

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of **ANGUS COUNCIL** hosted at Angus House, Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar and held remotely on Friday 3 April 2020 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Provost RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, Depute Provost COLIN BROWN BEM, Councillors JULIE BELL, BRIAN BOYD, KENNY BRAES, DAVID CHEAPE, BRADEN DAVY, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, BRENDA DURNO, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, CRAIG FOTHERINGAM, ALEX KING, BEN LAWRIE, DAVID LUMGAIR, ANGUS MACMILLAN DOUGLAS OBE, MARK McDONALD, IAN McLAREN, RICHARD MOORE, BOB MYLES, GAVIN NICOL, MARK SALMOND, LOIS SPEED, TOMMY STEWART, RON STURROCK, DEREK WANN and BETH WHITESIDE.

PROVOST RONNIE PROCTOR, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Sheila Hands.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bell declared an interest in item 7, Report No 124/20, as she was a Council appointed Board member of Voluntary Action Angus. She indicated that she had a general dispensation and that she would therefore participate in any discussion and voting on the item.

Councillor Duff declared an interest in item 6, Report No 126/20, as a Council appointed Director of Angusalive. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion and voting on the item.

3. COVID-19: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS IN RELATION TO DECISION MAKING POWERS

There was submitted Report No 121/20 by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services setting out proposed arrangements to be put in place in terms of decision making at Council and Committee level in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and also proposing extending the delegated authority of certain officers until such time as it was deemed to be appropriate to revert back to the current Scheme of Delegation and the Orders of Reference of Committees.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to establish a Special Arrangements Committee on a temporary basis with delegated powers as listed as in Appendix 1 paragraph (1) to the Report until such time as the Council agrees otherwise;
- (ii) to establish a Special Education Committee on a temporary basis with delegated powers as listed as in Appendix 1 paragraph (2) to the Report until such time as the Council agrees otherwise;
- (iii) that the Timetable of Council and Committee meetings be cancelled up to 1 June 2020 and that the Special Arrangements Committee would have the authority to extend the cancellation period;
- (iv) that the membership of the Special Arrangements Committee consist of 7 members (with substitutes allowed), namely Councillors Fairweather, MacMillan Douglas, Salmond, Wann, Devine, Duff and 1 non- aligned member, the Convener to be the Leader of the Council and the quorum shall be 3;

At this stage in the meeting, the Council resolved to adjourn the meeting to allow the technical difficulties to be resolved.

The meeting resumed at 2.40pm.

Non-Aligned Member

Councillor Cheape, seconded by Councillor Boyd, moved that Councillor Cheape be appointed to the Special Arrangements Committee.

COUNCILLOR LAWRIE, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR FAIRWEATHER, MOVED AS AN AMENDMENT, THAT COUNCILLOR MOORE BE APPOINTED TO THE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE.

On a vote being take, the members voted:-

For Councillor Cheape:-

Councillors Bell, Boyd, Braes, Cheape, Devine, Duff, Durno, King, McDonald, Speed and Whiteside (11).

For Councillor Moore:-

Provost Ronnie Proctor, Depute Provost Colin Brown, Councillors Davy, Fairweather, Fotheringham, Lawrie, Lumgair, MacMillan Douglas, McLaren, Moore, Myles, Nicol, Salmond, Stewart, Sturrock and Wann (16).

Councillor Moore was duly appointed to the Special Arrangements Committee.

