

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held remotely on Tuesday 1 February 2022 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors DAVID FAIRWEATHER, ANGUS MacMILLAN DOUGLAS OBE, BRIAN BOYD, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, KENNY BRAES, ALEX KING, BEN LAWRIE, COLIN BROWN BEM, MARK SALMOND, LOIS SPEED, TOMMY STEWART, RON STURROCK, DEREK WANN and BETH WHITESIDE.

Councillor FAIRWEATHER, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Sheila Hands and Bob Myles, with Councillors Kenny Braes and Colin Brown BEM substituting respectively.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

At this stage in the meeting, Councillor Whiteside proposed that Item 8, Report No 29/22, be deferred as she felt that there was not sufficient information contained in the Report to make a decision.

Having heard from the Head of Community Health and Care Services and from the Service Leader – Legal and Democratic Services, the Committee agreed that the item be considered at this meeting.

Councillor Speed declared an interest in Item 8, Report No 29/22, as a member of the IJB. She indicated that she would participate in any discussion and voting on the item. Councillor Speed also declared an interest Item 9, Report No 23/22, as she had family members who received health and social care and may be affected by any decisions made. She indicated that she would not participate in any discussion and voting and would leave the meeting during consideration of the item.

3. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 7 December 2021 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

(b) Appeals Sub-Committee

The minutes of meetings of the Appeals Sub-Committee of 15 December 2021 and 12 January 2022, copies of which are appended hereto, were submitted and noted (**APPENDICES I & II respectively**).

4. CAPITAL MONITORING – GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 7 December 2021, there was submitted Report No 19/22 by the Director of Finance apprising members of the capital expenditure incurred for the period 1 April to 30 November 2021 and measured projected capital expenditure for the year against budgeted provision.

The Report indicated that with eight months of the financial year gone the actual spend levels presented in Tables 1 and 2 were low, at 42.9 per cent on a gross basis and 50.3 per cent on a net basis respectively.

Furthermore up to 10 per cent of annual capital spend would come through as accruals at the year end. The value of work completed up to 31 March 2022 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 2020/21 actual spend

outturn was 67.2 per cent (gross) and 56.4 per cent (net), noting that number must be taken within the context of the disruption to the capital programmes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report.

5. REVENUE MONITORING 2021/22 AND RENEWAL AND REPAIR FUND POSITION 2021/22

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 7 December 2021, there was submitted Report No 20/22 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 as at 30 November 2021.

The Report indicated that an overall saving compared to budget of £12.638 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 £247.875 million, i.e. 3.78%, with a significant part of the saving (£3.3 million) having arose as the full amount of additional one-off COVID funding the Council received for 2021/22 would not all be spent in this financial year and would be used in future years. The projected overall saving was also higher because of the return of £0.648 million of one-off reserves from the Angus Health & Social Care Partnership. Over and above this there were one-off savings in a number of budgets funded by ring-fenced grants which could not be used for other purposes. All of these factors meant the projected saving which was available for use was substantially lower than the headline figure of £12.638 million.

There were also adjustments required to reflect funding within Education and Lifelong Learning and Children, Families & Justice (paragraphs 4.2 and 4.4 respectively) which due to accounting treatment would be carried forward into 2022/23. In addition, adjustments had also been made regarding a 2020/21 100% carry forward that was now required to be carried forward into 2022/23 and COVID funding which was now required in 2022/23, leaving an adjusted projected surplus of £1.672 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;
- (ii) to note the position on the 2021/22 budget revisions as set out in Section 4.18 of the Report; and
- (iii) to note the Renewal and Repair fund position.

6. COVID-19 FUNDING – DISCRETIONARY FUNDING PROJECT APPROVALS

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 7 December 2021, there was submitted Report No 21/22 by the Director of Finance seeking approval to use Scottish Government COVID-19 funding provided to the Council to help support local people and communities where the Council had a degree of discretion over the use of the funding. Appendix 1 provided details of the two requests.

