

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 26 September 2017 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, LOIS SPEED, JULIE BELL, COLIN BROWN, ANGUS McMILLAN DOUGLAS OBE, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, BRENDA DURNO, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, SHEILA HANDS, IAN MCLAREN, RICHARD MOORE, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE and TOMMY STEWART.

Councillor FOTHERINGHAM, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors David Cheape and Braden Davy, Councillors Colin Brown and Angus McMillan Douglas OBE substituting respectively.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Duff declared a non-financial interest in item 4 (Report No 325/17), in that he was a current serving Director of Angus Alive. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Bell declared a non-financial interest in item 7 (Report No 328/17), in that the Chair of Isla Primary School Parent Teachers Council had asked her about the timing of the Committee Report, and invited her to attend the meeting of the PTC at which only general discussion on the matter had taken place. She indicated that she would participate in any discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor McMillan Douglas declared a non-financial interest in item 7 (Report No 328/17), in that he had received representations from residents but had not expressed any opinion on the matter. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Proctor declared a non-financial interest in item 7 (Report No 328/17), in that he had been approached by constituents on the matter but had not expressed an opinion. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Fotheringham declared a non-financial interest in item 6 (Report No 327/17) in that he had received representations from residents but had not expressed any opinion on the matter. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Brown declared a non-financial interest in item 6 (Report No 327/17) in that he had received representations from residents but had not expressed any opinion on the matter. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion and voting on this item.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 15 August 2017 was submitted, approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 16 AUGUST TO 26 SEPTEMBER 2017

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 15 August 2017, there was submitted and noted Report No 325/17 by the Strategic Director – Place, together with its seven schedules, namely:-

- (1) Schedule 1 – Angus Alive – Renewal and Repair Fund;
- (2) Schedule 2 – Angus Alive – Amendment to Libraries, Customer and Culture Charges in 2017/18;
- (3) Schedule 3 – Angus Alive - Accreditation Scheme for Museums and Galleries in the United Kingdom;
- (4) Schedule 4 – Carbon Reduction Fund Annual Report 2016/17;

- (5) Schedule 5 – Private Sector Housing Grants 2016/2017 – Quarter Four to 31 March 2017;
- (6) Schedule 6 – Private Sector Housing Grants 2017/2018 – Quarter One to 30 June 2017; and
- (7) Schedule 7 - Scottish Government Social Housing Charter Return: Results.

These provided information to members with regard to services delivered in the Place Directorate for the relevant period.

5. KIRRIEMUIR – AMENDMENT TO EXISTING SPEED LIMITS

With reference to Article 17 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 21 January 2014, there was submitted Report No 326/17 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, advising as to a request received from a local member for a reduction in speed limits on East Hill Road, West Hill Road, the access road from West Hill Road to Kirriemuir Hill Car Park, and the B955 Cortachy Road and Slade Road, together with details of the findings of the engineering investigations carried out in response to that request.

Having heard the views of local members, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the concerns of local residents;
- (ii) to note the findings of the engineering investigations carried out to assess the concerns;
- (iii) to approve a speed reduction from the National Speed Limit (60mph) to 30mph, to be implemented on West Hill Road and the U376 East Hill Road, Kirriemuir, having taken account of the various factors set out in the Report and as detailed in the Plan on Appendix 2 to the Report;
- (iv) to approve the application of a speed limit of 20mph on the access road from West Hill Road to Kirriemuir Hill car park, taking account of the various factors set out in the Report as detailed in the Plan on Appendix 2 to the Report, and also while noting that the narrowness of the road meant that it could be reduced further to 10mph in future should that prove necessary; and
- (v) to approve a reduction in speed limit from 40mph to 30mph on the B955 Cortachy Road and Slade Road as detailed on the Plan in Appendix 3 to the Report.

