

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of **ANGUS COUNCIL** held remotely on Thursday 16 December 2021 at 1.00 pm.

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

Provost PROCTOR, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Braden Davy.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor McLaren declared an interest in Item 13, Report No 395/21 as a Council representative on the Board of the Cairngorms National Park. He indicated that he had a specific exclusion in terms of the Code of Conduct and that he would therefore take part in any discussion and voting.

Councillor Fairweather declared an interest in Item 19, Report No 399/21 as a relative of the applicant. He indicated that he would not participate in discussion and voting and would leave the meeting during consideration of the item.

Councillor Bell declared an interest in Item 12, Report No 393/21, as she was a non-executive Director of Public Health Scotland and a Council appointed member on the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership, and also as a board member on Voluntary Action Angus. She indicated that she had a specific exclusion in terms of the Code of Conduct and that she would therefore participate in any discussion and voting on the item.

Councillor McMillian Douglas declared an interest in items 5 and 17, Report No 365/21 and Exempt Appendix to Report No 365/21, as over the last number of months he had met with Mr Guild on a number of occasions. He indicated that he felt some people may perceive this as too close to Mr Guild to discuss Lochside Leisure Centre in an unbiased way. Therefore, he indicated that he would not participate in any discussion and voting and would leave the meeting during consideration of these items.

Councillor Brown indicated that in relation to Item 5, Report No 365/21 he would leave the meeting during consideration of the item.

Councillor Lumgair declared an interest in item 12, Report No 393/21, as a Council appointed Director of ANGUSALive. He indicated that he had a specific exclusion in terms of the Code of Conduct and that he would therefore participate in any discussion and voting on that item.

Councillor Proctor declared an interest in Item 12, Report No 393/21, as a Council appointed Director of ANGUSALive and a Director of Voluntary Action Angus. He indicated that he had a specific exclusion in terms of the Code of Conduct and that he would therefore participate in any discussion and voting on that item. Councillor Proctor also declared an interest in item 18, Report No 398/21 as a relative of the applicant. He indicated that he would not participate in discussion and voting and would leave the meeting during consideration of the item.

Councillor Braes declared an interest in items 5 and 17, Report No 365/21, as he had received numerous correspondence in relation the item. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion and voting on the item.

3. REQUEST FOR DEPUTATIONS

The Provost intimated that three deputation requests had been received as follows: -

Mr Mark Guild in relation to Report No 365/21 – Lochside Leisure Centre - Formal Consultation Outcome.

Mr Stevie Bell in relation to Report No 390/21 – Capital Grant Allocations: Place Based Investment Programme, Renewal of Playparks & Nature Restoration Fund.

Mrs Fiona Souter in relation to Report No 394/21 – Update on Improvements to Public Toilet Provision.

The Council resolved to receive the deputations from Mr Stevie Bell and Mrs Fiona Soutar.

The Provost also ruled that the request for a deputation received from Mr Guild was not competent as, in terms of Standing Order 12(1), he had not identified the action he wished the Council to take.

Thereafter, the Council resolved to hear the deputations prior to consideration of each of the items.

4. MINUTES OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

(i) Minute of Council Meetings

(a) Angus Council

The minute of meeting of Angus Council of 4 November 2021 was submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendment: -

'The meeting resumed at 4.14pm at which point it was noted that Councillor Bell was having connection issues and was unable to attend the rest of the meeting.'

(b) Angus Council (Special)

The minute of special meeting of Angus Council of 28 October 2021 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

(ii) Minutes of Committees

(c) Policy and Resources Committee

The minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 26 October 2021 was submitted and noted.

(d) Development Management Review Committee

The minute of meeting of the Development Management Review Committee of 26 October 2021 was submitted and noted.

(e) Children and Learning Committee

The minute of meeting of the Children and Learning Committee of 16 November 2021 was submitted and noted.

(f) Communities Committee

The minute of meeting of the Communities Committee of 23 November 2021 was submitted and noted.

(g) Civic Licensing Committee

The minute of meeting of the Civic Licensing Committee of 25 November 2021 was submitted and noted.

(h) Scrutiny and Audit Committee

The minute of meeting of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee of 30 November 2021 was submitted and noted.

