

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held remotely on Tuesday 16 August 2022 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors MARK McDONALD, KENNY BRAES, BRIAN BOYD, LINDA CLARK, SERENA COWDY, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, LOIS SPEED, IAN McLAREN, GEORGE MEECHAN, LLOYD MELVILLE, LOUISE NICOL, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, JILL SCOTT and TOMMY STEWART.

Councillor McDONALD, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Craig Fotheringham, with Councillor Lois Speed substituting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Speed declared an interest in Item 9, Report No 193/22, as she was a Trustee of Arbroath Courthouse and Skilz Academy. She indicated that she would not take part in any discussion and voting and would leave the meeting during consideration of the item.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 7 June 2022 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

4. REVIEW OF PUBLIC TOILET PROVISION

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 16 December 2021, there was submitted Report No 188/22 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth detailing the current provision of publicly available toilets in Angus and proposing that existing Superloo premises be retained on the basis they became unattended facilities. It was also proposed that further consideration be given to increasing the number of public toilets through partnership agreements with businesses and groups and consideration of areas of need for Changing Places toilets.

Discussion took place and some members expressed concern at the proposals to make the three Superloos facilities unattended and how this could lead to them being vandalised and may lead to problems for disabled people who require help. Mr Dailly, Service Leader – Environmental Services addressed the meeting and answered questions.

COUNCILLOR McDONALD, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BRAES, MOVED THAT THIS COMMITTEE AGREES: -

- (I) TO THE CONTINUED OPENING OF THE THREE SUPERLOO FACILITIES IN ARBROATH, FORFAR AND MONTROSE ON THE BASIS THEY BECOME UNATTENDED FACILITIES, SUBJECT TO EMPLOYEE CONSULTATION AS DETAILED IN SECTION 5 OF THE REPORT;
- (II) THAT THE DIRECTOR OF VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH BRING A REPORT TO THIS COMMITTEE ON THE OPTIONS FOR INCREASING THE NUMBER OF PUBLIC TOILETS THROUGH FURTHER PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS WITH BUSINESSES AND GROUPS; AND
- (III) THAT THE DIRECTOR OF VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH UNDERTAKE AN EXERCISE TO ENGAGE WITH RELEVANT GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS TO IDENTIFY THE AREAS OF GREATEST NEED FOR CHANGING PLACES FACILITIES.

Councillor Fairweather, seconded by Councillor Stewart, moved as an amendment, that this Committee agrees: -

- (i) that recommendation (i) as detailed above be deferred until an options appraisal for the three Superloo facilities in Arbroath, Forfar and Montrose is examined and that the proposals of the options appraisal be presented to elected members and members of the Communities Committee as soon as possible;
- (ii) that the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth bring a report to this Committee on the options for increasing the number of public toilets through further partnership agreements with businesses and groups; and
- (iii) that the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth undertake an exercise to engage with relevant groups and organisations to identify the areas of greatest need for Changing Places facilities.

On a vote being taken, the members voted: -

For the motion: -

Councillors McDonald, Braes, Boyd, Clark, Cowdy, Devine, Duff, Meechan and Melville (9).

For the amendment: -

Councillors Fairweather, McLaren, Nicol, Proctor, Scott, Speed and Stewart (7).

The motion was declared carried and became the finding of the meeting.

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 40(3)(i), Councillors Fairweather and Stewart indicated that they wished the matter to be referred to Council for a decision.

5. REVIEW OF KERBSIDE RECYCLING SERVICE

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of the special meeting of Angus Council of 3 March 2022, there was submitted Report No 189/22 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth setting out a proposal for how a review of the kerbside recycling service would be implemented and a community engagement exercise carried out, providing background on the factors that needed to be considered and updating members on the current performance of the kerbside recycling service.

The Report indicated that it was proposed that the review of the kerbside recycling service would include an options appraisal exercise that considered how best the kerbside recycling service could be redesigned to deliver financial savings and improve recycling performance taking into account the forthcoming introduction of the deposit return scheme, extended producer responsibility and revised recycling charter as detailed in section 3 of the Report. The options appraisal would consider sociological as well as technical, legal and environmental factors. To assist with consideration of the sociological factors, it was proposed that a community engagement exercise be carried out prior to the options appraisal.

The Committee agreed: -

- (i) to progress the review of the kerbside recycling service on the basis set out in the report;
- (ii) to implement a community engagement exercise on the kerbside recycling service as detailed in section 5 of the report; and
- (iii) that the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth bring a report back to this Committee on the outcome of the review and an options appraisal.

