

# ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 29 January 2019 at 2.00pm.

**Present:** Councillors DAVID FAIRWEATHER, ANGUS MACMILLAN DOUGLAS OBE, DAVID CHEAPE, LOIS SPEED, BILL DUFF, LYNNE DEVINE, SHEILA HANDS, ALEX KING, BEN LAWRIE, BOB MYLES, IAN MCLAREN, MARK SALMOND, RON STURROCK, DEREK WANN and BETH WHITESIDE.

Councillor FAIRWEATHER, Convener, in the Chair

## 1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Brian Boyd and Braden Davy, with Councillors David Cheape and Lois Speed substituting respectively.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hands declared an interest in item 14 as a Director of Angus Care and Repair. She indicated that she would not take part in any discussion and voting and would leave the meeting during consideration of this item. In addition, Cllr Hands indicated that she had been unable to access parts of Report Nos 23/19 and 27/19.

Councillor Speed declared an interest in item 14 as she was the Chair of Angus Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board and as such she had expressed an opinion on the proposals. Consequently, she would not participate in any discussion or voting and would leave the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor Lawrie declared an interest in item 4 as a Director of Shared Apprentice Ltd. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion or voting on this item.

Councillor Myles declared an interest in item 14 as a member of Angus Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board. As he had not expressed an opinion on this matter he indicated that he would participate in any discussion and voting. Councillor Myles also declared an interest in item 15 as a member of Tayside Contracts Joint Committee. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion or voting on this item.

Councillor Whiteside declared an interest in item 15 as a member of Tayside Contracts Joint Committee. She indicated that she would participate in any discussion or voting on this item.

## 3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 November 2018 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

## 4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 27 OCTOBER – 28 DECEMBER 2018

With reference to Item 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 November 2018, there was submitted and noted Report No 21/19 by the Head of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform providing information to members with regard to services in the Strategic Policy & Transformation service and in particular an overview of Economic Development Business Support and Investment Activities.

## 5. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 27 NOVEMBER – 28 DECEMBER 2018: BREXIT PREPAREDNESS

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 August 2018, there was submitted Report No 22/19 by the Head of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform providing information to members in relation to Brexit preparedness.

Having heard from a number of members and from the Head of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform who confirmed that she would keep members as up to date as possible on any developments with regard to Brexit preparedness, the Committee agreed to note the Report.

**6. INFORMATION REPORT - CHANGE PROGRAMME UPDATE**

With reference to Item 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 October 2018, there was submitted and noted Report No 23/19 by the Head of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform providing an update in relation to the Change Programme.

**7. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD – 10 OCTOBER 2018 TO 29 JANUARY 2019**

There was submitted and noted Report No 24/19 by the Strategic Director – Place providing information to members with regard to service in the Communities Directorate in relation to Housing Revenue Account Arrears update.

**8. CAPITAL MONITORING – GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME – 2018/19**

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 November 2018, there was submitted Report No 25/19 by the Head of Finance and Legal apprising members of the capital expenditure incurred for the period from 1 April 2018 to 30 November 2018 and measuring projected capital expenditure for the year against budgeted provision.

The Report indicated that with 8 months (66.67%) of the financial year gone the actual spend levels presented in Tables 1 and 2 in the Report could be considered low, although historically around 10% of capital spend came through as accruals at the year end. Work was ongoing on a number of significant projects for which no payment had yet been made by virtue of the phasing of such projects. In addition, the value of work completed up to 31 March 2019 would be assessed as part of the year end process and expenditure accrued accordingly.

The Committee agreed to note the expenditure to date and the projected outturn position on the General Fund Capital Programme, as per Tables 1 and 2 in the Report and the Capital Monitoring Statement, attached as Appendix 1 to the Report.

**9. REVENUE MONITORING 2018/19, RENEWAL AND REPAIR FUND POSITION 2018/19 AND FINAL REVENUE BUDGET VOLUME**

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 November 2018, there was submitted Report No 26/19 by the Head of Finance and Legal providing revenue budget performance information; detailing the latest projected year end position for each Council Directorate and main service area; providing a brief explanation of significant variances and also an update on expenditure funded through the Council's Renewal and Repair Fund.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report and in particular the comments in the Financial Implications section regarding the projected year end position;
- (ii) to note the Renewal and Repair Fund position;
- (iii) to approve the revised revenue budget 100% carry forwards, as detailed in Appendix E to the Report; and
- (iv) to approve the virement proposed in 4.11 of the Report.

**10. RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REVIEW**

With reference to Article 12 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 7 June 2016, there was submitted Report No 27/19 by the Chief Executive outlining amendments that were proposed to the council's risk management strategy.

The Report indicated that the Council's risk management strategy was reviewed every two years to ensure it remained current and addressed the needs of the organisation. The current

update presented a succinct overview of risk specifically aligned to the Council's priorities and plan. The next stage would be to review the accompanying guidance to support improvements and wider integration to the Council's approach to risk.

The Committee agreed to approve the Council's updated risk management strategy, attached as an Appendix to the Report

**11. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY – SOUTH LINKS HOLIDAY PARK, MONTROSE, TOILET BLOCK REMOVAL**

There was submitted Report No 28/19 by the Head of Infrastructure seeking approval to dispose of the toilet block at South Links Holiday Park, Montrose which was in poor condition.