4. MOTION – UNIVERSAL CREDIT UPLIFT

Councillor Whiteside, seconded by Councillor Braes, moved the following motion: -

That this Council:

- Notes the decision by the UK Government to withdraw the £20 per week uplift, cutting £1,040 per year from recipients of Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit, directly impacting around 7,000 families in Angus, including many of the most vulnerable;
- Notes that the cut will disproportionately affect families with children, particularly single parent families and families where someone is disabled;
- Notes analysis by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation that the combined effect of the cut in Universal Credit, the recent National Insurance rise and increases in energy prices and living costs, could leave a typical low-income family up to £1,750 per year worse-off;
- Acknowledges the additional demands and pressures on council services such as the Welfare Rights team as well as local 3rd sector organisations including Angus CAB, whose service users are already under severe financial pressure;
- Endorses the cross-party vote in the Scottish Parliament on 28th September, adds our voice to those of the Governments of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and joins the more than 100 organisations, including JRF, Child Poverty Action Group, Citizens Advice Scotland, Crisis, One Parent Families Scotland, The Poverty Alliance, and the Robertson Trust in condemning the cut as an attack on those most in need; and
- Recommends that the Chief Executive write on behalf of Angus Council to the UK Government and the Secretary of State for Scotland in the terms of this motion, setting out the impact of the cut on the residents of Angus and calling on it to be reversed, and invites members to add their signatures.

The Council resolved to approve the motion.

Councillors McMillan Douglas and Brown, having declared an interest at Article 2 above, left the meeting prior to consideration of the following item.

5. LOCHSIDE LEISURE CENTRE – FORMAL CONSULTATION OUTCOME

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 9 September 2021, there was submitted Report No 365/21 by the Director of Infrastructure updating members on representations made through the statutory (“formal”) consultation process under Section 104 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 regarding the proposed demolition of the former Lochside Leisure Centre, Forfar and restoration of the land on which it sits to Country Park. The Report also invited members to determine the Council’s proposals for the building and land, having had regard to those representations.

The formal consultation on the Council’s proposed demolition of the building and restoration of the area to parkland commenced on 1 October 2021 and closed on 26 November 2021. Details of the consultation process, including comments received, were provided in Appendices 1 and 2 to the Report. In total there were 400 individual responses to the formal consultation, with 121 (30.2%) supporting demolition and 279 (69.8%) not supporting demolition of the former surplus leisure centre.

Members noted that the options appraisal previously detailed in Report No 98/21 had been updated, including the details of how each option could be delivered together with estimated timelines, cost and risks, and was provided as Appendix 3 to the Report. An update, where appropriate, was also provided on each of the options for consideration by members.

Having heard from a number of members in relation to the consultation and the potential impact on the Common Good, the Council resolved:-

- (i) to note the representations made in response to the formal consultation under Section 104 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 as detailed in the Report;
- (ii) to note the outcome of the previously reported nine indications of interest in leasing the property;
- (iii) to note that to date there had been no Community Asset Transfer requests submitted for the building under Section 79 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015;
- (iv) to note all other material considerations as set out in the Report, including the latest position in respect of each of the alternative options for the site set out in Section 5.4; and
- (v) to demolish the former Lochside Leisure Centre building and retain the parkland.

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 16(11)(ii), Councillor Nicol requested that his dissent be recorded in relation to the foregoing decision.

At this stage in the meeting Councillor Speed declared an interest in in the following item as a Trustee on the Skillz Academy Board. She indicated that she would not participate in any discussion and voting and would leave the meeting during consideration of the item.

Having declared an interest as detailed above, Councillor Speed left the meeting prior to consideration of the following item.

Councillors Brown and MacMillan Douglas re-joined the meeting.

Deputation

Mr Stevie Bell addressed the meeting on behalf of Skilz Academy, a local charity based in Arbroath. He indicated that he would like the Council to consider a proposal from Skilz Academy to secure £100,000 of the Place Based Investment monies to complete their astroturf project. He indicated that Skilz Academy could provide the commitment to deliver their project within the required timeframe to give Arbroath a much needed outdoor all-weather facility.

He advised that the project contributed greatly to the key priorities of Angus Council's plan and it also met the main objectives of the fund. He also advised that he was confident that the Skilz Academy project could be delivered when compared to some of the other projects identified and requested that the funding be divided more equally between competing projects. He highlighted a number benefits of the Skilz Academy project and asked members to consider the Skilz Academy proposal for this round of funding.

