

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held remotely on Tuesday 27 September 2022 at 2.00 pm.

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

Councillor McDONALD, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors David Fairweather and Jill Scott with, Councillors Derek Wann and Lois Speed substituting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Committee agreed to note that no declarations of interest were made.

At this stage in the meeting, the Convener determined that the EIA to Report No 331/22 (Item 9) be considered as a matter of urgency as the EIA provided information which required to be considered as part of Report 331/22.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 August 2022 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

4. ARBROATH HARBOUR JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – ONE VACANCY

With reference to Article 6(e) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 7 June 2022, the Committee agreed to appoint Councillor Derek Wann to serve on the Arbroath Harbour Consultative Committee. The Committee also confirmed that Councillor David Fairweather be appointed as the Convener of the Committee.

5. HOUSING REVENUE CAPITAL PLAN 2021 -2026

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of special meeting of this Committee of 8 February 2022, there was submitted Report No 327/22 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, presenting to the Committee the updated 2021/26 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Plan, incorporating the 2022/23 capital monitoring budget.

The 2022/23 HRA Capital Plan had subsequently been updated to reflect the effect of the 2021/22 actuals, and a final 2022/23 capital monitoring budget of £12.703m detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report had been established. This was as a result of the comprehensive review of the 2021/26 Capital Plan, incorporating an updated position regarding specific projects in 2022/23.

The Report advised that the lasting impacts of the Pandemic continued to affect the construction industry, with shortages of components and raw materials causing supply chain and logistical issues for contractors. This coupled with spiralling energy costs, and high demand for skilled operatives causing problems with staff retention, had created challenging operating conditions. This volatility had caused uncertainty with programming, and delays with projects, and may also result in higher tender prices over the mid-term.

Having heard questions from Councillors Stewart, Devine, Melville, Wann, Duff, Speed and Clark, answered by officers, the Committee agreed: -

- (i) to note that the 2021/22 actual position on the HRA Capital Plan as at 31 March 2022 was submitted to the meeting of Angus Council on 30 June 2022 (Article 13 of that minute refers);

- (ii) to approve the contents of the updated 2022/23 HRA Capital Plan attached as Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (iii) to note that the 2022/23 HRA Capital Plan represented the HRA's approved budget for capital monitoring purposes; and
- (iv) to note the Provisional Budget for the 2023/24 – 2025/26 HRA Capital Plan.

6. HOUSING ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 September 2021, there was submitted Report No 328/22 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, giving an update on the performance of the Council in relation to housing services; actions which were being taken to improve performance; and providing information to enable members to agree the Annual Assurance Statement required by the Scottish Housing Regulator.

Having heard from Councillors Devine, Speed and Stewart with members' questions being responded to by officers, the Committee agreed: -

- (i) to note the Council's performance in relation to its statutory obligations for housing services;
- (ii) that the evidence provided was sufficient to assure Members that the Council was meeting its statutory obligations in relation to housing services; and
- (iii) to approve the draft Annual Assurance Statement attached as Appendix 1 to the Report.

7. ANGUS COUNCIL (SPACES FOR PEOPLE) (VARATION OF SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 202x

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 23 November 2021, there was submitted Report No 329/22 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth relating to the making of a permanent variation of speed limits that were varied temporarily from 30mph to 20mph at various locations throughout Angus as part of the Spaces for People interventions and to other 30mph and 40mph speed limit variations that were previously approved by Committee.

Included in the List of Proposals, Appendix 1 to the Report, were details of all of the locations proposed for the implementation of permanent 20mph speed limits. Two objections had been received in general terms to the 20mph speed limits and one representation in support. The Schedule and copies of the correspondence received were detailed in Appendices 3 and 4 to the Report.

Appendix 2 to the Report provided Vehicle Activate Signage (VAS) data which showed that the speed of traffic where this was signed and lined at the temporary speed limit of 20mph was lower than the previous 30mph speed limit.

Some discussion took place regarding a number of streets that were not included within Order 202x and it was noted that a wider review would take place in the future and there would be an opportunity to extend these measures to various other locations.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the results of the speed surveys from Vehicle Activated Signage installed as part of the temporary variation of speed limits from 30mph to 20mph;
- (ii) to note the objections received during the publication period for the Order to make these 20mph speed limits permanent;
- (iii) to note that no objections to any of the other 30mph and 40mph speed limit variations were received; and

- (iv) to approve the making of the Order as proposed, which included the 20mph and variations to 30mph and 40mph speed limits.

8. AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING SPEED LIMITS – C51 & U494 ENTRANCES TO WOODVILLE AND THE C59 ENTRANCE TO ARBIRLOT

There was submitted Report No 330/22 by the Acting Director of Infrastructure (Roads and Transportation) which informed the Committee of concerns raised over speeding on the C51 eastbound approach into Woodville, the U494 westbound approach into Woodville and the C59 westbound approach into Arbirlot, requests to reduce the speed limits and detailed the findings of the engineering investigations carried out.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the concerns of local residents about the speed of traffic at C51 at Woodville, U494 at Woodville and C59 Arbirlot Road, Arbirlot;
- (ii) to note the findings of the engineering investigations carried out to assess the concerns;
- (iii) to the implementation of the amendments to the existing speed limits on the C51 at Woodville;
- (iv) to the implementation of the amendments to the existing speed limits on the U494 at Woodville; and
- (v) to the implementation of the amendments to the existing speed limits on the C59 Arbirlot Road, Arbirlot.

9. WINTER ROADS SERVICE POLICY AND PLAN FOR 2022/2023

With reference to Article 13 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 September 2021, there was submitted Report No 331/22 by the Acting Director of Infrastructure (Roads and Transportation) setting out the proposed Winter Roads Services Policy and detailing the proposed service provision for preventative treatment and snow clearing during the winter period 2022/23, together with contingency arrangements to cater for extreme conditions prevailing, in conjunction with the operational issues detailed in the Winter Roads Services Plan for 2022/23 attached to the Report. This was as recommended by “Well Managed Highway Infrastructure – A Code of Practice”.

The Committee agreed: -

- (i) to note the service delivery, weather severity and outturn expenditure on winter road maintenance for 2021/22;
- (ii) to approve the Winter Roads Services Policy for the forthcoming winter 2022/23 as stated in Appendix 3 to the Report;
- (iii) to note the Winter Roads Services Plan for 2022/23 as stated in Appendix 4 to the Report;
- (iv) to note the arrangements proposed to meet the costs of the Winter Roads Services during 2022/23 as set out in the Report;
- (v) to note the implications and proposed use during winter 2022/23 of revenue funding grant received from Transport Scotland as a trial for supporting active travel projects;
- (vi) to delegate authority to the Service Leader - Roads and Transportation to utilise part of the revenue funding grant received from Transport Scotland on active travel routes in addition to the cycle paths and pavements included in the Winter Roads Services Plan for 2022/23;

- (iv) to delegate authority to the Service Leader - Roads and Transportation to temporarily change the level of service as proposed in the report in extreme conditions; and
- (v) to delegate authority to the Service Leader - Roads and Transportation to deviate from the treatment decision matrix and introduce salt conservation techniques as proposed in the report if difficulties were experienced or anticipated in obtaining sufficient salt supplies.

10. APPLICATION FOR CONSENT TO PLACE TABLES AND CHAIRS IN A PUBLIC ROAD AT APPLGATE, ARBROATH

There was submitted Report No 332/22 by the Acting Director of Infrastructure (Roads and Transportation), dealing with an application for the placing of tables and chairs on the public road, in a designated area where the consumption of alcohol in public places was prohibited.

Mr Mitchell, the applicant was present and addressed the Committee.

Having considered the application, the Committee agreed to authorise the placing of tables and chairs on the public road within the area on Applegate, shown in Appendix 2 to the Report and subject to the conditions contained in Appendix 3 to the Report.

11. PARKS AND BURIAL GROUNDS PLANT AND EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME 2022 - 2023

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 September 2021, there was submitted Report No 333/22 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth seeking approval of the recommendation to purchase plant and equipment required for the 2022/2023 Parks & Burial Grounds capital replacement programme.

The Committee agreed: -

- (i) to approve the estimated total cost of £196,000 for the purchase of grounds maintenance plant and equipment required for the 2022/2023 capital replacement programme;
- (ii) to authorise officers to procure grounds maintenance plant and equipment on the basis set out in the report; and
- (iii) to note the financial implications included in section 5 of the report.