

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** hosted at Angus House, Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar and held remotely, on Tuesday, 23 February 2021, at 2.00 pm.

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

Councillor Salmond, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of Meeting of this Committee of (i) 19 January 2021; and (ii) Special Meeting of this Committee of 9 February 2021, were submitted, approved as correct records, and signed by the Convener.

4. INFORMATION REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD 20 JANUARY 2021 TO 23 FEBRUARY 2021

There were submitted:

- (a) Report No 37/21 by the Director of Communities, which, with the attached **Schedule 1**, provided key information to members with regard to services in the Communities Service during the period 20 January to 23 February relating to Private Sector Housing Grants for the Quarter to 31 December 2021.

The Director of Communities (i) answered a question from Councillor McDonald on what the member regarded as undue bureaucracy within the PSHG process; (ii) agreed to provide information to Councillor Braes relating to a specific case where a tenant had experienced difficulties with the application process for a grant; and (iii) answered questions from Councillor Speed, on monitoring the experience of people seeking to access the grant scheme, and also on the impact of the COVID pandemic on works essential to basic needs of householders, such as installation of bathroom facilities;

- (b) and Report No 41/21 by the Director of Infrastructure, which, with the attached **Schedule 2**, provided key information to members with regard to the major public consultation exercise within the Infrastructure Service during the period 20 January 2021 to 23 February 2021, relating to the Parking Review

The Lead Officer, Roads and Transportation, referred to the exceptional response to the survey with over 3,000 responses, including many individual comments; acknowledged the important contributions of the Focus Group and community groups which had helped to shape the survey questions; and noted that car parking charges were currently suspended. He also answered questions from Councillors Davy, Duff and Cheape, The Committee also heard from Councillors Moore; Davy, Durno and Duff.

5. C30 LITTLE BRECHIN – AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING SPEED LIMITS

There was submitted Report No 42/21 by the Director of Infrastructure advising of concerns raised over speeding on the C30 road at Little Brechin, and of a request to reduce the existing speed limits, and also detailing the findings of the engineering investigations carried out.

The Lead Officer, Roads and Transportation, answered questions from Councillor Braes, local member.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the concerns of local residents over speeding on the C30 at Little Brechin;
- (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 C30 at Little Brechin.

6. ANGUS ACTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL STRATEGY

There was submitted Report No 43/21 by the Director of Infrastructure, setting out the Angus Active and Sustainable Travel Strategy and Angus Active and Sustainable Travel Action Plan 2020/24, and providing details of the pipeline ActiveTravel projects being progressed across Angus. Speaking to the Report, the Lead Officer, Roads and Transportation, particularly highlighted the proposed appointment of the six elected members of the Road Safety Member/Officer Working Group as Active Travel Champions as having a key role to play in ensuring the delivery of Active Travel.

Members generally welcomed the report. Having heard from Councillors Devine, Durno, Proctor, Braes, Cheape, Moore, McDonald, Duff and Devine, and with the Lead officer Roads and Transportation having answered various questions, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to approve the Angus Active Travel Strategy, included in Appendices 1 and 2 of Report No 43/21;
- (ii) to approve the Angus Active Travel Plan 2020-24, included in Appendix 3 of Report No 43/21;
- (iii) to approve the appointment as Active Travel Champions of the elected members of the Road Safety Member/Officer Working Group, listed alphabetically as Councillors Braes; McDonald; McLaren; Moore; Salmond and Stewart;
- (iv) to note the pipeline of Active Travel projects being progressed, including external funding received, successful external funding applications and expression of interest for external funding submitted for Active Travel Projects; and
- (v) that updates on the progress of the pipeline of Active Travel projects, which were reviewed under the remit of the Road Safety Member / Officer Working Group, be reported to future meetings of this Committee, including key milestones where approvals or internal funding might be required.

7. ROAD SAFETY FRAMEWORK TO 2030 UPDATE

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee on 24 November 2020, there was submitted Report No 44/21 by the Director of Infrastructure, providing an update on the work of the Road Safety Member/Officer Working Group, and seeking confirmation of the proposed revision to the remit of the Group.

The primary role of the MOWG was to develop a new Road Safety Plan for Angus while taking cognisance of new national road casualty reduction targets. The MOWG had however at a recent meeting on 20 January 2021, discussed proposals to seek to include in its remit a review of bus transport in Angus, and also to include a review of the Winter Service in terms of winter treatment of both roadways and pathways. The Convener advised that he had discussed with Councillor Devine a communications strategy intended to keep all elected members fully informed on this matter.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) that the Road Safety Member/Officer Working Group, in reviewing associated policies, plans and strategies shall include a review of Bus Transport, as detailed in Report 44/21;
- (ii) that the Road Safety Member/Officer Working Group, in reviewing associated policies, plans and strategies shall include a review of the Winter Service, as detailed in Report 44/21; and

- (iii) to note the proposed Road Safety Member/Officer Working Group action plan for 2021/22.

8. EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC ORDER FOR SCHOOL EXCLUSION ZONES

There was submitted Report No 45/41 by the Director of Infrastructure, proposing the making of an Experimental Traffic Order in respect of School Exclusion Zones at Ferryden Primary School, Montrose; Langlands Primary School, Forfar; and Muirfield Primary School, Arbroath. These orders would not be for longer than 18 months. The three locations which were the subject of this report had been identified and explored by Traffic & Transport officers in consultation with a dedicated stakeholder group for each school, comprising Police Scotland, local elected members, Community Councils, school staff and members of the relevant Parent/Council/Teachers' Association.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to approve the making of the Experimental Traffic Order to include Ferryden Primary School, Montrose;
- (ii) to approve the making of the Experimental Traffic Order to include Langlands Primary School, Forfar; and
- (iii) to approve the making of the Experimental Traffic Order to include Muirfield Primary School, Arbroath.

9. UNADOPTED ROADS POLICY UPDATE

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of the meeting of Angus Council on 12 August 2020, there was submitted Report No 46/21 by the Director of Infrastructure, updating the Committee on correspondence relating to a request for grant funding to Scottish and UK Governments to allow for the works required to local 'unadopted' roads to reach a standard to allow for inclusion on the List of Public Roads.

Councillor Moore thanked officers for producing this report, but expressed disappointment that regional MSPs had not been included in the consultation on a proposed scheme whereby a grant system would be introduced to assist householders to meet their responsibilities as 'frontagers' under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984. He appreciated the costs involved, but noted that this was a problem which would not go away, and had to be addressed.

The Convener indicated that he would ask officers if, as a matter of policy, all 8 local MSPs and both local MPs are consulted, and that he would ask the Director of Infrastructure to take this matter to the Management Team.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the responses to the correspondence with Scottish and United Kingdom Governments, and local MPs and MSPs, for the making up of unadopted roads in local communities to the standard required for inclusion on the List of Public Roads, i.e. adopted roads;
- (ii) to note the assessment of the cost of making up of unadopted roads in local communities to the standard required for inclusion on the List of Public Roads;
- (iii) to note the details and list of unadopted roads, excluding those which are in the process of being included on the List of Public Roads, where issues are known to exist; and
- (iv) to confirm that the existing policy for unadopted roads remains current, as detailed in Report 46/21.

10. 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 disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Part 1, Schedule 7A, Paragraph 2.

11. APPROPRIATION OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 2 February 2021, there was submitted Report No 47/21 by the Director of Infrastructure in relation to the appropriation of residential properties to the Housing Revenue Account.

The Committee agreed the recommendations as set out in the Report.