Following a number of questions from members, the Provost thanked Mr Bell.

6. CAPITAL GRANT ALLOCATIONS: PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME, RENEWAL OF PLAYPARKS & NATURE RESTORATION FUND

There was submitted Report No 390/21 by the Interim Director of Vibrant Communities & Sustainable Growth providing information on three capital grant allocations to Angus Council from the Scottish Government for Place Based Investments, Playpark Renewal and Nature Restoration and recommending projects for approval to use the grant allocation for the current financial year 2021/22.

The Report indicated that as part of the Scottish Government budget, Angus Council had been allocated funding from 3 separate funds, provided as part of the general capital grant. The timelines for the delivery of capital projects and associated spend for each of the funds was very tight and in order to ensure that the council could fulfil the requirements of the grant, the focus had to be on projects that could be delivered within the timeframe and the necessary staff resources available for delivery.

The projects identified as recommended for approval were drawn together by officers from an assessment of those already in development given the short timescales for spend/commitment and included proposals put forward to the Cycling Waking Safer Routes

funding. Any grant funds required officer resource to oversee and manage the process and had been factored into the proposals outlined in Section 5.3 of the Report.

Having heard a number of members ask questions in relation to the funding and the proposed projects, from Councillor Bell who thanked Mr Bell for raising valid points, and from the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth in reply, the Council resolved:-

- (i) to agree the list of projects/proposals for use of the Place Based Investment allocation of £720,000 for 2021/22;
- (ii) to agree the list of projects/proposals for use of Renewal of Play Park Capital Allocation of £108,000 for 2021/22 ;
- (iii) to agree the list of the projects/proposals for use of the Nature Restoration Fund allocation of £95,000 for 2021/22;
- (iv) to note that a further report would be brought to the next meeting of Angus Council setting out the process and engagement for allocation of funds for future years; and
- (v) to agree that the Council write to the Scottish Government to request flexibility on the spend profile of the Place Based Investment Grant.

Councillor Speed re-joined the meeting.

At this stage in the meeting, the Council resolved the hear the deputation from Mrs Fiona Souter.

Deputation

Mrs Fiona Souter, Inclusive Communities Director for the charity PAMIS, a national charity which supported people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, and their families and carers addressed the meeting. She indicated that PAMIS was the lead organisation in Scotland for the provision of changing places toilets. She indicated that the proposal to provide a changing places toilet at the West Links would be life-changing for those families and carers that the charity supported and also for those families who wished to visit the area.

She indicated that recent investment in the facilities and the work that had been done at the West Links to make it inclusive and accessible was, in the charity's view, exemplary across Scotland and would make Arbroath a national leader in terms of accessibility for outdoor spaces, and the provision of a changing places toilet would play a crucial part of the project. Mrs Souter offered PAMIS' full support to this much needed facility.

Following a number of questions from members, the Provost thanked Mrs Souter.

At this stage in the meeting, and in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 11(1) the Council resolved that the order of business be varied and it was considered in the following order.

7. UPDATE ON IMPROVEMENTS TO PUBLIC TOILET PROVISION

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of adjourned meeting of Angus Council of 24September 2021, there was submitted Report No 394/21 by the Interim Director of Vibrant Communities & Sustainable Growth detailing proposals for the re-opening of community toilets that were previously closed following the decision to set-aside £100,000 of funding available of for COVID-19 response, recovery and renewal projects.

A review of previously closed public toilets identified that the opportunities to re-open facilities was limited due to the sale and change of ownership of former public toilet buildings. It was also identified that although some facilities had closed new facilities had become available, for example through partnerships with local businesses and public access to toilets at Council and Angus Alive buildings. Council officers had discussed the status of previously closed public toilets and how the set aside £100,000 could be used to improve access to community toilets in Angus.

Having heard from a number of members who welcomed the proposals but stressed the need to consult with community groups, the Council resolved: -

- (i) to approve the re-opening of the public toilet at Station Road, Inverkeilor;
- (ii) to approve the funding of a partnership agreement with the Inch Maintenance Preservation Society to open and manage the public toilet at Bridge Street (Inch Park), Brechin;
- (iii) to approve the installation of a Changing Places facility within the existing building at West Links, Arbroath;
- (iv) to provide funding for community groups that currently open/manage public toilets to undertake infrastructure improvements to the facilities they managed, as detailed in paragraph 5.7 of the Report; and
- (v) to request the Interim Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth to bring a further report to Communities Committee regarding a wider review of public toilet provision in Angus to encompass the expansion of the Toilet Comfort Partnership Scheme and an update on the funding provided to community groups to make improvements to the toilets they manage.

