

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday, 12 November 2019, at 2.00 pm.

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

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTIONS

There were no apologies or substitutions, all members being present.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 24 September 2019 was submitted, approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

4. INFORMATION REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD 25 SEPTEMBER TO 12 NOVEMBER 2019

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 24 September 2019, they were submitted and noted:

Report No 367/19 by the Director of Communities with the following two schedules, namely:-

Schedule 1 Private Sector Housing Grants 2019/20 – Quarter 2 to 30 September 2019

Schedule 2 Memorandum of Understanding with Baker Hughes General Electric

and

Report No 368/19 by the Director of Infrastructure together with its three schedules, namely:-

Schedule 1 Montrose to A90 Link Road Study

The Director of Infrastructure responded to Councillor Duff's query on the options for this route, to the effect that Appendix 1 to the report set out the timescale, with the next milestone being Stage 2 (Route Option Assessment) in April 2020. ;

Schedule 2 National Transport Strategy 2 Consultation Response

Welcomed by Councillor Proctor, who noted that the response was in line with discussions at meetings of TACTRAN. ;

Schedule 3 Arbroath (Brothock Water) Flood Protection Scheme – Update

5. HOUSING CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT 2019/2020

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 September 2018, there was submitted Report No 369/19 by the Director of Communities, advising as to the Housing Revenue Account capital performance in the current financial year to date, and setting out the actual capital spend to 30 September 2019, together with projected outturns of the year to 31 March 2020 and any required updated capital funding proposals.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the contents of the Report, in particular the projected year end positions on Capital expenditure, and the indicative funding proposals for the programme; and
- (ii) to approve the purchase of up to eight 'off the shelf' units for social rent to support the new build programme, as set out in Section 8 of the Report.

6. STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2020/2021 - 2024/2025

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 13 November 2018, there was submitted Report No 370/19 by the Director of Communities, advising members as to the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for 2020/2021 – 2024/2025, together with proposals for the use of resources from the Affordable Housing Revenue Account (AHRA).

The target for the delivery of affordable housing in Angus had been exceeded with 128 homes completed against the target of 120. Up to the end of August 2019, 38 homes had been completed and it was highly likely that the target of 120 units would be overtaken again this year.

Members heard Councillor Speed commend the intention to provide 117 units for particular needs housing over the 5 year period, constituting 23% of total planned delivery; and a response from officers to a question from Councillor Duff relating to the St Christopher's Site for travelling people, that while there was no known current level of demand which would merit provision of additional accommodation, the Housing Authority was currently in dialogue with the Scottish Government around the potential for a Needs and Demand Assessment being carried out at a National Level. In the meantime the Council remained focused on ensuring that the site continued to meet the required standards of facilities.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report and to approve the content of the Strategic Housing Plan 2020/2021 – 2024/2025, as detailed in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to the Report; and
- (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.

7. CYCLING, WALKING AND SAFER STREETS FUND – PROGRAMME OF WORKS

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 May 2018, there was submitted Report No 371/19 by the Director of Infrastructure updating the Committee on the delivery of the programme of projects funded in 2018/19 through the Cycling, Walking and Safer Street Fund, and seeking approval of the programme of projects to be funded during 2019/20.

Following discussion on the individual projects and prioritisation, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the amended programme of projects undertaken during 2018/2019; and
- (ii) to approve the programme of projects to be undertaken during financial year 2019/20.

8. LOCAL BUS SERVICE CONTRACTS – BEST VALUE APPROACH

There was submitted Report No 372/19 by the Director of Infrastructure, seeking authority to award a Best Value Local Bus Service contract for the provision of bus service 34 (Breachin Town service on school days) and service 30A (Arbroath – Montrose).

Councillor Durno welcomed the report, but sought a re-evaluation of current transport links in Angus which she considered were seen as being inadequate for local people as well as visitors, and also whether more adaptable and accessible buses could be employed. The Convener advised that he was discussing the conduct of such a review with officers.

The Committee agreed to authorise the Director of Infrastructure to award best value local contracts as detailed in the Report, and in terms of Financial Regulation 16.18.

9. PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY FOR LOCAL BUS SERVICE CONTRACTS

There was submitted Report No 373/19 by the Director of Infrastructure, seeking authority to procure local bus service contracts which were due for renewal and where the maximum value of the contract was above the Chief Officer's delegated authority limits.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to authorise the procurement of local bus contracts A461, A496, A498, A499, A502, A508, A603, A604, A605, A606, A607, and A608, on behalf of the Director of Infrastructure; and
- (ii) to delegate authority to the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, following consultation with the Director of Infrastructure, to agree the terms to the contract awards for the above bus services, so as to protect the interest of the Council, and thereafter to execute and deliver the bus services contracts and any other necessary documentation in respect of the bus services contracts on behalf of Angus Council.

10. B966 INCHBARE – AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING SPEED LIMITS

There was submitted Report No 374/19 by the Director of Infrastructure Services, advising that, following concerns recently raised by Inveresk Community Council on behalf of local residents, over the speed of traffic on both approaches into Inchbare on the B966 Road, a request had been made for consideration to be given to the introduction of reduced 'buffer' 48mph speed limits on both approaches. The Report detailed the findings of the engineering investigations carried out.

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; and
- (iii) to implement the amendments to the existing speed limits on the B966 at the south and north ends of Inchbare.

11. SURPLUS PROPERTY

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 24 September 2019, there was submitted Report No 375/19 by the Director of Infrastructure, proposing that the two areas of land at Wishart Avenue as detailed on the deed plan attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be declared surplus to the requirements of the Council; and be marketed for sale with the valuations (£7,200 for Area 1 and £8,300 for Area 2) as a reserved price, and disposed of, should an offer of at least the reserved price be received; the fees incurred in connection with the disposal to be absorbed by the Housing Revenue Account.

The Committee agreed the recommendations of the Report.

12. FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2009 - UPDATE

With reference to Article 10/19 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 15 January 2019, there was submitted Report No 376/19 by the Director of Infrastructure, updating the Committee on the identification of potential capital flood protection schemes and works, to be submitted for national appraisal and prioritisation by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) for the 2022/28 SEPA Flood Risk Management Strategies and 2022/28 Local Flood Risk Management Plans. The report had been the subject of consultation with the Flood Risk Management Member / Officer Working Group on 4 October 2019.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the identification of potential capital flood protection schemes and works to be submitted for national appraisal and prioritisation for the 2022/28 SEPA flood risk management strategies and 2022/28 local flood risk management plans;

- (ii) to note that submitting schemes for national appraisal and prioritisation did not commit the Council to delivering and funding the projects, which would be subject to financial consideration as part of the Council's capital fund financial planning;
- (iii) to authorise the Director of Infrastructure to submit the identified potential capital flood protection schemes and works, along with supporting documentation, to SEPA for appraisal and prioritisation in December 2019 for the 2022/28 SEPA Flood Risk Management Strategies and 2022/28 Local Flood Risk Management Plans; and
- (iv) to agree that update reports were brought to this Committee as the potential capital flood protection schemes and works were progressed through the SEPA appraisal and prioritisation process, and the 2022/2028 EPA Flood Risk Management Strategies and 2022/28 Local Flood Risk Management Plans were developed.