

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 30 April 2019 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors DAVID FAIRWEATHER, ANGUS MACMILLAN DOUGLAS OBE, BRIAN BOYD, BRADEN DAVY, BILL DUFF, LYNNE DEVINE, SHEILA HANDS, ALEX KING, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, LOIS SPEED, IAN MCLAREN, COLIN BROWN, RON STURROCK, DEREK WANN and BETH WHITESIDE.

Councillor FAIRWEATHER, Convener in the Chair

The Convener intimated that in relation to item 14 and Report No 139/19 on the agenda, in light of the referral of the motion by Cllr Devine from Communities Committee to full Council on 9 May, as elements of the referred motion were inter related with this Report, that consideration of the Report be deferred to full Council.

The Committee agreed to the deferral.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillors Ben Lawrie, Bob Myles and Mark Salmond, with Councillors Craig Fotheringham, Lois Speed and Colin Brown substituting respectively.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Macmillan Douglas declared an interest in item 4 (Schedule 2) insofar as he had tried to learn about the technology and market for broadband by speaking with some of the contractors who were potentially concerned with providing this service for the residents and businesses of Angus and met with a major broadband provider to learn about the realities of the market. He indicated that he had no financial involvement with any of these firms and no vested interest in any particular solution and that he would remain in the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor Brown declared an interest in item 16 as a member of Voluntary Action Angus Board. He indicated that he would not participate in any discussion and voting and would leave the meeting during consideration of this item.

3. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 March 2019, was submitted and approved as a correct record.

(b) Special Meeting

The minute of the special meeting of this Committee of 4 April 2019 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

(c) Central Consultative Committee

The minute of meeting of the Central Consultative Committee of 21 February 2019, (a copy of which is appended hereto) was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX 1**).

4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 25 FEBRUARY 2019 - 15 APRIL 2019

There was submitted Report No 129/19 by the Depute Chief Executive providing information to members with regard to services in the People Directorate in relation to Children, Families & Justice – Revised Service Model (Schedule 1) and an overview of Strategic Digital Activity (Schedule 2).

Having heard from a number of members and from Councillors Devine and Macmillan Douglas who commended the officers on the respective programmes of work, the Committee agreed to note the Report.

5. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 9 FEBRUARY – 29 MARCH 2019

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 March 2019, there was submitted and noted Report No 130/19 by the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform providing information to members with regard to services in the Strategic Policy & Transformation service and in particular in relation to an overview of Economic Development Business Support and Investment Activities.

6. INFORMATION REPORT: CHANGE PROGRAMME UPDATE

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 January 2019, there was submitted and noted Report No 131/19 by the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform providing an update in relation to the Change Programme.

7. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 30 JANUARY TO 30 APRIL 2019

There was submitted Report No 132/19 by the Director of Infrastructure providing information to members with regard to services in the Infrastructure Directorate and specifically in relation to Changing Places Consultation.

Having heard Councillor Speed commend the work, the Committee agreed to note the Report.

8. REVENUE MONITORING 2018/19 AND RENEWAL AND REPAIR FUND POSITION 2018/19

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 March 2019, there was submitted Report No 133/19 by the Director of Finance providing revenue budget performance information and detailing the latest projected year end position for each Council Directorate and main service area.

The Report gave a brief explanation of significant variances and provided an update on expenditure funded through the Council's Renewal and Repair Fund. The position within the Report was based on actual spend information as at 28 February 2019.

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; and
- (ii) to note the Renewal and Repair fund position.

9. CAPITAL MONITORING – GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19

With reference to 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 March 2019, there was submitted Report No 134/19 by the Director of Finance apprising members of the capital expenditure incurred for the period 1 April 2018 to 28 February 2019 and measuring projected capital expenditure for the year against budgeted provision.

