

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of ADJOURNED MEETING of **ANGUS COUNCIL** held remotely on Friday 24 September 2021 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Provost RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, Depute Provost CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, Councillors JULIE BELL, KENNY BRAES, COLIN BROWN BEM, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, BRENDA DURNO, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, ALEX KING, DAVID LUMGAIR, ANGUS MACMILLAN DOUGLAS OBE, IAN McLAREN, RICHARD MOORE, GAVIN NICOL, MARK SALMOND, LOIS SPEED, TOMMY STEWART, RON STURROCK and DEREK WANN.

Provost PROCTOR, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Brian Boyd, David Cheape, Braden Davy, Sheila Hands, Ben Lawrie, Mark McDonald, Bob Myles and Beth Whiteside.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no further declarations of interest made.

Councillor King, having not been presented on 9 September 2021, indicated that he had no declarations of interest to make.

3. SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE 2020/2021 ANNUAL REPORT

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 10 September 2020, there was submitted Report No 280/21 by the Chief Executive presenting the Scrutiny and Audit Committee 2020/2021 Annual Report for comment and approval.

The Annual Report had been prepared to inform Angus Council of the work undertaken by the Committee and included an action plan for 2021/22 together with an update on the actions identified in last year's Annual Report.

The Report concluded that the Convener of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee was satisfied that the work undertaken by the Committee during 2020/21 provided reasonable assurance that the Council's control environment and governance framework operated effectively and efficiently during 2020/21 and that actions had been put in place to address any weaknesses identified, which the Committee would continue to monitor.

Having heard from a number of members in relation to succession planning, the Council resolved to approve the Scrutiny and Audit Committee 2020/21 Annual Report, attached as Appendix 1 to the Report.

4. ANGUS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2019-JULY 2020

With reference to Article 16 of the minute of meeting of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee of 24 August 2021, there was submitted Report No 281/21 by the Chief Executive presenting the Angus Child Protection Committee Annual Report for April 2019 to July 2020.

The Annual Report presented the work undertaken in Angus individually and in partnership to deliver national, Tayside and local child protection outcomes to improve the lives of children at risk of harm. The Angus Child Protection Committee had continued to work together to improve child protection practice in Angus and the Report highlighted a number of areas of work together with the key trends and areas for future development and progression.

Following a number of questions from members, and having heard a number of members pay tribute to Mrs Alison Todd, Independent Chair and the members of the Child Protection Committee, the Council resolved to note and endorse the contents of the Angus Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2019-2020, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report.

5. ANGUS DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME 2021

With reference to Article 16 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 10 September 2020, there was submitted Report No 282/21 by the Interim Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth seeking approval of the Angus Development Plan Scheme which included the work programme for initial preparatory work on the next Local Development Plan for Angus to replace the current Plan adopted on 23 September 2016. The new Local Development Plan (AngusPlan) would be prepared under the new legislative requirements of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019.

The Angus Development Plan Scheme 2021 set out the immediate work programme and indicative timetable to replace the Angus Local Development Plan under the new legislative framework. A further Development Plan Scheme would be prepared and brought back to a future meeting of Angus Council once secondary regulations and guidance on Local Development Plans had been published.

The Council resolved: -

- (i) to note the update on preparation of the next Local Development Plan, immediate work programme and indicative timetable for preparation under the new legislative requirements of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and the associated delay in replacing the Angus Local Development Plan (2016);
- (ii) to approve the 2021 Angus Development Plan Scheme and Participation Statement set out in Appendix 1 to the Report for submission to Scottish Ministers and general publication by 30 September 2021; and
- (iii) to note that a further Development Plan Scheme would be reported to full Council in March 2022.

6. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS REVIEW

There was submitted Report No 284/21 by the Director of Finance seeking approval for the application of revised Financial Regulations which had undergone a review and updating process.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to approve the revised Financial Regulations for application with immediate effect;
- (ii) to note that a review of Section 16 of the Regulations covering procurement arrangements would be undertaken at a later time (the last one having taken place in 2017 which included alignment to then recent changes in legislation) as part of the wider Procurement Review for Angus Council as set out in paragraph 3.2 of the Report;
- (iii) to note that further revisions to the Council's Financial Regulations may be required once the outcome of the work being undertaken by the Governance Member Officer Working Group reviewing Standing Orders was known to ensure consistency between those key governance documents but that the changes recommended in the report were considered essential meantime; and
- (iv) to note that the references made to Standing Order provisions would be changed once the new Standing Orders were approved.

7. BUDGET STRATEGY UPDATE AND USE OF COVID-19 FUNDING – INITIAL PROPOSALS

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 24 June 2021, there was submitted Report No 285/21 by the Director of Finance setting out an updated budget strategy for the Council in relation to the use of uncommitted funds and initial proposals for the use of some of those funds for COVID-19 response, recovery and renewal purposes.

