

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

MINUTE of MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held remotely, on Tuesday 28 September 2021 at 2.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillors MARK SALMOND, TOMMY STEWART, KENNY BRAES, DAVID CHEAPE, BRADEN DAVY, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, BRENDA DURNO, DEREK WANN, ANGUS MACMILLAN DOUGLAS, MARK McDONALD, IAN McLAREN, RICHARD MOORE, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, LOIS SPEED AND RON STURROCK.

Councillor Salmond, Convener, in the Chair.

**1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Fotheringham and Lumgair, substituted respectively by Councillors Wann and MacMillan Douglas.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations intimated.

**3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 17 August 2021 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

**4. INFORMATION REPORT – RAPID REHOUSING TRANSITION PLAN UPDATE**

With reference to Article 4 of minute of meeting of this Committee of 17 August 2021, there was submitted Report No 307/21, by the Service Leader, (Housing) providing information to members with regard to the Rapid Rehousing Plan, and how the Council would achieve its goal that people experiencing homelessness would reach a settled housing outcome as quickly as possible.

Following a number of questions, the Committee agreed to note the Report. The Convener reminded members that questions on Information Reports should be asked of officers ahead of the meeting of the Committee.

**5. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CAPITAL PLAN 2020/25**

With reference to Article 6 of minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 September 2020, there was submitted Report No 308/21 by the Interim Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, presenting to the Committee the updated 2020/25 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Plan, incorporating the 2021/22 capital monitoring budget.

The Provisional Capital Budget 2021/22 had been set at £22.172 million; however, the 2021/22 HRA Capital Plan had since been updated to reflect the effect of the 2020/21 actuals, and a final 2021/22 capital monitoring budget amounting to £20.145 million established. This was as a result of the comprehensive review of the 2020/25 Capital Plan, incorporating an updated position regarding specific projects in 2021/22.

The Report advised that a number of factors linked to Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic which had affected the whole construction industry, although the economy of the UK along with many other developed countries, had moved into recovery phase.

Having heard questions from Councillors Braes, Devine, Proctor, Speed, Moore, MacMillan Douglas and Durno, answered by officers, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note that the 2020/21 actual position on the HRA Capital Plan as at 31 March 2021 had been submitted to the meeting of Angus Council on 24 June 2021, Report No 212/21 (Article 10 refers);
- (ii) to approve the contents of the (ii) updated 2021/22 HRA Capital Plan attached as Appendix 1 to the Report;

- (iii) to note that the 2021/22 HRA Capital Plan represented the HRA's approved budget for capital monitoring purposes; and
- (iv) to note the provisional budget for the 2022/23 – 2024/25 HRA Capital Plan.

## **6. HOUSING SERVICES PERFORMANCE UPDATE – ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT**

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 September 2020, there was submitted Report No 309/21 by the Interim Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, giving an update on the performance of the Council in relation to housing services; actions which were being taken to improve performance; and providing information to enable members to agree the Annual Assurance Statement required by the Scottish Housing Regulator.

Having heard from Councillors Salmond, Braes, Devine, Proctor, Speed, Moore, MacMillan Douglas and Durno, with members' questions being responded to by officers, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the Council's performance in relation to its statutory obligations for housing services;
- (ii) that the evidence provided was sufficient to assure members that the Council was meeting its statutory obligations in relation to housing services; and
- (iii) to approve the draft Annual Assurance Statement attached as Appendix 1 to the Report.

## **7. ANGUS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – FUNCTION AND MEMBERSHIP**

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee on 25 May 2021, there was submitted Report No 310/21 by the Interim Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, updating members on the role and membership of Angus Local Access Forum, and seeking approval for the appointment of a replacement representative of the Council.

The Report advised that the Angus Access Forum was first established in 2005, and acted as an adviser to the Council and anyone else who consulted it on matters related to current access rights, the existence and delineation of rights of way or the drawing up and adoption of a plan for a system of core paths. It could also offer assistance to parties in any relevant dispute.

The Forum currently had comprised of two Community representatives; four User representatives; and three Land Manager representatives. This was considered to be a reasonable balance of interests; however, it was proposed to seek applications for further members in the coming months.

In response to a question from Councillor Devine, the Interim Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth advised that in future, minutes from the meetings of the Forum would be made available and that she would report further to members on the matter.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the update on Forum membership;
- (ii) that the Team Leader – Environment and Climate Change should represent Angus Council on the Forum; and
- (iii) to note the information detailed in the Report on the role and function of the Forum.

## **8. PARKS AND BURIAL GROUNDS PLANT AND EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME 2021/2022**

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 September 2020, there was submitted Report No 311/21 by the Interim Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, seeking approval of the recommendation to purchase plant and equipment required for the 2021/22 Parks and Burial Grounds Capital Replacement Programme.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the estimated total cost of £153,000.00 for the purchase of grounds maintenance plant and equipment required for the 2021/2022 capital replacement programme;
- (ii) to authorise officers to procure grounds maintenance plant and equipment on the basis set out in the Report; and
- (iii) to note the financial implications included in Section 5 of the Report.