Having welcomed the summary of spend to date, the Committee agreed to approve the proposed use of COVID-19 funding as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report.

7. TAY CITIES REGION DEAL – UPDATE & MONTROSE 5G PROJECT ACCELERATION

With reference to Article 16 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 18 March 2021, there was submitted Report No 22/22 by the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform which provided information on the progress of the Tay Cities Deal (TCD) projects within Angus and asking the Committee to approve the financial support to the 5G Project being developed in Montrose to allow this project to progress ahead of the TCD governance arrangements being met.

The Report provided specific updates in relation to Zero Four Hub, Montrose; Mercury Drone Ports; Centre of Agri Tech & Sustainable Innovation (CASI); Angus Rural Mobility Hub and Rural Digital Broadband and outlined a proposal for a 5G project in Montrose.

Having heard a number of members welcome the progress in terms of the projects, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Crown Estate Scotland to develop the Zero Four Business Hub at the former airfield in Montrose;
- (ii) to note the submission of the business justification case for the TCD012 - Angus Fund - Mercury Drone Ports to governments for review;
- (iii) to note the submission of the outline business case for the TCD012 - Angus Fund - Centre of Agri Tech & Sustainable Innovation to governments for review;
- (iv) to note the advanced discussions with Dalhousie Estates regarding the Angus Rural Mobility Hub and Brechin Business Park – Phase 2;
- (v) to note the progress being made with the TCD 005/6 Rural Digital Broadband;
- (vi) to approve the financial support and funding utilising council funds as identified in this report for the Montrose 5G Project in advance of approval of the full business cases for this project by the TCD Joint Committee and the drawing down of grant funding from the Tay Cities Deal; and
- (vii) to authorise officers to carry out a procurement exercise and award to the successful bidder to build the 5G Infrastructure in Montrose as per financial regulations.

8. INTERNAL CARE HOMES - FUTURE DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS – CONSULTATION WITH ANGUS COUNCIL

There was submitted Report No 29/22 by the Chief Integration Officer seeking feedback from the Committee, on behalf of the Council, as part of the consultation process in relation to the decommissioning of up to 20 internal care home beds.

The Report indicated that at a special meeting of the Angus Integration Joint Board (IJB) on 12 November 2021, the IJB had agreed to proceed with a programme of consultation on the options put forward to decommission up to 20 internal care home beds.

A number of members were heard in relation to the options and expressed some concern regarding the timing and whether demand for care home beds might increase post-pandemic, and sought to ensure that community usage and the community asset value of care homes was also considered and fully recognised. Members of the Committee were satisfied with the approach to the options appraisal and expressed no collective view but noted that individual members have had the opportunity to provide comments.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the information provided as part of the consultation process, including the options put forward for consultation as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the comments as detailed above as feedback on behalf of the Council to the Integration Joint Board as part of the consultation process.

Having declared an interest at Article 2 above, Councillor Speed left the meeting prior to consideration of the following item.

9. CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY - NON-RESIDENTIAL CARE SERVICES - ANNUAL UPDATE

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of Special meeting of Angus Council of 27 February 2020, there was submitted Report No 23/22 by the Chief Integration Officer providing an update regarding the Contributions Policy for Non-Residential Social Care Services.

The Report indicated that COSLA had issued Guidance on Charges Applying to Social Care Support for people at home 2021/22. The guidance was updated annually and issued to all local authorities to implement any changes that were required to be made to local charging policies and procedures. The Contributions Policy had been updated to reflect the changes to the charging thresholds for individuals over 60 and under 60 years old, as well as for couples, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the Report.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations contained within, and adopt as policy, the COSLA National Strategy and Guidance on Charges Applying to Social Care Support for people at home 2021/2022; and
- (ii) to approve the updates contained in the Contributions Policy attached as an Appendix to the Report which implemented and supplemented locally the Strategy and Guidance referred to in (i) above.

