

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 27 September 2016 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors DONALD MORRISON, PAUL VALENTINE, BRIAN BOYD, BILL DUFF, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, IAIN GAUL, JIM HOUSTON, DAVID MAY, IAN MCLAREN, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE and MARK SALMOND.

Councillor MORRISON, Convener, in the Chair.

Prior to the commencement of proceedings, the Convener referred to the recent publication, by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), of their official figures showing the household recycling rates for each of the 32 Scottish local authorities. Angus was the top placed recycling Council area in Scotland, achieving a rate of 59.2% as against a national average of 44.3%, and a significant improvement from 40.1% only three years previously.

Members joined the Convener in paying tribute to the people of Angus and to the Council staff who had achieved this tremendous result, and looked forward to maintaining levels of improvement to keep Angus at the top of the league.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Jeanette Gaul, with Councillor Paul Valentine substituting; and from Councillors David Fairweather, Helen Oswald and Ewan Smith.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Proctor declared an interest in item 9 (Report No 355/16) in that he had been in conversation with Kirriemuir Regeneration Group and offered advice on this matter. He indicated that he would take part in any discussion and voting on the item.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 August 2016 was submitted, approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 16 AUGUST TO 27 SEPTEMBER 2016

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 August 2016, there was submitted and noted Report No 347/16 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 FINAL CAPITAL BUDGET VOLUME 2015-2019 AND 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 Joint Report No 348/16 by the Head of Corporate Improvement and Finance and the Head of Planning and Place, setting out the updated 2015-2019 Housing Revenue Account Financial Plan, incorporating the 2016/2017 Capital Monitoring Budget, which would be reflected in the 2016/2017 Final Capital Budget Volume.

The 2016-2017 Capital Monitoring Budget had been established at £10,278,000, a decrease of £1,170,000 as compared with the position in February 2016. The actual spend achieved to 31 August 2016 on the Housing Capital Programme was £2,914,000, equating to 28.4% of the monitoring budget.

Prior to the ending of the Tenants Right to Buy their Council homes on 1 August 2016, a significant increase in Right to Buy applications had occurred. Overall capital receipts were estimated as potentially amounting to £2,518,000 this financial year, after costs.

Having reviewed and scrutinised the contents of the Report, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the contents of the updated Housing Revenue Account Financial Plan as reflected in the 2016/17 Final Capital Budget Volume, and as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (ii) to note that the 2016/17 capital budget represented the Council's approved budget for capital monitoring purposes; and
- (iii) to note the actual and outturn position on the Housing Revenue Account capital programme as at 31 August 2016.

6. DRONE PROTOCOL

There was submitted Report No 349/16 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, proposing the introduction of a protocol for managing the increasing requests for drone flights. This would have the benefit of publicising the landscape of the county while extending existing restrictions in the Council's parks and recreational areas.

The Committee agreed to approve the introduction of the protocol as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report.

7. PARKS MAINTENANCE PLANT AND EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2016-2017

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 September 2015, there was submitted Report No 350/16 by the Head of Regulatory and Protective Services, seeking approval for the purchase of plant and equipment required for the 2016/17 Parks Maintenance capital replacement programme.

The replacement programme represented the priority items required to maintain service provision, and also demonstrated a continued commitment to provide equipment fit for purpose, safe to use, and fully compliant with current Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations, as well as relevant legislation and regulations within the EU and HSE guidance on exposure to hand arm vibration.

The Report set out the sourcing strategy, the terms proposed and procurement procedure, as well as a contract evaluation and award basis, and a detailed description of the equipment intended to be purchased.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the estimated total cost of £237,000 for the purchase of grounds maintenance plant and equipment required for the 2016/2017 capital replacement programme;
- (ii) to authorise the relevant officers within the Communities Directorate to procure grounds maintenance plant and equipment on the basis set out in the Report; and
- (iii) to note the financial implications included in section 5 of the Report.

8. CHARRETTE PROGRAMME UPDATE

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 September 2015, there was submitted Report No 351/16 by the Head of Planning and Place providing an update on the implementation of the charrette roll-out programme for 2015/2016, and providing details on the implementation of the programme in 2016/2017.

Town Centre Charrettes had been held during the 2015/2016 financial year in Forfar, Arbroath and Montrose. Members of the local communities including business people, Council staff and public representatives, and community agencies had been invited to engage in a series of workshop activities designed to identify issues, opportunities and solutions. Detailed summaries of the findings had been made available in the Members' Information Hub.

Having heard comments from local members, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress made in implementing the Council's agreed charrette programme;
- (ii) to note the outputs from the charrettes held in Forfar, Arbroath and Montrose; and
- (iii) to endorse the frameworks for action identified in each of the Reports.

9. THE DEN PUBLIC TOILETS – VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 April 2016, there was submitted Report No 355/16 by the Strategic Director – Communities regarding the future of the public conveniences at The Den, Kirriemuir.

The facilities had been closed for several months following significant vandalism. Repairs had now been completed and the facility was fit for reopening. The Kirriemuir Regeneration Group, already engaged in managing the town's Barrie Pavilion and its toilets, and operating the Camera Obscura, was prepared to take on the management of the toilets, keeping them open all the year round and being responsible for their general upkeep and minor maintenance and repair.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to homologate the decision of the Strategic Director – Communities, in consultation with the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Communities Committee, to agree to the volunteer management of the toilets at The Den, Kirriemuir, with support and assistance from Angus Council from 1 October 2016;
- (ii) to approve provision of financial resources on a pro rata basis as outlined in the Report; and
- (iii) to commend the Kirriemuir Regeneration Group for its continued efforts in volunteering and continuing the enhancement of facilities within the local community.