

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 17 November 2015 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors DONALD MORRISON, JEANETTE GAUL, BRIAN BOYD, BILL DUFF, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, IAIN GAUL, JIM HOUSTON, DAVID MAY, COLIN BROWN, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, ALEX KING, MARTIN GEDDES, MARK SALMOND and EWAN SMITH.

Councillor MORRISON, Convener, in the Chair.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener, on behalf of the Committee, referred to various major terrorist incidents which had occurred around the world over the past few days, the most recent being in Paris. All had resulted in significant numbers of civilian casualties. With the endorsement of the Committee he expressed condolences to all those affected by these events, and requested that the Council flag be flown at half mast on Wednesday 18 November 2015.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Ian McLaren, Helen Oswald and Ronnie Proctor MBE with Councillors Colin Brown, Alex King and Martyn Geddes substituting respectively.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 September 2015 was submitted, approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 4 September 2015, 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 26 August 2015 was submitted and noted.

4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 30 SEPTEMBER 2015 TO 17 NOVEMBER 2015

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 September 2015, there was submitted and noted Report No 441/15 by the Strategic Director – Communities, together with its six schedules, providing information to members with regard to services delivered in the Communities Directorate for the relevant period.

5. HOUSING CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT 2015/2016

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 September 2015, there was submitted Report No 442/15 by the Head of Planning and Place, setting out the actual spend to 30 September 2015, together with projected outturns for the year to 31 March 2016 and any required updated capital funding proposals.

The Report advised that the actual spend achieved to 30 September 2015 on the Housing Capital Programme was £2,316,000 equating to 32.1% of the monitoring budget of £7,216,000. The Report also provided commentary on the significant capital budget monitoring issues and updates on the capital receipts and capital funding positions for 2015/2016, with the financial implications being summarised in Table 5 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. POLICY FOR MANAGEMENT OF UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS FOR GYPSIES/TRAVELLERS

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 19 March 2002, there was submitted Report No 443/15 by the Strategic Director – Communities, proposing the adoption of the revised and updated policy and procedures for the Management of Unauthorised Gypsy/Traveller Encampments in Angus. The Convener referred to the presentation to members held immediately prior to the meeting.

The Report advised that the policy statement of 2002 by the Council had not been updated during the intervening 13 years, and that the current provision took into account changes in approach to the management of unauthorised encampments. While Angus had traditionally attracted travellers, across Scotland there was a current increase in the numbers of “economic travellers” which led to much larger groups having a major impact upon local communities and supporting agencies, so bringing about the review.

The new policy aimed to give clear direction of the Council policy and procedures to be followed by Council staff when responding to reports of encampments.

Councillor Fairweather considered that while the new policy was helpful, it would not necessarily solve all the practical difficulties in this area.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the adoption of the revised and updated policy on the Management of Unauthorised Gypsy/Traveller Encampments as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (ii) that the policy be implemented with immediate effect.

7. REVIEW OF COMMERCIAL WASTE SERVICES AND CHARGES

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 January 2015, there was submitted Report No 444/15 by the Strategic Director – Communities, detailing proposals for the adjustment of charges levied by the Council for the collection and disposal of commercial wastes.

The Committee agreed to the application of revised charges for 2016/17, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report.

8. STREET LIGHTING POLICY

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 3 March 2015, there was submitted Report No 445/15 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, setting out a formal policy to manage the stock of approximately 22,000 street lights in Angus, through the Lighting Partnership with Tayside Contracts, and giving information on the carbon and energy reduction achieved.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the street lighting policy for Angus, as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (ii) to welcome and note the carbon and energy reduction achieved.

