

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 30 September 2014 at 2.25pm.

Present: Councillors DONALD MORRISON, JEANETTE GAUL, BRIAN BOYD, BILL DUFF, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, IAIN GAUL, JIM HOUSTON, DAVID MAY, IAN MCLAREN, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, HELEN OSWALD, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, BOB MYLES and EWAN SMITH.

Councillor MORRISON, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Mark Salmond, with Councillor Myles substituting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Myles declared a non-financial interest in Report No 412/14 (Article 12), as he had attended a number of local meetings on the Edzell flooding issue. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion and voting on the matter.

Councillor Houston declared a non-financial interest in Report No 412/14 (Article 12), as he had attended various meetings in relation to the Edzell flooding issue. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion and voting on the matter.

3. REQUESTS FOR DEPUTATIONS

The Committee agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12 to hear deputations in relation to [Report No 412/14](#) (Article 12) and [Report No 417/14](#) (Article 18).

(i) Edzell Flooding

The Committee heard from Mr William Black, an Edzell resident, who was concerned about the impact of the proposed pipe to be laid through his garden and the effect it would have upon his property and amenity.

Following questions from members, Mr Black withdrew to the public seating.

The Committee then heard from Ms Fiona Work of Edzell Flood Group, who welcomed the proposals as set out in Report No 412/14 and the timetable for the recommended actions in the Report. The Group further offered local help and expertise to the Council particularly where practical difficulties arose.

Ms Work thereafter withdrew to the public seating.

(ii) Change of House Addresses at Letham, Forfar

The Committee heard from Ms Laura Conboy who spoke in support of the proposals to change the addresses for a number of existing houses in Letham from Vinney Place to Dundee Street, Letham.

Ms Conboy thereafter withdrew to the public seating.

4. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 August 2014](#) was submitted and approved as a correct record.

5. INFORMATION REPORT FOR PERIOD FROM 20 AUGUST 2014 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

There was submitted and noted [Report No 404/14](#) by the Strategic Director – Communities, and its two schedules, providing information to members with regard to services delivered in the Communities directorate for the relevant period.

6. COMMUNITIES ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2013/2014

There was submitted [Report No 405/14](#) by the Strategic Director – Communities, advising as to the production of the 2013/2014 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 committee. The Report was designed to give members, employees and the public, who would have access to the Report via the Council website, an at-a-glance picture of performance within the directorate during the previous financial year.

The Committee agreed to note the terms of the Communities Directorate Annual Performance Report for 2013/2014.

7. HOUSING CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT – 2014/15

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 August 2014, there was submitted [Report No 406/14](#) by the Head of Planning and Place, setting out the actual capital spend to 31 August 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 31 August 2014 on the Housing Capital Programme was £2.714 million, 23% 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 £11.878 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.

8. NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT CHAPELPARK SITE, FORFAR – PROCUREMENT APPROVAL REQUEST

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 21 January 2014, there was submitted [Report No 407/14](#) by the Head of Technical and Property Services, seeking authority for a proposed procurement where the maximum value of the contract was above the Chief Officer's delegated authority limit for a project to provide affordable housing, allowing for 25 flats following the conversion of existing buildings, and four new build terraced houses, the range of house type to be available for rent to meet the current anticipated housing demand having been enhanced by revisions to the original plans.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the estimated total cost of £4,700,000 (at outturn prices)
- (ii) to approve the procurement authority, as contained in the Report, in accordance with the process indicated in section 16.8 and 16.24.16 of the Financial Regulations of the Council;
- (iii) to approve funding in the amount of £300,000 for this project from the Affordable Housing Account;

- (iv) to note that the funding for this project, amounting to £4,700,000, would comprise £1,305,000 from the Scottish Government Affordable Housing Grant; £300,000 from the Affordable Housing Account; and £3,095,000 from the HRA Capital budget;
- (v) to note that the HRA Financial Plan would be amended at its next review to accommodate the estimated total cost for this project, and would be the subject of a separate report to this Committee; and
- (vi) to note the financial implications included in section 6 of the Report.

