

# ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 28 August 2018 at 2.00pm.

**Present:** Councillors DAVID FAIRWEATHER, ANGUS MACMILLAN DOUGLAS OBE, BRIAN BOYD, DAVID CHEAPE, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, BILL DUFF, LYNNE DEVINE, SHEILA HANDS, ALEX KING, RICHARD MOORE, BOB MYLES, MARK SALMOND, RON STURROCK, DEREK WANN and KENNY BRAES.

Councillor FAIRWEATHER, Convener, in the Chair

## 1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Braden Davy and Beth Whiteside, with Councillor Craig Fotheringham and Kenny Braes substituting respectively.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Braes declared an interest in Item 13 as he had been in correspondence with potential leasees of the former Leisure Centre at The Inch, Brechin. He had not expressed an opinion and therefore he would participate in any discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Duff declared an interest in Item 8 as an Angus Council appointed Director of Angus Alive. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion on this item.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Hands indicated that she was not in a position to participate in any discussion on Item 11, as the information contained within the Appendix to Report No 256/18 was not in an accessible format. She indicated that she would therefore leave the meeting during consideration of this item.

## 3. MINUTES

### (a) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 5 June 2018, was submitted and approved as a correct record.

### (b) Special Meeting

The minute of the special meeting of this Committee of 19 June 2018, was submitted and, subject to the reference to Councillor Bell being changed to Councillor Whiteside at Article 2 - Declarations of Interest, approved as a correct record.

### (c) Appeals Sub Committee

The minute of meeting of the Appeals Sub-Committee of 26 July 2018, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and, following clarification that Mr Garbett was the Appellant's representative, noted. (**APPENDIX I**)

## 4. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING GROUP

The Committee noted that Councillor Salmond, as Convener of Communities Committee (with special responsibility for Property Disposals) would replace Councillor Fairweather on the Capital Programme Monitoring Group.

## 5. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 5 MAY – 27 JULY 2018

There was submitted and noted Report No 251/18 by the Head of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform in relation to services in the Strategic Policy, Transformation Service, appending three schedules namely:-

- (i) Overview of Business Support and Investment Activities;
- (ii) Economic Briefing 3 – Business Demography; and
- (iii) Potential Implications of Brexit for Angus Council as of July 2018.

**6. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 5 MAY – 31 JULY 2018**

There was submitted and noted Report No 252/18 by the Strategic Director – People in relation to an overview of strategic digital activity.

**7. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

The Committee agreed that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item, so as to avoid the disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, paragraph 11.

**8. INFORMATION REPORT**

There was submitted and noted Report No 253/18 by the Chief Executive of ANGUSsalive which summarised information that had been presented to the ANGUSalive Board of Directors.

**9. CHANGE PROGRAMME UPDATE**

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 13 March 2018, there was submitted Report No 254/18 by the Head of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform providing an update in relation to the Council's Change Programme.

The Report indicated that the Change Programme savings over the three financial years from 2018/19 to 2020/21 were now estimated to total £27.62m. Significant effort was continuing to ensure that, in particular, all savings proposals identified to support the 2018/19 balanced budget position were fully completed as planned and a refreshed Change Programme was in development stage reflecting the experience of the first year of operation.

As the Change Programme moved into its next phase there was also a requirement to increase the emphasis of developing projects that had a greater focus on prevention and outcomes. The Change Fund would be an essential resource to support that next phase of transformation and accordingly the terms of reference for using the Change Fund had been updated to reflect that need and attached as Appendix 2 to the Report.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the update in relation to the Council's Change Programme; and
- (ii) to approve the updated terms of reference for using the Change Fund, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the Report.

**10. ARBROATH PRIMARY SCHOOLS PHASE 2/3A PROJECT UPDATE AND SHARED CAMPUS CONTRACT AWARD**

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of the Children and Learning Committee of 7 November 2017, there was submitted Report No 255/18 by the Strategic Director – People providing an update on the progress to replace Ladyloan and Muirfield Primary Schools, together with the replacement of Hayshead and St Thomas Primary Schools within a shared campus and also seeking approval to enter into the construction contract for the shared campus.

