

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 13 November 2018, at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors MARK SALMOND, TOMMY STEWART, JULIE BELL, KENNY BRAES, DAVID CHEAPE, BRADEN DAVY, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, BRENDA DURNO, DAVID LUMGAIR, IAN MCLAREN, RICHARD MOORE, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, and LOIS SPEED.

Councillor SALMOND, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

There were no apologies intimated.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Braes declared a non-financial interest in Item 15 (Report No 349/18), in that he was a Board member of the Angus Community Care Charitable Trust. He indicated he would not participate in any discussion and voting on the item.

3. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 September 2018 was submitted, approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee

The minute of meeting of the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee of 21 September 2018, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted. **(Appendix 1).**

4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 26 SEPTEMBER 2018 TO 13 NOVEMBER 2018

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 September 2018, there was submitted Report No 340/18 by the Strategic Director – Place, together with seven Schedules namely:-

Schedule 1 – Scottish Social Housing Charter Results;
Schedule 2 – Roads Collaboration Project Update;
Schedule 3 – Carbon Reduction Commitment Angus Report 2017/18;
Schedule 4 – Energy Annual Report 2017/18;
Schedule 5 – Water Annual Report 2017/18;
Schedule 6 – Property Maintenance End of Year Report 2017/18
Schedule 7 – Private Sector Housing Grants 2018/19 – Quarter 2 to 30 September 2018

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

With regard to Schedule 2, Members heard Officers answer questions regarding the setting up of the Tayside Network Management Partnership as part of the already well-established Roads Collaboration Project. The Partnership would be similar to the existing Street Lighting Board currently operating across the three Tayside Councils, running initially as a 15 month pilot project from 1 January 2019 in terms of a Partnering Agreement as set out in Appendix 1 to the Schedule. It would then be evaluated with a view to extending it annually depending on its success if proven.

The Committee agreed to note the Information Report and its Schedules 1 to 7.

5. VARIATION OF WAITING RESTRICTIONS

There was submitted Report No 341/18 by the Head of Infrastructure, proposing amendments to current waiting restrictions to take account of changing circumstances at two locations.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to defer consideration of the proposals regarding Thistle Street, Carnoustie to enable a site visit by elected members to take place to inform consideration at the next meeting of this Committee; and
- (ii) to approve the promotion and making of a Traffic Regulation Variation Order to effect changes to the current waiting restrictions in Orchardbank as indicated in the Plan of Appendix 2 to the Report.

6. THE ANGUS COUNCIL (GOWANBANK, LUNANHEAD, MUIRHEAD AND KIRRIEMUIR ROAD, FORFAR) (VARIATION OF SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2018

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 17 April 2018, relating to Muirhead, Lunanhead and Gowanbank; and to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 May 2018, relating to Kirriemuir Road, Forfar, there was submitted Report No 342/18 by the Head of Infrastructure, relating to the making of a Traffic Order in respect of changes to speed limits at Gowanbank, Lunanhead, Muirhead and Kirriemuir Road, Forfar.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to the making of a Traffic Order in respect of changes to speed limits at Gowanbank, Lunanhead, Muirhead; and
- (ii) to approve the proposals for the Kirriemuir Road, Forfar speed limits variation and that a report be submitted to the January meeting of this Committee regarding the possible extension of the 40mph speed limit on Kirriemuir Road, Forfar to the 30mph speed limit at Padanaram.

7. SURPLUS PROPERTY - ARBROATH

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, there was submitted Report No 343/18 by the Head of Infrastructure, identifying parcels of land as being surplus to the requirements of the Council, and proposing their disposal to the owners of the adjoining properties.

The Committee agreed that the land to the north east of 45 Dishlandtown Street, Arbroath; the land to the rear of 12 Glenogil Drive, Arbroath; the land to the rear of 19 Elm Grove, Arbroath; and the land to the south east of 10 Station Row, Inverkeilor, all as shown on the Deed of Plans attached as Appendices 1, 2, 3, and 4, were declared surplus to the requirements of the Council and sold to the owners of those properties, so generating a capital receipt for the Housing Revenue Account.

8. ARBROATH (BROTHOCK WATER) FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

With reference to Article 4, Schedule 2 of the minute of meeting of this Committee on 14 August 2018, there was submitted Report No 344/18 by the Head of Infrastructure, updating the Committee on progress with the Arbroath (Brothock Water) Flood Protection Scheme, following publication of the scheme. Fourteen elected members had attended a special briefing on the scheme immediately prior to this meeting of the Committee.

The aim of the scheme was to reduce economic damage to residential and non-residential properties in Arbroath as a result of flooding from the Brothock Water. Five valid objections were made to the scheme by the closing date of 6 July 2018. Following discussions with the objectors, three of these objections had been formally withdrawn. The final two objectors had confirmed that they did not wish to remove their objections.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the scheme publication on 8 June 2018, and the five objections reported to this Committee on 14 August 2018;
- (ii) to note that three of the five objectors had now removed their objections following discussions with Council Officers;
- (iii) to note that the two remaining objectors maintained their objections following discussions with Council Officers; and
- (iv) to make a preliminary decision to confirm the scheme without modifications.

9. STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2019/20 – 2023/24

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 September 2017, there was submitted Report No 345/18 by the Head of Communities, advising members on the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for 2019/20 – 2023/24; and also of proposals for the use of resources from the Affordable Housing Reserve Account to support the supply of new affordable housing. The SHIP set out the strategic investment priorities for affordable housing over a five year period in terms of the strategic vision contained in the Angus Local Housing Strategy 2017-22 and it was envisaged, based on current levels of funding, that SHIP could deliver 608 units in the period 2023/24, requiring subsidy of £32.843 million.

The Affordable Housing Revenue Account (AHRA) was used to support projects contributing to an increase in the supply of affordable housing including £1.5 million to support the HRA Business Plan 2017/18 – 2020/21. The uncommitted total balance of the AHRA was £265,943, excluding further Council Tax income due for 2018/19 onwards and any further developer contributions.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report and approve the content of the SHIP 2019/20 – 2023/24, as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2;
- (ii) to approve the ongoing 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 AHRA reserves towards projects which would increase the supply of affordable housing across Angus.

10. APPROPRIATION OF SURPLUS SITE, DUNARN STREET, NEWTYLE FROM GENERAL FUND TO THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) USING AN ALTERNATIVE VALUATION METHODOLOGY

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 9 October 2018, there was submitted for the interest of this Committee, Report No 319/18 by the Head of Infrastructure, proposing that a site extending to 0.46 hectare at Dunarn Street, Newtyle, be declared surplus and appropriated to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). A new approach to the valuation was adopted, drawing on commuted sum values set by the District Valuer as part of affordable housing requirements in private housing developments. It was considered that this would provide a more equitable return to the General Fund, whilst ensuring that the provision of affordable housing remained viable. The final appropriation amount for each site would be based on the number of housing units achieved, taking into account costs of demolition, decontamination and/or excessive costs of development and infrastructure, and would take cognisance of government funding available to the HRA for affordable housing.

The Committee for its interest approved the appropriation of the Dunarn Street, Newtyle site to the Housing Revenue Account for the delivery of affordable housing in the amount of £168,000.

11. PARKS AND BURIAL GROUNDS PLANT AND EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME 2018/2019

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 15 August 2017, there was submitted Report No 346/18 by the Head of Communities, seeking approval of the recommendations to purchase plant and equipment required for the 2018/19 Parks and Burial Grounds capital replacement programme.

The Council's grounds maintenance machinery replacement programme, prioritised to ensure that equipment scheduled for replacement - as set out in Section 5 of the Report - represented the priority items needed to maintain service provision and allow the grounds maintenance section to continue to be competitive in a commercial market, servicing external contracts which generated significant income to the Council. Equipment provided would be fit for purpose and safe for use and fully compliant with all relevant legislative and regulatory provisions within EU and HSE guidance, enabling the section to meet current health and safety obligations and protect so protect the Council's workforce.

Equipment would be acquired through the Collaborative Framework Agreement with the Council's Tayside Procurement Consortium partners which had proved to provide value for money. The Report further set out the terms proposed and procurement procedure, as well as contract evaluations and award basis, together with the detailed list of the equipment intended to be purchased.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the estimated total cost of £238,000 for the purchase of grounds maintenance plant and equipment required for the 2018/2019 capital replacement programme;
- (ii) to authorise officers to procure grounds maintenance plant and equipment on the basis set in the Report; and
- (iii) to note the financial implications included in Section 5 of the Report.

12. RAPID REHOUSING TRANSITION PLAN

There was submitted Report No 347/18 by the Head of Communities, proposing that the Council implement a draft Rapid Rehousing Plan, to be used by Scottish Government to assess progress towards a five year vision of rapid rehousing and assist the Government in the allocation of resources for local authorities and their partners to reach their rapid rehousing transition. Rapid rehousing should be seen as the default position when homelessness occurred so as to avoid the need for time in temporary accommodation. It was about taking a housing-led approach for rehousing people who had experienced homelessness, ensuring that they reached a settled housing option as quickly as possible.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the draft Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan as set out in and attached at Appendix A to the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the ongoing review and development of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, with annual updates in line with the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP).

13. REMOVAL OF CHARGES FOR CHILD BURIALS

There was submitted Report No 348/18 by the Strategic Director – Place, seeking approval to support a joint Scottish Government and CoSLA initiative to remove local authority fees for burial and cremation for children aged 17 and under.

The Report set out the background and the proposals communicated to Scottish Councils by CoSLA to remove child burial charges with an expectation of full implementation by October 2018. Currently, the majority of Scottish Local Authorities, including Angus, had long standing policies of limiting charges to older children only. The current policy in Angus was to waive the

interment fee for the children under 15 years of age. Funding would not include any payments to funeral directors to remove their fee.

Immediate implementation was proposed to ensure that the policy was applied consistently across all Scottish Local Authorities, and no family suffered disproportionately.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the removal of burial fees for children less than 18 years of age as under –

For Burials:
Interment fee
Lair Purchase (exclusive right of burial)
Permission to erect a headstone

For Cremations:
Cremation fee (in Angus undertaken by private crematoria); and

- (ii) to approve the removal of fees for children who were residents and non-residents.

14. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee resolved, in terms of Standing Order 28(2), that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item, so as to avoid the possible disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Part 1, Schedule 7A, Paragraph 6.

15. THE FUTURE OF ANGUS COMMUNITY CARE CHARITABLE TRUST (ACCCT)

There was submitted Report No 349/18 advising members of the potential dissolving of the ACCCT, the options for the Council regarding the assets of the Trust, and the withdrawal of Council management services.

The Committee agreed to approve the recommendations, as set out in the Report.