8. ANGUS COUNCIL ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2020/21 AND ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT TO MEMBERS

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of the Scrutiny & Audit Committee of 30 November 2021, there was submitted Joint Report No 368/21 by the Chief Executive and Director of Finance providing Audit Scotland's Annual Audit Report to Members on the 2020/21 Audit of Angus Council, Robert and William Strang Mortification and Angus Council Charitable Trust and requesting the Council to review the content of Audit Scotland's Annual Audit Report to Members attached to the Report at Appendices A and B.

The Council resolved: -

- (i) to note the content of Audit Scotland's Annual Audit Report to Members attached as Appendices A & B to the Report; and
- (ii) to record its appreciation of the expeditious manner in which the 2020/21 audit was conducted by the External Auditors and to also gratefully acknowledge the support and assistance provided by staff throughout the council in the successful delivery of an unqualified Audit Certificate.

9. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

With reference to Article 12 of the minute of meeting of the Scrutiny & Audit Committee of 30 November 2021, there was submitted Report No 373/21 by the Director of Finance detailing the Council's treasury management arrangements, activity and performance during 2020/21.

The Report indicated that the financial year 2020/21 had seen some significant events that impacted on treasury operations related to COVID-19 Pandemic; Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) Review of Future Lending Terms; and Loans Fund Review.

In summary, as a result of sound treasury management activity, the Council was able to meet all of its financial obligations and cashflow requirements during the financial year, without encountering any liquidity problems.

The Council resolved to note the annual report on 2020/21 treasury management activities attached at Appendix 1 to the Report.

10. TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2021/22 MID-YEAR REVIEW

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 18 March 2021, there was submitted Report No 391/21 by the Director of Finance which reviewed Angus Council's treasury management arrangements, activity and performance for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.

The Report indicated that the first 6 months of 2021/22 saw businesses and economies begin the long recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. This recovery was being adversely affected

by the disruption within worldwide supply chains, labour shortages and increased prices of shipping, materials and energy. It was expected that these issues would eventually ease, but they were currently contributing to an upwards spike in inflation.

It was noted that Interest rates had remained low during this time which, from a treasury viewpoint, was both good and bad. Good in so far as the cost of borrowing was low but, more noteworthy for the Council, bad in terms of the return available on the investment of temporary cash balances. Angus Council had experienced high levels of temporary cash balances over recent years, latterly due to the slowdown of the capital programme during the pandemic coupled with high levels of COVID-related grant provided by the Scottish Government which would be spent over the short and medium term. This had made it difficult to justify incurring any borrowing over the first 6 months of 2021/22 even with borrowing rates at low levels. This was however being kept under close review given the Council's underlying need to borrow to finance its capital expenditure plans.

The Director of Finance provided an overview of the Report and it was noted that a small number of adjustments to existing limits were therefore proposed to ensure that the Council could meet its treasury management objectives. The table detailed in paragraph 5.2 of the Report showed the revised limits compared with those currently in place which were approved through the 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy Statement (report 101/21). Only those elements where a change was proposed were shown.

The Director of Finance answered a number of questions from members and Mrs Browne, Audit Scotland confirmed that in her experience, Angus Council had, over the last five years, shown that prudent financial management arrangements were in place.

The Council resolved: -

- (i) to note the treasury management activities for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the proposed revisions to the counterparty limits detailed in section 5.2 of the Report.

11. COVID-19 UPDATE

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 24 June 2021, there was submitted Report No 392/21 by the Chief Executive providing members with an update on Angus Council's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chief Executive provided an overview of the Report and intimated that the pandemic was one of several concurrent risks faced by Angus Council and its partners at this time. The first named storm of the winter, Storm Arwen, had resulted in significant additional pressures on services and partners continued to monitor potential concurrent risks arising from Brexit. She advised that in addition, the Council was experiencing high vacancy rates and recruitment issues across the various teams with certain areas proving particularly challenging as well as supply chain related delays and shortages. In addition, there had been the emergence of the Omicron variant which was causing significant public health concerns as well as changes in public health messaging on a daily basis.