The Report indicated that with 11 months (91.67%) of the financial year gone, the actual spend levels presented in tables 1 and 2 of the Report could be considered low, although historically around 10% of capital spend came through as accruals at the end of the year. It was noted that 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. The value of work completed up to 31 March 2019 would be assessed as part of the year end process and expenditure approved accordingly.

Having heard from Councillor King, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the expenditure to date and 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; and
- (ii) that the Director of Finance would give consideration to what level of financial information was included in the Report in relation to the Housing Revenue Account, given that the responsibility for oversight of this rested with the Communities Committee.

10. COMMON GOOD FUNDS – PROJECT APPROVALS

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 March 2019, there was submitted Report No 135/19 by the Director of Infrastructure seeking approval for 2019/20 Common Good funded projects.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve funding of £700 funding for the painting of column of Provost's Lamp from Arbroath Common Good Fund;
- (ii) to approve funding of £2,000 for the next three years from Arbroath Common Good Fund for gutter cleaning/maintenance at Webster Memorial Theatre;
- (iii) to approve funding of £15,000 from Brechin Common Good Fund for external paint and repairs to rear of properties at City Hall and 5 Swan Street;
- (iv) to approve funding of £2,500 from Brechin Common Good Fund for external paint and repairs to former fire station, Southesk Street;
- (v) to approve funding of £3,800 from Brechin Common Good Fund for external paint to pipe band hall and store and upgrading of external and internal lighting to pipe band hall at Inch Park;
- (vi) to approve funding of £4,000 from Forfar Common Good Fund for the overlay perimeter path and repairs to concrete base at Shelter, Balmashanner Park;
- (vii) to approve funding of £15,000 from Forfar Common Good Fund for routine maintenance, external paint and repair work at Old Parish Church Steeple; and
- (viii) to approve funding of £600 from Montrose Common Good Fund for the cleaning and re-lettering of the Fountain, The Port, High Street.

11. SURPLUS PROPERTIES

There was submitted Report No 136/19 by the Director of Infrastructure seeking to declare a number of properties surplus to the requirements of Angus Council and to take the sites forward for sale on terms to be approved by the Director of Infrastructure.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) that the vacant shop premises at 8 Maryfield Terrace, Arbroath, shown outlined on the plan at Appendix 1 to the Report be declared surplus to Angus Council's requirements and marketed for sale;
- (ii) that the tenanted shop premises at Bridge Street, Montrose, shown outlined on the plan at Appendix 2 to the Report be declared surplus to Angus Council's requirements and sold to the sitting tenant on terms to be agreed by the Director of Infrastructure, following independent valuation by the Council's retained agents Shepherds;
- (iii) that the shopping site at Arbirlot Road, Arbroath, shown outlined on the plan at Appendix 3 to the Report be declared surplus to Angus Council's requirement and sold to the existing lease holder on terms to be agreed by the Director of Infrastructure following independent valuation by the Council's retained agents Shepherds; and

- (iv) that the former garage premises at the corner of Ferry Street and Caledonia Road, Montrose, shown outlined on the plan at Appendix 4 to the Report be declared surplus to Angus Council's requirements and offered back to the original owner and if not required by them be offered for sale on the open market.

12. APPROPRIATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY, INVERTAY HOUSE, MAULE STREET, MONIFIETH

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of the special meeting of this Committee of 4 April 2019, there was submitted Report No 137/19 by the Director of Infrastructure indicating that the former school building, schoolhouse and outbuildings at Invertay House, Maule Street, Monifieth more recently used as offices be declared surplus to the requirements of Angus Council and to appropriate them to the Housing Revenue Account for delivery of affordable housing.

The Report indicated that the acquisition of the entire Invertay House site including the surrounding grounds and car parks would provide the Housing Revenue Account with a good opportunity to provide much needed affordable housing in Monifieth. This potential project (34 – 36 units) was identified in the Council's Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2019/20 to 2023/24.

Under these proposals the Council's General Fund would benefit from a £370,000 capital receipt (full market value for the site) as well as revenue savings from releasing maintenance liabilities to the Housing Revenue Account.

