

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 18 November 2014 at 2.22pm.

Present: Councillors DONALD MORRISON, JEANETTE GAUL, BRIAN BOYD, BILL DUFF, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, IAIN GAUL, JIM HOUSTON, DAVID MAY, BOB MYLES, LYNNE DEVINE, HELEN OSWALD, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE and MARK SALMOND.

Councillor MORRISON, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Ian McLaren and Glennis Middleton, with Councillors Bob Myles and Lynne Devine substituting, respectively; an apology for absence was also intimated on behalf of Councillor Ewan Smith.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(i) Communities Committee

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 30 September 2014 was submitted, approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(ii) Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee

The minute of meeting of the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee of 5 September 2014, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR PERIOD FROM 1 OCTOBER 2014 TO 18 NOVEMBER 2014

There was submitted and noted Report No 460/14 by the Strategic Director – Communities, and 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 – 2014/15

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, there was submitted and noted Report No 461/14 by the Head of Planning and Place, setting out the actual capital spend to 30 September 2014, together with projected outturns for the year to 31 March 2015, and any required updated capital funding proposals.

The Report advised that the actual spend achieved to 30 September 2014 on the Housing Capital Programme was £2.880 million, equating to 24% of the monitoring budget of £11.849 million. It was projected at the current time that by the end of financial year 2014/2015, net expenditure would total £11.663 million.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to note the projected year-end positions on capital expenditure as indicated in Appendix 1 of the Report and the indicative funding proposals for the programme.

6. CARNOUSTIE PAVILION, LINKS PARADE, CARNOUSTIE

There was submitted Report No 462/14 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, advising the Committee of the future options for the use of the vacant Pavilion at Links Parade, Carnoustie.

Councillors Oswald and Boyd, as local members, emphasised the importance of the Pavilion to the town and hoped that its future could be assured, following the recent departure of the Rugby Club as previous lease holder.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to declare the main Pavilion at Links Parade, Carnoustie to be surplus to the requirements of the Angus Council and to market it for sale or lease;
- (ii) that the Head of Technical and Property Services negotiate lease terms and conditions with the Carnoustie Yacht Club for the ground currently occupied by the Club; and
- (iii) that the Community Asset Transfer Group should consider the options for community use of the Pavilion building.

7. FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2009 – UPDATE

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 August 2014, there was submitted Report No 463/14 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, updating the Committee on issues regarding the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, the measures to be included in the draft Flood Risk Management Strategy and governance arrangements for the development of Local Flood Risk Management Plans.

On behalf of the Committee, the Convener expressed thanks to Council staff who had been on site to provide assistance during recent flooding in the River Street area of Brechin. Councillor Jeanette Gaul expressed her appreciation to her colleagues on the Flood Risk Management Member/Officer Working Group, and to the officers for the considerable work they had done in assisting the Group to complete its work within the required timescales.

Having heard from Councillor Myles, the Strategic Director – Communities confirmed that he would request the Scottish Environment Protection Agency to update its flood maps to reflect more accurately areas which were potentially vulnerable to flooding by the River North Esk, and around Edzell in particular.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress made in the development of Flood Risk Management Strategies and Local Flood Risk Management Plans;
- (ii) to approve the measures to be assessed in the development of Flood Risk Management Strategies and Plans to be consulted upon in early 2015;
- (iii) to approve the governance arrangements, including continuation of the established Member/Officer Working Group for the further development of Local Flood Risk Management Plans; and
- (iv) to authorise the required steps under the Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Local Flood Risk Management Plans, up to the point of its adoption by the Council to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

8. OPEN MARKET ACQUISITION SCHEME

There was submitted Report No 464/14 by the Head of Planning and Place, regarding a scheme to purchase properties on the open market to increase the Council's housing stock.

The Report advised that the number of new homes being constructed in Angus remained lower than was required to meet housing need and demand; the Council continued to face challenges in delivering affordable housing, including securing suitable land; and registered social landlords reported continued issues in accessing development finance. There was, therefore, a need for the Council to explore a range of opportunities to increase the supply of affordable housing.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve proposals for an Open Market Acquisition Scheme to purchase properties when there was unused capacity within funding resources to increase the Council's housing stock and address current housing needs in Angus;
- (ii) that purchases and related costs would be funded from an appropriate funding source to be identified from within existing resources on an ongoing basis; and
- * (iii) to delegate authority to the Head of Planning and Place to approve the purchase of properties which met the Council's criteria and which could be accommodated within existing resources.

9. STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN (SHIP) 2015/2016 – 2019/2020

There was submitted Report No 465/14 by the Head of Planning and Place, advising members regarding the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for 2015/2016 - 2019/2020, the core purpose of which was to set out the strategic investment priorities for affordable housing over a five year period, to achieve the strategic vision set out in the Angus Local Housing Strategy 2012-2017, to "create places that people can be proud to call home". The SHIP required to be submitted to the Scottish Government by 28 November 2014.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report and approve the content of the SHIP 2015/2016 - 2019/2020 as set out in Appendix 1 to 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 2015/2016 and 2016/2017.

10. ANGUS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of the Infrastructure Services Committee of 1 October 2013, there was submitted Report No 466/14 by the Head of Planning and Place, advising the Committee of changes to the membership of the Angus Local Access Forum. Members of the Local Access Forum were appointed by the Local Authority in accordance with the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

The Committee agreed to the following appointments to the Angus Local Access Forum:-

- (i) Gill Lawrie and Ivan Laird as Land Manager Representatives; and
- (ii) Kirsty Macari as the Council Representative.

11. CARNOUSTIE PATH NETWORK

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of the Infrastructure Services Committee of 11 October 2011, there was submitted Report No 467/14 by the Head of Planning and Place, seeking authority to undertake signposting and path improvements to form the Carnoustie Path Network.

The establishment of signposted path networks around each of the burghs was a key element of the Angus Countryside Access Strategy, with the Montrose Path Network due for completion in Spring 2015. The first phase of the Carnoustie Path Network had been completed in 2012.

The Committee agreed to proceed with signposting of paths around Carnoustie and path improvements at the northwest end of Carnoustie, at an estimated cost of £19,000.

12. COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE MID-TERM PERFORMANCE REPORT

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of previous meeting, there was submitted Report No 468/14 by the Strategic Director – Communities, introducing the Mid-Term Performance Report for the Communities Directorate, covering the first six months of the 2014/2015 financial year. The Report was an integral part of the Council's performance management arrangements, designed to give members, employees and the public an update of performance within the Directorate during the relevant time period. The Report would be considered by the Scrutiny and Audit Committee on 27 January 2015.

The Head of Technical and Property Services, confirmed that the Council had engaged a consultant to develop a feasibility study for consideration by Ministers to take forward decriminalised parking enforcement. It was anticipated that this would take approximately two years to complete and implement.

Members also commended the staff involved in the roll-out in Angus of the kerbside recycling initiative.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the Communities Directorate Mid-Term Performance Report for 2014/15; and
- (ii) to record and request that the Strategic Director – Communities, pass on its appreciation to the staff involved in the roll-out of the kerbside recycling initiative across Angus.

13. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee resolved in terms of Standing Order 27(2) that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items, so as to avoid the possible disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Paragraphs 9 (Article 14) and 2 (Articles 15 and 16).

14. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER UPDATE

With reference to Article 27 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 August 2014, there was submitted Report No 469/14 by the Head of Planning and Place, advising as to the current position in relation to applications received for Community Asset Transfer.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the transaction as detailed in Section 5 of the Report; and
- (ii) to note the progress for asset transfer applications received to date.

15. REMODELLING OF COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK IN CENTRAL ARBROATH

With reference to Articles 8 and 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 August 2014, there was submitted Report No 470/14 by the Head of Planning and Place, relating to the proposed remodelling of Council housing stock in central Arbroath.

The Committee agreed recommendations (i) and (ii) as set out in the Report and to note that a further Report would be brought before the Committee with detailed proposals and costings in due course.

16. REMODELLING OF COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK IN VIEWMOUNT, FORFAR

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 August 2014, there was submitted Report No 471/14 by the Head of Planning and Place, relating to the proposed remodelling of Council housing stock in Viewmount, south Forfar.

The Committee agreed recommendation (i) as set out in the Report and noted that a further Report would be brought before the Committee with detailed proposals and costings in due course.