The Report indicated that the option of disposal of the building through a property sale or a lease of the building had not been considered as a viable option due to the location of the building within the operational holiday park site and the basement still being required to house the electrical switch gear.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the disposal of the toilet block at South Links Holiday Park, Montrose as the building was surplus to the Council's needs; and
- (ii) to approve the method of disposal by partial demolition, as per Option 2 of the option appraisal.

**12. SURPLUS PROPERTY – LAND AT FORMER LANDFILL SITE, RESTENNETH, FORFAR**

There was submitted Report No 29/19 by the Head of Infrastructure seeking to declare an area of land at the former landfill site at Restenneth surplus to requirements and for sale to the adjoining owner.

The land had been valued by the Council's Valuers, Shepherds at £90,000 taking into account its current condition, limited market and the nature of Laird Brothers interest as special purchasers.

The Committee agreed to approve, that the land at the former landfill site at Restenneth, shown outlined on the Plan at Appendix 1 to the Report be declared surplus to the Council's requirements and disposed of to the adjoining owners, Laird Brothers.

**13. COMMON GOOD FUNDS – PROJECT APPROVALS**

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 November 2018, there was submitted Report No 30/19 by the Head of Infrastructure seeking approval for 2018/19 Common Good funded projects.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the change of location for the previously approved project funded from Forfar Common Good for Forfar Men's Shed;
- (ii) to approve funding from Forfar Common Good of £1,450 for repairs to the heating system at Forfar Guide Hall as a contribution to replacement costs; and
- (iii) to refuse the funding from Forfar Common Good of £16,500 as a contribution to rent of premises for the Angus Upcycling Project.

*Councillors Hands and Speed, having declared an interest at Item 2 above, left the meeting during consideration of the following item.*

**14. PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY REPORT – CARE AND REPAIR SERVICES: HOUSING AIDS AND ADAPTATIONS CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS 2019/2023**

There was submitted Joint Report No 31/19 by the Chief Officer Angus Health and Social Care Partnership and the Head of Communities seeking authority for implementation of the procurement strategy for the contract arrangements relating to the supply and installation of aids and adaptations to meet the needs of disabled people in Angus along with a Care and Repair service to support private sector households to organise works.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to authorise the Chief Officer and the Head of Communities to procure a contract for the supply and installation of adaptation services for a period of 3 years with an option to extend for a further 1 year, as set out in Section 6 of the Report and Appendix 1; and
- (ii) to authorise the Chief Officer and the Head of Communities to procure a contract or a grant agreement for the provision of a Care and Repair service which would support private sector households for a period of 3 years with an option to extend for a further 1 year as set out in Section 6 and Appendix 1 to the Report.

*Councillors Hands and Speed re-joined the meeting at this point.*

**15. THE DEVELOPMENT OF TAYSIDE MEALS CENTRE (TAY CUISINE)**

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of the Children and Learning Committee of 29 January 2019, there was submitted Joint Report No 32/19 by the Head of Finance and Legal and the Head of Schools and Learning proposing to change and modernise the way primary school and Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) meals were delivered across Tayside.

The Report indicated that the proposal was to prepare school and community meals through a single Tayside Meal Centre with meals being provided to pupils through the distribution model detailed within paragraph 5.1 of the Report.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the contribution from Angus Council of £100,000 to fund the estimated infrastructure costs, this to be funded from the Council's capital budget and with an equal contribution of £100k each from both Dundee City Council and Perth and Kinross Council to cover their estimated infrastructure costs;
- (ii) to note that Dundee City Council would be asked to give approval to Tayside Contracts to borrow up to £1.9m from Dundee City Council's Prudential Loans Fund; and
- (iii) to note that Tayside Contracts would be required to make a capital investment of up to £1.9m in order to develop and implement the centralised production facility model.

**16. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Councillor Duff, seconded by Councillor King, moved that Report No 33/19 be considered in public.

COUNCILLOR FAIRWEATHER, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR WANN, MOVED AS AN AMENDMENT, THAT REPORT NO 33/19 BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE.

On a vote being taken, members voted:

For the motion:

Councillors Cheape, Devine, Duff, Hands, King, and Whiteside (6).

For the amendment:

Councillors Fairweather, Macmillan Douglas, Speed, McLaren, Myles, Salmond, Sturrock and Wann (8).

No vote:

Councillor Lawrie.

The amendment was declared carried consequently the public and press were 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 6.

**17. HMRC – VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT) REFUND – SPORTS AND LEISURE SERVICES**

There was submitted Report No 33/19 by the Head of Finance and Legal outlining the process which had been undertaken by Finance officers to pursue a reclaim of VAT remitted to HMRC over a number of years on sports and leisure services.

Having heard from a number of members and also that Finance Officers were to be commended for their efforts in this regard, the Committee agreed to note the outcome of a recent VAT refund claim submitted to HMRC, and the one off net cash receipt of £3,418,614 (minimum) to the Council and that the Head of Finance and Legal would prepare and issue a statement regarding these matters which would not disclose any exempt information.