6. HYDROGEN REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 10 March 2022, there was submitted Report No 190/22 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and

Sustainable Growth proposing that a funding application be progressed for a hydrogen powered refuse collection vehicle (RCV) demonstration project in Angus. The project would advance the council's transition to zero emission vehicles, align with the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) for Angus, and support the development of other Tay Cities projects.

The Report indicated that it was proposed that a funding application be submitted to Transport Scotland for up to 5 hydrogen powered RCVs and associated refuelling infrastructure. The actual number supplied would depend on the costs for the RCVs following a procurement exercise. The hydrogen RCVs would displace diesel RCVs that were scheduled for replacement, i.e., the total number of RCVs on the fleet would remain unchanged.

The demonstration project would not be done in isolation and would form part of a concerted effort to transition from diesel to zero emission RCVs, and as part of the funding award Transport Scotland would require a commitment from the council to explore different financing models that could support further decarbonisation of the fleet. It was considered likely that the Council's RCV fleet in the future would be a combination of hydrogen and electric and the Energy Savings Trust were undertaking a study on behalf of the council into the feasibility and whole life costs of procuring fully electric RCVs.

The Committee agreed: -

- (i) to authorise the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth to progress a funding application for a hydrogen powered refuse collection vehicle demonstration project on the basis set out in the report; and
- (ii) that the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth bring a report to this Committee confirming and updating on the implementation of the project, if a funding application was successful.

7. STOPPING UP OF FORMER A92 ARBROATH – MONTROSE ROAD AT COURTHILL, INVERKEILOR

There was submitted Report No 191/22 by the Acting Director of Infrastructure (Roads & Transportation) relating to a request to stop up a section of the former A92 Arbroath to Montrose Road at Courthill, Inverkeilor.

The Report advised that a number of years ago the A92 Arbroath to Montrose road was realigned to the north of Inverkeilor to remove a number of tight bends north-east of Courthill and Hawkhill farms. In association with the realignment works a section of the road to the south-west of Courthill was stopped up as it became severed by the newly aligned road and by implication was no longer necessary as a road. An additional, residual section of the public road to the south-west of the access to Courthill was no longer necessary as it was a no-through road having been severed by the realignment of the A92 road and a request had been received from a local farmer for the disused section of road to be stopped up over a further length. If stopped up the solum of the road would revert to the farmer's control as title holder. A suitable alternative route existed via the realigned A92 and therefore no alternative road was necessary.

The Committee agreed to the promotion and making of a Stopping Up Order to extinguish the public right of passage over a section of the former A92 Arbroath to Montrose road at Courthill, Inverkeilor if unopposed, or submission to Scottish Ministers for confirmation if opposed.

8. ANGUS COUNCIL (PROHIBITION & RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING) (ON STREET PARKING) (DECriminalISED ENFORCEMENT) (NO 5) ORDER 202X

There was submitted Report No 192/22 by the Acting Director of Infrastructure (Roads & Transportation) relating to the making of a Traffic Regulation Order in respect of proposed waiting restrictions at various locations throughout Angus.

The Committee agreed to note the objections received during the publication period and to approve the making of the Order as proposed.

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

9. 2022/23 PLACE-BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

With reference to Article 12 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 10 March 2022, there was submitted Report No 193/22 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth seeking approval of the applications recommended for approval through the 2022/23 Scottish Government Capital Place-Based Investment Programme (PBIP).

The Report advised that 10 applications had been received, totalling £2,086,683. An internal panel made up of 3 officers from Planning, Economic Development, and Development Planning, Environment and Climate Change, had assessed the projects and scored them based on the set criteria. Combined scores from the officer group were provided in the table contained within the Report, along with the funding requested by the individual projects. A summary report (Appendix 2) and officer recommendation for each project was attached within Appendix 3, with additional information on each project for background information detailed within Appendix 4.

Having heard from a number of members, the Committee agreed to approve the projects recommended by the Angus Council officer panel, listed in Appendix 2, for use of the Scottish Government Place-Based Investment allocation of £624,000 for 2022/23.

Councillor Speed re-joined the meeting

10. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee agreed, in accordance with the provisions 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 is exempt in terms of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Paragraphs 8 & 9.

11. ARBROATH (BROTHOCK WATER) FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME UPDATE ON LAND NEGOTIATIONS

There was submitted Report No 194/22 by the Acting Director of Infrastructure (Roads & Transportation) updating the Committee on the progress of the Arbroath (Brothock Water) Flood Protection Scheme.

The Committee agreed to approve the recommendations as detailed in the Report.