

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CENTRAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE** held remotely on Thursday 4 March 2021 at 9.00 am

Present:

Council

Representatives: Councillors DAVID FAIRWEATHER, ANGUS MACMILLAN DOUGLAS OBE, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, ALEX KING and DEREK WANN.

Teacher Association

Representatives: MIKE CALLAGHAN (EIS), GILLIAN LAWRENCE and K MADILL.

Trade Union

Representatives: GLEN ANDERSON (UNISON), CHRIS BOYLE (UNISON), JANICE CORRIGAN (UNISON), JAMES CUNNINGHAM (GMB), MAUREEN DICKSON (UNISON), KATE McCUBBIN (UNISON) and GEORGE RAMSAY (UNITE).

Councillor FAIRWEATHER, in the Chair.

Prior to the commencement of the business, the Chair extended his gratitude to all members of staff who had continued to deliver services during the current pandemic.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies intimated.

2. COUNCIL PLAN, FINANCE & CHANGE PLAN AND WORKFORCE PLAN

There was submitted Report No 61/21 by the Chief Executive setting out the Council's strategic direction, vision, refreshed priorities and actions in relation to the Council Plan, Finance & Change Plan and the Workforce Plan.

3. PROVISIONAL REVENUE BUDGET 2021/2022

(a) Provisional Revenue & Capital Budgets 2021/2022 – Background Report

There was submitted Report No 68/21 by the Director of Finance detailing the provisional revenue budget submissions of each Council service and the budget savings considered necessary to allow the Council to deliver a sustainable revenue budget within the resources expected to be available. The Report also set out the provisional capital budget submissions for those services with capital expenditure.

(b) Provisional Revenue Budget Volume

There was submitted Report No 70/21 by the Director of Finance detailing the Provisional Revenue Budget for 2021/22 including the budget issues.

The opportunity was then given for Trade Union and Teacher Representatives to make comment on the Reports.

Chris Boyle, UNISON, paid tribute to Council staff for their work during the past 12 months and commended those who had risen to, and continued to rise to the challenges, whether working on the front line or from home, and to those staff who continued to deliver services on behalf of the local authority. He stated that staff deserved to be rewarded for their continued efforts and the current public sector pay policy proposal was wholly inadequate in the view of UNISON.

Having considered the papers presented, UNISON referred to the effect of under funding from the Scottish Government and advised that a better funding settlement for local authorities must be a priority now and in the future.

UNISON recognised some of the initiatives detailed within the Finance and Change Plan but highlighted some concerns, in particular the ongoing move to digital working and the effect of this on some of our communities and staff, and also their view of the longer term effect of agile working. UNISON also highlighted that as reviews of workstyles were undertaken, it was essential to consider what was best for workers and the communities they served not just an opportunity to make budget cuts, all of which would have an effect on the health and wellbeing of staff.

UNISON also referred to the review of conditions of service and the potential of further service reviews and the impact of these proposals on staff.

UNISON urged the Council to work with trade unions to fight the cuts and encouraged elected members to engage with them to support their 'Plug the Gap' local government campaign. UNISON looked forward to working with the Council and elected members in campaigning on local government finance and a fair reward for all workers.

UNISON referred to the Feeley report and welcomed the support for a National Care Service and indicated that they looked forward to working with the Council to deliver fair work standards for all staff delivering social care in Angus.

Unite and GMB representatives stressed the importance of ensuring the consolidation of the Living Wage within the Council's pay structure and an assurance was given that this work was currently underway and that trade unions would be formally consulted regarding the proposals.

Following a number of questions and discussion, the Reports were noted.