

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 10 March 2020 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors DAVID FAIRWEATHER, ANGUS MACMILLAN DOUGLAS OBE, BRIAN BOYD, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, SHEILA HANDS, ALEX KING, BEN LAWRIE, IAN McLAREN, BOB MYLES, MARK SALMOND, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, DEREK WANN and BETH WHITESIDE.

Councillor FAIRWEATHER, Convener, in the Chair.

1. **APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES**

There were no apologies intimated.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Myles declared an interest in items 4 and 15 as a member of the Angus Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board. As he had a general dispensation, he indicated that he would participate in any discussion and voting on these items.

3. **MINUTES**

(i) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 January 2020 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

(ii) Appeals Sub Committee

The minute of meeting of the Appeals Sub Committee of 29 January 2020, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**Appendix I**).

4. **INFORMATION REPORT- STRATEGY FOR ANGUS CARERS**

There was submitted and noted Report No 101/20 by the Interim Chief Officer, Angus Health and Social Care Partnership providing details of the draft Strategy for Carers which had been designed to state the Angus approach to supporting carers, building on the principles of 'Equal Partners in Care', reflecting the priorities in the Strategic Commissioning Plan 2019-22 and the spirit and requirements of the Carers Act.

5. **INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 14 JANUARY TO 24 FEBRUARY 2020**

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 January 2020, there was submitted and noted Report No 102/20 by the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform providing information to members with regard to services in the Strategic Policy and Transformation Service and specifically in relation to an overview of Economic Development, Business Support and Investment activities.

6. **INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 2019 TO FEBRUARY 2020**

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 August 2019 there was submitted and noted Report No 103/20 by the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform providing information to members with regard to services in the Strategic Policy and Transformation Service and specifically in relation to an update on Brexit.

7. COMMERCIALISATION STRATEGY – ENTERPRISING ANGUS

There was submitted Joint Report No 104/20 by the Director of Finance and the Director of Legal and Democratic Services setting out a proposed commercialisation strategy for the Council under the banner of “Enterprising Angus”. The strategy and its implementation was a key part of the Council’s Change Programme and the future development of that Programme.

The introduction of a more commercial approach to delivering our services would ultimately help the Council to safeguard essential public services. The commercial vision set out in the Commercialisation Strategy attached as Appendix B to the Report would seek to build on, and complement, the work already being done by services to reduce costs and re-design services.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the background to the issue of commercialisation in local authorities as set out in the Report;
- (ii) to note the approach to commercialisation being proposed in the Report including the proposed role for this Committee and the proposal to have a Member/Officer Group to support the work involved; and
- (iii) to approve the proposed Commercialisation Strategy – Enterprising Angus and the associated 2 Year Action Plan as set out in Appendix B and the proposed Governance Arrangements as set out in Appendix C to the Report.

8. BLANKET WAYLEAVE IN ARBROATH TO FACILITATE DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

There was submitted Joint Report No 105/20 by the Director of Communities and the Director of Infrastructure requesting approval for a blanket wayleave to allow Virgin Media to extend their digital and television offer to Arbroath for all residents.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to approve a blanket wayleave to allow Virgin Media to lay cable in footpaths and ground on the Council’s Housing Revenue Account in Arbroath; and
- (i) to delegate authority to the Director of Infrastructure to negotiate appropriate arrangements for access over any other Council owned land.

9. COMMON GOOD FUNDS - PROJECT APPROVALS

With reference to Article 14 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 October 2019, there was submitted Report No 106/20 by the Director of Infrastructure seeking approval for 2020/21 Common Good funded projects.

The Committee agreed to approve the requested funding for various 2020/2021 projects from Arbroath, Brechin, and Forfar Common Good Funds, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report, subject to the correction for Project 3 Brechin Common Good which was for “External paint work and repairs”.

10. APPROPRIATION OF AREAS OF LAND BETWEEN THE GENERAL FUND AND THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) AT BLOOMFIELD ROAD, ARBROATH

There was submitted Joint Report No 107/20 by the Director of Communities and the Director of Infrastructure requesting approval for an area of the park at Bloomfield Road, Arbroath to be appropriated to the HRA for the delivery of affordable housing and a smaller area from the HRA to form part of the park.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) that the site extending to 1,700sqm at Bloomfield Road Park, Arbroath (shown outlined as Area 1 on the plan at Appendix 1 to the Report), be appropriated at nil

value from the General Fund to the HRA for the delivery of affordable housing;

- (ii) that an area of 185sqm (shown outlined as Area 2 on the plan at Appendix 1 to the Report), be appropriated at nil value from the HRA to the General Fund to form part of Bloomfield Road Park; and
- (iii) to note that in exchange for the appropriation of land, the HRA would fund improvements to the park including provision of new play equipment, landscaping and pathways.

11. GRANT AGREEMENT WITH VOLUNTARY ACTION ANGUS FOR 2020/21-23

There was submitted Report No 180/20 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 annual review

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to provide grant funding for the amount of £52,980 to Voluntary Action Angus (VAA) in the 2020/21 financial year for the services outlined in section 3 of 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 (VAA) to document the grant funding to support the provision of said services; and
- (iii) to approve the intention to extend the duration of the Grant Agreement by a further two year period subject to the condition of there being sufficient funding and satisfactory progress towards achievement of specified outcomes.

12. PARENTAL BEREAVEMENT LEAVE AND PAY POLICY

There was submitted Report No 109/20 by the Director of HR, Digital Enablement, IT and Business Support advising of the introduction of a new workplace policy relating to Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay.

The proposed policy, attached as Appendix 1 to the Report, met and exceeded the forthcoming change in legislation. The Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Act 2018 would give all employed parents a day-one right to 2 weeks' leave if they lost a child under the age of 18, or suffer a stillbirth from 24 weeks of pregnancy. The definition of a 'bereaved parent' extended to 'primary carers' (including adopters, foster carers, guardians and kinship carers) where the relationship with the child was "parental" in nature. The leave could be taken up to 56 weeks following the date of death (or date of birth for a still born child).

The Committee agreed to approve the new policy.

13. PEST CONTROL – SEAGULL EGG AND NEST REMOVAL SERVICE

There was submitted Report No 110/20 by the Director of Infrastructure outlining changes to the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) General Licences in relation to bird control and the subsequent effect on the seagull egg and nest removal service provided by the Environmental and Consumer Protection Section.

Having heard a number of members express their concerns on the detrimental effect this would have, particularly in coastal towns in Angus, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the contents of the Report and in particular that SNH had removed all gull species from General Licences due to increasing concerns about their declining conservation status;
- (ii) to note that as a result, the Council's egg and nest removal service could no longer function legally in its current form;

- (iii) that the Council's egg and nest removal service is withdrawn with immediate effect; and
- (iv) that the Director of Communities considers retaining an element of the designated budget to enable public information relating to control of seagulls in Angus.

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 Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, paragraphs 6, 8 and 9.

15. PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY REPORT – CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF RESPITE CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

There was submitted Report No 111/20 by the Interim Chief Officer, Angus Heath and Social Care Partnership seeking approval to award the contract for 3 years with the option to extend for up to 2 years for the provision of respite care for people with learning disabilities.

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