

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of **ANGUS COUNCIL** held remotely on Thursday 3 March 2022 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

There were no apologies intimated.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Myles declared an interest in item 3 as a member of the Angus Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board and as a member of Tayside Contracts Joint Board. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion and voting on the items.

3. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2022/23 AND BEYOND AND SETTING OF THE 2022/23 COUNCIL TAX AND RELATED ISSUES

The Chief Executive introduced the Council Plan, Finance & Change Plan and Workforce Plan and indicated that over the past 5 years, Angus Council had continued to look strategically at all Council services and had continued to focus on the vision for Angus to be a great place to live, work and visit. Services had continued to be delivered to the people of Angus during the pandemic, and the Council plan outlined how the Council values would support the recovery from the pandemic as an organisation and as a County. A consistent and persistent focus on the priorities had served the Council well during this time and as outlined in the Plans, included ambitious targets for the future. She commended the report to members.

Thereafter, Councillor Fairweather, as Leader of the Council, also took the opportunity to commend the Council Plan, Finance & Change Plan and Workforce Plan. He indicated that it had been a priority of the Council to make Angus a great place to live, work and visit. He referred to the priorities of Angus Council but also the difficulties due to the cuts that required to be made. He referred to the changes in delivery of services as a result of the pandemic and the aims to get best value for the Council. The Council Plan, Finance & Change Plan and Workforce Plan would make the Council as efficient and effective as possible.

At this point in the meeting, the Director of HR, Digital Enablement, IT & Business Support reported on the discussions that had taken place at the meeting of the Central Consultative Committee held earlier in the day.

This was noted.

The Director of Education and Lifelong Learning then advised members that at a Special meeting of the Children and Learning Committee held earlier that day had considered Report No 95/22 summarising the proposed budget efficiencies for the Education and Lifelong Learning directorate for the Council's 2022/23 revenue budget. The recommendations of the Report had been agreed.

The Council resolved to note the position.

Thereafter, there was submitted the following:-

- (i) Report No 55/22 by the Chief Executive being the Council Plan, Finance & Change Plan and Workforce Plan setting out the Council's strategic direction, vision, refreshed priorities and planned actions;

- (ii) Report No 71/22 by the Director of Finance summarising the overall financial context in which the Council sets its 2022/23 revenue budget and why this presents significant challenges for the Council's future financial sustainability and service provision;
- (iii) Report No 56/22 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth being a review of charges within the Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth Service and setting out proposals for the charges to be levied by service areas for the financial year 2022/23;
- (iv) Report No 57/22 by the Director of Infrastructure being a review of charges within the Infrastructure Service and setting out proposals for the charges to be levied by service areas for the financial year 2022/23;
- (v) Report No 58/22 by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services being a review of charges within Legal and Democratic 2 and setting out proposals for the charges to be levied by the service for the financial year 2022/23;
- (vi) Report No 59/22 by the Chief Officer, Angus Integration Joint Board setting out proposals to revise Support and Care and Residential fees for services provided by Angus Health and Social Care Partnership through Angus Council with effect from April 2022;
- (vii) Report No 60/22 by the Director of Finance summarising the proposed revenue budget being devolved to the Angus Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board for 2022/23 which had responsibility for the delivery of Adult Care Services;
- (viii) Joint Report No 61/22 by the Director of Finance and the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform being a review of charges for services delivered by ANGUSalive and summarising the proposed 2022/23 budget settlement between Angus Council and ANGUSalive;
- (ix) Report No 62/22 by the Director of Finance apprising members of the provisional revenue budget submissions of each Council service and the budget savings considered necessary to allow the Council to deliver a sustainable revenue budget within the resources expected to be available and setting out the provisional capital budget submissions for those services with capital expenditure;
- (x) Report No 63/22 by the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance presenting the equality impact assessment and fairer Scotland duty assessments which had been undertaken while considering the various changes required to support the Council setting a balanced budget for the financial year 2022/23;
- (xi) Report No 64/22 by the Director of Finance being the provisional revenue budget for 2022/23 (including budget issues/investments and savings for 2022/23);
- (xii) Report No 65/22 by the Director of Finance being the 2021/2026 Capital Plan and provisional capital budget for 2022/23;
- (xiii) Report No 66/22 by the Director of Finance being the Capital Strategy for the financial year 2022/23;
- (xiv) Report No 82/22 by the Director of Infrastructure seeking approval for Common Good property maintenance and improvement projects in 2022/23 funded from the respective Common Good funds;
- (xv) Report No 67/22 by the Director of Finance setting out the further steps that required to be taken with regard to the setting of the Council Tax charge for Angus Council in respect of the financial year 2022/23;
- (xvi) Report No 68/22 by the Director of Finance summarising the outcome from an assessment of the long-term affordability of the Council's 2021/2026 Capital Plan carried out as part of the Council's longer term financial management strategy; and
- (xvii) Report No 69/22 by the Director of Finance advising members of the prudential indicators which the Council was required to consider and approve as part of the Budgets setting process.

