

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 15 November 2016 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors DONALD MORRISON, JEANETTE GAUL, BRIAN BOYD, BILL DUFF, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, COLIN BROWN, IAIN GAUL, JIM HOUSTON, DAVID MAY, IAN MCLAREN, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, MARK SALMOND and EWAN SMITH.

Councillor MORRISON, Convener, in the Chair.

Prior to the commencement of proceedings, Mr Stuart Thom, of Royal British Legion Scotland, Forfar Branch, made a presentation of War Memorial Certificates to Angus Council Parks Staff, in recognition of their work in maintaining War Memorials across the County. The Committee joined Mr Thom in commending the work of Council Staff in this regard.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Craig Fotheringham, with Councillor Colin Brown substituting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Duff declared a non-financial interest in item 3(c), the minute of meeting of the William Lamb Studio Advisory Committee, in that he was a current Director of AngusAlive. He indicated that he would take part in any discussion on the item.

Councillor Duff also declared a non-financial interest in item 12 (Report No 399/16) in that he was a serving Director of Montrose Golf Links Limited. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion and voting on the item.

Councillor May declared a financial interest in item 12 (Report No 399/16) in that he was a current season ticket holder at Montrose Golf Links and that the subject matter of this item had implications for the Golf Course and therefore the cost of a season ticket. He indicated that he would not participate in discussion and voting on the item.

3. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 September 2016 was submitted, approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee

The minute of meeting of the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee, of 2 September 2016, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted. **(APPENDIX I)**

(c) William Lamb Studio Advisory Committee

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 May 2016 was submitted and noted.

4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 28 SEPTEMBER 2016 TO 15 NOVEMBER 2016

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 September 2016, there was submitted and noted Report No 391/16 by the Strategic Director – Communities, together with its seven schedules, providing information to members with regard to services delivered in the Communities Directorate for the relevant period.

5. HOUSING CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT 2016-2017

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 February 2016, there was submitted Report No 392/16 by the Head of Planning and Place, setting out the actual capital spend to 30 September 2016, together with projected outturns for the year to 31 March 2017 and any required updated capital funding proposals.

The Report advised that the actual spend achieved to 30 September 2016 on the Housing Capital Programme was £3,010,000, equating to 29.3% of the monitoring budget of £10,278,000. It was projected that by the end of the financial year 2016/17, net expenditure would total £9,404,000, a potential underspend of £874,000 or 8.5% of the monitoring budget. Section 6 of the Report detailed the reasons for this potential underspend.

The Report also provided commentary on significant capital budget monitoring issues and updates on the capital receipts and capital funding position for 2016/2017, with the financial implications being summarised in Table 4 of the Report.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to note the projected year end positions on capital expenditure, and the indicative funding proposals for the programme.

6. UPDATE ON HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN

There was submitted Report No 393/16 by the Head of Planning and Place, providing members with an update on the success of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Expenditure Plan since 2011/12, and outlining future planning proposals.

The Report highlighted that over the five years from 2011/12, the Council had invested around £50million of its own resources in its new build programme and improvements to existing stock through the HRA Capital Programme. These included both new build, with £19million worth of investment, and improvements to existing stock, investing around £31million. The Report also detailed proposals for future investment to deliver an ambitious programme to improve the quality of Council owned homes in Angus.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the content of the Report and the improvements made to the Council's housing stock; and
- (ii) that the HRA Business Plan be reviewed, including an analysis of how much additional financial investment could be directed towards the Capital Programme in future years, and that the outcome of this review would be presented to a meeting of the Communities Committee early in 2017.

7. STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2017/2018 – 2021/2022

There was submitted Report No 394/16 by the Head of Planning and Place, advising members as to the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for 2017/2018 – 2021/2022.

The SHIP purpose was to set out the strategic investment priorities for affordable housing over a five year period in fulfilment of the strategic vision contained in the Angus Local Housing Strategy 2012/2017. The Scottish Government required that the SHIP be submitted by the Council every two years. The SHIP projected that, based on current levels of funding, approximately 402 new homes could be delivered in the period to 2021/2022, requiring a subsidy of £19.591million.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report and to approve the content of the SHIP 2017/18 – 2021/22 as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the Report; and

- (ii) to approve the ongoing development of the SHIP, and its associated programme plans and procedures, with the Council's partners during the lifetime of the Plan.

8. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER UPDATE

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 March 2016, there was submitted Report No 395/16 by the Head of Planning and Place advising the Committee of the current position in relation to applications received for Community Asset Transfer, and advising in particular of the proposed transfer of land at Coupar Angus Road, Birkhill to the Muirhead and Birkhill Millennium Hall Management Committee.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the transfer of land at Millennium and Birkhill Hall, Coupar Angus Road, Birkhill, as detailed on the plan attached at Appendix 2 to the Report, to the Millennium and Birkhill Hall Management Committee on the basis of a 99 year lease for £300.00 per annum; and
- (ii) to note the outcomes and progress of asset transfer applications received to date.

9. ANGUS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 August 2016, there was submitted Report No 396/16 by the Head of Planning and Place, advising members of changes to the membership of the Angus Local ACCESS Forum.

The Committee agreed to the appointment of James Gray-Cheape and Antony Gifford as Land Manager representatives on the Angus Local ACCESS Forum.

10. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

With reference to Article 14 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 17 November 2015, there was submitted Report No 397/16 by the Head of Planning and Place, giving an overview of the Council's compliance with its climate change duties and proposing measures to improve governance relating to sustainability and climate change.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the contents of the Report in accordance with the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009;
- (ii) to modify the governance arrangements in relation to climate change by expanding the remit and membership of the Carbon Member Officer Group to progress work and to lead climate change matters in Angus and:
 - (a) to appoint Councillor Houston as an additional member, from the Administration group; and
 - (b) to appoint Councillors Proctor and McLaren (being two members from the non-administration); and
- (iii) to support continuing discussions with neighbouring local authorities, investigating potential benefits of a regional approach to climate change.

11. A930/B9128 MUIRDRUM CROSSROADS JUNCTION LAYOUT

There was submitted Report No 398/16 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, advising the Committee of concerns raised by local residents, and subsequently by Local Members, over reported instances of dangerous driving at the junction of the A930 and B9128 in Muirdrum Village. The Report set out the findings of engineering investigations and an options appraisal into amending the priorities at the junction at the location.

The Report acknowledged concerns raised by local residents and elected members regarding road safety at the road junction, together with reported and recorded instances of inappropriate driving behaviour. Given the low accident record of the last ten years, however, and in comparison with other sites, the Report indicated that the realignment of the junction was not justified. The Report also noted that other interventions by Police Scotland in enforcement terms could still occur.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the concerns of the local residents;
- (ii) to note the findings of the engineering investigations and options appraisal carried out to assess the concerns; and
- (iii) that no action be taken to realign the junction at this time.

Having declared an interest in the following item, Councillor May left the meeting.

12. MONTROSE BEACH STUDY UPDATE

With reference to Article 4 (Information Report No 15/16, Schedule 6) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 January 2016, there was submitted Report No 399/16 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, advising the Committee on progress of implementation of measures to manage beach erosion at Montrose.

The Report updated members on the current position together with various proposals, including the continued exploration of funding options. The Council's budgetary commitment to the Montrose Beach Study since 2011/2012 amounted to £386,000. There would be on-going coastal protection risk to beach users, the Council assets and the golf course. These risks would be monitored and reviewed by officers with further reports coming to Committee as required.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the update on progress of implementation of measures to manage beach erosion at Montrose; and
- (ii) to approve the proposals for future continuation of the implementation of measures to manage beach erosion at Montrose by the Head of Technical and Property Services, as funding allocations allowed.

Councillor May returned to the meeting.

13. DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT - UPDATE

With reference to Article 13 of the minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 1 December 2015, there was submitted Report No 400/16 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, providing an update on progress for the introduction of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) in Angus, with details of the application process to Transport Scotland, and the publication of the relevant Order.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note that the application had been made to Transport Scotland for the introduction of DPE in Angus, with an intended start date of 1 April 2017;
- (ii) to note that no objections had been received during the consultation process;
- (iii) to approve the making of the Angus Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading) (On-Street Parking) (Decriminalised Enforcement) Order 201x; and
- (iv) to approve the adoption of the proposed Parking Policy for Angus Council, as appended to the Report.

14. ANGUS ACTIVE TRAVEL STRATEGY

There was submitted Report No 401/16 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, presenting the Angus Active Travel Strategy.

The Strategy was necessary to help Angus achieve the national objectives with regard to cycling and walking but also to ensure that the various Council departments, external organisations and groups currently involved in delivering active travel initiatives in Angus, all worked together with common goals and objectives. The strategy had been produced with the support of matched funding from Sustrans, which enabled the appointment of consultants to assist the preparation of the strategy.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Angus Active Travel Strategy as outlined in Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (ii) to confirm the appointment of Councillor Jeanette Gaul as Active Travel Champion; and
- (iii) to receive biennial progress reports on the implementation of the strategy commencing in 2017.

15. FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2009 UPDATE

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 March 2016, there was submitted Report No 402/16 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, updating members on the publication of the Local Flood Risk Management Plans under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, and advising as to the proposed adoption of a Property Level Protection Policy for flood risk.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the publication of the Local Flood Risk Management Plans for the Tay Estuary and Montrose Basin and Tay, under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, as detailed in section 5 of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the policy for Property Level Protection to flood risk, also as set out in section 5 of the Report.

16. COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2016-2019

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of the special meeting of Angus Council of 18 February 2016, there was submitted Report No 403/16 by the Strategic Director - Communities, presenting the Communities Directorate Improvement Plan for 2016-2019 which examined how the Directorate delivered outcomes and set out challenges and actions to achieve improvement over the next three years.

The Committee agreed to note the terms of the Communities Directorate Improvement Plan for 2016-2019, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report.

17. COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015-2016

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 18 August 2015, there was submitted Report No 404/16 by the Strategic Director - Communities, advising of the production of the 2015/16 Annual Performance Report for the Communities Directorate.

The Report advised that as an integral part of the Council's Performance Management Arrangements, each directorate was required to prepare an annual report for submission to their service Committees in the first Committee cycle following the summer recess. This Report had been held back to take account of the redesign of the Directorate Improvement Plan and was an abbreviation from previous years until adoption of the new three key priorities.

The Report was also due to be considered by the Scrutiny and Audit Committee on 22 November 2016.

In welcoming the Report, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the Communities Directorate Annual Performance Report for 2015/16, as appended to the Report.

18. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee resolved in terms of Standing Order 28(2) that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item, so as to avoid the possible disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Part 1, Schedule 7A, Paragraphs 6 and 12.

19. INTERNAL AUDIT INVESTIGATION REPORT

There was submitted Joint Report No 405/16 by the Chief Executive and the Strategic Director – Communities, providing an update on an investigation conducted jointly by Property and Internal Audit in 2014.

The Committee agreed the recommendation, as set out in the Report.