COUNCILLOR SALMOND, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MACMILLAN DOUGLAS,
MOVED THAT THIS COUNCIL:-

- (I) NOTES THE MEDIUM-TERM CHALLENGES FOR THE COUNCIL'S FINANCES AS SET OUT IN SECTION 4 OF THE REPORT;
- (II) NOTES THE LATEST ESTIMATES OF FUNDING AVAILABLE ON AN UNCOMMITTED BASIS AS SET OUT IN SECTION 5 OF THE REPORT AND THE NEED FOR THIS TO BE USED TO SUPPORT THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY IN A FLEXIBLE WAY;
- (III) APPROVES THE PROPOSED STRATEGY FOR USE OF UNCOMMITTED FUNDS AS SET OUT IN SECTION 6 OF THE REPORT AND IN PARTICULAR THE USE OF FUNDS PROPOSED IN PARAGRAPHS A) TO E) OF SECTION 6;
- (IV) AGREES THAT THE STRATEGY SET OUT IN SECTION 6 OF THE REPORT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND UPDATING AS NECESSARY OVER THE COMING MONTHS AND AS PART OF THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET SETTING PROCESS EXPECTED TO CONCLUDE IN FEBRUARY 2022;
- (V) APPROVES THE INITIAL PROPOSALS FOR USE OF FUNDS SET ASIDE FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE, RECOVERY AND RENEWAL AS SET OUT IN SECTION 7 AND APPENDICES A TO F OF THE REPORT;
- (VI) NOTES THAT OFFICERS WERE WORKING ON FURTHER PROPOSALS FOR USE OF FUNDS SET ASIDE FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE, RECOVERY AND RENEWAL AND WOULD BRING THESE FORWARD IN THE NEXT CYCLE OF MEETINGS;
- (VII) AGREES THAT IN ADDITION THE COUNCIL USE £1M OF THE COVID-19 RESPONSE, RECOVERY AND RENEWAL UNCOMMITTED FUNDS (£2.5M PER REPORT 285/21) TO DELIVER IMPROVED WINTER WEATHER RESILIENCE MEASURES AND ROADS MAINTENANCE THROUGHOUT ANGUS, AHEAD OF THE WINTER 2021/22; AND
- (VIII) AGREES THAT THE £1M BE USED AS FOLLOWS:-

WEATHER RESILIENCE MEASURES / MANAGEMENT OF CONCURRENT RISKS

– INCLUDES PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL GRIT BINS, A WINTER COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT FUND AND ADDITIONAL GULLY EMPTYING IN HIGH RISK AREAS - £200,000 - THE NOMINAL SPLIT WOULD BE £100K FOR ADDITIONAL GULLY WORKS; £50K FOR GRIT BINS; £50K FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT FUND WITH A FLEXIBILITY ACROSS THESE HEADINGS TO SUIT TAKE UP;

ROADS MAINTENANCE – ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT IN ROAD MAINTENANCE AHEAD OF WINTER 2021/22 – SPEND TO SAVE TO CATCH REPAIRS BEFORE WINTER WEATHER INCREASES SCALE AND COST OF WORK REQUIRED - £800,000 - THE WORKS HERE WOULD BE A MIX OF OPERATIONS INCLUDING ADDITIONAL REPAIRS BY THE ROADMASTER; AND POT HOLE/ PATCHING REPAIRS.

The Council resolved to adjourn for 15 minutes to allow the opportunity for members to consider the contents of the motion.

The meeting resumed at 15.01pm.

Councillor Durno, seconded by Councillor Devine, moved as an amendment that this Council, in addition to (i)-(viii) as detailed above, set aside £100,000 of the remaining £877,000 available for further COVID-19 response, recovery and renewal projects for the re-opening of community toilets to help with active travel, with a further Report to be brought back to a future meeting detailing how the funds would be used.

The Council resolved to adjourn for 10 minutes to allow the Provost to seek advice from officers.

The meeting resumed at 15.35pm.

Having heard from the Director of Finance in relation to the financial implications, the Provost confirmed that the amendment was competent.

Thereafter, having heard from a number of members, and having heard from Councillor Salmond as the mover of the motion, the Council resolved to approve the contents of the motion and the amendment as detailed above.

8. UPDATE ON REVIEW OF REMOTE MEETINGS ARRANGEMENTS AND POTENTIAL FOR HYBRID MODEL FOR MEETINGS

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 24 June 2021, there was submitted Report No 286/21 by the Director of HR, Digital Enablement, IT and Business Support updating elected members in relation to remote meeting arrangements and future hybrid meeting requirements.

The Report indicated that to deliver the business case for hybrid meetings consideration was being given to what meeting spaces could be made available and what technology would be required to ensure that when the public view the committee streams or recordings they can clearly see and hear (and read if necessary) what was being said and by whom.

Once officers had gathered more information then a business case would be developed to show options, costs and benefits of the different solutions that were available. This would allow members to decide which solution would best fit for the future hosting and publishing of committee meetings.

Having heard from a number of members, the Council resolved:-

- (i) to note the proposed method for developing the hybrid meeting business case;
- (ii) to note the progress made and future steps to investigate and resolve members Teams issues; and
- (iii) to continue remote meetings until 31 December 2021.

At this stage in the meeting, the Provost intimated that the item on Inglis Court had been considered and a decision made at the meeting held on 9 September 2021, including the decision to decline an unsolicited offer received for the purchase of a non-surplus Housing Revenue Account (HRA) asset at Inglis Court, Edzell and he therefore proposed that there was no requirement to consider the information contained within the exempt appendix detailed at Item 19 separately as members would have taken that information into account in making their decision.

The Council therefore resolved that as Item 20 detailed on the agenda had also been considered, there was now no requirement to exclude the public and press at this stage in the meeting as the Council had considered all the items as detailed on the agenda for 9 September 2021, and the business had been concluded.