The Report indicated that the Scottish Government was providing a 50% contribution to this phase of the Arbroath Primary Schools Project, totalling £14.65 million.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the update provided within the Report; and
- (ii) to authorise the Service Leader - Legal and Democratic, in consultation with the Chief Executive, Strategic Director – People, and the Head of Finance and Legal: to execute, deliver and perform the Project Agreement, the Collateral Agreements and any other necessary documentation in respect of the project on behalf of Angus Council.

*Councillor Hands left the meeting during consideration of the following item.*

#### **11. 2018/19 FINAL CAPITAL BUDGET VOLUME – GENERAL FUND**

With reference to Article 3(j) of the minute of the special meeting of Angus Council of 15 February 2018, there was submitted Report No 256/18 by the Head of Finance and Legal providing to members the updated 2017/2022 General Fund Financial Plan (incorporating the 2018/19 Capital Monitoring Budget) which would be reflected in the 2018/19 Final Capital Budget Volume.

The Report indicated that the 2018/19 Capital Monitoring Budget of £22.045m showed a net decrease of £9.555m when compared with the provisional capital budget position reflected in Report No 62/18 (£31.600m). This was due to movements in departmental capital programmes following the comprehensive review to reflect the impact of final actuals for 2017/18 on forward years and anticipated expenditure on a number of capital projects being re-phased across the years 2018/19 to 2021/22.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the contents of the updated 2017/2022 General Fund Financial Plan, as would be reflected in the 2018/19 Final Budget Volume, attached as Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (ii) to note that the 2018/19 capital budget represented the Council's approved budget for the General Fund capital monitoring purposes.

#### **12. WELFARE REFORM UPDATE**

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 11 February 2016, there was submitted Report No 257/18 by the Head of Finance and Legal providing members with updates on welfare reform including implementing Universal Credit and on the use of the Welfare Reform Fund created in 2014/15 financial year.

The Report detailed a number of activities which were either underway or planned to assist Angus citizens with the expansion of Universal Credit, ongoing welfare reform changes and the introduction of new devolved benefits which would be delivered by the new Scottish Social Security Agency along with information on the use of the Council's Welfare Reform Fund under officer delegation covering the period 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2018.

Having heard from the Convener who commended the work of the Council's Welfare Rights Team, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note that from 7 November 2017 the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) had rolled out their Full Service programme for Universal Credit across the three Angus Jobcentre sites;
- (ii) to note that the migration of qualifying adult Disability Living Allowance claimants over to Personal Independence Payment was due to be completed by the end of 2018;
- (iii) to note the significant work which had been undertaken to date by Angus Council staff and partner organisations to support claimants impacted by Welfare Reform changes and that they would continue to do so; and

- (iv) to note the use made so far of the Council's Welfare Reform Fund, as outlined in the Report.

### **13. SURPLUS PROPERTIES**

There was submitted Report No 258/18 by the Head of Infrastructure seeking to declare a number of properties surplus to the requirements of Angus Council and to now take the sites forward for sale, lease or appropriation as appropriate.

The Service Leader – Legal and Democratic advised members that with regard to the former Leisure Centre at The Inch, Brechin, Part 8 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 had recently come into force which placed new duties on local authorities in relation to Common Good property. Details of any proposed disposal or use to which a property might be put must be subject to public consultation. In addition, authority to dispose of Common Good property may require approval from the Sheriff Court. This would be decided following the outcome of the consultation. A Report regarding the implications of Part 8 of the Act would be brought to a future meeting of this Committee.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) that the former swimming pool at The Vennel Forfar shown outlined on the plan at Appendix 1, be declared surplus to Angus Council's requirements and marketed for sale;
- (ii) that the former Leisure Centre at The Inch, Brechin shown outlined on the plan at Appendix 2, be declared surplus to the Council's requirements and marketed for lease to generate an income for the Common Good and General Fund;
- (iii) that the former school at Padanaram shown outlined on the plan at Appendix 3, be declared surplus to the Council's requirements and marketed for sale; and
- (iv) that the playing fields at Seaton Road, Arbroath shown outlined on the plan at Appendix 4 to the Report, be declared surplus to the Council's requirements and first be offered for appropriation to Housing for affordable housing and if this was not feasible then the site be marketed for sale.