

## AGENDA ITEM NO 5(c)

### APPENDIX to the minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of June 2022 (Article x (x)refers)

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CENTRAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE** held remotely on Thursday  
3 March 2022 at 9.00 am.

#### Present:

#### Council

**Representatives:** Councillors DAVID FAIRWEATHER, ANGUS MACMILLAN DOUGLAS OBE,  
JULIE BELL AND BETH WHITESIDE.

#### Teacher Association

**Representatives:** MIKE CALLAGHAN (EIS)

#### Trade Union

**Representatives:** CHRIS BOYLE (UNISON), JANICE CORRIGAN (UNISON), JAMES  
CUNNINGHAM (GMB), MAUREEN DICKSON (UNISON), KATE McCUBBIN  
(UNISON) and GEORGE RAMSAY (UNITE).

Councillor FAIRWEATHER, in the Chair.

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies intimated.

### 2. COUNCIL PLAN, FINANCE & CHANGE PLAN AND WORKFORCE PLAN

There was submitted Report No 55/22 by the Chief Executive setting out the Council's strategic direction, vision, refreshed priorities and actions in relation to the Council Plan, the Finance & Change Plan and the updated Workforce Plan.

The Chief Executive highlighted the importance of setting the budget in context and reflected that over the past 5 years, Angus Council had aligned plans in terms of service delivery, finance and change and workforce. The proposals brought forward were based upon performance and delivery, and that difficult choices would continue to be necessary.

She trusted that the plans had provided a reassurance to the Committee in terms of the Council's aims and how these plans linked into the Council's key priorities, which she emphasised had been consistent over the last 5 year period. In reference to the Annual Report to be considered in late 2022, she intimated that it was anticipated that this Report would reflect and outline the achievements in performance as a consequence of these plans.

### 3. PROVISIONAL REVENUE BUDGET 2022/2023

#### (a) 2022/23 Revenue Budget – Summary Financial Context and Financial Sustainability Challenges

There was submitted Report No 71/22 by the Director of Finance summarising the overall financial context in which the Council set its 2022/23 Revenue Budget and why this presented significant challenges for the Council's future financial sustainability and service provision.

#### (b) Provisional Revenue and Capital Budgets 2022/23 – Background Report

There was submitted Report No 62/22 by the Director of Finance detailing the provisional revenue budget submissions of each Council service and the budget savings considered necessary to allow the Council to deliver a revenue budget within the resources expected to be available. The Report also set out the provisional capital budget submissions for those services with capital expenditure.

**(c) Provisional Revenue Budget Volume**

There was submitted Report No 64/22 by the Director of Finance detailing the Provisional Revenue Budget for 2022/23 including the budget issues, investments and savings.

The opportunity was then given for Trade Union and Teacher Representatives to make comment on the Reports.

Chris Boyle, UNISON referred to the further year of challenges faced as a result of COVID-19 and to the services provided by staff on behalf of the Council, ANGUSAlive, Tayside Valuation Joint Board and also the private social care providers contracted to the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP). UNISON paid tribute and commended the staff for their work in the previous years and into 2022. UNISON highlighted and raised concerns that the Local Government pay increase for staff in 2021/22, for a significant proportion of the workforce, was 2% behind that of NHS colleagues and emphasised that the workforce deserved better than this.

UNISON also referred to the proposals around the Agile and Workplace consultation and stressed that the mood in many sectors of the workforce was far from good. Disappointment was expressed in the lack of support to the national "PLUGTHEGAP" local government campaign.

UNISON recognised and raised concern to the challenges of financial sustainability and the current model of funding to local government. Given the sustained cuts to services in Angus since 2013/14 up to and including 21/22, UNISON, both locally and nationally, had rung alarm bells over such deep and extensive cuts. COSLA's President also acknowledged that local government was at breaking point over funding cuts. UNISON urged elected members to stand up for their local services and workforce.

UNISON highlighted the significant funding gaps, the Change Programme savings, including the recent engagement undertaken in regards to the Agile and Workforce Change proposals and stressed the frustration and upset as a result. Emphasising the cuts of £7.5m UNISON stated that staff should be made aware of where these saving/cuts would fall.

UNISON referred to the ANGUSAlive 3 year cuts to the funding for services and expressed disappointment and raised the importance that these services and facilities were in place to support and improve individual's mental health, wellbeing, physical fitness and enjoyment.

UNISON also referred to the National Care Services, the scope and remit of which had changed and raised the ongoing issues for social care in relation to the recruitment and retention of staff. UNISON and Unite, in conjunction with COSLA, stressed the importance of not breaking up the Local Government workforce, particularly at this critical time in recovery from the pandemic and urged elected members to support the local delivery.

UNISON referred to the ASN £260k saving for 2022/23 and highlighted that Angus support staff were paid less in comparison to adjoining local authorities and urged members to consider and address the pay difference.

Unite concurred with the UNISON statement and emphasised the importance that the Council stood up for their workers. In reference to the recent Agile and Workforce Change consultation they highlighted that there had been considerable concerns raised in relation to these proposals.

The Committee thanked union representatives for their input and attendance and noted their statements and the Reports as submitted.