Councillor Salmond, seconded by Councillor MacMillan Douglas, moved that this Council:-

1. notes the latest 2021/22 revenue and capital monitoring position as reported to the Policy & Resources Committee on 1 February 2022 as set out in Reports 19/22 and 20/22, respectively;
2. has due regard to the public sector equality duty and the detail provided in the equalities impact assessments accompanying the reports for Agenda Items 3 to 7 for this meeting;
3. approves the Council Plan, Finance and Change Plan and Workforce Action Plan as set out in Report 55/22 as submitted by the Chief Executive;
4. notes the views of the Trade Union representatives on the Central Consultative Committee arising from their meeting earlier today;
5. notes the views of the Special Children & Learning Committee arising from their meeting earlier today;
6. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 71/22 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to Financial Context and Financial Sustainability Challenges;
7. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 56/22 as submitted by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth relating to the 2022/23 Review of Charges for the Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth Service;
8. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 57/22 as submitted by the Director of Infrastructure relating to the 2022/23 Review of Charges for the Infrastructure Service;
9. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 58/22 as submitted by the Director of Legal & Democratic Services relating to the 2022/23 Review of Charges for Legal and Democratic Services;
10. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 59/22 as submitted by the Chief Officer, Angus IJB relating to the review of Angus Council Charges for Support and Care Services and Residential Fees 2022/23;
11. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 60/22 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Devolved Budget to Angus Health and Social Care Partnership / Integration Joint Board for 2022/23;
12. approves the recommendation as set out in Joint Report 61/22 as submitted by the Director of Finance and the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform relating to the ANGUSalive Charges Review and Budget Settlement 2022/23;
13. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 62/22 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Provisional Revenue and Capital Budgets 2022/23 -Background Report;
14. approves Report 63/22 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Equality Impact Assessment & Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment – Overall Revenue & Capital Budget 2022/23;
15. notes the total net revenue expenditure for 2022/23 of £313.424 million as set out in Report 64/22, the Provisional Revenue Budget Volume;
16. notes the total net capital expenditure for 2022/23 of £27.111 million as set out in Report 65/22, the Provisional Capital Budget Volume;
17. approves Report 64/22 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Provisional Revenue Budget Volume;
18. approves Report 65/22 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Provisional Capital Budget Volume;

19. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 66/22 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Capital Strategy 2022/23;
20. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 82/22 as submitted by the Director of Infrastructure relating to Common Good Funds Project Approvals;
21. notes the proposed 1.75% level for Council Tax non-collection in 2022/23. This would result in a Band D equivalent tax base of 47,601 as set out in **Statement 1**;
22. approves the recommendations of Report 67/22 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to Revenue & Capital Budgets 2022/23 - Setting of the Council Tax;
23. approves the drawdown of £1.100 million from Council Reserves for the Other Budget Proposals as set out in Report 67/22 and **Statement 2** noting this will be funded from the uncommitted General Fund Reserve;
24. approves the drawdown of £0.875 million from Council Reserves for One Off Budget Issues as set out in Report 67/22 and **Statement 2**;
25. notes that £3.000 million has been drawn down from the Commitments in the General Fund Reserve as per the agreed Reserve Strategy approved in Report 285/21 to Angus Council, set out in Report 67/22 and **Statement 2**;
26. notes that £0.500 million has been drawn down from the Commitments in the General Fund Reserve to fund 2022/23 Budget Issues as approved in report 285/21 to Angus Council, set out in Report 67/22 and **Statement 2**;
27. approves the drawdown of £0.430 million from Council Reserves for the Investment Proposals set out in Appendix A of **Statement 2** noting this will be funded from the uncommitted General Fund Reserve;
28. approves the drawdown of a further £0.380 million from Council Reserves which is required to deliver a balanced budget in 2022/23 as set out in **Statement 2**;
29. approves the Council Tax Calculation Statement, which encompasses all of the appropriate elements of this motion as set out in **Statement 2**;
30. agrees that the Angus Council Band D Council Tax Charge for 2022/23 be as follows:-
Council Tax (Band D) - £1,242.14 (as set out in Statement 2)
31. notes the impact of the 2.95% increase in Council Tax for 2022/23, as set out in **Statement 3**;
32. notes the impact on the level of Earmarked Reserves of the proposals detailed in this motion, as detailed in **Statement 4**;
33. notes that £3.000 million for the proposed reserve strategy draw down for financial year 2023/24 & 2024/25 remains committed against the projected Uncommitted General Fund balance at 1 April 2023 as shown in **Statement 4**;
34. approves the recommendations of Report 68/22 regarding the Long Term Affordability of the General Fund Capital Plan; and
35. approves the recommendations of Report 69/22 regarding the Setting of Prudential Indicators for the 2022/23 budget process.

Councillor Duff, seconded by Councillor Whiteside, moved as an amendment, that this Council:-

1. notes the latest 2021/22 revenue and capital monitoring position as reported to the Policy & Resources Committee on 1 February 2022 as set out in Reports 19/22 and 20/22;
2. has due regard to the public sector equality duty and the detail provided in the equalities impact assessments accompanying the reports for Agenda Items 3 to 7 for this meeting

3. approves the Council Plan, Finance and Change Plan and Workforce Action Plan as set out in Report 55/22 as submitted by the Chief Executive;
4. notes the views of the Trade Union representatives on the Central Consultative Committee arising from their meeting earlier today;
5. notes the views of the Special Children & Learning Committee arising from their meeting earlier today;
6. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 71/22 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to 2022/23 Budget – Financial Context and Financial Sustainability Challenges;
7. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 56/22 as submitted by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth relating to the Review of Charges within Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth Services;
8. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 57/22 as submitted by the Director of Infrastructure relating to the Review of Charges within the Infrastructure Service;
9. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 58/22 as submitted by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services relating to the Review of Charges for Legal and Democratic Services;
10. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 59/22 as submitted by the Chief Officer, Angus Integrated Joint Board relating to the Review of Angus Council Charges for Support and Care Services and Residential Fees 2022/23;
11. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 60/22 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Devolved Budget to Angus Health and Social Care Partnership Integration Joint Board for 2022/23;
12. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 61/22 as submitted by the Director of Finance and the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform relating to the ANGUSalve Charges Review and Budget Settlement 2022/23;
13. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 62/22 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Provisional Revenue and Capital Budgets 2022/23 – Background Report **as amended by Report 70/22, the Alternative Budget Proposal – Scottish National Party**;
14. approves Report 63/22 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Equality Impact Assessment & Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment – Overall Revenue & Capital Budget 2022/23;
15. notes the total net revenue expenditure for 2022/23 of £313.667 million **as set out in Report 70/22, the Alternative Budget Proposal – Scottish National Party**;
16. notes the total net capital expenditure for 2022/23 of £25.038 million **as set out in Report 70/22, the Alternative Budget Proposal – Scottish National Party**.
17. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 64/22 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Provisional Revenue Budget Volume **as amended by Report 70/22, the Alternative Budget Proposal – Scottish National Party**;
18. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 65/22 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Provisional Capital Budget Volume **as amended by Report 70/22, the Alternative Budget Proposal – Scottish National Party**;
19. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 66/22 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Capital Strategy 2022/23;
20. approves the recommendations as set out in report 82/22 as submitted by the Director of Infrastructure relating to Common Good Funds Project Approvals;