6. A923 ENTRANCE TO MUIRHEAD AND C51 ENTRANCE TO BOWRIEFAULD - AMENDMENT TO EXISTING SPEED LIMIT

There was submitted Report No 327/17 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, advising as to concerns raised by local residents regarding speeding on the A923 eastbound approach road to Muirhead; the concerns raised by a local member on behalf of residents over speeding on C51 northbound approach into Bowriefauld; a request to reduce the speed limits; and detailing the findings of the engineering investigations carried out.

Having heard local members, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the concerns of local residents;
- (ii) to note the findings of the engineering investigations carried out to assess the concerns;
- (iii) to approve the reduction of the existing speed limit from Muirhead on the A923 from the National Speed Limit to 40mph as detailed in the Plan at Appendix A to the Report;
- (iv) to extend the existing 30mph speed limit at Bowriefauld to cover the C51/U464 junction area as detailed in the plan at Appendix B to the Report, and that appropriate warning signage be provided; and

- (v) that the Head of Technical and Property Services give consideration to improved signage at both Muirhead and Bowriefauld.

7. 20 MPH SPEED LIMITS AT SCHOOLS – ISLA PRIMARY SCHOOL

With reference to Article 29 of the minute of meeting of the Infrastructure Services Committee of 24 August 2010, there was submitted Report No 328/17 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, seeking approval of the installation of a part-time 20mph speed limit at Isla Primary School.

The Infrastructure Services Committee had approved Report No 597/10 which indicated that consideration should be given to the introduction of a part-time 20mph speed limit at the school entrance once Isla Primary School was operational.

Having heard local members, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the implementation of a part-time 20mph speed limit on the C24 outside Isla Primary School; and
- (ii) to request the Head of Technical and Property Services to initiate the promotion of the necessary traffic order associated with the proposal.

8. LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY 2017 - 2022

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 17 January 2017, there was submitted Report No 329/17 by the Head of Housing, Regulatory and Protective Services, seeking approval to publish the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) for the period 2017 – 2022.

The Strategy was produced to fulfil the statutory requirements placed upon local authorities by the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001, and was supported by an assessment of housing need and demand, along with related services. The Consultative Draft LHS had been subject to a 12 week consultation period from 23 January to 16 April 2017, and supported a number of strategic priorities for the Council and its partners. It set out the approach to meeting identified housing need, linking with the Strategic Development Plan and the Local Development Plan while also contributing to the effective integration of health and social care through the design and delivery of housing and related services in ways which would be appropriate to the needs of individuals as and where they arose. The LHS also set a housing supply target, including provision of affordable housing.

Having heard from several members who raised various issues including the potential effect of the introduction of Universal Credit upon house building and the negative impact of increasing rent arrears, the Committee, in welcoming the Report, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the Local Housing Strategy 2017 – 2022 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report.

9. STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN (SHIP) 2018/19 – 2022/23

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 15 November 2016, there was submitted Report No 330/17 by the Head of Housing, Regulatory and Protective Services, advising members as to the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for 2018 – 2022.

The core purpose of the SHIP 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 2017 – 2022. The Scottish Government required the Council to submit its SHIP by 27 October 2017 after which it would form the basis of the Strategic Local Programme Agreement (SLPA) with the Scottish Government. The SLPA set out the programme of housing projects to be funded over the next three years and would be reviewed and updated annually. The SHIP envisaged, based on current levels of funding, that approximately 617 units could be delivered in the period to 2022/2023, requiring a subsidy of £36.050 million.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report and approve the contents of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2018-2019 – 2022-2023, as set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to the Report;
- (ii) to approve the on-going development of the SHIP, and its associated programme plans and procedures, with the Council's partners during the lifetime of the Plan; and
- (iii) to approve the use of Affordable Housing Revenue Account (AHRA) reserves towards projects which increased the supply of affordable housing across Angus, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the Report.

10. REVISED COMMON ALLOCATIONS POLICY

There was submitted Report No 331/17 by the Head of Housing, Regulatory and Protective Services, advising as to the proposed revisions to the Common Allocations Policy.