The Committee agreed to approve that Invertay House, Maule Street, Monifieth shown outlined on the Plan at Appendix 1 to the Report be appropriated from the General Fund to the Housing Revenue (HRA) for delivery of affordable housing.

13. POLICY FOR THE LEASE OF COUNCIL LAND AND BUILDINGS TO COMMUNITY/VOLUNTARY GROUPS – CLOTHES BANKS

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of the special meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee of 25 July 2013, there was submitted Report No 138/19 by the Director of Infrastructure advising members of the current practice of leasing land and buildings to Community/Voluntary Groups and recommending expansion of the policy to include clothes banks.

It is proposed that clothes banks were granted the same property rental of £1 per annum as food banks when Community/Voluntary Charity Groups wished to lease Council land and buildings. Implementation of the proposals would result in a small reduction in income to the Council where the discount was applied, however the proposals would provide support to Community/Voluntary Charity Groups to assist in the delivery of the Council's local outcomes.

The Committee agreed to approve the expansion of the policy for the lease of Council land and buildings to Community/Voluntary Groups to include clothes banks at £1 per annum.

14. AMENDMENT TO SHORT STAY OFF STREET PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Report deferred to full Council.

15. EQUALITIES MAINSTREAMING REPORT 2019 AND EQUALITY OUTCOMES (2019-21)

There was submitted Report No 140/19 by the Director of HR, Digital Enablement, IT and Business Support presenting an Equalities Mainstreaming Report 2019 and Equality Outcomes (2019-21) as required by legislation.

The Report indicated that mainstreaming equality meant integrating equality into the day to day working of the Council. This meant taking equality into account in the way the Council exercised functions. The mainstreaming Report detailed how the Council met the general specific duties and presented an overview of the Council's work and equality and evidence of the progress achieved.

Having commended the author of the Report, Doreen Philips, Senior Practitioner (Equalities) for the comprehensiveness of the Report, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to adopt the Equalities Mainstreaming Report 2019-21; and
- (ii) to note the Equality Outcomes 2019-21 and progress updates of those from 2017-2019, as outlined in Appendix 1 to this Report.

Councillor Brown, having declared an interest at Article 2 above, left the meeting during consideration of the following item.

16. GRANT AGREEMENT WITH VOLUNTARY ACTION ANGUS FOR 2019/20

With reference to Article 12 of the minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 13 March 2018, there was submitted Report No 141/19 by the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform seeking approval for a proposed grant agreement to support Voluntary Action Angus (VAA) to deliver services in Angus subject to an annual review.

The Report indicated that for 2019/20 it was proposed to maintain the same level of funding previously provided, the only exception being the removal of £12,738 associated with Service Specification, this in relation to recruit and train volunteers for opportunities within social work.

Having heard from a number of members who questioned the value for money of the Kirriemuir Friday Night Project and having heard from the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform who confirmed that all projects supported through the third sector were kept under review, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve provision of grant funding in the amount of £82,980 to Voluntary Action Angus (VAA) in the 2019/20 financial year for the services outlined in Section 3 to the Report;
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform, in consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to agree the terms of a Grant Agreement with Voluntary Action Angus to document the grant funding to support the provision of the said services;
- (iii) to note the intention to develop a more outcome focused approach for future years which properly reflected the strategic role which VAA had in supporting implementation of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans, while contributing to transforming the delivery of the related public services in Angus; and
- (iv) that the Director of Communities would report back to the Committee in due course on the effectiveness and value for money of all Friday Night Clubs across Angus.

17. 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 Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, paragraphs 8, 9 and 10.

18. DISPOSAL OF EXCESS CARBON REDUCTION COMMITMENT ALLOWANCES

There was submitted Report No 143/19 by the Director of Infrastructure requesting approval to dispose of excess carbon credits prior to the end of the current CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme.

The Committee agreed to approve the recommendation, as detailed in the Report.