

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held remotely on Tuesday 2 February 2021 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors DAVID FAIRWEATHER, ANGUS MACMILLAN DOUGLAS OBE, BRIAN BOYD, BRADEN DAVY, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, SHEILA HANDS, JULIE BELL, BEN LAWRIE, IAN MCLAREN, BOB MYLES, MARK SALMOND, RON STURROCK, DEREK WANN and KENNY BRAES.

Councillor FAIRWEATHER, Convener, in the Chair.

1. **APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Beth Whiteside and Alex King with Councillors Kenny Braes and Julie Bell substituting respectively.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Myles declared an interest in Item 12, however as it was an exempt item of business he would make a fuller declaration once the press and public had been excluded from the meeting.

3. **MINUTES**

(i) Previous Meeting

The Committee noted that the minute of meeting of 8 December 2020 would be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee.

4. **INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 23 NOVEMBER 2020 – 18 JANUARY 2021**

There was submitted Report No 15/21 by the Director of Children, Families and Justice with regard to services in the Children, Families and Justice Services, appending 3 Schedules in relation to:

MAPPA Information Report and Annual Report 2019/20
OOHS Information Report and Annual Report 2019/20
Glen Clova Report

Having heard members commend staff for the reports and the provision of the service the Committee agreed to note the Reports and associated appendices.

5. **CAPITAL MONITORING – GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/21**

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 December 2020 there was submitted Report No 16/21 by the Director of Finance apprising members of the capital expenditure incurred for the period from 1 April 2020 to 30 Novem1 August 2020 and measuring projected capital expenditure for the year against budgeted provision.

The Report indicated that with eight months (66.67 per cent) of the financial year gone the actual spend levels presented in Tables 1 and 2 were extremely low, at 28.6 per cent on a gross basis and 46.9 per cent on a net basis respectively. This unprecedented low level of actual expenditure was a direct result of the lockdown imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular the shutdown of the construction industry and the delay in reopening sites (which must be compliant with new protocols introduced to ensure the health and safety of personnel on site).

Furthermore around 10 per cent of capital spend would come through as accruals at the year end. The value of work completed up to 31 March 2021 would be assessed as part of the year end process and expenditure accrued accordingly, hence the reason why spend could increase significantly in the final month of the year. It should also be 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. For information purposes, the 2019/20 actual spend outturn was 75.9 per cent (gross) and 80.4 per cent (net).

The Committee agreed 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 accompanying capital monitoring statement:

6. REVENUE MONITORING 2020/21 AND RENEWAL AND REPAIR FUND POSITION 2020/21

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 December 2020 there was submitted Report No 17/21 by the Director of Finance detailing the latest projected year-end position for each main Council service area, giving a brief explanation of significant variances and providing an update on expenditure funded through the Council's Renewal and Repair Funds. The position within the Report was based upon actual spend and income information at 30 November 2020.

The Report indicated that a surplus compared to budget of £8.831 million was projected at this point in the financial year in respect of the General Fund services net adjusted budget (excluding the Angus Health & Social Care Partnership budget) of £245.031 million, i.e. 3.60%. An adjustment was also required to reflect previously approved policy, the detail of which was set out in the table in paragraph 5.2 in the Report. In addition adjustments had been made regarding 2019/20 Carry Forwards that were required to be carried forward into 2021/22 due to delays in spending these as a result of COVID-19 and additional budget provision that was given as part of the budget recast exercise which had not been spent was to be returned to the General Fund Reserve, leaving an adjusted projected surplus of £2.977 million.

The Committee agreed:

- i) to note the content of the Report, in particular the comments on the Financial Implications section regarding the projected year end position;
- ii) to note the Renewal and Repair fund position;
- iii) to approve the virements detailed in paragraph 4.17 of the Report, noting that these were in the main as a result of revisions requiring to be made to the revenue budget recast position which Council approved at its meeting of 10 September 2020 (Report 211/20 refers); and
- iv) that the additional funding support allocated to the Council from the Scottish Government's Loss of Income Scheme as detailed in paragraph 4.18 in the Report be added to the Council's COVID-19 Contingency Reserve as an interim measure prior to the Council finalising its 2021/22 revenue and capital budgets in early March 2021.

7. COMMON GOOD FUNDS – PROJECT APPROVALS

There was submitted Report No 18/21 by the Director of Infrastructure seeking approval for 2020/21 Common Good Funded Projects.

Having heard from a number of Forfar ward members who welcomed the provision of a new toilet block and having heard Councillor Lawrie request that provision be made for a Changing Places facility within the new toilet block at Forfar Loch, the Committee agreed:

- i) to approve the funding from Forfar Common Good for replacement of pitch at Station Park of £50,000 with a potential £10,000 for contingency towards the £180,000 project; and
- ii) to approve the funding from Forfar Common Good for part funding toward the provision of new toilet block at Forfar Loch.

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 16 (11)(ii), Councillor Lawrie requested that his dissent be recorded from the foregoing decision (rec ii).

8. NON DOMESTIC RATES APPEALS SUB COMMITTEE

There was submitted Report No 19/21 by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services proposing the establishment of a body to hear appeals against rating liability under section 238 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1947 given that an appeal has been received.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to establish a Non-Domestic Rates Appeals Sub-Committee comprising three members of this Committee and that arrangements are made to hear an appeal that has been received,
- (ii) to appoint the Convener and Vice-Convener of this Committee as Convener and Vice-Convener of that Sub-Committee; and
- (iii) to appoint Councillor Duff as the other member to the Sub-Committee.

9. 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 items 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 2, 6 and 8.

10. APPROPRIATION OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO THE HRA

There was submitted Report No 20/21 by the Director of Infrastructure in relation to the appropriation of residential properties to the Housing Revenue Account.

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

11. BEQUEST TO THE COUNCIL OF LAND AT CURRSLOAN, FORFAR

There was submitted Report No 22/21 by the Director of Infrastructure in relation to the bequest to the Council of Land at Currsloan, Forfar, setting out a number of options and asking the Committee to agree which option to pursue,

Having heard from a number of members, it was agreed that consideration of the Report be deferred to the next meeting of this Committee so that further information on the site could be provided, including a clearer site map.

Councillor Myles declared an interest in the following item, the details of which are contained in a private extract of this minute.

12. PROCUREMENT OF SPECIALIST ADVISERS

With reference to Article 20 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 January 2020, there was submitted Report No 23/21 by the Director of Finance seeking authority to appoint a specialist adviser.

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