The Council currently operated a Common Housing Register (CHR), a Single Housing Register, application process and Allocation Policy operating across four social landlords. Currently, access to social housing was governed by legislation and guidance, with reasonable preference categories determining who should receive the greatest priority for housing. Several changes to the allocation rules for social landlords were introduced under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2014 and the current reasonable preference categories would be replaced with three groups, namely social housing tenants who were under-occupying their home; homeless persons with unmet housing needs; and persons who were living in unsatisfactory housing conditions with unmet housing needs.

It was also proposed that the Council adopt a Choice Based Lettings (CBL) approach to the allocation of housing, replacing the current groups plus points matching system. CBL schemes operated already around Scotland and the Scottish Government supported CBL lettings, the indication being that this approach to allocation maximised choice for applicants, increased tenancy sustainability and reduced bureaucracy.

An Angus Council evaluation of CBL had been completed in 2016 and included site visits to Edinburgh City Council and the Wheatley Group. In the event of both the Council and its Partner Registered Social Landlord Boards approving these changes, they would be introduced during 2018.

Having heard from Councillor Speed, who emphasised the importance of all applicants being treated fairly, as individuals, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Common Allocations Draft Policy as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (ii) to note the consultation which had been undertaken with stakeholders and communities in preparing the Common Allocations Draft Policy, as detailed in Appendices 2 and 3 to the Report.

11. PROCESSING OF CO-MINGLED RECYCLING – PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY APPROVAL REQUEST

With reference to Article 22 of the minute of meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee of 14 November 2013, there was submitted Report No 332//17 by the Head of Housing, Regulatory and Protective Services, advising that the Council's current contract for the processing of Co-Mingled Recycling was due to end on 31 December 2017, and detailing proposals for the procurement of a new contract to ensure that there continued to be a suitable outlet for Co-Mingled Recycling collected from households, and that the Council could continue in its duty in terms of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 to provide a recycling collection of specific materials, including paper, card, plastics, cans, glass bottles/jars, to all Angus households.

It was proposed that the new contract for processing Co-Mingled Recycling would be procured in the same manner as the current successful contract. The intention was to procure a one year initial contract term only and so retain the option to procure again in 2018 should the by-then new Scotland Excel Framework result in new suppliers becoming available along with potentially more economically advantageous prices. It was anticipated that costs would be contained within the existing Regulatory and Protective Services Revenue Budget.

The Committee agreed to authorise the Head of Housing, Regulatory and Protective Services to procure the supply of services for the processing of co-mingled recycling on the basis set out in the Report.

12. DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW LANDFILL CELL - PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY APPROVAL REQUEST

There was submitted Report No 333/17 by the Head of Housing, Regulatory and Protective Services, advising that the current landfill cell at Restenneth Landfill Site was due to be filled to capacity by Spring 2018, and proposing the procurement of a contractor to carry out engineering works to develop a new landfill cell at the site.

The Restenneth Landfill Site was used primarily for the disposal of residual waste collected at Angus Council Recycling Centres, and also as a disposal point for kerbside collected household residual waste when the DERL Waste to Energy Plant in Dundee was out of operation. Approximately 30,000 tonnes of materials was disposed of at Restenneth each year. New landfill cells required to be fully lined and isolated from surrounding land and the sites were heavily regulated by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

The Committee agreed to authorise the Head of Housing, Regulatory and Protective Services to procure the development of a new landfill cell at Restenneth Landfill Site at an estimated total cost of £765,000 which it was anticipated could be contained within the existing capital financial plan.

13. ANGUS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 15 November 2016, there was submitted Report No 334/17 by the Head of Housing, Regulatory and Protective Services, advising the Committee of changes to the membership of the Angus Local Access Forum. In terms of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, the Local Access Forum, established by each local authority, had the function of advising the local authority and other person or body consulting the Forum on matters having to do with the exercise of Access Rights, the existence and delineation of rights of way, or the drawing up and adoption of a plan for a system of core paths.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to appoint Fiona Waddell as a user representative; and
- (ii) to appoint Jill Paterson, Environment and Development Plan Manager, as the Angus Council representative.