- (v) that the membership of the Special Education Committee consist of 10 members (with substitutes allowed), namely Councillors Fairweather, MacMillan Douglas, Salmond, Wann, Devine, Whiteside and Moore, and the three religious representatives who sit on the current Children and Learning Committee, the Convener to be the Leader of the Council and the quorum shall be 4;
- (vi) to suspend the delegations to the current Policy and Resources Committee, the current Children and Learning Committee and the current Communities Committee until such time as Council agrees otherwise;
- (vii) that until such time as Council agrees otherwise any Sub-Committee of the current Policy and Resources Committee, the current Communities Committee and the current Children and Learning Committee shall become Sub-Committees of the Special Arrangements Committee (except in so far as such Sub-Committees order of reference relates to discharge of the functions of the Council as education authority within the terms of the relevant legislation, in which case such Sub-Committees shall become a Sub-Committee of the Special Education Committee);
- (viii) to note that meetings of all Committees and Sub-Committees can be undertaken on a remote basis as permitted under Section 43 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003;
- (ix) that, until such time as Council agrees otherwise, any meetings of Committees or Sub-Committees will only take place to consider matters which are by their nature time-critical or necessary;
- (x) that, other than for those Committees of the Council whose delegations have been suspended, the arrangements in relation to all Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council including the Development Standards Committee, the Civic Licensing Committee and the Development Management Review all as outlined in paragraph 4 of this Report shall include arrangements to undertake meetings on a remote basis as permitted under Section 43 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 until such time as Council agrees otherwise;
- (xi) that the interim Standing Orders, as detailed in Appendix 2 to this Report, will apply to all Committee and Sub-Committee meetings which take place on a remote basis as permitted under Section 43 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 until such time as Council agrees otherwise;
- (xii) to note that suitable arrangements will also be put in place to ensure that applicants/interested parties are able to take part in the meeting, details of which are currently being developed;

- (xiii) to approve the extension to officer delegation as detailed in paragraph 5 of the Report until such time as Council agrees otherwise; and
- (xiv) to note that until such time as Council agrees otherwise, the Order of Reference of Committees and the Scheme of Delegation to Officers following part of the current Angus Council Standing Orders and Related Documents will be amended to reflect any changes agreed in terms of Report No 121/20.

4. ACTIONS TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

There was submitted Report No 122/20 by the Chief Executive advising of the actions taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Report detailed the actions taken in accordance with Section 3(5) of the Scheme of Delegation which authorised the Chief Executive 'in an emergency, to initiate any action under any statutory procedure related to a function of the Council, subject to a Report being made to the appropriate Committee at the first opportunity on any item for which Committee approve would normally be necessary.'

Having heard a number of members pay tribute to the Chief Executive and all the Council staff for ensuring that vital services continued to be delivered, and all the keyworkers for their hard work during this difficult time, the Council resolved to note the actions taken.

5. COVID-19 TEMPORARY ADDITIONAL DELEGATIONS – FINANCE & PROCUREMENT ACTIVITY

There was submitted Report No 123/20 by the Director of Finance seeking approval for additional temporary delegations regarding finance and procurement activity to allow urgent business to be conducted and to maximise the ability of the Council to respond to current and emerging COVID-19 issues.

To ensure that staff could respond to the rapidly changing environment caused by COVID-19 and the measures put in place by the UK and Scottish Governments, it was necessary to seek additional temporary delegations for officers. The additional delegations would allow rapid decision making and response until such time as they were no longer required and would be withdrawn.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to note the background and the reasons why additional temporary delegations were being sought, as detailed in the Report;
- (ii) to approve the delegations to officers proposed in paragraphs 4.4, 4.7 & 4.9 of the Report; and
- (iii) to note the delegations were subject to the limitations and conditions as detailed in paragraphs 4.4, 4.7 & 4.9.

6. FINANCIAL SUPPORT, RESILIENCE & POLICY – COVID-19 RESPONSE

There was submitted Report No 126/20 by the Director of Finance advising of the financial support and resilience arrangements being put in place nationally to help local people, businesses and key suppliers, and seeking approval of a number of local support measures to complement those national arrangements.

