

DRAFT/

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

21 February 2013

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillors Dickson and Jackie Dunbar declared pecuniary interests in the following item of business by virtue of their employment by Kevin Stewart MSP, and withdrew from the meeting. Councillors Dickson and Jackie Dunbar were substituted by Councillors Townson and Cormie respectively for this item only.

MOTIONS LIST

1. The Committee had before it the outstanding motions list, as prepared by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

With regards motion 3 (Motion by Councillor Crockett – Comments by Kevin Stewart MSP), the Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised the Committee that she had received a response from Kevin Stewart MSP and at the request of members circulated this.

In relation to motion 3 (Motion by Councillor Crockett – Comments by Kevin Stewart MSP), the Convener moved, seconded by Councillor Allan:-

That the Committee instruct the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to write again to Kevin Stewart MSP advising him that his response was not a retraction of his comments and giving him until 5 March 2013 to retract his comments and thereafter refer this matter back to full Council on 6 March 2013 for Council to determine its position at that time.

Councillor Noble moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Cameron:-

That the Committee takes no further action on this matter.

On a division, there voted:- For the motion (10) - the Convener; the Vice-Convener; and Councillors Crockett, Forsyth, Graham, Laing, Malone, Milne, Reynolds and Yuill. For the amendment (5) - Councillors Cameron, Cormie, Noble, Samarai and Townson.

The Committee resolved:

to adopt the motion.

The Committee further resolved:

- (i) in relation to motion 1 (Motion by Councillor Greig – Commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee and Queen’s Reign), to note that a report on this motion was to be considered later on today’s agenda; and
- (ii) in relation to motion 2 (Motion by Councillor McCaig – Business Rates Incentive Scheme (BRIS)):
 - (a) to note that officers would report on the terms of Councillor McCaig’s motion to the next meeting of the Committee;
 - (b) to note that Councillor Crockett had written to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance Employability and Sustainable Growth, requesting a meeting to discuss BRIS in terms of economic growth for Aberdeen;
 - (c) to instruct the Director of Corporate Governance to ask an independent consultant to bring forward a report, based on a research study, exploring the existing financial settlement and its impact on the contribution Aberdeen made to Scotland and the UK and how a different or better funding settlement could benefit Aberdeen and the remainder of Scotland, and that the report be considered by an additional meeting of this Committee, at which time the Committee could determine its position on the contents and findings of the study;
 - (d) to agree that the costs associated with the above report cannot exceed £8000; and
 - (e) to recognise that the funding formula was set by the Scottish Government and Cosla and that proposals for an alternative formula needed to be communicated to both parties.