Councillor Speed re-joined the meeting.

10. ANGUS ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY 2021-2026

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 November 2017, there was submitted Report No 24/22 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth seeking approval of the updated Angus Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2021–2026, following the expiry of the previous strategy.

The strategy document provided the proposed structure for delivery of the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy in Angus to ensure that it was well embedded in the Community Planning Partnership. The partnership would take a lead role in bringing partners together to identify and resolve local issues relating to antisocial behaviour and other community safety matters. The Community Planning Partnership, at their meeting on 27 October 2021, approved the Strategy and proposed structure.

Having heard from a number of members in relation to anti-social behaviour and the strategy, the Committee agreed to approve the Angus Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2021–2026 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report.

11. BRECHIN CITY HALLS – LEASE RENEWAL

With reference to Article 16 of the minute of meeting of the Communities Committee of 24 May 2016, there was submitted Report No 25/22 by the Director of Infrastructure setting out a proposal for the future lease of Brechin City Halls to the Brechin City Hall User Group.

The lease of Brechin City Halls was due for renewal in June 2022 and the Brechin City Hall User Group were looking to secure a 25-year lease. As experienced with other community groups, a longer lease would enable the community group to pursue external funding as well as giving security to the tenure. The Brechin City Hall User Group had successfully operated the halls for the benefit of the community since 2016, with a diverse range of activities.

There was however a requirement to consult on the proposed lease of the common good property under Section 104 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act before a final decision to enter the lease could be taken. The Committee was therefore requested to agree to the proposed lease in principle to allow the consultation and the length of the lease to be consulted upon.

Having heard from a number of members who welcomed the proposal, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve, in principle, to lease the Brechin City Halls for a period of 25 years to the Brechin City Hall User Group for the purposes of community and commercial use subject to completion of the consultation and legal process as set out in the Report;
- (ii) to the ongoing provision of financial resources on the basis outlined in the Report; and
- (iii) to commend the Brechin City Hall User Group for their efforts in volunteering and the entrepreneurial spirit.

12. FORMER ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL, SEATON ROAD, ARBROATH

There was submitted Report No 26/22 by the Director of Infrastructure seeking approval to declare the former St Thomas Primary School at Seaton Road, Arbroath surplus to requirements, and its appropriation to the Housing Revenue Account for the delivery of affordable housing.

Having heard members welcome the proposal for affordable housing, the Committee agreed, for its interests :-

- (i) to declare the former St Thomas Primary School, Seaton Road, Arbroath surplus to requirements; and
- (ii) to approve the appropriation of the site from the General Fund to the Housing Revenue Account for the delivery of affordable housing.

13. SITE OF OLD FORFAR ACADEMY, TAYLOR STREET, FORFAR

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 10 June 2014, there was submitted Report No 27/22 by the Director of Infrastructure seeking approval to appropriate the site of the old Forfar Academy at Taylor Street, Forfar to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the delivery of affordable housing.

Having heard members welcome the proposal for affordable housing, the Committee agreed to approve the appropriation of this site from the General Fund to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the delivery of affordable housing.

14. SITE AT LOUR ROAD, FORFAR

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of the Communities Committee of 17 January 2017, there was submitted Report No 28/22 by the Director of Infrastructure seeking approval to dispose of the site at Lour Road Forfar to the highest bidder following marketing and a closing date for offers.

The Report indicated that a previous offer to purchase the land had been withdrawn and therefore the site had once again been marketed with five offers having been received, the details of which were contained within the Exempt Appendix to the Report.

The Committee agreed to approve the sale of the site at Lour Road, Forfar to Cullross Limited for the development of affordable housing.

15. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee agreed, in terms of Standing Order 28(2), that the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following item 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 6 and 9.

16. SITE AT LOUR ROAD, FORFAR

There was submitted Exempt Appendix to Report No 28/22 by the Director of Infrastructure.

Having heard from Councillor King, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the Appendix.