Having heard a number of members welcome the support being implemented by the Director of Finance and his staff, the Council resolved:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report together with the Appendices as the background to the proposed local support arrangements;
- (ii) to approve the Local Financial Resilience Support Arrangements for People as set out in Part B of Appendix 1 to the Report, and to delegate authority to the Director of Finance to implement such arrangements;

- (iii) to approve the Local Financial Resilience Support Arrangements for Businesses as set out in Part B of Appendix 2 to the Report, and to delegate authority to the Director of Finance to implement such arrangements;
- (iv) to note the status of development of Local Financial Resilience Support Arrangements for Key Suppliers as set out in Appendix 3 to the Report;
- (v) to note the position with regard to the Hardship Fund as set out in Section 4 of the Report and to note that a further report on use of the Fund would be provided as soon as practicable;
- (vi) to delegate authority to the Director of Finance to adjust the payment profile of the Council's management fee for 2020/21 to ensure that the ANGUSalive cashflow position was protected;
- (vii) to approve the approach to supporting and paying Tayside Contracts on an interim basis as set out in paragraph 4.8 of the Report; and
- (viii) to note the intention to keep the Support Arrangements in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 under regular review and to bring updates for consideration to members when appropriate.

7. ANGUS COUNCIL COVID-19 RESPONSE

There was submitted Report No 124/20 by the Chief Executive providing an update on the actions of Angus Council in preparation and readiness, and the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Angus had established a Humanitarian Assistance Centre under the Chief Executive's delegated authority. In the first instance the priority would be to put in place arrangements for those people identified as being in the highest risk group, with consideration of the development of second phase of support that would go beyond the proportion of Angus residents identified as requiring shielding to those people and families in need of additional support as a consequence of COVID-19, being progressed.

Having heard a number of members welcome the fantastic community effort in Angus, the Council resolved:-

- (i) to note the preparation and readiness for a pandemic;
- (ii) to note the response actions of the Council to date;
- (iii) to note the ongoing response which continued in challenging and unprecedented territory;
- (iv) that in relation to the Humanitarian Assistance Centre, to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to enable the delivery of emergency service provision to vulnerable adults and families for a period of up to six months in the first instance;
- (v) that this delegation will be limited to the use of the additional funding available from Government and if necessary the reallocation of existing Council budgets;
- (vi) to note that regular formal progress Reports in this regard will be brought to members, supplemented by informal updates when appropriate; and
- (vii) to note the use of the Chief Executive's emergency powers as outlined in paragraph 4.1 of this Report relative to the Humanitarian Assistance Centre.

8. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2020/21

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee of 3 March 2020, there was submitted Report No 72/20 by the Director of Finance seeking approval of the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for Angus Council in 2020/2021.

The Report indicated that the production of a Treasury Management Strategy Statement for the forthcoming financial year was a requirement of the Treasury Management in the Public

Services Code of Practice issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to approve the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2020/2021, attached as Appendix A to the Report;
- (ii) to approve the proposed change to the Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/2021 as requested in paragraph 4.5 to the Report; and
- (iii) to approve the Treasury Indicators in Appendix A – Annex D (tables 2 and 3).

9. VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2020/2021

With reference to Article 12 of the minute of meeting of the Communities Committee of 16 April 2019, there was submitted Report No 125/20 by the Director of Communities seeking authorisation for the procurement of fleet vehicles and equipment required for the 2020/2021 Capital Replacement Programme.

The Council's vehicle replacement programme had been profiled for 2020/2021 to ensure that the vehicles and equipment scheduled for replacement, as set out in Section 6 of the Report, represented those which were the priority in order to maintain service provision in various service areas.

The general vehicle replacement programme revised position as set out in Table 4 of the Report would be reflected within the Environmental Services Section of the Financial Plan when next updated. The underspend would be slipped to later years to reflect additional resources needed due to a general increase in the cost of the vehicles.

The Committee agreed to authorise the Director of Communities to procure vehicles and equipment required for the 2020/2021 Capital Replacement Programme.

Following conclusion of the business, members paid tribute to Mrs Jacqui Semple, Manager – Risk, Resilience & Safety for leading and co-ordinating Angus' response through the pandemic. Thereafter, Mrs Kathryn Lindsay, Director of Children, Families and Justice thanked all the Social Work and Social Care staff working on the front line to help families throughout this difficult time.