9. VEHICLE WORKSHOP AND ACCOMMODATION ALTERATIONS – ACROP RECYCLING CENTRE, PEASIEHILL, ARBROATH

With reference to Article 16 of the minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 10 June 2014, there was submitted [Report No 408/14](#) by the Head of Technical and Property Services, seeking authority for a proposed procurement where the maximum value of the contract was above the Chief Officer's delegated authority limit, in connection with the provision of vehicle workshops, messing facilities and office accommodation improvement works at the existing Angus Communities Recycling Opportunities Partnership (ACROP) building at Peasiehill, Arbroath. This provision was as a result of a review carried out on the business case with the long term provision of fleet services, including vehicle workshop facilities and a proposed partnership arrangement with Tayside Contracts.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the estimated total cost of £2,670,000 (at outturn prices);
- (ii) to approve the procurement authority, as contained in this Report, in accordance with the process stated in section 16.8 and 16.24.16 of the Financial Regulations of the Council; and
- (iii) to note that this project would be funded from a total allowance of £2,994,000 set aside for the capital elements of the Shared Service Agenda for Partnership Working between Angus Council and Tayside Contracts contained in the Regulatory, Protective and Prevention Services – Communities section of the General Fund Capital Programme 2013/2018 as approved at the Policy and Resources Committee held on 2 September 2014;
- (iv) to note that the 2013/2018 General Services Financial Plan would be amended once all the capital costs relating to the Shared Services Agenda project had been collated; and
- (v) to note the financial implications included in section 6 of the Report.

10. TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS FOR EVENTS

There was submitted [Report No 409/14](#) by the Head of Technical and Property Services advising as to changes by Police Scotland regarding Traffic Regulation Orders for events, setting out the impact on Council services as a result, and seeking to reduce the impact on Angus communities by establishing a policy.

It was considered that, due to the nature of numerous events which utilised the road network each year as part of the open environment, some formal legal arrangements required to be put in place to close roads to traffic or restrict parking. Police Scotland had intimated that formal Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders were required for events which previously had not required formal orders but had been managed by the Police under their direction.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the clarification by Police Scotland regarding the need for formal Traffic Regulation Orders for events utilising public roads in Angus; and
- (ii) to approve the proposals to address the need for Traffic Regulation Orders for events, as detailed in the Report.

11. VARIATION OF WAITING RESTRICTIONS

There was submitted [Report No 410/14](#) by the Head of Technical and Property Services, describing proposed amendments to current waiting restrictions to take account of changing circumstances at the various locations listed.

The Convener advised that this Report was being withdrawn for further consideration by officers.

12. EDZELL FLOODING

With reference to Articles 3 and 18 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 4 March 2014, there was submitted [Report No 412/14](#) by the Head of Technical and Property Services, describing the findings of the Flood Risk Assessment for Edzell in light of the flooding event in December 2012, and presenting options for the delivery of intervention measures to manage flood risk and reduce the impact of future flooding on properties in Edzell.

Having heard from a number of members, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the findings of the Flood Risk Assessment as detailed;
- (ii) that the option for increasing the capacity of the Dunlappie Road culvert be progressed and implemented subject to land agreements, as detailed in the Report;
- (iii) that the option for increasing the use of property level protection was implemented, as detailed in the Report;
- (iv) that options for upstream measures to the Wishop Burn and the western bypass solution to discharge to the West Water and eastern bypass solution to discharge to the North Esk be developed for future consideration; and
- (v) to note the assurance given by the Convener that the Council would continue to engage in dialogue with local residents affected by the Scheme.

13. CARBON REDUCTION COMMITMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

With reference to Article 12 of the minute of meeting of the Corporate Services Committee of 28 April 2011, there was submitted [Report No 413/14](#) by the Head of Technical and Property Services, advising on the costs for the purchase of carbon allowances for 2013-2014 in compliance with the Climate Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Order 2010, based on the reportable consumption and the subsequent carbon dioxide emissions produced by Angus Council. The Report also detailed the total expenditure incurred through the participation in phase one of the Climate Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Order 2010.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note that the annual report was required to be accessible to members of the public; and
- (ii) to note the content of the annual report.