She advised that as a result of this, all essential services were reviewing their business continuity plans through a COVID-19 lens and also taking into account other concurrent risks, particularly winter and the Omicron variant.

She emphasised the challenges currently faced by families requiring to isolate under the new guidance and how this had put significant pressure on public services which were already stretched. She advised that the Council would be prioritising its priorities and would firstly support those in need and asked the public to be mindful of the demands on the Council during this challenging time. She also thanked everyone who had been working excessive hours over the past 21 months and gave special thanks to those who would be working on Christmas day and New Year's Day.

Councillor Fairweather, on behalf of members, congratulated all staff members and NHS staff on continuing to deliver these vital services through very difficult and challenging times.

At this point in the meeting, (the time being 4pm) the Council resolved, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 21(8), that the meeting continue to the conclusion of the business. In addition, the Council resolved to have a 15 minute "comfort break" commencing from 4pm.

The meeting resumed at 4.15pm.

In response to Councillor Bell's question, the Chief Executive advised members that during the coming weeks, should there be changes to services or reduced services in particular areas, the communications team would actively put this information on the Council's website.

The Council resolved: -

- (i) to note Angus Council's continued response work to the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges and impact this was having on service delivery and staff; and
- (ii) to note the urgency regarding use of funding provided by the Scottish Government to prevent and respond to financial insecurity this winter as set out in Section 5 of the Report and to delegate authority to the Director of Finance, following consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the SNP group, to approve project proposals for the use of this funding on the basis that a report informing elected members of those delegated decisions would be provided in the February cycle of meetings.

At this stage in the meeting Councillor Boyd declared a financial interest in the following item as the owner of a gym and pool. He indicated that he would not participate in any discussion and voting and would leave the meeting during consideration of the item.

12. ANGUSALIVE UPDATE

With reference to Article 2 of the minute of adjourned meeting of Angus Council of 17 September 2021, there was submitted Report No 393/21 by the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform which provided the latest update in relation to ANGUSalive, including information in relation to the current temporary operating arrangements, financial position and progress with the ongoing development of the ANGUSalive Transformation Project previously agreed by the Council.

The Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform advised members that the ANGUSalive Transformation Project was being actively progressed via the development of the various workstreams as detailed in paragraph 5.1.1 of the Report and it was noted that discussions were ongoing relating to funding opportunities that may emerge for ANGUSalive.

Councillor Hands expressed concern over the recent rise in cases due to the COVID-19 variant, Omicron which may then result in a significant impact on the projected income. The Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform advised members that hopefully by bringing forward the transformation programme this would provide different opportunities that would now be available to ANGUSalive for generating extra income. This included the Health and Wellbeing/Social Prescribing pilot and the significant investment in sports facilities and open spaces.

Having heard from Ms Hunter, Chief Executive, ANGUSalive on a number of operational aspects, members acknowledged the challenges that lay ahead.

The Council resolved: -

- (i) to agree ANGUSalive's current temporary operating arrangements, as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report, representing interim changes to the Services Specification, and agreed that they form the content of a formal change notice between the Council and ANGUSalive;
- (ii) to note that discussion was ongoing with NHS Tayside regarding the potential future requirements for using the current vaccination centres beyond 31 March 2022, particularly now in the context of the new COVID variant emerging, along with recovery of lost income and other costs borne by ANGUSalive/Council through

providing those facilities during the period 7 June 2021 to 31 March 2022 and potentially beyond;

- (iii) to note that ANGUSalive had continued to make successful applications for external grant funding, including government support schemes, to contribute to the charity's short term business viability, amounting to £3,315,201.47 (up to 26 November 2021), with details included in Appendix 2 to the Report;
- (iv) to note the latest financial update, as set out in section 4.4 of the Report;
- (v) to note the progress with the ongoing development of the Transformation Project, as set out in section 5 of the report; and
- (vi) to agree the procurement authority for the supply and installation of equipment, following the sourcing strategies as set out in section 5.1.1 (bullet point 5) of the Report, with an estimated total value of £460,440, to be funded from ANGUSalive's Renewal & Repair Fund.