## **9. UPDATE OF THE WASTE AND RECYCLING BIN POLICY**

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 February 2019, there was submitted Report No 312/21 by the Interim Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, proposing an update to the Council's Waste and Recycling Bin Policy which included a change to the rule on the provision of additional recycling bins.

The Convener expressed his pleasure at what he saw as a gamechanger. In his view, in this year of the COP 26 gathering in Glasgow, the message from Angus Council was that it was on its way to becoming the top recycling local authority in Scotland.

Officers responded to questions and comments from Councillors Braes, Devine, Moore, Macmillan Douglas and Speed, and also to Councillor Durno's questions related to the possibilities of paint recycling.

The Committee agreed to the updated waste and recycling bin policy as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report.

## **10. AFGHAN RELOCATION SCHEMES**

With reference to Article 21 of the Policy and Resources Committee of 8 June 2021, there was submitted Report No 313/21 updating members on the UK-wide Afghan Locally Employed Staff (LES) Relocation Scheme, and seeking agreement in principle for the Council's participation in the further re-settlement scheme for Afghan refugees announced by the UK Government.

Members generally welcomed the Report. The Convener indicated that the Committee would receive regular updates as the Scheme progressed.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the position on the previously approved Council participation in the Afghan LES scheme to provide relevant support to re-settle 10 families of up to 50 individuals;
- (ii) that the Council should commit in principle to taking part in the further Afghanistan Citizens Resettlement Scheme for Refugees; and
- (iii) to extend the delegated authority for the Depute Chief Executive to manage any necessary changes to the detailed arrangements as the two Schemes evolved.

## **11. MANAGEMENT RULES FOR KEPTIE PARK, ARBROATH**

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 24 November 2020, there was submitted Report No 314/21 by the Interim Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, requesting Committee approval of the Management Rules for Keptie Park, Arbroath.

Following discussion and having heard from a number of members, and in response, the Service Leader – Environment Services provided an update, thereafter the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to authorise the implementation of the Management Rules for Keptie Park, as appended to the Report;
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to execute formally the Management Rules by signing on behalf of Angus Council;

- (iii) to note that the revised Management Rules would come into force on the date of their execution;
- (iv) to authorise the Interim Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to initiate the necessary procedures for public consultation on extending the rules across all Angus Parks, Gardens and Open Spaces (with any minor local amendments as necessary with the approval of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services); and
- (v) to note that a further report on the outcome of Angus-wide consultation would be submitted to this Committee in due course.

**12. APPLICATION FOR CONSENT TO PLACE TABLES AND CHAIRS IN A PUBLIC ROAD AT THE CORN EXCHANGE, MARKET PLACE, ARBROATH**

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 January 2021, there was submitted Report No 315/21 by the Director of Infrastructure, dealing with an application to an existing authorisation by creating an additional area for the placing of tables and chairs in a designated area where the consumption of alcohol in public places was prohibited.

Following discussion and having heard from a number of members, the Convener suggested that a site visit would be appropriate for this case. Councillors Cheape, Speed and Braes supported that as the way to proceed. Councillor Moore requested that such visit be unaccompanied, without the applicant in attendance, as often happened in Development Management Review Committee cases.

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the Report until a site visit had taken place.

*Councillor Devine, having experienced connectivity issues, left the meeting during consideration of the following item.*

**13. WINTER ROADS SERVICES POLICY AND PROVISION FOR 2021/2022**

With reference to Article 4(ii) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 24 November 2020, there was submitted Report No 316/21 by the Director of Infrastructure, setting out the proposed Winter Roads Services Policy and detailing the proposed service provision for preventative treatment and snow clearing during the winter period 2021/22, together with contingency arrangements to cater for extreme conditions prevailing, in conjunction with the operational issues detailed in the Operational Details 2021/22 attached to the Report.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note that over the summer months, the Council had been carrying out a review of Winter Road Services under the remit of the Road Safety Member Officer Working Group, as detailed in the Report;
- (ii) to approve the Policy for the Winter Roads Services during the forthcoming winter 2021/22, as stated in Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (iii) to note the Operational Details in Appendix 2 to the Report;
- (iv) to note the arrangements proposed to meet the costs of the Winter Roads Services during 2021/22 as set out in the Report;
- (v) to delegate authority to the Service Leader – Roads and Transport to temporarily change the level of service as proposed in the Report, in extreme conditions;
- (vi) to delegate authority to the Service Leader – Roads and Transportation to deviate from the treatment decision matrix and introduce salt conservation techniques as proposed in the Report should difficulties be experienced or anticipated in obtaining sufficient salt supplies;
- (vii) that the Council continued with the previously adopted spread rates as set out in the Report; and

- (viii) to delegate authority to the Service Leader – Roads and Transportation to make changes to the Operational Details for Winter 2021/22 based on the findings of the review of Winter Roads Services with any changes to the policy for the Winter Road Service be subject to separate reporting.