), Personnel (including Training Services and Employment Disability Unit), Finance (General and Revenues), Law and Administration, Information Technology, Property Services and Local Offices as contained in pages 77, 86 to 88, 92 to 93, 95 to 100, 103, 105 and 106 respectively of the Provisional Revenue Budget Volume (Report No 154/06);
- (iii) to note the budget cuts proposals of Personnel (including Training Services and Employment Disability Unit), Finance (General and Revenues), Law and Administration, Information Technology, Property Services and Local Offices as contained in pages 22 to 23, 26 to 27, 30, 32, 34 and 36 respectively of the Departmental Budget Cuts Proposals Volume (Report No 155/06);
- (iv) to approve the budget cuts for Personnel (including Training Services and Employment Disability Unit) totalling £11,000, Finance (General and Revenues) totalling £33,000, Law and Administration totalling £31,000, Information Technology totalling £15,000, Property Services totalling £17,000 and the budget cuts for Local Offices totalling £3,000;
- (v) to approve the revised budget net expenditure for Miscellaneous Other Services, Personnel (including Training Services and Employment Disability Unit), Finance (General and Revenue) Law and Administration, Information Technology, Property Services and Local Offices resulting from (ii) to (iv) above and recommend accordingly to the Council at the Council Tax setting meeting;
- (vi) to note the content of Report No 153/06 on Best Value and Efficient Government Initiative Reviews 2006/07 and approve the efficiency savings identified for Finance (General and Revenues) totalling £23,000, Law and Administration totalling £24,000, Property Services totalling £14,000 and Information Technology totalling £2,000;
- (vii) to note and agree to submit to the Council Tax setting meeting that the provision for Surplus Local Tax Income be £0.125 million and the allowance for efficiency savings be £0.680 million (as shown on page 3 of the Provisional Revenue Budget Volume - Report No 154/06);
- (viii) to note that the provisions in respect of Capital Financing Costs (Loan Charges) and Pay Inflation would be considered at the Council Tax setting meeting;
- (ix) to note and approve the Provisional Common Good Fund budgets for 2006/2007 as detailed in pages 108 to 113 of the Provisional Revenue Budget Volume (Report No 154/06);
- (x) to approve the Provisional Capital Budget for 2006/2007 for Information Technology and Property Services as contained in pages 27 to 29 and 45 to 49 of the Provisional Capital Budget Volume (Report No 156/06);
- (xi) to note the Provisional Base Revenue Budget submissions (excluding Loan Charges) for 2006/07 of the three Joint Boards for Tayside, namely Valuation (Assessors) £0.757 million, Fire and Rescue £4.707 million and Police £19.145 million as shown on page 107 of the Provisional Revenue Budget Volume (Report No 154/06);
- (xii) to note that these finalised budget submissions for 2006/07 of the Tayside Valuation, Tayside Fire and Rescue and Tayside Police Joint Boards had been agreed at meetings of the respective Boards on 30 January 2006;
- (xiii) to submit these finalised budget requisitions for the Joint Boards to the Council at the Council Tax setting meeting;

- (xiv) to note the Provisional Capital Budget for 2006/07 for Miscellaneous (Tayside Valuation Joint Board) as contained in pages 35 and 36 of the Provisional Capital Budget Volume (Report No 156/06);
- (xv) to note the provisional base revenue budget submission for 2006/07 of the Tayside Contracts Joint Arrangement being £133,000 (Surplus) as shown on page 107 of the Provisional Revenue Budget Volume (Report No 154/06);
- (xvi) to note that the 2006/07 budget estimate for the Tayside Contracts Joint Arrangement had yet to be formally approved by the Joint Committee; and
- (xvii) to submit this provisional budget position for the Tayside Contracts Joint Arrangement to the Council at the Council Tax setting meeting.