Councillor Boyd re-joined the meeting

13. CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2022-2027: ANGUS COUNCIL RESPONSE

There was submitted Report No 395/21 by the Interim Director of Vibrant Communities & Sustainable Growth which informed members that The Cairngorms National Park Authority was carrying out public consultation on the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan which covered the period 2022 to 2027. This report recommended that Report 395/21 along with Appendix 1 be submitted as the Council's response to the consultation.

The Report highlighted that the vision and objectives of the Plan aligned well with Angus Council's strategic policy and it was an exemplar of how climate and ecological emergencies could be addressed at all scales, by public bodies and communities working together.

The Interim Director of Vibrant Communities & Sustainable Growth introduced the Report and Councillor McLaren, the Council representative spoke and fully endorsed the contents of the response as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report. Following questions from members, he also provided an update on the recent issues with campervans.

The Council resolved to agree that the Report along with Appendix 1 to the Report be submitted as the Council's response to the consultation on the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022-27.

14. INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS: INFORMATION REPORTS

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 5 November 2020, there was submitted Report No 396/21 by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services seeking approval of interim arrangements with regard to providing elected members with information reports.

It was reported that due to the concurrent impact of Covid-19, staff vacancies and illness, and significant workloads, it was proposed to revert to the interim arrangements approved previously as detailed in Section 3 of the Report, from January 2022.

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services advised members that officers would prepare the same information as would normally be included in information reports on a four weekly basis and these reports would be posted on the document centre for all elected members and on the Council's website. Members would still be able to speak to officers about the contents of the reports should they have any questions.

Councillor Hands spoke and advised that she would find it helpful if clarification could be provided on the type of information that should and should not be within the information Reports. This would allow elected members to exercise their scrutiny functions and provide them with the assurance that they had received the right information.

The Council resolved: -

- (i) to approve the interim arrangements in relation to the provision of Information Reports as detailed in the report;
- (ii) to approve that these interim arrangements would remain in place in the short term with a further review of the arrangements taking place after the summer recess; and
- (iii) that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with officers, provide elected members with guidance and or a definition in terms of the content of Information Reports.

15. AMENDMENTS TO THE TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2022

There was submitted Joint Report No 397/21 by the Chief Executive and Returning Officer and the Director of Legal and Democratic Services seeking amendments to the timetable of meetings during the period February – June 2022 as detailed in the Report.

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services intimated that in terms of section 50b, sub section 4 of the Local Government (S) Act 1973, she wished to submit a late recommendation which would allow the formal meetings of the committees, sub-committees and Angus Council to continue to be held remotely up to and including the first meeting of the Council following the forthcoming elections.

The Provost determined that in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 11(1)(vii) the matter could be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances in light of the current escalating covid situation and the fact that the current Council ruling in respect of holding on line meetings ceased at the end of the year and therefore could not be submitted to a meeting of the council at a later date.

The Council resolved :-

- (i) to approve the amendments to the timetable of meetings during the period February-June 2022 as detailed in Section 5 of the Report; and
- (ii) to continue remote meetings up to and including the Statutory meeting (26 May 2022).

16. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Council resolved, in terms of Standing Order 28(2), that the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following items so as to avoid the disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Paragraphs 1 and 6.

17. LOCHSIDE LEISURE CENTRE – APPENDIX 5

The Provost intimated that this item had been considered as part of item 5 above and he therefore proposed that there was no requirement to consider the information contained within the exempt appendix as members had taken that information into account in making their decision.

Councillor Proctor, having declared an interest at Article 2 above, left the meeting prior to consideration of Report No 398/22. The Depute Provost took the Chair for item 18.

18. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF OFFICER

There was submitted Report No 398/22 by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services seeking approval of the appointment of a Community Safety Warden, Roads & Transportation Service, Infrastructure Directorate following a recruitment process in which he declared on his application that he was a relative of a serving Councillor.

The Council resolved to approve the recommendations as detailed in the Report.

The Provost re-joined the meeting and took the Chair.

Councillor Fairweather, having declared an interest at Article 2 above, left the meeting prior to consideration of Report No 399/22.

19. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF OFFICER

There was submitted Report No 399/22 by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services seeking ratification of the appointment of an Occupational Therapist in the Angus Health & Social Care Partnership, following a recruitment process in which he declared on his application that he was a relative of a serving Councillor.

The Council resolved to approve the recommendations as detailed in the Report.