

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held remotely on Tuesday 4 May 2021 at 2.00 pm.

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

Councillor FAIRWEATHER, Convener, in the Chair.

Prior to the commencement of the business, the Convener reminded members that it was currently the pre-election period in light of the forthcoming Scottish Parliament Elections on 6 May. All members had received a copy of the Council's pre-election guidance and particular reference was made to Section 5 of the guidance which covered publicity including online Council or Committee meetings. He reminded members to be mindful of the legal requirements in their discussion and debate during the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

There were no apologies intimated.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Myles declared an interest in item 9 as a Council appointed member of Angus Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion and voting on this item.

3. MINUTES

(i) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 March 2021 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

(ii) Central Consultative Committee

The minute of meeting of the Central Consultative Committee of 4 March 2021, (a copy of which is appended hereto) was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX 1**).

4. CAPITAL MONITORING – GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/21

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 March 2021, there was submitted Report No 130/21 by the Director of Finance apprising members of the capital expenditure incurred for the period from 1 April 2020 to 28 February 2021 and measuring projected capital expenditure for the year against budgeted provision.

The Report indicated that with eleven months (91.67 per cent) of the financial year gone the actual spend levels presented in Tables 1 and 2 were extremely low, at 42.9 per cent on a gross basis and 42.2 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.

5. 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 9 March 2021, there was submitted Report No 131/21 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 28 February 2021.

The Report indicated that a surplus compared to budget of £10.416 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 £243.484 million, i.e. 4.15 %. There were adjustments required to this total to reflect funding within Education and Lifelong Learning, Children, Families & Justice, Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform and Facilities Management (paragraphs 4.2, 4.4, 4.6 and 4.11 of the Report respectively) which due to accounting treatment would be carried forward into 2021/22. An adjustment was also required to reflect previously approved policy. 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, leaving an adjusted projected surplus of £3.977 million.

The Committee agreed:

- i) to note the contents of the Report, in particular the comments on the Financial Implications section regarding the projected year end position; and
- ii) to note the Renewal and Repair fund position.

6. CHANGE PROGRAMME UPDATE

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of the special meeting of Angus Council of 4 March 2021, there was submitted Report No 132/21 by the Director of Finance providing an update in relation to the Council's Change Programme, relating to the 3-year planning period 2021/22 to 2023/24).

The Report highlighted that a significant review of the Change Programme had been undertaken during the period November 2020 to February 2021 as part of the preparation process for the Council's budget setting meeting on 4 March 2021. The various changes and updates were considered by the Change Board at its meetings held on 24 November 2020, 22 December 2020, 26 January 2021 and 23 February 2021. The latest Change Board meeting was held on 23 March 2021.

During the budget preparation process, regular update reports in relation to the Change Programme had also been considered by the Policy & Budget Strategy Group (PBSG), along with the Shadow Budget Group (SBG). A full audit trail of changes to the Change Programme was therefore available through that review period and included in the associated meeting papers.

The Report was now focussed on reporting from the new baseline position set out in the Finance & Change Plan 2021 – 2024, which was agreed by the Council at its budget setting meeting on 4 March 2021.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the progress update in relation to the Council's current Change Programme (2021/22 to 2023/24), along with the summary included in Appendix 1; and
- (ii) to approve the update to the Change Programme governance arrangements, included in Appendix 2 to the Report.

7. EQUALITIES MAINSTREAMING REPORT 2021 AND EQUALITY OUTCOMES (2021-23)

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 30 April 2019, there was submitted Report No 133/21 by the Director of HR, Digital Enablement, IT and Business Support presenting an Equalities Mainstreaming Report 2021 and Equality Outcomes (2021-23) as required by legislation.

The Report indicated that The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012 had come into force in May 2012. These specific duties were designed to help public authorities in their performance of the general equality duty for public bodies to, in the exercise of their functions, having due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who shared a relevant protected characteristic, and persons who did not share it.
- foster good relations between persons who shared a relevant protected characteristic, and those who do not share it.

The key legal requirements for the council contained in these specific duties was to:

- Report progress on mainstreaming the equality duty.
- Publish equality outcomes and report progress.
- Assess and review policies and practices.
- Gather and use employee monitoring information.
- Publish gender pay gap information.
- Publish statements on equal pay.
- Consider award criteria and conditions in relation to public procurement.
- Publish equality information in a manner which was accessible.

Having heard from a number of members, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the Report to the next meeting of this Committee, to allow a briefing to be held for all elected members.

8. 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 1, 6, 8 and 9.

9. PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY REPORT – INDEPENDENT INTERMEDIATE CARE (SOUTH ANGUS) AND INDEPENDENT INTERMEDIATE CARE AND NON-COMPLEX PALLIATIVE CARE INCLUDING END OF LIFE CARE (NORTH ANGUS)

There was submitted Report No 134/21 by the Interim Chief Integration Officer outlining the procurement strategy for two contracts relating to Independent Intermediate Care (IIC) and Independent Intermediate Care and Non-complex Palliative Care Including End of Life Care (IIC/NCPC) services in line with the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP)'s Strategic Commissioning Plan and seeking authority for its implementation.

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

10. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF PERMANENT CONTRACTS OFFICER (RELATIVE OF A SERVING COUNCILLOR)

There was submitted Report No 135/21 by the Chief Executive seeking approval to confirm the permanent appointment, following a recruitment process, of an existing member of staff who had declared on her application that she was related to a serving Councillor.

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