14. ARREARS UPDATE – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNTS

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 May 2014, there was submitted [Report No 414/14](#) by the Head of Planning and Place, updating members on current rent arrears levels and level of debt written off in the current financial year.

The Report advised that the current percentage of rent arrears had increased since the previous report to Committee, and efforts were ongoing to pursue outstanding monies, including, where necessary, court action. Since April 2014, 32 court actions had been undertaken with the Council being awarded decree by the court in ten cases. Nineteen accounts totalling £20,654.53 would require to be written off as a result of sequestration, to be progressed under the delegated authority of the Head of Corporate Improvement and Finance.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the current performance and progress in pursuing serious arrears; and
- (ii) to approve the request to write off debt as a result of sequestrations.

15. RECREATION REPAIRS AND RENEWAL FUND

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 2 September 2014, there was submitted [Report No 415/14](#) by the Interim Head of Services to Communities, seeking approval for the proposed use of the Recreation Repairs and Renewal (R&R) fund in the current and future years.

The current balance identified in the Council's 2013/2018 Financial Plan and ring fenced for equipment replacement was £469,000, the balance including a £251,000 carry forward from previous years and a £218,000 contribution from 2013/2014 revenue surpluses. A proportion of the planned spend for future years would be used to purchase essential equipment for the new campuses in Brechin and Forfar.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the £100,000 spend detailed in section 4.1 of the Report; and
- (ii) to note the project spend in future years of £369,000, as detailed in section 3.1 of the Report.

16. GREAT BRITAIN SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES 2015

With reference to Article 12 of the minute of meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee of 24 February 2011, there was submitted [Joint Report No 398/14](#) by the Head of Adult Services and Interim Head of Services to Communities, advising the Committee of the Special Olympics World Summer Games taking place in Los Angeles, California, USA from 20 July to 3 August 2015, and the inclusion of Angus athletes and Council staff in the Great Britain Team.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to approve the participation of service users and staff from the Communities directorate (Services to Communities) who had been selected; and
- (ii) to approve the granting of paid leave of absence from work due to the Games to four members of staff from the Communities directorate.

17. KIRRIEMUIR CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

With reference to Article 13 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 May 2014, there was submitted [Report No 416/14](#) by the Head of Planning and Place, introducing the draft Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan as guidance for Kirriemuir Conservation Area, following a public consultation exercise. The Appraisal and Management Plan would provide planning with guidance and aid consideration of decisions relating to development within the conservation area.

The Committee agreed to approve and adopt the draft Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan for the Kirriemuir Conservation Area as planning guidance.

18. CHANGE OF HOUSE ADDRESSES AT LETHAM, FORFAR

There was submitted [Report No 417/14](#) by the Head of Technical and Property Services, considering the proposed change of addresses for a number of existing houses in Letham.

The Committee agreed to approve the change of addresses for the houses at Nos 17–24 Vinney Place, Letham to Nos 17-24 Dundee Street, Letham.

19. 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 6 and 14 (Article 20) and 2, 3 and 6 (Article 21).

20. REMOVAL OF CONTRACTOR FROM COUNCIL CONTRACTS AND LISTS OF SUPPLIERS

There was submitted [Joint Report No 418/14](#) by the Head of Technical and Property Services and the Service Manager – Governance in relation to the removal of a contractor from the Council's current lists of suppliers.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to approve the recommendations as detailed in the Report.

21. HOUSING SOLUTION FOR A SPECIAL NEEDS CASE

There was submitted [Report No 419/14](#) by the Head of Planning and Place regarding a proposed specialist housing solution to meet the assessed needs of a family, and the direction given by the Children's Reporter under Rule 61(g) of the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011.

The Committee agreed to approve the recommendations as detailed in the Report.