21. notes the proposed 1.75% level for Council Tax non-collection in 2022/23. This would result in a Band D equivalent tax base of 47,601 as set out in **Statement 1**;
22. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 67/22 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to Revenue & Capital Budgets 2022/23 – Setting of the Council Tax, **as amended by Report 70/22, the Alternative Budget Proposal – Scottish National Party**;
23. notes the £2.200 million proposed use of Reserves as set out in **Statement 2**;
24. approves the drawdown of a further £0.595 million from Council Reserves which is required to deliver a balanced budget in 2022/23 as set out in **Statement 3**, noting this will leave an uncommitted General Fund Balance of zero remaining;
25. approves the Council Tax Calculation Statement, which encompasses all of the appropriate elements of this motion as set out in **Statement 3**;
26. agrees an Angus Council Band D Council Tax Charge for 2022/23 as follows: -

Council Tax (Band D) £1,242.73 (as set out in Statement 3)
27. notes the impact of the 3.0% increase in Council Tax for 2022/23, as set out in **Statement 4**;
28. notes the impact on the level of Earmarked Reserves of the proposals detailed in this motion, as detailed in **Statement 5**;
29. notes that £3.000 million for the proposed reserve strategy draw down for financial year 2023/24 & 2024/25 remains committed against the projected Uncommitted General Fund balance at 1 April 2023 as shown in Statement 5;
30. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 68/22 as submitted by the Director of Finance regarding the Long Term Affordability of the General Fund Capital Plan;
31. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 69/22 as submitted by the Director of Finance regarding the Setting of Prudential Indicators for the 2022/23 Budget Process, **as amended by Report 70/22, the Alternative Budget Proposal – Scottish National Party**;

The Council resolved to adjourn for 20 minutes to allow the opportunity for members to consider the contents of both the motion and the amendment.

The meeting resumed at 15.02pm.

Members took the opportunity to ask questions and make comment in relation to both the motion and the amendment.

At this point in the meeting (the time being 15.57pm), the Council resolved, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 21(8), that the meeting continue to the conclusion of the business.

Having heard from Councillors Brown, Duff, Nicol, Fairweather, Whiteside, Lawrie, Speed, Cheape, McDonald, Hands, Boyd, Braes, Devine, King and Durno, Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Fairweather, moved in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 18(1), as a procedural motion, 'that the question be now put' ie: for closure of the debate.

On a vote being taken, the members voted:-

For closure of the debate:-

Councillors Provost Ronnie Proctor, Depute Provost Craig Fotheringham, Councillors Bell, Boyd, Braes, Brown, Devine, Duff, Durno, Fairweather, King, Lumgair, MacMillan Douglas, McLaren, Moore, Nicol, Salmond, Stewart and Wann (19).

Against closure of the debate:-

Councillors Cheape, Hands, Lawrie, McDonald, Myles, Speed and Whiteside (7).

(Councillor Sturrock was not present at the time of the vote).

The motion for closure of the debate having been declared carried, Councillor Salmond then summed up.

Thereafter, the members voted:-

For the motion by Councillor Salmond:-

Provost Proctor, Depute Provost Craig Fotheringham, Councillors Brown, Cheape, Fairweather, Lawrie, Lumgair, MacMillian Douglas, McLaren, Moore, Myles, Nicol, Salmond, Speed, Stewart, Sturrock and Wann (17).

For the amendment by Councillor Duff:-

Councillors Bell, Boyd, Braes, Devine, Duff, Durno, Hands, King, McDonald and Whiteside (10).

The motion was declared carried and the Council resolved accordingly.

The meeting concluded at 16.30pm.