

## AGENDA ITEM 16

### Highland Council Corporate Resources Committee

Minutes of Meeting of the **Commercial Board** held in Committee Room 2, Council Headquarters, Inverness on Tuesday 6 August 2019 at 2.30 pm.

#### Present

Mr G Adam  
Mr G Cruickshank  
Mr R Gale

Mr D Louden  
Mr P Siggers

#### Officials in attendance

Mr M Bailey, Principal Project Manager, Commercial & Efficiency Team, Corporate Resources Service

Mr M MacDonald, Project Manager, Commercial & Efficiency Team, Corporate Resources Service

Mr A MacInnes, Administrative Assistant, Chief Executive's Office

**An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Corporate Resources Committee. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to the Board.**

#### MR G ADAM IN THE CHAIR

#### BUSINESS

##### 1. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mr L Fraser.

##### 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

##### 3. Minutes of Last Meeting

There was circulated the Minutes of the last meeting held on 15 May 2019, the terms of which were **APPROVED**.

Arising from the minutes, it was noted that an update on the work of the Commercial Board would be reported to a future meeting of the Executive Leadership Team and that this would include an estimation of the level of income anticipated and a breakdown of how this would be generated. In this respect, an update was provided on the budget for the commercial programme.

##### 4. Exclusion of the Public

The Board **RESOLVED** that under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 the public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the matter for discussion would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined Part I of Schedule 7A of the Act.

## 5. Commercial Opportunities

The Commercial & Efficiency Team provided an update on progress of the current portfolio of Commercial opportunities and in particular updates were provided in regard to projects C18, C111, C115 (during which a video presentation was shown) and C116. In particular, in order to progress project C18, there was a need to escalate the issue of restrictions on the national grid electricity capacity to the Climate Change Panel. Further, a presentation on electricity grid capacity was requested for the next meeting. An update would also be provided to the next meeting on project C16.

In relation to project C123, it was requested that £11k from the investment fund be approved for consultation work on this initiative. It was felt that the potential returns were worth this initial investment. The Board supported this proposal.

Further, in terms of resources for the work of the Commercial & Efficiency team in developing commercial initiatives, it was explained that the Council's Change Fund was available if further support was required.

An update was provided on progress with MOT testing following which it was requested that a breakdown of the figure quoted for MOT testing facilities be provided and a meeting be arranged with the Head of Performance and Resources, Community Services to discuss the proposal further.

Thereafter, the Commercial Board:-

- i **NOTED** the update;
- ii **AGREED** to escalate the issue of restrictions on the national grid electricity capacity to the Council's Climate Change Panel and that a presentation on this issue would be made at the next meeting by a representative of the Council's Energy team;
- iii **NOTED** that an update would be provided to the next meeting on project C16;
- iv **AGREED** £11k funding from the Commercial Initiatives Investment Fund for consultation work on project C123; and
- v **AGREED** that the Chair, Councillor G Cruickshank and the Principal Project Manager meet with the Head of Performance and Resources, Community Services to consider further the proposal for MOT testing, and that a breakdown of the figure quoted for the in house provision of MOT testing facilities would be provided.

## 6. Pending Commercial Projects

The Board was updated on the list of pending projects, currently under review with the Commercial Board. It was advised that the list of pending projects had been considered by the Change Programme Board who had agreed 10/11 opportunities to be further developed. Once business cases on these opportunities had been completed, these would be submitted to the Change Programme Board for consideration. The Commercial Board would be kept informed of progress with these initiatives.

The Commercial Board **NOTED** the update on Pending Commercial Projects with progress on projects being reported to the next meeting.

## **7. Commercial Property Investment Opportunities**

The Board was updated on the work carried out so far in relation to Commercial Property Investment Opportunities. A further Officer meeting was to be arranged to progress this initiative and a report on progress would be submitted to the next meeting of the Board.

The Board **NOTED** that an update report on Commercial Property Investment Opportunities would be submitted to the next meeting.

## **8. Programme Risks and Mitigating Actions**

There were no items reported in regard to this matter.

## **9. AOCB**

i information was provided in relation to a Council land asset, which could potentially be zoned for future housing in the Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan; and

ii it was requested that a list be provided to the next meeting on Council land assets that could potentially be used for Commercial opportunities.

The meeting was closed at 4.15 pm.