9. PROPOSED APPROPRIATION OF GROUND FORMING PART OF THE FORMER RESOURCE CENTRE, EASTGATE, FRIOCKHEIM

With reference to Article 13 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 12 September 2013, there was submitted Report No 446/15 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, advising that a piece of ground, forming part of the former Teachers' Resource Centre, Eastgate, Friockheim, was vacant and surplus to the requirements of the Council. The Report set out proposals to appropriate part of the site to the Housing Revenue Account for the provision of affordable housing.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note that the ground extending to 1853 square metres or thereby, forming part of the former Teachers' Resource Centre, Eastgate, Friockheim, was surplus to the requirements of the People Directorate;
- (ii) to note that the Housing Division of the Communities Directorate had expressed an interest in the building for residential use for the provision of affordable housing; and
- (iii) to approve the appropriation of the ground extending to 1853 square metres or thereby, forming part of the former Teachers' Resource Centre, Eastgate, Friockheim, from the People Directorate to the Housing Revenue Account, subject to the approval of the Scottish Ministers, on the basis of Report No. 509/13 *Policy for the Appropriation of Surplus General Fund Assets to the Housing Revenue Account for Affordable Housing*.

10. AFFORDABLE HOUSING, EASTGATE, FRIOCKHEIM – TENDER REPORT

With reference to Article 9 above, there was submitted Report No 447/15 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, setting out the details of an acceptance of a tender where the lowest acceptable tender exceeded the Chief Officer's procurement delegated authority limits contained in section 16.8.1 of the Financial Regulations of the Council. The tender related to the construction of two one bedroomed single storey houses and one two bedroomed single storey house together with all associated services at a site in Friockheim.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the acceptance of the lowest acceptable tender for the construction of new affordable housing at Eastgate, Friockheim from Andrew Shepherd Construction Ltd, in the amount of £532,862.50;
- (ii) to approve the estimated total cost of £695,994 (at out-turn prices)
- (iii) to note that the funding for this project amounting to £695,994, would comprise £150,000 from the Scottish Government Affordable Housing Grant and £545,994 from the Housing Revenue Account Capital budget;
- (iv) to note that the Housing Financial Plan would be amended and presented on the basis of (iii) above to the Special Rent Setting meeting of this Committee in early February 2016; and
- (v) to note the financial implications included in Section 6 of the Report.

11. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

With reference to Article 17 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 May 2015, there was submitted Report No 448/15 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, seeking approval for one property transaction which had been provisionally agreed.

This property had been advertised on the open market and one offer received. The property had been previously advertised and one offer received although this purchase did not proceed.

The Committee agreed to approve the disposal on the open market of the Former Registrars, 32 Panmure Street, Brechin, to a private individual for £65,000 with each party meeting their own costs.

12. VARIATION OF WAITING RESTRICTIONS

There was submitted Report No 449/15 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, describing proposed amendments to current waiting restrictions in Keptie Street, and Keptie Road, Arbroath; River Street, Brechin; Glenesk Avenue and Glenprosen Street, Montrose; William Street, Ferryden, Montrose; and Links Parade, Carnoustie.

The Committee agreed to the promotion of Traffic Regulation Variation Orders to effect changes to current waiting restrictions in Arbroath, Brechin, Carnoustie and Montrose as detailed in the Report.

13. DRIVING RESTRICTION AT BEECHWOOD PLACE, KIRRIEMUIR

There was submitted Report No 450/15 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, relating to a proposal to introduce a driving restriction on a section of Beechwood Place, Kirriemuir.

Beechwood Place comprised an adopted section and a short unadopted section of roadway. Heavy usage had resulted in the unadopted section of road falling into a state of disrepair considered to be dangerous for road users and it had been closed as a result. The proposal would result in the current temporary arrangements being made permanent by way of a permanent Traffic Order. Such an Order would require to be published in the press inviting objections leading to a further Report to Committee for determination in due course.

The Committee agreed to promote the necessary Traffic Order to introduce a driving restriction on a section of Beechwood Place, Kirriemuir.

14. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT

With reference to Article 25 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 August 2014, there was submitted Report No 451/15 by the Head of Planning and Place, advising as to progress made on actions within the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2016. Appended to the Report was the 2015 annual update.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the contents of the Report and annual update in accordance with the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009; and
- (ii) to approve the contents of the Report and annual update for submission to the Sustainable Scotland Network, and to note the progress made by Council directorates in implementing the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.